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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

4-27-1978

April 27, 1978

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "April 27, 1978" (1978). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1975-1979*. 83.

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Mt. Olive
BAPTIST
CHURCH

April 27, 1978

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Committed to BSU
Third Century Campaign
page 12





I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

Living with controversy

Every positive gain within the family of humans began as a controversial issue. All good things at the beginning were divisive, disruptive, bothersome and upsetting, but no gains were made without it. If worthwhile things are to be enjoyed by all, someone must live at the cutting edge of controversy.

Controversies in the early church were interesting. Among them, should salvation be granted to Gentiles? Should a Gentile be required to become a Jew before he became a Christian? Should a man speak to a woman in a public place? Should a true prophet lunch with a tax collector? Should women only be considered guilty in an adultery conviction?

Should the sabbath be broken to minister in emergencies? Should missionaries be sent beyond Jerusalem? Was it a sin to be born a Samaritan? Was eating pork a sin unto death? Was it permissible to worship without one's head covered? Was the price of a wife equitable with the price of an able-bodied slave? How many wives were appropriate for a reasonable man?

Were incest and adultery lesser sins than eating bargain meat from pagan butcher shops? Was wearing jewelry for a select class of people? Was a man with long hair to be ejected from worship? Could a publican be saved? How many slaves should a good Christian own? In later years, how many spirits could dance on the point of a needle raged for centuries.

These controversies were real and interesting, but in the clear light of the extended centuries, quite absurd. Future generations will surely look upon our generation in a very strange light unless we break from the chains of fear, hesitancy, indecision and raw ignorance to approach the cutting edge of controversy and live there till the dawn comes clear and bright.

Our generation is wasting a lot of time dawdling with issues which should be decided and put to bed. The static does not come from these at the cutting edge, but those far in the rear where dangers are relatively rare. There is a difference between serving with the quartermaster at the base depot and with the company commander on point in a combat infantry attack. The people at the cutting edge will be heard as their investment in blood, sweat and tears exceeds that of those processing payroll vouchers and leave applications in corps headquarters. Perhaps these controversies would be less divisive, less disruptive, less bothersome and less upsetting if the center of our operation moved closer to the cutting edge.

Those who spend their total lives as spectators, observers and critics have never been close enough to the enemy to identify him. To these people, all sticky matters are divisive, disrupting, bothersome and upsetting. Those at the cutting edge are at peace even in the midst of war. This is great.

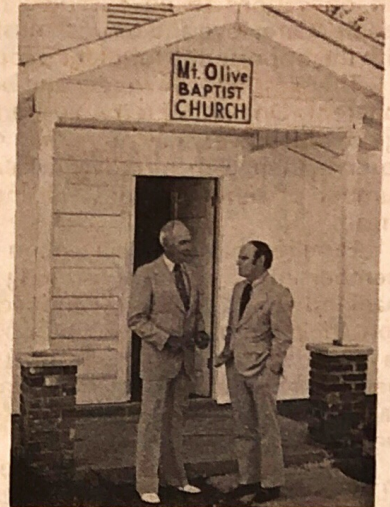
I must say it!

In this issue

Idaho work 5

Arkansans who can help with construction work will soon have an opportunity for some personal mission work because volunteers are needed to help with the building for University Baptist Chapel in Boise.

The cover 12



State BSU Director Tom Logue (right) and William Good, Mount Olive, Heber Springs, pastor, rejoice in the \$500 commitment made by the 20-member church to the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign.

New technology 17

The fifth and final article in a series on biomedical ethics considers new technology in reproduction. Henlee Barnett offers some discussion-starting questions.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 77

NUMBER 17

J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor
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Post office box 552, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. Published weekly except at July 4 and December 25. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Original poetry cannot be considered for publication.

Subscriptions: individual \$3.25 per year. Every Resident Family plan 19 cents per month or \$2.28 per year per church family. Club plan (10 or more paid annually in advance) \$2.88 per year. Subscriptions to foreign address \$6 per year. Copies by mail 25 cents each.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer. Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Christian perspective on aging

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Many of us are faced with the question of how care will be provided for our loved ones in their old age. The question arises more and more frequently because of the increase in life expectancy. We thank God for this longevity, but are somewhat at a loss for a method of dealing with it. There are, obviously, no blanket answers for every situation. Yet, there are certain obligations to be observed in caring for older people. Care, love and respect must be provided along with the opportunity for older people to be of service.

The blessings of a longer and better quality life are apparent. One out of ten Americans is now 65 years of age or older. Every day more than 4,000 in our country observe their 65th birthday. Experts predict that the number of senior citizens will increase in the years ahead.

Families have an obligation to care for aged members. This concept has long been accepted by mankind. The Greek law required that children support their parents. Greek philosophers had much to say about this responsibility. For example, Demosthenes said, "I regard the man who neglects his parents as unbelieving in and hateful to the gods, as well as to men."

The New Testament writers clearly taught that care of aged family members was an essential of Christian duty (1 Tim. 5:3-8). In ancient times there were no government programs to care for senior citizens. Although both government and private retirement

and nursing facilities serve a very useful purpose, they cannot fulfill the responsibility of family.

