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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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April 21, 1977
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

Discovery:
Your Mission

Life Commitment Month ... April

Vocational Guidance, Church Administration Department, The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 127 North Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee 37203



I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

There is no laughter in hell

Jesus was not a funny man, but there was a sparkle in his eyes in some of his most serious moments. Check him out as you do your daily devotional readings and you may be surprised at the sharpness of his wit. For a starter, how about the figure of speech when he chided the pharisees for worrying about the speck in another's eye while there was a big beam in theirs. I enjoy the story about the invitation to the big banquet when one excused himself to see some property he had presumably bought, another to test five yoke of oxen he said he bought sight unseen and another who claimed he had just married.

Who would buy oxen without proving them, real estate without seeing it, or deny himself the chance to show off his new bride at a state banquet? There was humor, pure humor, at its best. All through the ministry of Jesus were the occasions when humor was employed to get across difficult lessons to difficult people. What is humor all about? It may be the only practical and inexpensive way to break the spell of the murderous stress of the 20th century rat race. A victory is always achieved if we can laugh at ourselves. A defeat is always evident when we cannot. There is no laughter in hell, and hell is anywhere there is no laughter. How can we develop a sparkling sense of humor? To begin we may seek to translate our most embarrassing moment into forms of humor. Do we dare laugh at our most tense times? Are we interested in making a joke of our stupidity? I believe every Christian can improve his ability to laugh by recalling events which he would like to forget and become masters over those unfortunate incidents, by making a joke about them.

Brooks Hays remarked in a recent speech in Washington, "I wish all of you to know that I retired from active politics some years ago with the full endorsement of my constituents." That is funny and is redemptive when the reasons Brooks Hays was voted out of office are studied at length. Those who can laugh at themselves will never be committed to institutions for the mentally disturbed. Those who take themselves so seriously they cannot joke about certain matters may be paving the way for further nervous disorders. Jesus was not a professional humorist, but he never lacked for a light moment to relieve tension. Your ability to laugh here will serve you well in heaven because there is laughter in that place. You may have heard of the mummy who was pressed for time. What has that to do with the subject of laughter? It's funny; that's what.

I must say it!

In this issue

Life commitment

This week's cover proclaims April as "Life Commitment Month" for Southern Baptists.

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The Christian Civic Foundation in Arkansas has had a big influence of the passage or death of some Arkansas laws considered by the 1977 legislature, and Arkansas Baptists have had a part in the CCF.

Long service 10

A pastor who has served long in many jobs for Arkansas Baptists has been honored on his retirement from the active pastorate.

Baptists' future 16

Some Baptist leaders have predicted what Baptists will be like in the future. They met in a conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly recently.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor
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Voting on church members

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Voting to receive new church members is normal procedure for a Baptist church. This includes those who unite by transfer of letter, as well as those who come as candidates for baptism. Because of this procedure, we have sometimes been accused of voting people into or out of the Kingdom. Such an accusation is predicated on at least two false ideas — (1) That church membership determines the salvation of a person; and (2) That a local congregation lacks the authority to determine its membership.

Church membership clearly does not produce right standing with God. One receives salvation by grace through faith. The Apostle Paul said, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9-10). There is evidence that some members of New Testament churches had never had an experience with Christ. Judas Iscariot was not only a member of the embryonic church, but also an apostle. Jesus himself said, "... have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He was speaking of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon (John 6:70-71).

For Christians, however, church membership is not an optional matter. In the New Testament era, those who had an experience with Christ immediately joined a church (Acts 2:47).

There is scriptural evidence that the government of the early church was congregational and democratic. The congregation at Jerusalem participated in the selection of a successor to Judas

Iscariot. Matthias was chosen by the church to take his place as an apostle (Acts 1:23-26).

No individual in the New Testament era attempted to assert himself as a ruler. The apostles made no attempt to dictate the actions of churches.

The authority of the local congregation was clearly emphasized by Jesus in that he made the church the final appeal for members who were having a disagreement (Matt. 18:15-18). The pattern for any member who feels that he has been wronged by another is as follows: (1) He is to go immediately to the person he believes has wronged him; (2) If this fails, he is to take others (two or more) with him, and (3) If this fails, the matter is to be taken to the whole congregation, who will resolve the matter by arbitration or disciplinary action.

Obviously, someone (the congregation, the pastor or a committee) must make a decision on the receipt of new members. Almost all religious groups maintain definite membership roles. The very few who deny that they keep roles, for all practical purposes do have them — they know who is active and inactive in their work. They make mailouts or other contacts as needed.

The Bible clearly indicates that no one was ever voted in or out of the Kingdom of God by any man or group of men. But it should be a joy to the one presenting himself for membership, knowing that he is welcome by the entire congregation. This is the New Testament pattern, so let's follow it joyfully.

Guest editorial

The SBC — A time for laymen?

As the articles and programs in the last two issues of the *Rocky Mountain Baptist* have reminded us, it is the time when many pastors and others are planning their trips to Kansas City for the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention and all its related meetings.

Convention time is in many ways the focal point of our whole denominational effort. It is the time when massive amounts of business, previously worked out by relatively few people in committees, come before messengers from churches all across the nation.

It is a time of inspiration, as mission boards, other agencies, and outstanding speakers bring to the messengers the story of what Southern Baptists are doing to bring Christ to lives in all parts of the world.

And it is a time of exchanging views, taking stands and generally making national news as a denomination.

But the convention as it exists has failed to be the representative cross section of Southern Baptists it ideally should be. The fault is not with the structure itself — there is an equitable formula for numbers of messengers allowed per church, depending on size and amount of financial support of SBC causes, and all 36,000 or so SBC churches can be represented at the annual meeting.

But the representation is out of balance in that out of a denomination of 13 million, of which perhaps only a fraction

of one percent are pastors, at convention time the vast majority of the messengers are pastors, their families and others in denominational roles.

This is not a call to limit the number of pastors at the SBC. It is a call for churches to consider sending a layman *in addition* to sending their pastor.

This call, admittedly, is probably more accurately aimed at our larger churches. Many of our churches find it beyond their means to finance even sending their pastor. And where that is still an unmet goal, it is still one worthy of reaching.

But some larger churches often set aside a budget item for sending their pastor — and sometimes his wife — to the annual meeting.

Our belief is that those churches should consider enlarging that budget item to also help pay the way of a layperson or couple to the convention.

Many Colorado Baptists have never had contact with Southern Baptists from other areas of the country. They have only second-hand knowledge of the scope of our denomination. An experience as messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention could be a life-changing experience.

And that is as valuable for laypeople as it is for pastors. —
"Rocky Mountain Baptist" of Colorado



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

Saccharine no, alcohol yes

In the midst of the uproar over outlawing the sale of saccharine, the sugar substitute, a lot of difficult questions arise. For example, how do we decide as a nation what is harmful enough to outlaw? Almost every day the newspapers and other news media report the demand of some group that something now outlawed be "decriminalized".

How did we happen to draw up an official list of "public enemies" that includes saccharine on the forbidden list but leaves alcoholic beverages on the publicly acceptable list? It is interesting to compare these two substances. I've been told saccharine was outlawed following a research project in Canada which discovered that some of the white rats fed saccharine developed cancer. As I understand it, the rats were fed an amount of saccharine equal to five percent of their total diets. Someone has calculated that this would be the equivalent of a human being consuming 800 diet cola drinks a day over a period of 50 years. That's a lot of diet drinks in anybody's lifestyle!

So far as I know we have absolutely no evidence that a single human being has

died from the consumption of saccharine. It would be reasonably safe to say that the risk of a person's consuming 800 diet drinks or their equivalent each day for 50 years is absolutely zero. But consider the evidence on the harm from consuming alcoholic beverages. A conservative estimate of alcohol-related deaths on the highways caused by drunk drivers is 25,000 deaths per year. The loss of human lives in the Vietnam War did not equal that annual carnage. Add in the other well-documented statistics on alcohol as our nation's number one drug problem — far more serious than marijuana in its economic, physical, social and moral consequences. Who can predict which one of the 10 to 20 young persons who take the first social drink will be drawn inevitably down the road to alcoholism? Scientists don't know why; they only know that it does happen.

