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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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October 22, 1981

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



Church Training
Convention, Oct. 27



Equipping for church growth

On the cover



Photo by Robert Holsby

"Equipping for Church Growth" is the theme of this year's Church Training Convention, set for Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Little Rock Immanuel Church. Pastors, staff members, church training leaders, media/library workers and church secretaries are expected to attend from across the state.

Brooks Hays, Baptist statesman dies; politics was his parish

by Erwin L. McDonald

As reported in last week's *Newsmagazine*, Brooks Hays, the distinguished Arkansas layman who served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died in his sleep at the family apartment in Chevy Chase, Md., the night of Oct. 11. He was 83.

Brooks, as Hays was known affectionately by his friends, was born Aug. 9, 1898, while his father, Judge A. S. (Steele) Hays, was teaching a summer term of school at London, Pope County. When school was out, the family moved to their home in Atkins, where they continued to live till 1903, when they moved to Russellville.

Brooks grew up in First Church, Russellville, graduated from Russellville High School, and went on to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, from which he and his wife-to-be, Marion Prather, were graduated. He received his bachelor of laws degree from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1958 and 1959. Other highlights of his career included: assistant attorney general of Arkansas; Congressman from Arkansas for 16 years; director of Tennessee Valley Authority; U.S. delegate to the United Nations; assistant secretary of state in the administration of President Kennedy; White House assistant to two presidents, Kennedy and Johnson; visiting professor at Rutgers University and the University of Massachusetts, and director of the Baptist Ecumenical Institute at Wake Forest University, N.C.

He was the author of several books, including his memoirs, "Politics Is My Parish," published a few weeks ago, and a life-long popular lecturer.

Survivors include his wife, whom he liked to call "The Little Manager;" a son, Steele Hays, associate justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court; a daughter, Betty Hays Bell, of Bethesda, Md.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was Oct. 16 at Second Church, Little Rock, with Larry Maddox, pastor, in charge, assisted by Foy Valentine of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn., and the retired pastor of the church, Dale Cowling. Burial was at Russellville, with Bruce H. Price, pastor emeritus of First Church of Newport News, Va., in charge of a graveside service.

Someone said of Brooks that he never let success go to his head. That may have been because he had so much failure interwoven with his achievements. We'll always remember his home runs, but he struck out more times, perhaps, than he hit homers.

But he kept coming to bat. This never-say-die optimism was as evident in the everyday affairs of his life as in the times of crisis. After reading his memoirs, I wrote him my sincere congratulations and said, "You have saved the best for the last." He wrote back, "But it's not my last!"

Somebody said of Brooks that if he had a fault it was being "soft on people." Brooks was a genuinely kind person. There was no vindictiveness about him. He had an amazing love for everybody. Even one of his arch political opponents, former Gov. Orval Faubus, whom Brooks credited with helping to retire him from Congress, could say of Brooks last week: "Mr. Hays had the greatest capacity to forgive of any one I have ever known . . . He was never unkind to a fellow human being."

Brooks was a ten-talent man. And over a lifetime of ups and downs, he proved himself a good steward of his rich endowments.

Erwin L. McDonald is editor emeritus of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" and a long-time close friend of Brooks Hays.



Brooks Hays returned to Arkansas in March 1979 to participate in the Arkansas Baptist Christian Citizenship Conference at Little Rock Second Church. Hays was a firm advocate of the Christian's place in politics.

In this issue

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Baptist leaders from across Arkansas attended the Mission in Context meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Sept. 16-19 and returned with fresh ideas for the state's 42 associations.

8

Religious liberty issues were confronted at the biennial Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

10

The Baptist Sunday School Board has been embroiled in a law suit that has been resolved by a Nashville, Tenn., court.

Is growth the only measure for a church?

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



In our Baptist life great emphasis is placed on church growth and rightly so. Yet, it should be remembered that every church does not have the same opportunity or potential to reach new people. It is self-evident that a church in a suburban area where new homes are going up every day has greater opportunity than a church in a rural community where there is decline in population each year.

Sometimes in an area of limited opportunity, pastors and people may be distressed because of wrong standards. An old story tells of a pastor who, on Monday, after again not reaching the only lost man in the village, walked down the road. His head was lowered. He was extremely depressed as he met one of his neighbors who was headed toward the river with an old decrepit dog. "What are you doing today?" the pastor asked.

"Oh, I am on my way down to the river to drown my dog," the neighbor replied. "He is so old he can hardly see. His teeth are so bad he can barely eat. He can't hunt anymore. He is just good for nothing."

"Give him to me," the preacher said, "I know just how he must feel."

Now, it will may be that that pastor was doing an excellent job with his church. He may have just had the wrong standards. As someone has said, "You fish differently if you are fishing in a pond with only one fish than you do in an ocean where there are thousands of fish."

It takes a particular type of man in a rural community which is losing in population or in an inner city area where everyone is moving out to the suburbs. Fortunately, God in his wisdom has called such men. Some of the characteristics of such a person are as follows:

- His main objective must be to minister to the needs of the people in the community. He will need to be able to relate to all of his people.

- Spiritual growth of his flock must give him great joy. Since there are a large number of lost he must gain satisfaction from the maturity his congregation obtains. Great emphasis is given in the Scripture to spiritual growth. Ap-

proximately 90 percent of all of the Scripture is written to Christian people. A pastor in a setting where there is not a large number of lost or church prospects must major on exegesis of the Word of God. This is a wholesome and worthwhile objective.

- He must never lose sight of those who are lost in his area. No matter how few there may be he should remember their plight without Christ. In every area of our state there are some who do not know Christ as their Saviour. Without a personal encounter with the living Lord, these individuals will spend eternity separated from Christ.

- He must gain his satisfaction from his own local church relationships. It may be that sometimes he will go unnoticed. Each of us must always be aware that God does not always evaluate in the same way that people sometimes do. God judges our success on how well we fulfill our responsibilities as related to our opportunities.

- Sometimes he must be willing to support his family, at least partially, at a secular vocation. There are many churches which do not now and will never have potential of providing for complete support for a pastor. These churches need spiritual guidance. It is a great service to the kingdom when men are willing to accept God's call to such places. The truth is, that much of the greatness of the Southern Baptist Convention lies in the fact that we have ministered in all types of communities and to all kinds of people. In a very real sense the numerically small churches of the SBC provide us with our greatest strength. If we ever discontinue the ministry of our numerically small congregations our Convention will lose much of its strength.

We salute the men who are serving God in these places. If your church is located in such an area and your pastor has the qualifications we have outlined, you should thank God for him. Be sure to let your pastor know that you appreciate him. Often, a simple word of encouragement can be of great benefit to your pastor. In expressing gratitude for what your pastor is doing both you and he will be blessed.

Arkansas Baptist

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

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

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Sticks and stones and spellings of Ouachita

One of the strongest temptations anyone has today is to correct misinformation about oneself. This is an especially strong temptation because we can defend our corrective efforts in the name of defending the truth. Who can object to courageous defense of the truth?

The only problem with defending the truth about oneself is our strong tendency to spend far more time correcting misinformation about oneself than correcting misinformation about others. Before we realize it, we have fallen into a life pattern of talking, writing, and arguing about oneself — a sad state of self-centeredness, and an unfortunate neglect of "others-centeredness."