Family members have the responsibility to provide for the financial needs of the elderly. With financial needs now provided by government agencies, love and respect are the elements most often neglected. Every person needs love, and it is obvious that family members can best provide it.

Older people should be allowed to use their gifts and skills to the best advantage. Often retired persons are invaluable as sources of counsel. Many times, for example, a retired minister may be able to serve effectively as an interim pastor. Churches sometimes find these men to be invaluable in the solving of difficulties.

Meaningful activity is essential for everyone. Unless a person is able to do something worthwhile, life may lose meaning. Christians should use the talents and abilities of older people. They can perform endless services for the Lord. They can conduct telephone surveys, serve as teachers and write letters. Such activities as these will be mutually beneficial.

The church, the family and friends all have responsibilities to older people. They deserve kindness, respect and opportunities for meaningful service. Both the blessings and responsibilities of aging are to be accepted with gratitude and as a service of stewardship. The greatest thing anyone can do for the aged is to show them true love.

Guest editorial

Good news and bad news

Not very often, but occasionally, a letter comes to us from a church stating its intention to withdraw from the Southern Baptist Convention and/or the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. While we respect the right of the church to do so, it is still bad news to hear that a member of the family is departing.

Good news also sometimes comes from unexpected sources. Recently a Baptist minister, who is not affiliated in any way with Southern Baptists, came to my office to seek information about Southern Baptists. He expressed an interest in becoming a part of our fellowship. I answered all of his questions as completely and candidly as I could; most of them were related to denominational polity, procedures, etc.

During the conversation I asked the reason for his interest in Southern Baptists. He explained quite matter-of-factly that he had been taught in earlier years that Southern Baptists were doctrinally unsound and wasted money through their Cooperative Program. In his pastoral experience he had had some contact with Southern Baptist churches and said his own experience and observations contradicted that earlier teaching. He further stated that he had observed our mission program to be one of the best organized and best financed and most effective that he had ever seen. He wanted to be a part of such an endeavor.

A few weeks later another Baptist minister, not affiliated with Southern Baptists, came to my office for almost the same identical purpose. Basically the same conversation was

repeated. I answered some of the same questions again and then also asked the same ones myself.

The answer again was almost identical. This man made reference to our doctrinal integrity, which he had investigated at his own initiative, and again he referred to our missionary and evangelistic outreach.

One month later, while interviewing some students in another state, the same experience and conversation was repeated a third time.

When we receive a "bad news" letter, the reasons usually given for withdrawing from Southern Baptist ranks include half-truths and assumptions or conclusions based on incomplete or inaccurate information. All of the reasons I have ever seen in writing fall into that category.

Compare that with the approach taken by the three independent Baptist ministers who talked with me. None of them had been proselyted in any sense of the word, nor had their affiliation been solicited by any Southern Baptist. Each of them had investigated Southern Baptists very carefully and objectively, putting aside earlier prejudices. Each of them sought accurate and full information, and each of them was given a complete answer to every question.

Perhaps it is good for us to occasionally have to explain our faith and our denomination. It keeps us on our toes, but it is also reassuring when the good news outweighs the bad news. Currently my conferences and correspondence are running three to one on the good news side. — Roy F. Lewis, Associate Executive Secretary



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

Words that hurt and words that help

Sticks and stones may occasionally break bones, but the notion that words can never hurt people is increasingly being proven wrong. If "we are what we think we are," the words others use to describe us can hurt us badly or help us tremendously.

In recent years we have begun to examine both our attitude and our language about people with disabilities. Our misconceptions about their hopelessness are reinforced by negative, handicapist terms like "cripple," "spastic," or "idiot." The more we study the problems faced by people with disabilities, the more we learn that continued use of these and many other negative terms hurt their chances of developing their talents and abilities to the fullest.

I must confess that sometimes I have become irritated at the rapidly changing standards of what is acceptable and unacceptable language when referring to disabilities. It seems I no sooner learn to drop certain words and learn the new

"in" words, than someone decides we must change it all over again. But then I feel a sense of shame that I should be more worried about my own irritation than about finding ways to help people with disabilities.

A good rule to follow is to avoid all terms that dehumanize disabled persons, that characterize disabled persons as dependent or pitiable, or that perpetuate the myth that disabled persons cannot participate meaningfully in community life. One list I have seen recommends saying: "disability" instead of "handicap"; "mobility impaired" instead of "crippled"; "hearing disability" rather than "deaf and dumb"; "Down's syndrome" instead of "mongoloid."

I doubt if we have reached the stage of an exact science so that we can be sure which words help and which words hurt. I certainly don't want to knock the effort, but deeds are still more important than words in helping people to live the abundant life.

Two from Arkansas elected by Foreign Mission Board

FT. WORTH, Tex. — A native of Arkansas and a former Arkansas resident were elected at the April meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to serve as associates in the laymen overseas program and hunger relief and disaster response projects.

James W. Cecil, a native of Harper Springs, Ark., will be associate consultant for laymen overseas, filling a vacancy left by the resignation of W. L. (Wimpy) Smith Jr. last December. A missionary to Hong Kong for the past 10 years, Cecil will have primary responsibility for coordination and participation of volunteers in overseas mission projects.