A visitor from another planet would have difficulty explaining the entry in his diary about the American policy of "saccharine no, alcohol yes". I have considerable trouble with that one too.

Letter to the editor

What ERA doesn't say

In reply to Mrs. Jay Freeman of Little Rock: If Mrs. Freeman will read a copy of the Equal Rights Amendment she will see that it provides for equal protection under the law for women. That is all. There is no mention of giving away state powers, no mention of financial obligations, no mention of social security and credit, no mention of pre-school children, no mention of sodomy laws nor homosexuals. Nor is there any mention made of churches.

American women are being misled by the current rash of propaganda against ERA. If ERA is defeated the women of this country will be denied the recognition of country and constitution they justly deserve. Women will have to continue to resort to Equal Opportunity Acts and Civil Rights laws in order to be recognized as equal human beings by the government and constitution.

Vocal anti-ERA people have not been told, or refuse to believe, that the country will go on as it has before; that each challenge made under the ERA will be handled by the courts as is every other challenge to the constitution, on

Church workers may now get insurance

DALLAS, Tex. — Southern Baptist ministers and church employees once denied medical insurance because of certain health conditions are now being considered for "non-standard" coverage by the Annuity Board, SBC.

Darold H. Morgan, Annuity Board president, said the agency is accepting applications for possible "non-standard" coverage from persons formerly unable to get insurance through the Board's church medical program.

"Non-standard medical coverage is being offered on a waived basis for uninsurable medical conditions other than systemic disorders," Morgan explained.

"Systemic" disorders are those which affect the body generally. Involving bodily systems, they include such common conditions as diabetes, cancer, epilepsy and heart disease.

Generally, "standard" medical insurance is extended to persons in excellent health. The term "non-standard" applies to insurance which covers all medical needs except conditions which led to non-insurability.

"Non-standard" coverage through the Annuity Board is being issued by Aetna Life & Casualty, the underwriting insurance company, at the same premium levels charged for "standard" coverage, Morgan said.

Letters to the editor

We encourage letters to the editor as this is an important part of every Baptist publication. Readers are extremely interested in the various points of view which are held by individuals within our state.

Letters, however, must conform to certain guidelines: (1) They should be clearly labeled "Letter to the Editor"; (2) They should deal with an issue of general interest to our readers (letters of commendation or recommendation cannot be carried. Letters defaming the character of any individual will also be rejected.); and (3) Letters must not exceed 350 words.

These guidelines have been approved by the ABN Advisory Committee, and the editor has been instructed to return all letters which do not conform to these standards for rewriting by the author.

Letters received by Monday, 11:30 a.m., will appear in an issue 10 days later.

an individual basis.

Read the amendment, word for word, and see that none of the things most feared are mentioned even indirectly. One blatant lie about ERA is the one about women becoming eligible for the draft. There is no draft in this country. If revived under present laws, our congressmen may choose to include women in it or not. They can do it with or without ERA.

Privacy in bathrooms has been confirmed as a right under constitution. The amendment will not change that.

Editorial limitations prohibit further comment on individual aspects of the issue, but listen not to rumor and supposition; read the amendment, then decide for or against. — Mrs. Travis Hooper, Mena

**COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM
YOUR
DIRECT
LINE
TO MISSION SUPPORT . . .**



Phil Largent has joined the staff of Springdale First Church as minister of evangelism. He previously was employed at the Veterans Hospital in Springdale. Largent and his wife, Nancy, are the parents of a son, Neil, age four.

James R. Davis has been called as pastor of Pottsville Church. He attended Southern College, Walnut Ridge; Southwest College, Bolivar, Mo.; and Southwestern Seminary. He formerly served as pastor at Fair Play, Mo. Davis and his wife, Shirley, are parents of two married children.

Max W. Deaton, pastor at Dallas Avenue Church, Mena, recently was in Stephenville, Tex., where he preached a revival at Valley Grove Church. Upon his return to Mena the church surprised him and his wife, Joyce, with a pounding.

Sharon Peebles of Augusta First Church has completed the Level of Excellence in the Sunday School Bible Searchers Memory Plan program. She was presented her certificate in church services on March 6. Sharon, a fifth grader, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Peebles. Mrs. Linda Fellows is her Sunday School teacher, and Mrs. Iris Gregory is department director. Eugene Ray is pastor.

The **Ted Stantons**, who were appointed to the foreign mission field as music missionaries in May of 1976, are currently in the Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica, preparing for their future field of service. They are former members of South Highland Church, Little Rock.

William Huff of Rosie died on Sunday, March 27, at the age of 70. He was a member of the Rosie Church. Survivors include his wife, three sons and four



Largent



Davis

daughters.

Joe Denton has resigned as pastor of DeQueen First Church due to a continuing heart condition. His disability retirement follows a three-year battle with heart attacks and open heart surgery. Denton came to DeQueen from New Boston, Tex., in 1966. As pastor of the DeQueen Church he has led in 700 people uniting with the church; a \$60,000 indebtedness has been paid; and an equal amount of additional property has been purchased. Approximately \$1 million has been given through the church during his years of service in DeQueen. Denton has served as moderator of Little River and Ouachita Associations and is currently serving on the executive board of Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will make his home in DeQueen.

J. L. Simpson has resigned as pastor of Bowman Church, Lake City.

Providence Church, Jonesboro, has called **Donnie Stacy** as pastor. Stacy was formerly pastor of Freer Church, Trumann.

Bert Hargett has resigned as pastor of Egypt Church near Walnut Ridge.

Johnny Lemmons, who was pastor at New Antioch Church, has accepted the pastorate of Cash Church.

Bob Wade, pastor of Haven Heights Church, Ft. Smith, was recently in Cameron, Okla., where he conducted revival services at Liberty Hill Church.

John McAnally is pastoring Parks Church, Buckner Association. He is a graduate of Ouachita University, Arkadelphia.

Chuck New, student at Arkansas Tech University, has accepted the call to become part-time minister of music at Immanuel Church, Russellville.

J. R. Wiles has accepted the pastorate of Union Valley Church, Calvary Association.

North Main Church, Jonesboro, honored **Terry Hargett** on Sunday evening, April 10. The special event was for Hargett's six years as Director of Bus Ministry. "This Is Your Life" was theme chosen for the surprise event. Bill Lewis is pastor.

William L. Kreis, pastor of Paris First Church, is conducting a revival in Dierks.

Archie Rader has been called to serve as pastor of Park Street Church, Bentonville. Rader, a native of Oklahoma, surrendered to the ministry in 1954 and was ordained by Rabbs Creek Church, Oologah, Okla., in 1958. He has served churches in Oklahoma and Colorado. He and his wife are parents of four sons.

W. R. Edwards, pastor of Elmdale Church, Springdale, recently conducted revival services at Prairie Grove First Church. Music for the revival was under direction of **Jim Walker**, minister of music and youth for the Elmdale Church.

Executive Board finance subcommittees are appointed

Five subcommittees of the Finance Committee of the Executive Board have been appointed by Ray Wells, chairman of the Finance Committee. Their establishment was approved last December by the Finance Committee and then by the full Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Wells was instructed to make the appointments.