Not long after becoming president of Ouachita Baptist University, I discovered a persistent problem of misinformation about the proper spelling of Ouachita. Instead of crusading to straighten out all the misspellers of Ouachita, I started collecting their creative and ingenious handiwork in a file. I am now prepared to publish the results of my analysis and classifications of the most common misspellings of Ouachita, in 6 categories:

(1) The "phonetic purists" who insist on starting Ouachita with a "W" (Washataw,

Wauschita, Washataugh, Wouchita, and Wachata);

(2) The "printer's helpers" who are certain the first letter should have been a "Q" (Quachita, Quachitau, Quichita, Quzchita, Quanchita, and Quackita);

(3) The "not-even-close" category (Luachita, Ouasity, and Cuschita);

(4) The "doubleheader misspellers" who compound their mistake by adding another (Amachita Baptist University, Amadelphia, AR; Ojachita Ba¹/₄ tist University; Anachita Baptist University, Cirkadelphia; and Qyachita Baptist University, addressed to Daniel R. Gram, President);

(5) The "sneeze syndrome" (Achita!); and

(6) The "also rans" (Olachita, Ohachita, Onachita, Analita, Ouackita, Ouacuta, Ouachitz, Ouanchita, and many more).

Honesty requires me to confess that my blood pressure still goes up when I see Ouachita misspelled in the press, television, or mail. However, I have decided that one thing that is clearly worse than misspelling a name is throwing a tantrum because one's name is misspelled. And I would rather see Ouachita misspelled than ignored.

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

No Baptists in Cairo during assassination

CAIRO, Egypt (BP) — All Southern Baptist personnel in Egypt were out of Cairo when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated Oct. 6.

Roger and Linda Rucker, of Texas and Kentucky, were visiting churches in Fikriya and Minya in central Egypt and Michael and Madeline Edens, of Oklahoma and Louisiana, were in Jordan for a week's vacation. Both couples are studying Arabic in Cairo.

Rucker, reached by telephone Oct. 7, said he and his wife learned of Sadat's death during an evening church service Oct. 6. They returned to Cairo the next day. Rucker said they had not heard from the Edenses. They were planning to stay in Jordan until Oct. 11.

Rucker reported that all was calm in Cairo with shops opening as usual. Contacts at the American Embassy told him that there had been no reports of anti-American incidents since Sadat's death.

Rucker said they, as well as the rest of Egypt, were going to have to wait to see the outcome of the assassination. The granting of their application for permanent residence and work permit is expected soon.

The Ruckers and Edenses are the first couples to be officially assigned to Egypt although Southern Baptist representatives have been involved in Egyptian Baptist work for about 25 years. A third couple, Randall and Nancy Parks of Texas, are candidates for appointment to Egypt this month. Parks is the son of Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks.



Woman's viewpoint

Joanne Jackson Lisk

Where do you live?

South of Pine Bluff there was a small town which I drove through several times where a sign post always caught my eye. "Street 'O Plenty" was what the sign read.

Though I couldn't see very far down that "Street 'O Plenty" from the highway, it didn't look like a street of mansions or estates. It appeared to be a dusty street with small houses, cluttered lawns and children in assorted sizes.

My imagination was caught by the name, however. I first thought: Here is a street where people are satisfied and happy, whatever their lot in life. Perhaps those who named the street where Christians who remembered Christ's admonition in Luke 12:15: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in

the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Then I recalled the song from Porgy and Bess: "I've Got Plenty of Nothin'," where the singer recounts that having the sun, moon and the deep blue sea are far superior to having "plenty of plenty" and keeping a lock on your door!

Imagination taking another turn (or was this the Spirit probing my heart?), I pondered a Bible passage which, though written to the first century church at Laodicea, might well have been written to many Christians and churches in America today, I fear: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and

have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked . . . be zealous therefore, and repent (Rev. 3:15-19).

Street 'O Plenty! Yes, most of us live on such a street today here in Arkansas. Oh, we may not be worth a million; we may not have every material need satisfied, but by the world's comparisons certainly we live on a material Street 'O Plenty.

My prayer today, however, is: Lord don't let us think we are living on a spiritual Street 'O Plenty while we really live in spiritual poverty. Where do you and I really live?

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



The Southern accent

The newest answer is not necessarily the best

by D. Jack Nicholas

I find both gratifying and interesting the responses which I receive to this column. I have received some very provocative oral comments and letters to various articles.

One of the more thoughtful letters came in response to the article titled, "From Puritanism to Self-Idolatry," in which I identified a shift in the American mentality from a religious orientation to a psychological mind-set as one of the underlying causes of our moral decline.

The writer of the letter agreed that the attempt to solve all of our problems with psychological insights is bound to fall short but asked, "What role do you think psychology and psychiatry can properly assume?" That is an appropriate and crucial question. Lest that article lead some to believe that I have no appreciation for the contributions of psychology and psychiatry, I wish to reply to that question.

Psychology and psychiatry have made and continue to make important contributions to the understanding of man. However, it would be unwise to accept at face value all of the diverse, and often conflicting, answers produced by these disciplines, or any other, for that matter.

From our current perspective, psychology and psychiatry should be regarded as immature disciplines which are still struggling for a definition of role among the older and more mature sciences. Hardly 100 years of age, these two areas are still sputtering adolescents compared to the older disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, etc. These older disciplines did not furnish their best answers during their first 100 years.

In their present stage of development, both psychology and psychiatry remain burdened with competing and conflicting theoretical models, equally conflicting answers to the same questions, and woefully imperfect prophylactic and therapeutic techniques.

I believe that it is likely that within 20 to 50 years, these two disciplines will succeed in (1) arriving with some consensus of an empirically demonstrable theoretical model (or models), (2) developing more effective prophylactic and therapeutic techniques for the prevention and treatment of psychological problems, and (3) carving out



Nicholas

for themselves an appropriate space within the existing sciences and disciplines.

In the meantime, it is unwise and sometimes even foolish to accept their notions without due caution.

The concern expressed in my previous article is that America has abruptly abandoned a value system built up through and tested by the passing centuries, and has too quickly accepted without critical examination some novel but utterly untested answers proffered by some "just-now-emerging-from-adolescence" behavioral sciences.

The absurdity of abandoning old, tested, and confirmed values which have undergirded the building of great nations in favor of some new, untried, untested notions is patently apparent. Yet, that is precisely what America has done.

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

Submit resolutions ahead

Those wishing to present resolutions to the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention should remember that the resolutions must be presented in writing at the first session of the convention.

Carroll Caldwell,
Chairman, Resolutions Committee

MKs in Togo get day of treats

ATAKPAME, Togo — They started the day with a breakfast of bread and fish cooked on the beach as Jesus and his disciples had done. But that wasn't the only treat in store for Southern Baptist MKs (missionary kids) in Togo on their second annual retreat. They were thrilled later in the day when the American ambassador drove up in her embassy car to address them, says Marsha Key, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Togo, but the best was yet to come. A rainbow appeared in a rainless sky. Mrs. Key told the children that one of her Sunday School teachers had told her that a rainbow is God shouting "I love you! I love you! I love you!"