The committees and members named are the following:

Emergency fund

Mrs. C. S. Williams, chairperson, Mena

Bert Thomas, Luxora

Mrs. Carl Bunch, Jonesboro

Extreme mission needs

Ernie Perkins, chairperson, Ft. Smith

Roy Gean Law, Ozark

Raymond Morris, Bradford

Boyce Bible School

Milton Wilson, chairperson, West Memphis

Virgil Blair, Leslie

Bill Lewis, Jonesboro

Budget Planning representatives

John Wright, chairperson, Little Rock

Kenneth Threet, Mountain Home

Truman Moore, Ft. Smith

Terrell Gordon, Fayetteville

Ray Wells, Smackover

1977 overage distribution

Dennis Dodson, chairperson, Star City

Robert Harper, Buckville

R. B. Harper, Cherokee Village

Dean Newberry, Rogers

Charles Mayo, Benton

Christian Civic Foundation director finds himself 'watchman on the wall'

by Erwin L. McDonald
ABN Editor Emeritus

When Edward W. Harris became executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., nearly five years ago, he was under the impression that he was to have a full-time job. He has not been disappointed.

"Actually, sometimes it's been a day-and-night job," the athletic United Methodist minister grinned.

The 71st Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature, only recently adjourned, was still fresh on the director's mind as he recalled what it was like serving as "watchman on the wall" for the Foundation during the busy 68-day session.

"In the realm of legislation, the victory is never complete," mused Harris. "We win skirmishes and then go back the next day to be sure that the fight is still won. But to be a part of a legislative process, working closely with dedicated Christian legislators, is one of the most satisfying aspects of my assignment."

"There's a constant threat of evil forces to the life of the state, however," he said. This finds expression in every session of the Legislature through paid lobbyists who seek to promote dangerous legislation, he continued.

Several bills relating to morality were passed. Included were:

—House Bill 473, a comprehensive obscenity bill introduced by Representative Earl Jones of Texarkana and which is now Act 464. It provides state-wide standards for obscenity, clarifying

definitions of terms and incorporating previously existing statutes, and, as amended, provides civil injunction proceedings under supervision of the courts.

—Senate Bill 152, by Senator Ralph Patterson of North Little Rock, prohibiting self-induced intoxication as a defense in criminal prosecution, has become Act 101. It passed both houses without opposition.

—Two Senate bills — both by Russ of Conway — intended to clarify and strengthen Initiated Act 1 of 1942 (the Local Option Law) — are now law. Bill 319, now Act 341, dealt with language covering the preparation of petitions for Local Option elections, classifying terms and bringing this section of the law up to date. Bill 108, now Act 208, dealt with the clarification of ballot titles.

—House Bill 117, by Representative Stancel of Ft. Smith, amends the Criminal Code to make sodomy a crime and prescribes the penalty. It is now Act 828.

The success of the Foundation's presence in the Legislature is also reflected by certain bills that did not pass.

Two House bills by North Little Rock representatives — Number 103 by Osterloh and number 438 by Hoofman — aimed at repeal of the state Sunday Closing Law, failed to pass. The Foundation joined with the Arkansas Retail Merchants Association in opposition to

the bills.

House Bill 359, by Representatives Stewart and Rose, intended to strengthen and clarify the present law regulating distances between churches, schools and liquor outlets, passed the House but failed to be voted on in the Senate.

House Bill 419, by Representative Thompson of Marked Tree, would have permitted 17-year-olds to check out beer and wine at grocery stores. The Foundation strongly opposed this bill, and it was defeated 66 to 18.

A ruling by Judge Tom Digby of Little Rock declaring Act 132 of 1969 invalid for lack of a two-thirds vote, resulted in an order closing private liquor clubs being operated under the act in dry counties. (The clubs have since reopened on a stay of enforcement pending a ruling by the State Supreme Court.) In response to strong lobbying by private club and liquor interests in both of the houses, attempts were made to pass legislation that would restore private club liquor permits in dry counties.

Such a proposal was Senate Bill 566, introduced by Senator Caldwell of Rogers and Senator Bookout of Jonesboro, both from dry counties. The passage of the bill would have provided a "dangerous substitute for Initiated Act 1 of 1942" in the opinion of Director Harris. He was aided in his vigil against the bill by Charles Ashcraft, executive



Edward W. Harris expected a full-time job as director, and he got it serving as "watchman on the wall" during the legislative session.



CHRISTIAN CIVIC FOUNDATION OFFICERS — In a recent meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation held at Little Rock First United Methodist Church officers elected were (left to right) Dale Ward, third vice-president; Dr. Cary Heard, second vice-president; John H. Thompson, secretary; Don Hook, treasurer; W. A. Blount, first vice-president; and Raymond Hillis, president. At the microphone is Erwin L. McDonald, member of the foundation's executive committee, who was in charge of installation of the new officers. At far right is Edward W. Harris, Foundation Executive Director.

How the Arkansas Senate voted on senate bill 566

(For Liquor Permits for Private Clubs in Dry Counties)

March 7, 1977

Voting "For":

Allen, Bookout, Caldwell, Harvey, Henry, Howell, Ingram, Russ, Walmsley and Wilson.

Voting "Against":

Bell, Benham, Bryant, Canada, Douglas of Washington, Ford, Gathright, Gibson, Hargrove, Hendrix, Jewell, King, Locke, Moore, Nelson, Patterson, Rainwater, Ray, Sheid, Teague, Watson and Womack.

Not voting: Bearden, Douglas of Miller, and Earnhart.

Totals: "For", 10; "Against", 22; "Not Voting", 3.

Votes "For" needed to pass — 24.

March 8, 1977

Voting "For":

Allen, Bearden, Benham, Bookout, Caldwell, Hargrove, Harvey, Henry, Howell, Ingram, Jewell, Patterson, Russ, Teague, Walmsley and Wilson.

Voting "Against":

Bell, Bryant, Douglas of Miller, Douglas of Washington, Ford, Gathright, Hendrix, King, Locke, Moore, Nelson, Rainwater, Ray and Womack.

Totals: "For", 16; "Against", 14; "Not Voting", 5.

Votes "For" needed to pass — 24.

Note: After each vote, the vote was expunged by voice vote, leaving the bill on the calendar. On March 11 it was amended, by voice vote, and remained on the calendar until the General Assembly recessed, March 18.

secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, he said. Dr. Ashcraft joined Harris in opposing the bill in the Senate Rules Committee and in keeping watch from legislative galleries. (See the accompanying listing of how the members of the Senate voted on this bill.)

Legislation that would have decriminalized public drunkenness was defeated on the floor of the House. And legislation that would have decriminalized possession and use of marijuana did not materialize.

The board of directors of the Christian Civic Foundation, in annual meeting recently at First United Methodist Church of Little Rock, heard an address by Methodist Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks of the Arkansas area, listened to an optimistic report from Director Harris, adopted a record budget of \$52,438, and elected officers for the coming year.

Contemporary social conditions "present a life that is very complex," taking Christian faith "out of the realm of simplicity," Bishop Hicks said. In order to deal with a world which needs to be changed, Christians "must offer up their past, present and future to God," he said.

Director Harris praised the work of Educational Assistant Ronnie Sparks, an ordained Baptist minister whose primary assignment is promotion of the Foundation's Alcohol-Narcotics program in the public schools of the state. He said that Sparks will have presented the program in 91 schools this year, by the end of the current school year.

New Foundation officers for the ensuing year, installed in a ceremony at the close of the annual meeting, were:

Raymond Hillis, Malvern businessman and United Methodist lay minister, president;

W. A. Blount, pastor of Sylvan Hills Community Church, first vice president;

Cary Heard, pastor of Park Hill Church of North Little Rock, second vice president;

Dale Ward, Little Rock businessman and Baptist lay leader, third vice president;

John H. Thompson, Little Rock, associate director of the Councils on Ministries of the Little Rock and North Little Rock Conferences of the United Methodist Church, secretary;

Don Hook, pastor of Crystal Hill Church, treasurer.



Woman's viewpoint

Evelyn K. Eubank

Beginning to grow

I awakened to the sound of birds. As I opened a door the balmy air of our first spring day sent my spirits soaring. I longed to walk in the woods, leaving the severity of winter far behind. But the wooded area nearby that was such a delight in previous years is now a new subdivision. Though I've never had a green thumb, perhaps planting something would suffice.

I thought of my mother potting plants for me, then the comments as I took them home: "Now, let's see how long it takes you to kill them." It seems I always watered too much or too little. Then a Virginia-clay hillside just above the lake flashed into my mind. My sister not only terraced it; she turned it into a perennial flowering garden. So I must keep mine simple.

Shopping that day I bought one rose bush and a small pot of philodendron. The rose bush proved simple after shoveling through a layer of slate. With sufficient potting soil, I carefully placed the philodendron in a hanging basket. Regardless of how I turned or packed it, it drooped to one side. A phone call made me leave it temporarily and it was time to get dinner. I hung it over my kitchen sink thinking I would try again tomorrow.

The next two weeks brought unex-

pected tasks and there was no time to consider what I had done wrong. Later, when I took a good look at the drooping plant, it was straightening up and beginning to grow! A quick examination of the rose bush showed that it, too, was beginning to take hold.

Perhaps it was not coincidence that I returned to our former home and saw two pin oaks that are now straight, tall and beautiful. Their first summer was extremely dry and I watered them daily with no evidence they would survive.

That afternoon I saw a young woman who had been one of the older teenagers in a church group I led 10 years ago. As we reminisced I delighted in the lovely young woman she has become. Could I have had even a tiny influence on her growing into such a conscientious wife and mother?

It's a wonderful truth that God uses every spiritual seed. The size, compared to the talents of others, is not important. He blesses the effort and it begins to "take hold". Often, new tasks prevent our remaining to tend the prayerful project. Other Christians are sent to love and nurture. Slowly, the spirituality of this person, so special to God, begins to grow and develop toward becoming straight, tall and beautiful!

Arkansas all over

Green Meadows Church will be in revival May 2-8 with Gene Richmond of Foreman in charge of the worship and singing. Richmond, in the worship period, will use puppets to illustrate the gospel. J. W. Whitley, pastor, will be the evangelist. The Green Meadows Church also has voted to build an activities building that will facilitate two educational departments and a kitchen.

Charles Killough of Houston, Tex., will be evangelist for a revival to be held at **North Main Church, Jonesboro**, April 25-May 1. Bill Lewis is pastor.

Calvary Church, Texarkana, began a new family night program Wednesday evening, April 13. A potluck supper, followed by the monthly business meeting, will be held monthly. Bobby Renfro is pastor.

Central Church, Jonesboro, will have a choir awards banquet on May 31 for all graded choir children and their parents. This will conclude the choir program for the year. Certificates and other awards for attendance and participation will be presented at the banquet. Laverne F. Pickett Jr. is minister of music. R. Wilbur Herring is pastor.

A layman-led revival is being held April 17-24 at **Haven Heights Church, Ft. Smith**. Bob Wade is pastor.

Johnson Church was host for the **Washington-Madison Association** Woman's Missionary Union meeting on April 21. All Wollerman, missionary to Brazil for 30 years who is residing in Pine Bluff, was speaker for the meeting.

The Brotherhood of **Osceola First Church** met recently and had H. E. Williams as guest speaker. Dr. Williams shared his mission experiences in Kenya.

West Memphis Second Church held its spring revival April 11-17 with Henry Applegate, pastor of Pangburn First Church, as evangelist. Jack Auten is pastor.

New Hope Church, Greenwood, has begun organizational plans for a Church Training program with Bill Couch serving as Church Training Director. R. L. Hillerby is pastor.

Jim Gamble, a US-2 missionary, will be at **Baptist Tabernacle, Little Rock**, tomorrow to lead in a pre-tour orientation for work with the Oklahoma Indians. Mike Johnson, church youth minister, is in charge of the meeting arrangements.

"Youth Exploring Discipleship" is theme for Youth Week observances at **Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock**, April 17-24. Molly Moore, minister to youth and single adults, is in charge.

Stuttgart First Church Brotherhood met on April 12. Robert Parrish, Language Ministries Director for the

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was guest speaker. Jerre Hassell is pastor.

Benton County Association will hold a special meeting at Highfill Church on May 21. Freddie Pike, Youth Director of Arkansas Baptist State Sunday School Department, will lead in training for "Backyard Bible Clubs".

Calvary Association will hold an Acteen and Girls in Action Rally at Central Church, Bald Knob, Saturday, May 21. Mission speaker will be Karen Russey, GA and Mission Friends Director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Mrs. Wanda LaFerney is associational Acteen Director, and Mrs. Edith Wiley is GA Director. An associational WMU Rally was held at Augusta First Church on April 19.

An Interfaith Witness Conference was held at Fayetteville First Church April 18-19. Jase Jones from the Home Mission Board's Department of Interfaith Witness, assisted by Kate Ellen Gruver and Glenn Igleheart, led conference for churches in **Washington-Madison Association**.

Pulaski County Association will hold an associational Christian Life workshop at Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, April 22-23. John Wood, Director of Program Development for the Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., and Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church in Nashville, will lead the workshop. Ray W. McClung is Director of Missions for the association.

North Pulaski Association Woman's Missionary Union held a rally at Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, today. Mrs. Norman Coad, on furlough from Upper Volta, Africa, was speaker. The rally also featured training sessions for age-group work. Mrs. Alyce Polos is associational WMU director.

Corinth Church, Hamburg, is holding a revival April 17-24 with Billy Carter of Sterlington, La., as evangelist. J. W. Buckner is pastor.

Crossett Second Church licensed John Brady to the gospel ministry on Easter Sunday. Ezra Murphy is pastor.

Eden Church, Hamburg, held a revival recently with Doyle Wesson of Haynesville, La., as evangelist. Keith Wesson, a member of the Eden Church, has surrendered to the ministry. Lane Amos is pastor.

Gardner Church honored its senior citizens with an appreciation day on April 2. The church has also recently organized a Royal Ambassador's Chapter. Charles H. Christie is pastor.

Jarvis Chapel observed Old Settlers Day on March 27 and recently held a spring revival. Teddy Hickson from Greenville, Tex., was evangelist. Lawrence Amos is pastor.

Magnolia Church, Crossett, is observing Youth Week April 17-24 with a team from Ouachita University leading. Chuck Gladden will be evangelist. E. J. Gannaway is pastor.

Edward Edmondson, pastor of Sunset Lane Church, Little Rock, was evangelist for the spring revival of **Mount Pleasant Church, Montrose**. Dudley Baxter is pastor. The Baxters recently moved into the church's new parsonage.

Sardis Church, Montrose, was in revival recently with Jimmy Wallace as evangelist. Larry Donaldson is pastor.

Youth of **Immanuel Church, Russellville**, held a retreat at Mt. Nebo on April 8. Raymond Palmer is pastor.

Ironton Church, Little Rock, held its spring revival April 17-22 with K. Alvin Pitt, pastor of Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, as evangelist. Ray McClung, Director of Missions for Pulaski County Association, directed music. Billy Bowen is pastor.

Hamburg First Church began a deacon-pastor led revival today. Jack Carpenter, chairman of the deacons, and Raymond Atwood, pastor, coordinated revival preparation. Music will be directed by Richard Rose from Highland Heights Church, Benton.

Elmdale Church, Springdale, will be in revival April 24-27. David Miller, Director of Missions for Little Red River Association, will be evangelist. Musician for the week will be Gene Ferrell from Texas. W. R. Edwards is pastor.

Youth Sunday was observed at **Rogers First Church** on April 17 with youth of the church filling positions in all phases of work. Sam B. Wakefield is minister of music and youth. Ben J. Rowell is pastor.

Tipperary Church, Knobel, has licensed Albert Renfro to the ministry.

First Church, Hot Springs, has elected four additional deacons, Ken Cartwright, Lee Muncy, Bev Allen and Less Gillemand, to serve on the Advisory Council. The church began a revival on April 17 with John E. Schwensen of Dallas, Tex., pastor of Cockrell Hill Church, as evangelist.