Church presents 'tree'

Fordyce First Church will present its annual "Singing Christmas Tree" Dec. 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 at 7 p.m. Passes are available at no cost to assure seating, since persons who traveled to Fordyce last year had to be turned away. Contact the church office at Main and Fifth, Fordyce, Ark. 71742 or (501) 352-7133. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and the passes will be sent after Nov. 2.



Bringing it all together for Baptists
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Harvey J. Webb

began serving Oct. 19 as pastor of Jacksonville First Church, coming there from Boyle, Miss. A native of Jackson, Miss., he holds degrees from Hinds Junior College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, including a doctor of ministry degree from the seminary in 1979. He has served churches in both Mississippi and Louisiana, as well as serving as assistant pastor at Calvary Church of Jackson. He and his wife, Ann, have a daughter, Melanie, aged 5.

Tommy J. Carney

will begin serving Nov. 1 as pastor of the Mountain Home First Church, coming there from a four-year pastorate at the Second Church of Springfield, Mo. A native of Blytheville, he is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Arkansas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the ministry by the Gosnell Church, has been pastor of churches in Texas, California and Missouri, and has held leadership roles in both state and Southern Baptist Convention. Carney is married to the former Mabelee Lunsford of Blytheville. They have four married children, three grandchildren and two foster children.



Webb



Carney



Talley



Underwood

Mike Talley

has accepted the call to join the staff of Hot Springs Leonard Street Church. A senior at Ouachita Baptist University, he will serve as minister of youth and music. He has served other Arkansas churches. Talley is married to the former Pam Lowrey of Little Rock.

Gary Underwood

has joined the staff of Springdale Elm Dale Church, serving as minister of music/youth. He came there from Aztec, N.M. Underwood is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University with a bachelors degree in church music. He has served other New Mexico churches. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Kerri and Kurt.

Eldron Gill

was ordained to the gospel ministry Oct. 4.

He is pastor of the Pleasant Valley Church near Trumann. His father, Drexel Gill, led the ordination prayer. Frank Hendrix preached the message and brought the charge to the church. Glen Hurst, pastor of Tyrnza First Church led in questioning. Dannie Pipingier was ordained as a deacon in this service.

Jim and Mary Tiefel

have joined the staff of Fort Smith South Side Church to serve as associate pastor and minister of education. They have been staff members at the Fort Smith East Side Church.

Ken Overton

beginning Oct. 18 as pastor of the Wilmot Church. He was serving on the staff of Mena Dallas Avenue Church as minister of music and education. Overton and his wife, Hope, have a daughter, Christina.

CBF focuses on evangelism

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Focusing on evangelism during a recent meeting of the executive committee of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, 30 Baptists from 12 Caribbean nations shared reports on their three-year (1981-83) program, "Total Evangelism: Sharing the Good News," currently in the preparation stage. They learned that the Caribbean Baptist Media Center in Nassau, Bahamas, is complete and that its television feature, "Caribbean Heartbeat," drew responses from 160 listeners last year. The week-long meeting was held at Coral Pines Baptist Camp, Homestead, Fla.

English work opens in Zaria

ZARIA, Nigeria — Muciya Baptist Church, Zaria, Nigeria, launched an English-language congregation, the city's third, June 21. Dr. Bitrus Gani, a physiotherapist at Ahmadu Bello University Hospital, Zaria, urged the new church to undergird itself with prayer to become a growing and effective church. Eighty people, including representatives of four sister churches who had pledged prayer support for the new work, attended.

Mulberry First Church

was in a revival Sept. 27-Oct. 4. Jesse Reed, retired director of the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was evangelist and Fred Moon directed music. Pastor Bill Cavenaugh reported 19 professions of faith and six additions by letter.

Melbourne Belview Church

was in a recent revival led by James Hayes, pastor of North Little Rock Cedar Heights Church, and John Alumbaugh, minister of music/education at Mountain Terrace Church in Memphis. Pastor Bob Richardson reported four professions of faith, eight additions by letter and one by statement.

Urbana Church

observed its 65th year as a church with homecoming services Oct. 18. The observance began with Sunday School and concluded with an afternoon musical program. Former pastors and members were special guests.

Russellville First Church

recently held deacon ordination services for Dennis Fleniken, Johnny Morgan, Gary Denton, and Tom Baker.

Newark Southern Church

ordained its first deacon, Jim McVay, Sept. 18. Pastor A. B. Coleman, Director of Missions S. D. Hacker and 18 deacons and ministers from surrounding churches participated in the program.

Batesville Calvary Church

ordained its youth/outreach minister, Jim Akins, Sept. 6 to the gospel ministry.

Harmony Association

is sponsoring a Bible study clinic Nov. 2. The book to be studied is "Jeremiah," the suggested 1982 January Bible study. The clinic will be held at Pine Bluff Forrest Park Church with sessions beginning at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. David Garland, professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be leader. Freddie Pike is director of missions.

briefly

Planning essential for associations, Arkansans learn

For Arkansas' 42 associations, the "Mission in Context" conference held at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Sept. 16-19 was an important time of assessment (see article in the Oct. 15 issue of the ABN).

"Thinking Nationally, Acting Locally" was the theme of the conference attended by 17 Arkansas Baptist leaders.

For the Arkansans there, the two most practical elements to emerge at the four-day event were exposure to associational planning and interpreting the 1980 census results.

"The beautiful thing about this conference was that it taught associational directors of missions how to plan," said Pete Petty, state special missions ministries director. "Ministry needs will be discovered only with planning that includes looking at the needs in a particular area. Planning will find those pockets of people that are not being reached."

State Missions Director Conway Sawyers agreed, stressing that planning and ministry go hand in hand.

"The majority of Arkansas Baptist churches would grow if they would take a ministry approach to church growth," he said. "Some churches are in the position that if they don't take the ministry approach, they'll die. Their communities have changed, but they haven't."

Sawyers said that the planning process will help directors of missions to look at this whole picture.

J. D. Passmore, director of missions for Current-Gaines Association, noted that "many smaller associations are doing very little in the way of planning."

"I'm going to emphasize this in the years to come," he said, "not just for one year at a time, but over several in advance."

The vast amount of information, much of it still not compiled, that was revealed in the 1980 census is a valuable tool in discovering ministry needs in the association. Mission in Context helped directors of missions to find their way through the often confusing statistics.

"I've been wanting help for some time in dealing with the increase in population in my area," said Carl Overton, director of missions for Central Association. "Through the census material available at the conference, I discovered that since 1960 our four-county area has grown 52.2 percent. In fact, one township has grown over 1100 percent in the past 20 years, but the Sunday School at the church there is running the same as it was 20 years ago. Mission in Con-

text helped me to get hold of some things like that."

Don Seigler, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association, said, "This meeting showed that even in the rural areas, the census can be used. And I think that Baptists are beginning to realize that the associations are nearer to the churches and in the best position to use the census."