Waldron First Church is now sponsoring another mission which began with Bible study on March 18. The mission met for its first worship service on Sunday, April 10. Elva Adams, Director of Missions for Buckner Association, delivered the message.

Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock, held a spring revival April 17-20 with Bob Vicki and Rocky Bynam, a full-time evangelistic team, in charge of services. Don Moseley is pastor.

Concord Church, Van Buren, held a revival recently with L. B. Jordan as evangelist. Warren Bailey, church music director, directed music. George

Arkansas radio to get SBC news

News from the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City, Mo., June 14-16, will be supplied to the Arkansas Radio Network each day. ARN news broadcasts are scheduled every hour at five minutes before the hour. Stay tuned to your local ARN station to get the news direct from Kansas City.

Domerese is pastor.

Robert Richardson from Denton, Tex., was preacher for "Days of Spiritual Discovery" observed at **Camden First Church** April 17-20. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sigrest of Yazoo City, Miss., were in charge of music. James C. Wright is pastor.

Trinity Association held an associational youth meeting at Calvary Church, Harrisburg, in April. The association also held a Church Training workshop at the Harrisburg church on April 14. Jimmie Garner is Director of Missions.

"Doctrinal Emphasis Week" was observed at **Batesville First Church** April 17-20. Easter Sunday the church honored Warren Miller, music director, and his family in observance of their first anniversary with the church. Don A. Nall is pastor.

Natural Steps Church, Little Rock, is having a spring revival April 20-24 with Gaylon Lassiter, pastor of Ridgeview Church, Fayetteville, preaching. Daniel Humble from Southern College, Walnut Ridge, is leading the music.

Jimmy Ervin, associate pastor of Broadway Church, Memphis, recently was pulpit guest at **Olivet Church, Little Rock**. Monday and Tuesday evenings he led a bus and children's worship workers conference at Olivet.

Sunset Lane Church, Little Rock, was in revival April 11-16. Richard Edds, a religion major from Van Buren, was evangelist. Music was led by David Delmand, a music major from Little Rock.

H. Lee Lewis is serving as interim pastor of **Wakefield First Church, Little Rock**.

The sanctuary choir of **Immanuel Church, Little Rock**, presented Handel's *Messiah* on April 17. Tommy Bolton was guest tenor soloist. E. Amon Baker is minister of music.

Deacons and Yokefellows of **Dallas Avenue Church, Mena**, recently taught "The Evangelistic Church" by John F. Havlik. Approximately 60 have joined this group in the past several months. Max W. Deaton is pastor.

Bentonville First Church has voted to begin a building improvement project to include renovating of the auditorium, paving the parking lot and carpeting hallways. Winfred P. Bridges is pastor.

Bigelow Church held a revival March 28-April 3 with Lester Aldridge as evangelist. There were 19 professions of faith. Special music was presented by the New Hope Singers and the church's youth choir. John McCombs is pastor.

Norfolk First Church was in revival March 27-April 3. Terrell Wallace was evangelist. T. R. Chastain was in charge of music. There were four professions of

faith. Paul Huskey is pastor.

Fouke First Church held a revival recently. Leo Hughes, Director of Missions for Southwest Association, was evangelist. Music was led by Gary Cope. George Fletcher is pastor. There were 24 professions of faith and eight joining by letter.

The sanctuary choir and a pantomime cast of **Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock**, will present "Beginnings" by Beryl Red and Reagan Courtney on April 24 at 7 p.m., and on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Nursery will be provided. Tim Blann is the church's minister in music.

Arkansas all over

buildings



A fire Saturday, April 9, at South Highland Church, Little Rock, heavily damaged the sanctuary. The area most heavily damaged was above the pulpit area (top photo). Debris from the ceiling covers the floor and soot and water stains show on the walls. The bottom photo shows a closer view of debris from the burned out attic. Roy Cook is pastor of the church. (ABN photos)

Appreciation Day held for Dr. and Mrs. Hunnicutt

Central Church, Magnolia, held an "Appreciation Day" on April 3 for Dr. and Mrs. Loyd Hunnicutt, to commemorate his retirement after 33 years as pastor. Hunnicutt, who will be succeeded by Jon M. Stubblefield, has been elected pastor emeritus and will continue to assist the church in various capacities.

Hunnicutt was born at DeQueen and began his preaching as a student. He was ordained by Calvary Church, Ft. Smith, when he was called as pastor to Oak Grove (now Trinity) Church.

Approximately a year and a half later he went to Sparkman as pastor, where for four and one-half years he lived on the field and devoted all his time to the church. He later served Dermott Church and First Church, DeQueen.

On March 15, 1944, Hunnicutt became the tenth pastor of Central Church, Magnolia. "We are grateful," a spokesman for the church declared, "for the splendid leadership and spiritual guidance our pastor has given us through the years."

The church membership and all of its organizations have more than doubled during the years he has served as pastor. The church has received 5,046 people into her membership during Dr. Hunnicutt's ministry, with 1,511 coming for baptism.

Hunnicutt led the church in an intensive building program beginning with a new parsonage in 1948, a sanctuary in 1950, and educational units and a chapel in 1956 and 1963. A home for the minister of music and youth, a small activities building and two city blocks

were also purchased. The land provides for parking and will allow future expansion.

Under Hunnicutt's leadership Central Church established two missions which are now the Immanuel and West Side Churches. He also led in securing a site for and the erection of a Baptist Student Union office building near Southern State College.

Hunnicutt has been active in denominational work. He served two terms as moderator of Hope Association (now Southwest) where he assisted in developing a sound financial program.

He served four terms on the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and as a trustee of Ouachita University and Central College. He was on the Board of Control of Assemblies. He served as chairman of nine convention committees and as a member of three others. Hunnicutt has had the privilege of bringing the annual sermon to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention twice.

His service to the Southern Baptist Convention includes six years as a member of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., and six years as a member of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va. He also has served as a member of the Committee on Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both Southern College, Walnut Ridge, and Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, have conferred upon him the honorary degree, doctor of divinity.

The Hunnicutts have two children: a son, Billy, of Magnolia, who is owner

and manager of the Royal Printing Company; and a daughter, Martha Lynn (Mrs. Herman) Phillips, of Magnolia, who serves on the staff of Central Church.

On "Appreciation Day" for Dr. and Mrs. Hunnicutt, S. A. Whitlow, former executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, brought greetings and Charles H. Ashcraft, executive secretary of the State Convention, brought the morning message.

Dr. Ashcraft first paid tribute to the outstanding ministry of Dr. Hunnicutt, then commended Central Church for its notable witness across the years. He further commented upon the impressive ability of Dr. Stubblefield, the new pastor of Central Church.

Dr. Ashcraft's message emphasized that the church was the only force which could nullify evil in society. "What a sinister world this would be," he said, "if it were not for the nullifying effect of the gospel which is spread through the church. The gospel can only be spread through individuals who are close to the pulsing, throbbing heart of God. These are the people who have been energized by the church of the Lord Jesus who move out in our sinful society to have an impact on our contemporary world."

In the afternoon a reception was held for Dr. and Mrs. Hunnicutt. In the evening service a number of scenes were shown of Hunnicutt's life, as well as excerpts from his message. Former staff members present for the occasion included Mark Short Jr., associate pastor and church administrator, South Main Church, Houston, Tex.; Don Edmondson, minister of music, Springfield Church, Springfield, Tenn.; Jesse D. "Jack" Cowling, minister of education, First Church, Henderson, Tex.; and Roy E. Chatham, minister of education, First Church, Conway.

BELOW: In the receiving line were (from left) Jon Stubblefield, Mrs. Stubblefield, Miss Josephine Dew, Dr. Hunnicutt, Mrs. Hunnicutt, Mark Short Jr., Mrs. Short, Don Edmondson, Mrs. Edmondson, Roy Chatham and Mrs. Chatham.

RIGHT: Dr. Hunnicutt greets Magnolia Mayor Harry Kolb. (ABN photos)



Acteens to tour New Orleans

The varied and interesting mission fields of Southern Louisiana will be the destination of a mission tour for older Acteens (ninth grade and above) from Arkansas, June 6-9. Sponsored by Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union and led by Betty Jo Lacy, state Acteens Director, the group will tour missions in the bayous and in New Orleans by chartered bus. Areas of mission work to be viewed include work with Cajun shrimpers and trappers and their families, centers for culturally deprived children and adults of many different national origins, unwed mothers, transients (both men and women), international seamen and New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Tour guides will be Wallace Primeaux, Area Missions Service Director, and Mrs. Richard Wilson of Rachael Sims Mission.

Adult leaders as well as girls will be ac-

cepted for registration. Girls who are not active in Acteens may make the tour. A proper balance of girls and leaders will be maintained in order to assure safety without interfering with the desire for companionship with peers.

Materials relating to the areas to be visited will be made available to those making the tour to prepare them for the trip. Special attention will be given to the types of volunteer help needed at each mission as a possible project for girls at a later date. Opportunities for similar work in their own area will be pointed out whenever applicable.

Reservations are made in the order received. Reservations arriving after the bus has been filled will be placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations. For further information write: WMU, Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

State pastor/deacon retreat

Charles Treadway, deacon ministry consultant from the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board, will speak and lead conferences at the State Pastor-Deacon Retreat on May 20-21. The retreat will be held at Camp Paron and will begin with the evening meal on Friday at 6. The retreat will end with lunch on Saturday.



Dr. Treadway

Dr. Treadway and other program personalities will introduce deacons and their pastors to various approaches to deacon ministry. Training will be

provided in the use of a wide variety of resources that have been developed for deacon ministry. The deacon's involvement in CARE Revivals will also be presented. There will be testimonies by pastors and deacons from across our state regarding their Deacon Family Ministry Program.

The training, inspiration and fellowship provided at the retreat will provide a unique opportunity for deacons and their pastor to become a caring-ministering team. The retreat is a church administration project sponsored by the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board. Registrations should be sent to the Church Training Department by May 16. — Robert Holley

Cooperative Program

State excels in mission expenditures

Arkansas Baptists reported on their 1976 church letters total gifts through the churches of \$49,053,439 and total mission expenditures of \$9,180,311. The ratio of total mission expenditures to total gifts is 18.72 percent.

This ratio is well above that of the national Southern Baptist Convention average, which is 16.97 percent.

It is also a higher percentage than any other of the older, larger state conventions. Only eight state conventions had

a higher percentage, and all eight of those are the newer and smaller state conventions, where percentages fluctuate much more rapidly because of the size.

This information is not reported for the purpose of boasting of our accomplishments in Arkansas, but rather for the purpose of commending the churches and their leadership. Many of us in Arkansas have felt that the missionary vision of our people has been

Your state convention at work

Brotherhood RAs should register now for Congress

Have Congress reservations been made for your Royal Ambassadors? Have speaker contestants registered and prepared their speeches?

Time is growing short for speakers to register and reservations to be made. Hopefully, we will have a large group entering the speaker's contest.

The Congress will be held on May 6-7 at Markham Street Church, Little Rock. A change in the meeting place was necessary due to a conflict. We are grateful to Markham Street Church for making available their facilities.

The program will include missionary speakers, Paul Rhoads and Ann Wollerman. They are two of the finest missionaries and speakers in Baptist mission work.

Rhoads serves as minister to youth and evangelism in Korea. He will be on furlough following his first tour of service.

Miss Wollerman has served for many years in the interior State of Motto Grosso in Brazil. She is currently living in Pine Bluff. She will be a blessing to all who hear her.

The other features of the meeting will be good music and singing. Pianist will be Ron Bohannon and organist will be Brad Hunnicutt. There will be some special music.

Now is the time to make reservations for the Congress, the chicken dinner, and the speaker's contest.

See your counselor, pastor or minister of education for more information and reservation instructions, or contact the Brotherhood Department. — C. H. Seaton, Director



Miss Wollerman

growing rapidly in recent years, and this statistical information gives tangible and specific evidence of that fact.

Interestingly enough, this achievement in financial support of missions was overlooked by most of us in Arkansas. It was called to our attention by a denominational worker in another state. Arkansas Baptists have established a leadership role in mission giving, and it has not gone unnoticed. — Roy F. Lewis, Associate Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Sunday School

Ideas for teaching focus of workshops

"Teaching — in all wisdom" is the theme of the two Creative Teaching Workshops scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, at Central Church, Jonesboro, and Thursday, May 12, at Central Church, Magnolia.

Each workshop will begin with an afternoon general session at 1:30. Age group conferences will be held from 2 until 4. The evening sessions will begin at 7 with a general session, and the age group conferences will be held from 7:15 until 9. The evening conferences will be continued from the afternoon conferences.

Conference leaders from the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., will be Elsie Rives and Cosette Baker. Don Cooper, Freddie Pike and Pat Ratton of the state Sunday School department will lead conferences. Other conference leaders will include Robert Pruett, Hot Springs; Joe Statton, Magnolia; Mrs. Leslie Wilfong, Little Rock; Leo George, Jonesboro; and Mrs. Freddie Pike, North Little Rock. Harold Vernon is

coordinator of the Workshops.

The Workshops are designed to help pastors, church staff members, all Sunday School teachers and officers, associational directors of missions and associational Sunday School leaders lead their churches in more effective Bible study. — Pat Ratton, Sunday School department

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Hawaiian Adventure (D/FW Departure by air), 14 days, three islands, July 19-Aug. 1, \$969 from Dallas; **New England Fall Foliage**, six Little Rock departures starting Sept. 16, 11 days, \$505.

Price quoted includes everything but noonday lunch.

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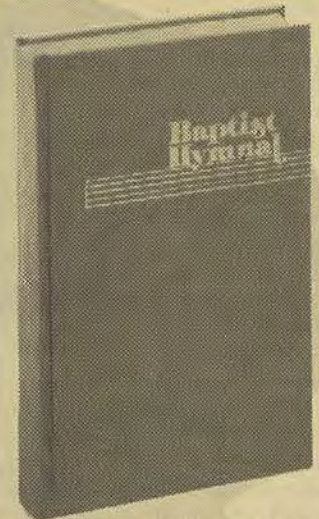
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1-11,	\$5.10	250-499	\$4.40
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50-249,	\$4.50	1000 Up	\$4.20

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Jesus commissions his followers

Luke 24:44-53

On his way to mankind, Jesus told his listeners to "follow me". On his way to the Father, Jesus told his followers to "be my witness".

These are the bookends of all that Jesus said and did on earth. "Follow me" is an invitation to all men to let Christ lead the way to an abundant life. "Be my witness" is a commission to those who have experienced such a life to share it with others.

"Roots"

Whenever Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection from the dead, he emphasized the continuity of his work. They had heard the Pharisees argue about his claims; they had seen evidences of his power, but they had yet to link his life to all God had said and done since the beginning of man. So once again Jesus opened their eyes.

We don't know exactly what he said, but he could have called their attention to:

Genesis 3:15 — Bruising of serpent's head by the seed of woman as the earliest prophecy of Christ's life and death.

Genesis 12:1-3 — God's plan and purpose in the call of Abraham.

Exodus 19:1-6 — Prophetic ideal of Israel finally fulfilled in him.

Isaiah 42-43 — God's purpose in calling, saving and preserving his people as witnesses to all nations that he alone as Messiah is God and Saviour. The same mission was set forth in Amos, Micah, Jeremiah and Zechariah.