— Robert Dilday



Attending the Mission in Context meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Sept. 16-19 were (left to right, row one) Randy Cash, state language ministries director; Pete Petty, state special missions ministries director; Conway Sawyers, state director of missions; (row two) Manuel Macks, director of missions for Rocky Bayou Association; J. A. Kuehn, director of missions for Faulkner Association; James Hill, pastor of Hot Springs Central Church; Carl Overton, director of missions for Central Association; (row three) Tommy Robertson, director of missions for Liberty Association; Don Seigler, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association; Henry West, director of missions for Mississippi Association; Freddie Pike, director of missions for Harmony Association; (row four) Raymond Reed, director of missions for Bartholomew Association; J. D. Passmore, director of Missions for Current-Gaines Association; and Carl Fawcett, director of missions for Arkansas Valley Association. Not pictured are Bob Holley, state church training director; Bedford Jackson, director of missions for Benton Association; and Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association.

Bibles attract 'takers' at Moscow Book Fair

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While stealing religious books may seem contradictory, three Southern Baptist exhibitors at the recent Moscow International Book Fair were not upset that several Bibles and other books disappeared from their booths.

James Clark, executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Dessel Aderholt, director of the board's Broadman division, and Bob Boyd, executive director of the Protestant Church-Owned Publishers Association which represents 30 religious publishers, traveled to Moscow for the fair where attendance exceeded 165,000.

Clark and Aderholt manned the exhibit for Broadman and Holman, the Bible pub-

lishing division of the board. Boyd directed the PCPA exhibit for the biennial fair which included two large buildings of exhibits by technical, art, religious and general publishers.

"Bibles were definitely the most looked-at books at the fair," said Boyd, whose booth included a pulpit Bible in Russian on loan from Judson Press.

In addition to the disappearance of small Bibles from both exhibits, Aderholt said many people pulled out paper and pencils and sat down to copy portions of the Scriptures and other books.

Under guidelines of the government-sponsored six-day fair, exhibitors could not

sell or give books away. However, the government reviewed books for possible purchase of translation rights.

Boyd said common questions included: "Do you really believe in God? Do you really practice your religion? Do you sell a lot of religious books in the United States? Do many people go to church in your country? Are Bibles easy to get?"

While no decision has been made on whether Broadman and Holman representatives will return in 1983, Clark said they were encouraged by American embassy officials to come back "to show a slice of American life that Russians don't get to see any other way."

Religious liberty, evangelism

by Dan Martin

WASHINGTON (BP) — For Baptists, religious liberty and evangelism are "like breathing out and breathing in," James M. Dunn told a conference on faith and freedom.

"We must pay attention to both or we cannot live," said Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. He told participants in a conference on evangelism rooted in religious liberty that proclamation of the gospel must be coupled with a voluntary response if it is to be valid.

During the conference, Leon McBeth professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said there is a new and unprecedented move by conservative churchmen — many a part of the new Christian Right — to join "the hue and cry to limit, adjust and redefine the nature and basis of religious liberty."

"Most of these people call themselves conservatives," McBeth said. "I challenge that designation. They are not conservative, but radical innovators who have departed from the teachings and practices of our Baptist forefathers."

McBeth, who warned that if the "government can regulate unpopular groups, it can regulate popular groups," charged that "comfortable people" may not be able to maintain the pressure necessary to retain religious liberty.

"We're not suffering any more," he said. "When we were having a rough time, we spoke out strongly for religious liberty. Historically, people under pressure have been the most ardent for religious liberty. We have yet to see whether a comfortable people can maintain religious liberty."

Two Baptist members of the United States Congress also told participants about challenges to religious liberty facing the nation.

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., reminded participants that it was "the moral majority of the Puritans which ran Roger Williams out of the Massachusetts Bay Colony," and urged Baptists to be in the vanguard of protecting the right to dissent.

"Madalyn Murray O'Hair has the same constitutional right to a platform as does Billy Graham," he said.

Walter E. Fauntroy, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church of Washington, and the District of Columbia delegate to the House of Representatives, said the growing influence of Moral Majority is "declaring bad news" to the nation.

"They are trying to apply Christian principles to a narrow range of secondary issues, but refusing to apply Christian principles

to a broad range of primary issues."

He said he opposes abortion, but also is concerned with "the child after it is born," as he decried reductions in the school lunch and other federal plans designed to aid the "poor and naked and imprisoned."

Fauntroy also charged that the Reagan administration has "launched the most extraordinary attempt to redistribute the wealth of this country from the poor to the very rich."

Jim Wallis, editor of Sojourners Magazine, told participants "There is no safety net. That is a lie. I want to testify to the falsehood of that public policy."

Wallis, who currently is serving a 30-day jail sentence on weekends for protesting an arms exhibit, said, "God's passion for poor people" has been cut out of too much of American evangelism.

"Evangelism in the D.C. jail and in the

city," he said, "must have centrally to do with the fact that the gospel is good news to the poor people. If it is not good news to the poor people, it is not good news to most of the people in this city."

Two long-time friends, Marc Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, and Jimmy R. Allen, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, discussed the limits of evangelism, agreeing there is a difference between evangelism and proselytization.

Allen, now president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, said Baptists are committed to "true evangelism," which involves the freedom to accept or reject God's offer of grace in Jesus Christ.

Emmett V. Johnson, director of evangelism for the American Baptist Churches, said the "magnetism of the gospel" attracts persons to Christ, not government support.

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Kathy Dehoney, Director

both critical, Baptists told

"Authentic evangelism cannot stoop to illegitimate ways," he declared.

In a summary of the conference, William F. Keucher, president of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Detroit, said "A faith that is free requires religious

freedom."

He contrasted such freedom with the "inflexible rigidity" of the new Religious right.

To follow their agenda, he said, "would be to return to the colonial experience when all life was under the auspices of the church," to repeal the Bill of Rights, to

make conformity the law of the land, to cloud the competency of the individual soul, to limit religious freedom for nonconformists, to cripple the meaning of faith by requiring religious rituals in schools, and to "stitch up the veil of the temple" by putting women into enforced submission.

Constitutional issues dissected at conference

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Proposals to require the teaching of scientific creationism and state mandated prayer in public schools and to provide tuition tax credits for parents of parochial school children were assailed by representatives of organizations dedicated to preserving First Amendment freedoms.

Leaders from the American Civil Liberties Union, People for the American Way and Americans United for Separation of Church and State warned participants at the biennial Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs that such proposals constitute a serious threat to religious liberty.

John M. Swomley, chairman of the ACLU's church-state committee, charged that legislation requiring the teaching of scientific creationism in public schools — such as a law recently enacted in Arkansas — amounts to the establishment of a sectarian belief as law.

"Scientific creationism is sectarian because Jewish, Roman Catholic and most major Protestant groups do not teach it or accept it," said Swomley, who teaches Christian ethics at St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo.

Noting the plurality of religious beliefs about creation, Swomley said "When religious groups differ, it is not the function of the state to be the referee and to choose one religious interpretation by making it orthodox or prescribing it for science courses in public schools."

He contended the First Amendment prevents "any and all sectarian groups from making their doctrines the law of the state."

The ACLU, joined by numerous religious leaders including Nathan Porter, domestic hunger consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is challenging the Arkansas law in the courts.

Representing People for the American Way, Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn, challenged the claim that pending school prayer proposals would restore "voluntary" prayer.

The issue is not to put prayer back in schools, Dunn said. It is to put in "state sanctioned prayer."

"Much of the effort is ignorant," Dunn added. "You hear it called 'putting God in schools.' It is as if the Divine could be dumped into a wheelbarrow and carted

out."

The Baptist church-state specialist further challenged the notion that the moral decay of the nation can be attributed to the absence of school prayer.

"The charge that everything went wrong because they threw prayer out of schools is patent poppycock," Dunn said, noting that mandated prayer in schools "hasn't returned purity to Sweden or peace to Northern Ireland."

R. G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United, criticized a growing list of tuition tax credit proposals before Congress which would allow parents of parochial school children to deduct various portions of their educational expenses from their tax bills.

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How the ABN handles bad news

It is the objective of the editor and staff of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* to provide full and accurate information on all matters which are pertinent to the well-being of Arkansas Baptists. Since it is impossible to carry everything that is submitted for publication, the emphasis must be on informing, developing and encouraging Arkansas Baptists.

We believe the reporting of constructive events is far more important than the sharing of those which are negative. There are occasions, however, in which the problems of Baptists must be shared. Among these are: (1) When strong evidence is given of misuse of Baptist funds, or (2) When someone is wrongly using his position for personal gain. There are occasions, when issues become public knowledge, that a Baptist paper must report the facts to balance our readers' information.

In every instance when the reporting of wrong doing is shared, it should be done in a balanced, fair and accurate form. Great care must be exercised since even truthful reporting in some instances, can result in a

libel suit. Fortunately, such events do not occur regularly.

Each Friday morning the editorial staff of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* confers about the selection of materials to be carried. This includes approximately 100 pages of Baptist Press material and 40 pieces of Arkansas news. Care is given to balance the news and events occurring in our state, the work of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the work of the Southern Baptist Convention. When subject matter is beyond the expertise of the *Newsmagazine* staff, help is sought from others. We claim no infallibility in meeting the needs of our readers. Final decisions must always be made by the editor.

The following story has gained much attention in recent days, since it was reported in *Christianity Today*. The entire event has been resolved. The following is the final Baptist Press story release. Two other BP stories were released as the lawsuit between the Baptist Sunday School Board and the former employee came to trial and was settled. — J. Everett Sneed

BSSB, Burnett

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A four-year lawsuit between the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and former employee Don Burnett ended Sept. 1 when the board paid Burnett \$60,000 in damages.

Both the board and Burnett, 42, a former personnel placement consultant, agreed to a reduction of damages ordered by Circuit Judge Joe C. Loser Jr. after a jury awarded Burnett \$400,000 damages in his \$1.5 million lawsuit.

After a two-week trial, the civil court jury found the board and its president, Grady C. Cothen, had defamed Burnett, now an insurance salesman.

Loser, however, directed verdicts in favor of the board on five other allegations — false arrest and imprisonment, assault and battery, wrongful discharge, gross negligence and outrageous conduct.

Following the jury decision, Loser reduced the original award of \$400,000 to \$60,000, saying in a memorandum to attorneys that the jury's award "exceeded the range of reasonableness."

Cothen told Baptist Press that while he continues to believe the jury verdict was

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A pastor speaks about Child Care support

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SPARKMAN
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June 3, 1981

Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services
Mr. Homer W. Shirley, Jr.,
Director of Development
525 West Capitol
P. O. Box 552
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Bro. Shirley,

Thank you for the opportunity to express some of the reasons our church feels deeply committed to the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. Since this is a church function, I took some time in my morning service, May 24, 1981 to let some members tell their reasons for giving. Among those reasons:

"... love ..."

"... duty ..."

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

"Because of the expansion of the ABF&CS beyond the scope of the Children's Home at Monticello ..."

These are a few of the church members' reasons. It is not hard to lead people who have the positive attitude and close personal relationship to Jesus Christ that our members possess. Continually I ask them for sacrificial giving to all of our Baptist causes, and continually they amaze me with their generous outpouring of money and love. My prayer for 1981 is that we will give far above what we gave in 1980.

May God Bless All of You,

Dr. Wayne S. Smith
Dr. Wayne S. Smith
Pastor

WSS:th

"Christ In You, the Hope of Glory"

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

suit settled for \$60,000

not supported by the evidence, he agreed to the reduced damages to avoid further harm to innocent persons whose names surfaced during the trial, to avoid additional legal costs and to enable board officials to turn their full attention to meeting the needs of Southern Baptist churches.

"For five years, this case has been a tremendous distraction from our major thrust of providing materials and resources to aid churches in reaching people for Christ," Cothen said. "I very much regret that innocent people and totally unrelated incidents were brought into this case."

Burnett, when contacted by Baptist Press after damages were paid, declined to comment.

Initially he indicated he would comment to Baptist Press on the case when the issue was concluded, but said, "I have changed my mind."

Asked if his refusal to respond applies to all media or only to Baptist Press, Burnett said it specifically applies to Baptist Press. "Since this thing has gone on as long as it has and this is the first inquiry I have had from Baptist Press, I will have no comment for Baptist Press," he said.

However, Burnett's attorney, Charles Williams, said it was difficult to accept the judge's reduced damages.

"When you have 12 jurors carefully chosen, with give and take by both attorneys, who found the board sufficiently abu-

sive they awarded \$400,000, needless to say, when you accept \$60,000 that's a difficult decision," Williams said.

"We felt he (Judge Loser) was wrong in reducing it that much, but it was either accept that or a new trial which would have required the expenditure of \$5,000 to \$7,000 just for the record. With other expenses, that's just too much burden for Mr. Burnett. This process has been not only a financial burden but a tremendous emotional burden for the man."

Williams said his client has been vindicated and could now hold his head up among his Baptist acquaintances. "The jury found that the board acted wrongfully toward him and with malice when they did it," Williams said.

"This suit was not instituted with expectation of massive recovery," he said. "He was humiliated by what occurred."

The suit, filed in the spring of 1977, arose after a series of events in July and August 1976 when Burnett went to Cothen to express his concerns that certain board employees might be involved in massive conspiracies to defraud the board of funds and that some employees might be forcing others to engage in sexual misconduct.

During the trial, Burnett testified he had no concrete facts upon which to base his concerns and that on occasions "my imagination ran away with me." However, names of numerous employees surfaced in con-

nection with rumors reported by Burnett.

After learning Burnett was carrying a gun in his car for protection, Cothen testified, he became concerned about Burnett's mental health and for the safety of board employees and asked Burnett to see a psychiatrist.

After two sessions with Burnett, the psychiatrist said in a deposition read during the trial that he believed Burnett possessed the likelihood of harm to himself or others. He advised Cothen to have the police pick up Burnett and have him committed temporarily for further psychiatric evaluation.

Testimony showed Burnett was picked up by police on a board parking lot Aug. 4 and taken to a hospital. He was then taken by police to his personal physician who released him.

On Aug. 6, 1976, Cothen spoke briefly to employees in chapel about Burnett, without mentioning him by name.

He requested prayer for a fellow employee, "who, in the judgment of competent authority, needed some help. He has not done anything bad. He has not done anything wrong. He is a respected Christian brother who does not deserve our judgment. He does not deserve our censure. He deserves our prayers."

Burnett was terminated Nov. 4, 1976, because he had failed to provide medical evidence requested by Cothen concerning his health.