Isaiah 49, 53 — A prophecy and an explanation of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Psalms — Many of them set forth the universalism of his Messianic reign as well as the sufferings and dedication of the Messiah.

Jesus was and is all the Scriptures said he would be. The early disciples had witnessed what previous followers of God had only dreamed about. The old saints had peeked through the keyhole to glimpse God's plan, but the new saints saw it unfold before their eyes in the person and work of Jesus Christ. What they had seen with their eyes, they now were permitted to understand with their minds.

"Fruit"

The end of all revelation in God's kingdom is fruit. Hundreds of years before Christ's appearance in the flesh, God intended for Israel to spread the word of his love to all the world. Israel

did but only in a limited sense. The outside world was notified that Israel had the truth and they must come to her and conform to her requirements in order to partake of that truth. It was not what God had in mind. Israel missed the message of the suffering Messiah and claimed God exclusively. Jesus came preaching the inclusiveness of God's love. The clash was inevitable and devastating for Israel. The kingdom was wrested from those who hoarded it and given to those who would share it (Matt. 21:43).

Jesus summed up his work for the Father in a very emphatic way. He said in essence to "Get the word out that repentance and forgiveness is available to everyone". He emphasized that repentance and forgiveness was to be heralded to all men by the authority of his name. It was no man-made doctrine, no opium for the people, but a genuine expression of God's love. And why would the world believe such a gospel? Because it is based upon the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has the power and the authority to announce God's forgiveness to all men. Have you the audacity to say it isn't true? To negate that wonderful truth?

"Power"

As soon as those early disciples saw Jesus disappear in the heavens, they went back to Jerusalem with great joy (Luke 24:52). Now that was a strange scene indeed. Only a few weeks before they had practically begged Jesus not to go to Jerusalem. They were afraid of the impending threats on Jesus' life. They were scared. But now they were praising God and beside themselves with joy even though Jesus had removed his physical presence from them. How could that be?

The answer is clearly stated in Luke 24:49. "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to his disciples when he ascended to the Father. The Spirit would not replace Jesus but would make real the presence of Jesus. The Spirit would illumine their minds when they could not understand God's ways. The Spirit would give encouragement when they faced vicious

opposition. The Spirit would give strength when they were weary of proclaiming God's love to deaf ears. The Spirit would produce numerous followers of Christ when their feeble efforts could not convince anyone. The Spirit would indeed be beside all those endeavoring to proclaim the wonderful message of God's love through Jesus Christ. The clothing power of God's Spirit is mighty indeed!

Now to secure this life-changing power from God, the disciples had to do three things. (1) Believe God's power would come. (2) Wait on God when the devil says run. (3) Share the good news of Jesus Christ to all men.

God's power is not given so we can enjoy some ecstatic experience but so we can evangelize those who have no experience with God. God's strength is not given so we can be super Christians but so we can be witnesses of a super Saviour. God's message is not given as a prize for loyal service but as a basis for any service.

"Conclusion"

The roots of our salvation go back to God's eternal love. The fruit of our salvation springs forth from God's eternal Son. The power of our salvation is drawn from the indwelling of God's Spirit.

Jesus issued his commission to men a long time ago but it has passed down the corridors of history to your life today. Please pause right now and reaffirm your commitment to bear witness of Jesus Christ in every thing you do.

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True to the gospel

I Timothy 1:3-7, 12-17

April 24, 1977

The city of Ephesus was one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire during the first century. Paul felt it was the key to winning Asia to Christ and spent more than two years of his third missionary tour in this strategic city. In spite of great difficulties, the Apostle was very successful in his work there. When he had completed his mission and was ready to go to Macedonia, he asked Timothy to stay in Ephesus and supervise the work of the church.



Myers

legends that Jews had added to the Old Testament genealogies which were often enlarged by the Jews and whole stories told about them. Whatever their nature, the propagation of these false ideas had caused some to be diverted from the truth into foolish discussions which only confused their minds.

The whole situation was a challenge to Timothy to instruct the believers so that they might know the truth of the gospel and give a convincing witness of its validity. Paul reminds Timothy that, in contrast to the questionable purpose of the false teachers, the aim of the gospel is "love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith". Thus Timothy is to preach a gospel which will produce love in the hearts of those who believe — a love that is rooted in man's response to the love of God in Christ. Such love issues from a pure heart, that is, a life which has been cleansed of sin. It must be grounded in a good conscience that is sensitive to the demands of Christlike conduct. And undergirding all, is sincere faith — an unwavering faith in the surety of the gospel message.

Properly evaluate the law (1:8-11)

The reference to law in verse seven leads Paul to discuss the law and its purpose. He speaks of the law as applied to Christians, and declares that the law is good if it is used lawfully. By this he means that it has a beneficial function when used properly. But the law must be restricted to its primary function — the restraint of evil. It was instituted not because people are good but because they are evil. Laws are certainly needed in human life for the protection of the law-abiding citizen and, when used for this purpose, can be a blessing to mankind.

No one ever honored the law more than the apostle Paul, but he was well aware of the limitations of the law. It was not designed to be a means whereby we attain salvation through obedience to its demands. Salvation is by grace and is based on acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Until we receive him in the experience of salvation, we are baffled

by the requirements of the law. Once we have responded in faith to his love and experience the new life, we have the power to obey the law. No longer is it a hindrance in our lives for we now have the spiritual insight which enables us to understand its meaning. We know that the proper use of the law is to apply it to sinners to show them their sin and then to present the gospel with its message of salvation in Christ.

Accept the gospel as a trust (1:12-17)

Paul's great desire for Timothy was that he accept the gospel as a trust and that he faithfully proclaim its message as the only means of redemption. This gospel was the power of God for salvation, and Paul's own experience had revealed this to him in a dramatic way. The very thought caused Paul to remember how gracious God had been to him as a lost sinner. Though he had blasphemed the name of Christ and persecuted his followers, God had mercifully saved his soul and called him into his service.

Paul could never forget his former life of opposition to Christ and his cause. He could explain his actions only in the light of the fact that he was ignorant of their consequences. His terrible deeds were the result of misunderstanding and unbelief. They did not come from a vicious heart set against God. He simply did not know at that time what an awful sin he was committing. But now, in view of the grace of God shown so mercifully to him, Paul realized how atrocious his actions had been. His sins had been against the very God he was trying so desperately to serve. He had been a gross sinner and, indeed, was still "the foremost of sinners". Yet God poured out his grace to him, gave him faith in Christ, and filled him with the very love that Christ displayed toward men.

Paul saw in his experience a divine purpose that went beyond his own salvation. God's mercy extended to him was an example of what Christ can do in the lives of others. He received mercy not because of his own merits, but in order that all men might see the power of God's grace to save. Paul seems to have felt that he was the supreme demonstration of God's grace. If a sinner such as he could be saved, there was

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(continued on page 15)

Life and Work lesson

(from page 14)

hope for all men.

He wanted Timothy to share his own commitment to the gospel which declared that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." This gospel is reliable and worthy of full acceptance because it has been provided by the King of ages. He is "immortal, invisible, the only wise God". To him is due the honor and glory of men throughout eternity for he is the God who has come to us in Jesus Christ.

A smile or two

A woman in a supermarket said to a friend as they waited at the checkout counter, "I always dreamed that one day I could squander money recklessly, but I certainly never thought it would be on sugar, bread, milk and mayonnaise."