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Sunday School lessons



Ferguson

International

Oct. 25, 1981

John 3:1-21

by Robert U. Ferguson
Director of Cooperative Ministries
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Newness of life

Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews (v. 1-2)

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a member of the most influential and conservative group of Jewish rabbis. They were watching Jesus and were confused as to his purpose, his reason for speaking out. Was Jesus a political hopeful? Was he seeking self glory? Was he a fraud? The Jewish nation was near the boiling point under Roman domination. Who was this Jesus, and what was he up to? Nicodemus came to Jesus and asked.

Jesus' unusual reply (v. 3)

Realizing perception was Nicodemus' problem, Jesus went to the heart of the matter. "No one can see (understand) what I am doing unless he has received the new life from above." Jesus knew that natural man is a creature of the earth, without the blessings of God's insight. A man's eyes cannot see what his mind does not know.

Nicodemus is confused (v. 4-9)

"How?" This is a word of request. "Tell me" is what Nicodemus asked. "What do you mean by new birth — new life?"

Jesus' reply will forever challenge the natural mind of mankind. Without the touch from above, we are hopelessly ignorant of the kingly rule of God in our lives. It is not perceived or entered by our natural senses. One can gaze all day at nature's scene and never guess it. It is not written in the sand at the edge of the ocean, nor in the heavens above, nor has it ever entered the mind of man without God's initiative. Jesus was God's initiative to help us perceive and enter this new dimension in living.

Nicodemus listened to Jesus and still could not understand — just like people today listen to us. It takes an experience with Christ to comprehend the new life.

Jesus opens the way (v. 10-21)

The crucial concern is to trust (believe in and commit one's self to) Jesus Christ, who is God's only begotten Son, the assurance of God's love and grace for us. Christ is God's message to mankind that eternal life is available. Sincere seekers of God will come to see, and learn as Nicodemus came. The insincere, devious, self-righteous person will not come.

John 3:16

Some call this the greatest verse in the Bible. It is the good news of salvation in one verse. It is, also, a statement of victory. For the first time in history, John, a Christian preacher, could say to all the world, "whosoever will may come." The only qualification needed to come is to trust Christ.

All other religions had barriers of some kind to keep "whosoever will" from being welcome, but not New Testament Christianity. The new life from above had broken through man-made barriers and by the time of Paul's death, "whosoever will" could come to God through Christ. The good news was news.

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God invites to covenant

On Aug. 17, 1969, I entered into a very important covenant with a young lady from Tennessee. We stood before a minister, our families, and friends, pledging ourselves to one another as long as we both should live. The moment I said "I do," my life changed. I belonged to Janet and Janet belonged to me. We were in a covenant that had both privileges and responsibilities.



Tracy

Covenant of care (Ex. 19:3-8)

Moses went back to Mount Sinai where he had once met God in the burning bush. There God again spoke to him. God beautifully reviewed the redemptive journey. He pictured an eagle with her eaglets teaching them to fly. Carefully watching over the eaglets, the eagle would swoop down under the faltering eaglet and bear it up safely on her wings. Such was the picture of God's care and ministry to the children of Israel.

God offered Moses a covenant that would revolutionize the children of Israel and all of mankind. This covenant involved hearing the word of God, obeying it, and living in relationship with God. That God

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Life and Work

Oct. 25, 1981

Exodus 19:3-8, 17; 20:18-20

by Jerry L. Tracy

Star City First Church

wants us to know him and fellowship with him is quite evident in the Bible. As we enter into covenant with him we become his peculiar treasure, or special possession. That God owns everything is true (Ps. 24:1), but those who enter covenant with him are his special treasure for all eternity.

Covenant responsibility (Ex. 19:6)

Our responsibility includes both living a holy life, or one that reflects the character of God, and being priest by standing between God and man to bring them together. We are saved (Col. 1:13) to lead others to God. We must use both our life and our lips. Either alone is not sufficient.

Covenant accepted (Ex. 19:7-8)

The children of Israel recognized the great difference between man and God. They were commanded to keep their distance and to allow Moses to be their mediator with God. They recognized God's power and holiness. Fear overtook them. Moses spoke in verse 20, "Don't be terrified or anxious: for God is come to test you, to insure your awe that ye sin not."

Jesus comes as our mediator with God (1 Tim. 2:5). He is both man and God. His purpose is the same — that we awe God and we sin not. To enter a covenant with God through faith in Jesus Christ is the greatest privilege and joy of one's life.



Williams

Bible Book

Oct. 25, 1981

Matthew 4:12-25

by Don R. Williams

Carey Association

The King beginning his Galilean ministry

We have already studied Jesus' preparation for service. Two things prepared Jesus for his earthly ministry: (1) his baptism; (2) his temptation. Jesus was now ready to embark upon his public ministry.

He began at Capernaum

The people were not so much under the domination of the religious and political leaders as the people were in Jerusalem and Judea.

The highways of commerce ran through Galilee; travelers from Egypt, Syria, etc., would travel this area.

Galilee was the scene of Jesus childhood. He would be going back home.

His ministry was two-fold (Matt. 4:23-24)

Preaching and teaching: He amazed the crowds with his teaching and preaching. It amazed them because what he taught was fresh truth and full of feeling and compassion. It was practical and convicting and based upon his person.

Healing: The question of "divine healing" has always been a controversial issue. People are always asking, "What about divine healing?" Jesus healed many people; however, it is interesting to notice, Jesus did not heal all the sick people he encountered. Death is a part of this life; we must leave these matters in the wisdom of God. Certainly we should pray for healing, but more important, we should pray that the wise and good will of God be done!

He called men to help minister (Matt. 4:18-22)

At the very beginning he gathered around him an inner group. Notice what they were: They were simple ordinary folk. They were busy men.

Notice how he called them: He simply summoned them to "follow him."

Notice what Jesus offered them: He offered them a task. He called them to a task of becoming "fishers for men."

Notice the price: He called them not to ease, but to service. He called them to a task which would require them to burn themselves up and even die if necessary!

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Your state convention at work

Sunday School

Churches to be honored

Two classifications of Sunday School achievement recognitions will be made at the ABSC at Fayetteville in November. The first classification will be for the four fastest growing Sunday Schools in the state as recognized by their associations and reported to the state Sunday School office.

The second will be a picture contest for those churches which make and send us the pictures of their attendance on Great Day in the Morning, Oct. 25. For this recognition send us your picture and we will display it at the State Convention in Fayetteville. Recognitions will be made for the largest attendance in churches with Sunday School enrollment as follows: (1) up to 150, (2) 150-500; (3) 500 to 1000, and (4) 1000 and up. We need to know the enrollment and attendance with these pictures and they need to reach our office by Nov. 12. If the pictures are of high quality, black and white glossy, the four winners will be published in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* in two issues in December.

Please note that these are two distinctly different recognition plans. The first is for year long growth and the second is for one high attendance day. — **Lawson Hatfield, director**



Hatfield

reducing personal income taxes rather than postponing them until after 1981.

Regardless of whether or not you itemize, we at the Foundation, urge you to consult with your economic advisors (CPA's, attorneys, or accountants) or do some personal study on your own as to how the new tax law can hopefully help you be a better steward by saving some tax dollars. — **Lewis Beckett, vice president**

Evangelism

The crusade director

In a previous article, the forming of a steering committee for simultaneous revivals was discussed. As soon as this committee is elected, it will select a director for the campaign. The director should be a man who knows something about a simultaneous crusade.

He should be one who is to preach in one of the churches during the campaign. His responsibility is tremendous and failure to realize this is most unfortunate.

The director should acquaint himself with his duties and responsibilities. He should study the "Associational Simultaneous Revival Preparation Manual." He should contact the members of the steering committee several months ahead of the campaign. If possible, he should visit the association for a conference with the steering committee.

During the revival campaign itself, he leads in the fellowship meetings. These fellowship meetings are participated in by pastors, evangelists and music directors. The director should decide with the steering committee how many meetings will be held during the week, the time the meetings should be held and where the meetings will be. If distance is involved, it is much better to have noon luncheons in a central-



Shell

ly located church. The host church will provide the food. The participating churches should pay for the food. Each pastor should see that his guests are treated with hospitality.

There are some definite advantages of the fellowship meetings. This is an opportunity to bring about the unification of effort in evangelism on the part of a number of churches. These churches present a solid front against the forces of iniquity. The fellowship service creates and develops the spirit of cooperation between pastors and churches. This teaches the people to work together in the bonds of Christian love. The most far-reaching advantages of these services is the possibility of teaching methods on how to reach a world for Christ. The director of the crusade selects speakers and subjects that will have a positive effect upon those attending.

The fellowship meetings also provide opportunity and time for men of God to pray together. When people pray together, it brings their hearts and minds together.

I pray for you and your association as you select the crusade director. This man should be committed to the Word of God, to evangelism, to prayer and a cooperative spirit with others. — **Clarence Shell, director**

Church Recreation

Events planned

Two exciting events are coming soon for those involved in church recreation. One is the Church Recreator's Banquet sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist Recreator's Association on Tuesday, Nov. 2, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The banquet will be a time of fellowship and fun for ABRA members and those inter-



Falkner

Foundation

Begin planning now

A lot of people are talking about Reagan economics and the new Economic Recovery Act of 1981. It has been perhaps, one of the most far reaching pieces of tax legislation for some time, affecting income, estate and gift taxes as well.

It may be of little or no surprise to you, but taxpayers should begin planning now in regards to their personal income tax picture for this year, looking at next year as well. Because of the tax cuts which begin after 1981, income should be deferred if possible until next year, yet, long term capital gains should be incurred this year if possible. For those who itemize, it would be better taxwise to make charitable contributions this year rather than wait until next year. In short, any deductions taken this year will have a greater effect in



Beckett

Cooperative Program report: September

1980		1981
\$613,271.32	September gifts	\$677,705.94
591,258.08	Monthly budget	669,511.50
<u>22,013.24</u>		<u>8,194.44</u>
\$5,500,396.06	Gifts year-to-date	\$6,127,149.97
5,321,322.74	Budget year-to-date	6,025,603.50
<u>179,073.32</u>		<u>101,546.47</u>

The six million plus dollars given by 92.77 percent of Arkansas Baptist churches represents 101.69 percent of the budget goal through September. This generosity exceeds the inflation rate and expresses an interest in the work supported by the Cooperative Program. — **James A. Walker, director**

Your state convention at work

Attendance report

ested in becoming members. The featured personality will be Bob Henry, minister of youth at First Church, Springfield, Mo. Bob will be leading the participants in a combination of music, games and inspiration with special emphasis on the "how-to's" of having a similar event in the local church. The Recreator's Banquet promises to be a time of fun for everyone involved in church recreation and anyone wanting to learn more about this exciting ministry. For reservation information, contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark., 72203, phone: 376-4791.

Another training experience is available for church staff members in the form of Rec Labs at Lake Yale, Fla., on Jan. 4-9 and Glorieta, N.M., on Jan. 25-30. These week-long conferences are sponsored by the Church Recreation Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The week centers around laboratory training experiences in almost every area of church recreation. This is an excellent opportunity for churches interested in beginning or expanding a recreation ministry. Contact the Church Training Department for more information. — **Bill Falkner**, state church recreation consultant

Family and Child Care Their future is in your hands

The future of hundreds of children is in the hands of Arkansas Baptists. Only the love of God as expressed through his people can meet the total needs of hundreds of boys and girls in our state.

Jesus said to his disciples concerning the hungry multitude, "Give ye them to eat" (Matt. 14:16). We have the same responsibility to the multitudes of needy children in our state.

We have no magic way to meet these needs. We are dependent upon Arkansas Baptists to follow the example of the boy who gave his lunch.

One of the major sources of income for

meeting these needs is the Thanksgiving Offering. The time for receiving the offering is near. This offering, along with Mother's Day offering, church budgets, birthday offerings and sponsorships, provide more than one-third of our operating budget. This year we need \$390,000 from these sources. So you can understand why we are so concerned that we receive a large Thanksgiving Offering. Each pastor has received a letter with a suggested goal for his church.

Packets of materials including posters, envelopes and bulletin inserts have been mailed to each church. Since we use a mailing permit each package must contain exact contents. The size of the church determines the number of packets they receive. If your church should need more please let us know.

We believe God's people will release the resources in their hands to meet the needs of children whose future is in their hands. For that we praise God and thank you. — **Homer W. Shirley Jr.**, director of development

Brotherhood RA lunch is Nov. 7

Saturday, Nov. 7, is the date for the 42nd annual state-wide event for Royal Ambassadors in Arkansas. This year we have scheduled a Fellowship Luncheon at Woody's Sherwood Forest in North Little Rock. The three-hour meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with activities that will be of interest to Royal Ambassadors, leaders, counselors, and pastors.

Information has been mailed out across the state and reservations must be made by Monday, Nov. 2.

Our speaker at the luncheon will be Frank Black from the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

Remember, National Royal Ambassador Week is Nov. 1-7. Promote activities in your own church as well as on the state level.

Don't miss the big event at Woody's Sherwood Forest on Saturday, Nov. 7. — **Neal Guthrie**, director

Scholarship aids missions

ST. PHILIP, Barbados — Combining long interests in education for young pastors and in world missions, a Newton, Miss., couple has provided a scholarship for assisting students at Baptist Theological College for the Caribbean at St. Philip, Barbados. Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Campere, for 22 years associated with Clarke College, Newton, provided the scholarship in memory of their parents. The first recipients are Wayne and Shanti Rowbottom. The scholarship will ensure a continuing source of financial help for training Baptist leaders throughout the Caribbean.