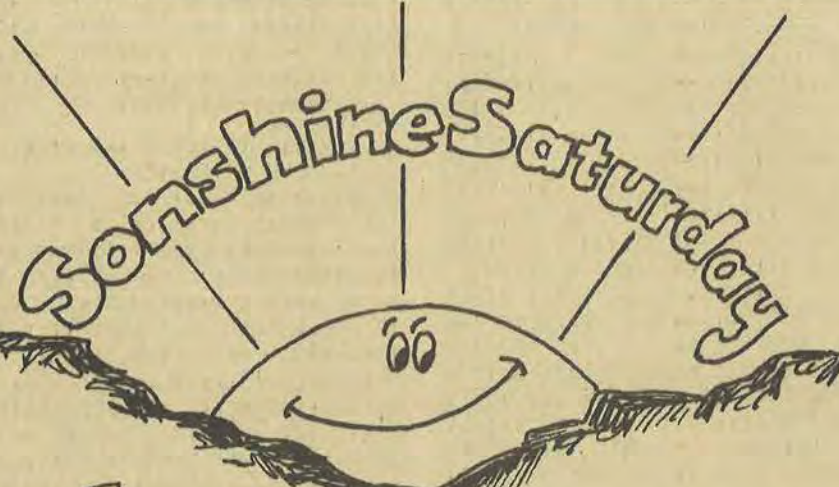
□

Be very careful when you are using both hands to hold someone up for public ridicule, scorn or contempt. Your halo may tilt and you won't have anything to right it with.

Attendance report

April 10, 1977

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church addns.
Alexander, First	121	55	1
Alpena, First	66		
Ash Flat, First	77		2
Batesville, First	253	73	
Benton, Trinity	116	43	
Bentonville, Central Avenue	97	36	
Berryville			
First	187	53	
Freeman Heights	191	52	
Rock Springs	61	38	
Biscoe, First	107	38	
Booneville			
First	313		
South Side	108	84	
Bryant, First Southern	223	100	3
Cabot			
First	515	102	1
Mt. Carmel	294	80	2
Camden, Cullendale First	555	143	
Cave Springs, Lakeview	140	43	
Conway, Second	371	146	
Crossett, Mt. Olive	430	138	12
Danville, First	242	42	5
El Dorado, West Side	540	532	1
Elkins, First	137		1
Ft. Smith			
First	1545	334	5
Grand Avenue	1225	179	10
Mission	29		
Haven Heights	267	116	
Temple	174	67	4
Trinity	166	41	
Fouke, First	131	67	29
Gentry, First	182	51	
Gillett, First	72	12	
Grandview	98	52	
Greenwood, First	420	216	2
Hampton, First	155	55	1
Hardy, First	140	48	
Harrison, Woodland Heights	148	74	
Hope			
Calvary	171	78	1
First	483	74	1
Hot Springs, Park Place	332	68	3
Hughes, First	172	75	
Jacksonville			
First	463	123	6
Marshall Road	184	58	
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	170	84	1
Nettleton	314	101	2
Lavaca, First	409	136	2
Little Rock			
Cross Road	100	66	
Crystal Hill	165	51	
Life Line	495	103	
Marrindale	119	54	
Wakefield, First	122	32	
Woodlawn	116	44	
Magnolia, Central	734	210	4
Monticello, Second	317	93	5
North Little Rock			
Calvary	505	100	8
Harmony	63	19	7
Levy	513	76	1
Park Hill	1059		4
Osceola, Eastside	97	64	2
Paragould			
East Side	314	125	3
First	529		
Paris, First	475	87	2
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	156	43	
Central	183	54	
East Side	208	70	3
First	754	90	11
Lee Memorial	297	129	1
South Side	639	101	3
Tucker	24		
Sulphur Springs	177	60	
Watson Chapel	481	113	
Rogers			
First	664	143	4
Immanuel	544	77	8
Russellville			
First	575	100	3
Second	170	49	
Sheridan, First	203	52	
Sherwood, First	290	54	3
Springdale			
Berry Street	106	20	
Caudle Avenue	181		1
Elmdale	377	103	1
First	1727		12
Texarkana			
Arabella Heights	94		
Highland Hills	190	51	2
Shiloh Memorial	229	70	3
Vandervoort, First	65	39	
Wabash, Immanuel	54	21	
West Helena			
Second	203	76	
West Helena Church	360	68	1
Wooster, First	153	77	



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Futurists speculate on Baptists of tomorrow

by James Lee Young

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Some 250 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders here wrote their predictions for the denomination in the next decade and placed them in an envelope to be sealed and re-opened in 10 years.

The act was symbolic of a denominational planning its work into the next century. It was equally significant that it happened during a conference on the future at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Renowned futurists, Alvin Toffler,

ing processes, including all the citizenry or group members at all levels of government, industry and the church. And each predicted this would more and more come to be the practice of society.

Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen set the tone of the meeting by pinpointing several major issues and needs facing Southern Baptists, including a warning to Baptist leaders:

"The future for Southern Baptists is built on very flimsy grounds, unless denominational leaders identify and cope with the confusing and often conflicting issues of modern society . . . The issue in my judgement needs to be, 'Do we understand at least a smattering of the problems with which our age is confronted?'"

Speakers throughout the four-day event stressed possibilities for Southern Baptists in the next decade, and on into the year 2000.

A leading Southern Baptist planner of almost 20 years, Albert McClellan, predicted that a rethinking and new understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the next decade could result in an unparalleled worldwide evangelistic thrust by the denomination.

"We will come to a new understanding of the gospel," but, "we will not reform it; that would be sacrilege," said McClellan, program planning director and associate executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

Projects and questions raised by Lindaman, Toffler, McClellan, Cothen and Orrin Morris, a demographic expert who is a regional coordinator in the SBC Home Mission Board's planning section, were used as bases for small group "think tank" discussions concerning Baptists' future and their role in the society of the future.

Six possible future themes or trends generally expected by participants were among those emerging most often as the groups reflected on the speakers' concepts and expectations, and added their own perspectives. None of the possible trends were adopted or even voted but express what group members felt was apparently coming in Baptists' future:

1—Greater worldwide cooperation among Christian groups;

2—Emphasis in practical, Christian stewardship — of time, energy, resources and other areas of life. Many changes are expected to be forced on society by increased scarcities in the future;

3—A significant increase in the

number of women and ethnic minority persons is expected in the "higher levels" of SBC life, with ordained women pastors and women deacons to become more widespread in the churches;

4—Increased use of modern communications, including use of telecommunications for mass media Bible study, two-way television, cable TV, and satellite possibilities for regional or worldwide evangelism via broadcasting;

5—A need for greater emphasis on a biblical basis for future planning;

6—Calling for a sophisticated means of gleaning input from Southern Baptists at the "grass roots" and all levels of denominational life, to include larger numbers of Baptists in the decision making processes.

Morris cited issues that are not exclusive to Southern Baptists but are some he believes the denomination will have to contend with in the next 25 years. These include population growth worldwide, influx of immigrants to the United States, population shift in this country, a global-system perspective and changing family styles, among others.

Toward the conference's close, Harry Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the denomination's Christian Life Commission, agreed in part with a statement made earlier by Toffler that the church has a role to play in clarifying values.

Toffler, a humanist, had told participants that people are being confronted by more and more complex decisions and that he believes "the churches have an absolutely critical role to play in the future" in helping people clarify internal values. "If we're not clear about values, we can't make good decisions," he said.

Hollis told the Baptists, however, that the church must do more than help people clarify values: "We must also be concerned about the nature of these values," which means, he said, commitment to certain values such as love, justice and truth.

In his closing remarks to participants, James W. Clark, executive vice president of the Sunday School Board, said that among the various denominational agencies and the Baptist state conventions, the future will have to be one of greater cooperation, less competing, and greater interdependence. An increased sharing of research results by the board and other agencies concerning needs of the churches and of Christians and non-Christians will be vital, he said.

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author of "Future Shock," and Edward Lindaman, president of Whitworth College, a United Presbyterian, USA, school in Spokane, Wash., and a former leader in the Apollo space project, were among headliners for the event sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The futurists shared "mind boggling" dreams of future floating space colonies and more readily identifiable issues such as increasing and extreme world population growth and famine; the decline of industrial civilization as we know it, and a revolutionary transformation of the planet as a result.

They stressed repeatedly that planning and projecting for the future must be accompanied by joint decision mak-