Oct. 11, 1981

Church	Sunday School	Church Trng.	Church add.
Alexander			
First	137	56	2
Vimy Ridge Immanuel	81	57	1
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	161	46	
Alma, First	78	41	
Atkins, First	117	55	1
Batesville			
First	256	106	
West	32	83	
Hunting Home	32		
Bella Vista	201		
Benton, Salem	248	160	2
Bentonville, First	430		
Berryville			
First	233	105	
Freeman Heights	242	81	4
Blue Eye, Mo., First	98	45	
Booneville, South Side	150	87	
Brewer			
First Southern	325	139	3
Indian Springs	130	67	
Cabot, First	300	125	
Cherokee Village, First	135	44	
Conway			
Harlan Park	114	78	
Oak Bowery	119	92	
Pickles Gap	194	85	4
Second	507	271	1
Crosscut			
First	506	162	
Meridian	95	64	
Mount Olive	343	176	1
Temple	185	125	2
Deer Arc, First	220	91	
Denha, First	92	78	
El Dorado			
Parkview	163	69	1
Hunting Home	11		
West Side	448		3
Forest City, First	577	93	
Fort Smith			
First	2,145		31
Grand Avenue	1,431	95	6
Mission	30		
Westside	80	45	
Gassville	115	43	
Centry, First	143	17	1
Grade, First	35	20	
Hampson, First	180	96	
Hardy, First	131	49	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	250	96	
Northside	139	78	
Woodland Heights	112	54	1
Hot Springs			
Leonard Street	201	62	
Park Place	308	108	5
Hughes, First	140	59	1
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	193	105	
Nertleton	256	115	
Philadelphia	135	65	
Kingston, First Southern	80		
Little Rock, Crystal Hill	119	57	
Magnolia, Central	728	200	
Manfield, First	156	45	
Manassas, First	277	224	9
Maynard, Witts Chapel	122	74	1
Monticello, Second	263	104	4
Mulberry, First	237	2	2
Newark, Southern	41	35	
Paragould			
Calvary	234	179	3
East Side	394	248	1
First	392	90	
Pra Ridge, First	239	74	
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	106	52	1
Central	89	30	
South Side	578	148	1
Sulphur Springs	162	54	1
Watson Chapel	473	214	2
Prairie Grove, First	166	74	
Rogers, Immanuel	965		2
Russellville, First	527	180	
Sandusky, Okla., Faith	34	23	
Springdale			
Berry Street	84	52	
Cauldie Avenue	101	50	
Elmdale	313	142	1
First	2,040		8
Towarkana			
Highland Hills	96	56	1
Shiloh Memorial	133	82	
Van Buren, First	454	109	1
Vernon, Beryl	104	89	
Vandenoort, First	44	28	2
Ward, First	147	102	7
West Helena, Second	292	119	4
Woooster, First	122	61	
Yellville, First	158	76	

Korean pastors picking up slack

TAEJON, Korea — Tightened security on Korean military bases has made access more difficult for foreigners, such as Southern Baptist missionaries working in military evangelism. But Korean Baptist pastors have been able to pick up the slack. In 1980 more than 200 pastors held services on Korean bases. Because of the pastors' increasing involvement, there is growing financial support from the churches. Through the end of July, churches had sent more than \$1,200 to the military evangelism department of the Korea Baptist Mission.

SBC datelines

September gifts push into challenge funds

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist giving through the national Cooperative Program ended the 1980-81 fiscal year nearly \$4.7 million into the Bold Mission Thrust Challenge goal.

September's undesignated mission gifts through the unified budget were \$6,577,346, most of which went toward a \$13 million challenge goal because all of operating and one-fourth of the capital needs budgets were met with receipts through August.

The challenge goal is to fund projects for Bold Mission Thrust, the convention's ambitious project to present the gospel to

Electronic denominations predicted by sociologist

by Dan Martin

WASHINGTON (BP) — Electronic churches may spawn electronic denominations, a sociologist told participants at the National Religious Liberty Conference in Washington.

Jeffrey K. Hadden, a professor at the University of Virginia and co-author of a new book, "Prime Time Preachers," said the sophistication of new computer-based communications techniques — which allow direct communication between the broadcasters and audiences — makes possible the rise of the new denominations.

Addressing the biennial Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Hadden said such denominations also will be hastened by an ever increasing need for funds to keep the programs on the air.

"The propensity of the televangelists to equate their grandiose dreams with God's will, and their childlike trust that the Almighty will deliver the bucks to pay for their monumental projects, no matter how ambitious, portends a disastrous conclusion someday," he said.

He added that more and more evangelists competing for money from an audience which has not increased appreciably "may hasten the day when one or more of the major ministries collapses."

Such pressures, he said, "could eventually lead some of them into the franchising business, creating what essentially would be "branch offices" of the national organization to support the television ministry and its ancillary projects.

"A skillful blending of communications technology and face-to-face recruiting techniques developed by groups such as the Mormons could result in rapid church development," Hadden said. "The televangelists and their local organizations could expect to receive a good bit of criticism for robbing the pews of other churches, but 'member snatching' has been going on for a long time among proselytizing evangelicals."

Hadden said Jerry Falwell "is perhaps

best positioned to move in this direction. For all intents and purposes he already has the organizational structure in place with Liberty Baptist College and Liberty Baptist Seminary."

"Among his many ambitious goals for the current decade is the establishment of 5,000 new churches," Hadden said. "Falwell denies any interest in founding a new denomination (but) were Falwell inclined, it would take little effort to transform independent Baptists into Falwellian Baptists."

He also noted Pat Robertson of Christian Broadcasting Network has a structure which could be transformed into local congregations, with prayer and counseling centers in 83 cities, manned by 10,000 volunteers.

"If other televangelists are not as ideally organized to create new denominations as Falwell and Robertson, they still possess considerable resources to build churches that would owe allegiance to them," Hadden said.

He added the reasons such "branch offices" have not been created are that the electronic ministries are "very young" and that the television evangelists have a "moral hesitancy. It requires some mental gymnastics to go about the business of starting local churches and simultaneously deny that one is in competition with local churches."

The rationale, once such denominations begin, he said, will be that they are filling a need unmet by others. Their experience in referring new converts to local congregations, they will argue, was too often unsuccessful because the local church failed to shepherd the newly won souls adequately.

Hadden had a word of advice for Baptist executives: "Were I a church executive, especially in a conservative denomination, I would treat the electronic church franchising scenario with utmost seriousness. I would want to have a game plan to deal with franchising. It may not happen, but, were I a gambling man, I would not bet against this development."

Editor Marse Grant announces retirement

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, for 22 years, announced Oct. 1 that he will retire in September of 1982.

Grant, 61, who has been editor of the weekly newspaper since 1960, said the retirement was "totally my decision. The only pressure I have had is to remain."

Grant, a layman, was editor of Charity and Children, a publication of the North

Carolina Baptist Children's Homes, for 10 years prior to assuming his role at the Biblical Recorder.

He is probably best known in North Carolina for his role in the defeat of the 1973 statewide referendum for liquor by the drink. The referendum was thoroughly defeated with 97 counties voting against it. Five years later the legislation gave counties the right to hold liquor by the drink elections.

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every person by the year 2000. The Foreign and Home Mission Boards will receive 72 percent of the challenge funds, the six seminaries will share 15 percent, Radio-Television Commission 10 percent and Brotherhood Commission three percent.

September gifts were up 11.2 percent over September 1980 and bring year-to-date totals to \$81,685,873, a 13.83 percent increase over the 1979-80 receipts. This was toward a \$90 million goal, including \$74.5 million basic operating; \$2.5 million capital needs and the challenge.

Designated offerings were down 40.4 percent from September 1980, to \$793,675. For the year, designated offerings totaled \$71,530,258, an \$8.1 million or 12.75 percent increase over 1979-80.

Total designated and undesignated offerings were \$153,216,131, up \$18 million or 13.3 percent over last year.