John R. Cheyne, who grew up in Little Rock, Ark., will be associate coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response. Cheyne, son of Mrs. Dorothy Cheyne of Ft. Smith, Ark., has been serving in the Foreign Mission Board office which handles these projects for the past year on a furloughing missionary status. He and his wife Marie, a native of Alabama,

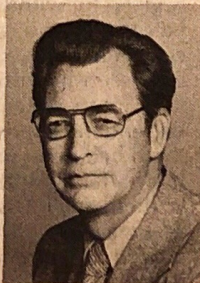
served as missionaries in Rhodesia and Ethiopia for 20 years before he was elected field representative for Eastern Africa in 1974.

When disasters occur overseas, Cheyne will work with Southern Baptist missionaries to provide immediate relief

and evaluate recommendations to the Foreign Mission Board for programs to rehabilitate the damaged areas.

His hunger relief duties will include working with the missions to develop long-term approaches to help alleviate hunger-related problems.

Both Cecil and Cheyne will assist W. Eugene Grubbs, who carries the dual responsibilities of laymen overseas consultant and coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response.



Cecil



Cheyne

for the disaster victims. He also will assist the missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries) as they propose

Did you know that an average of 11 boys a year live at the Group Home for Boys in Jonesboro which is operated by Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services?

The average Arkansas Baptist Church member gave \$120.56 through his local church in 1976.

Letter to the editor

Woman's role clear

After reading the article, "Total Woman approach wrong says WMU leader", I could not let it pass without challenging some of the statements made by Miss Weatherford.

I have read "Total Woman" several times and although I do not agree with every detail of the book, it certainly sets a better example for the Christian Woman to follow than the above mentioned article.

I believe the Bible as being the inspired word of God and that we as Christians are to pattern our lives accordingly. Therefore, I do not feel, as a Christian wife and mother, that the views expressed by Miss Weatherford are necessarily Biblical or that they reflect the feelings of the majority of Christian Women.

Miss Weatherford mentions women moving into leadership roles also, quoting percentages involving the divorce problem in our society and ends by admonishing women to say "I can do all things through Christ" and to go forth and do not what God has called her husband or father to do but what God has called her to do. The scriptures clearly outline the role of a Christian Woman and I cannot accept Miss Weatherford's view of this as being beneficial to the Christian Woman in living the life God has chosen for her to live. — Mrs. Nancy McFerrin, Mountain Home

OBU plans pastors' Bible conference

ARKADELPHIA — More than 150 people are expected to attend the First Statewide Pastors' Bible Conference which will be held on the campus of Ouachita University May 1-3, according to Dr. Gene Petty, associate professor of religion at OBU.

The purpose of the conference is two-fold: first, to teach the Southern Baptist Convention January Bible Study Book in advance, and second, to create a place and atmosphere of worship, fellowship, study, and recreation for pastors and staff members in Arkansas.

Preacher for the conference will be Russell H. Dilday Jr., the newly-elected president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex. Dr. Dilday has had 26 years of pastoral experience, most recently at the Second Ponce de Leon Church in Atlanta, Ga.

The conference teacher will be Jack MacGorman, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Seminary. He has served as a teacher of the Bible for 30 years and has been a writer and guest lecturer to people around the world.

The three-day conference will include four sessions of Bible study and worship as well as three afternoons of recreation. Bill Vining, head basketball coach and athletic director at OBU, will be in charge of recreation activities. All music for the conference will be directed by Charles Wright, OBU professor of music.

Although the conference is open to everyone, accommodations will be made for men only in the dormitories, so other arrangements will need to be made for women attending the conference.

Dr. Petty hopes for the Pastors' Bible Conference to become an annual event. He said, "All the churches in our state will be the beneficiaries of pastors, staff members, and lay persons coming together for an intensive time of worship, study, and Christian fellowship under the leadership of our conference teacher and preacher."

Arkansas all over

Calvary Church, Batesville had ground breaking services on March 26 for a building that will include a dining hall and kitchen. R. A. Bone is pastor.

Salado Church has completed an improvement program for the auditorium that included purchase of wall-to-wall carpet and a piano. Artificial turf was used to cover the entrance to the church. Charles Crowson is pastor.

Construction volunteers needed for building in Boise, Idaho

Some volunteer labor will be needed to assist in the construction of a building for the University Chapel, Boise, Idaho. The building will be used for three purposes: (1) to house the congregation; (2) to house a Baptist Student Union work from the nearby Boise State University; and to house a Bible Chair to teach university students and others who are interested in an indepth study of the Word of God.

Dan Robinson, an Arkansan, is pastor of the University Baptist Chapel. The pioneer work has struggled ardently to acquire the needed finances for the erection of the building. They are now ready to begin construction due to substantial gifts received from various sources, the sacrificial gifts of their members, and the sale of bonds. In order to erect the building, however, volunteer labor will be needed.

The church will provide housing and meals for the men who are assisting in the construction. Power tools will be available for workmen but volunteers are encouraged to bring small hand tools.

The Brotherhood, the Baptist Student Union, and the Director of Special Missions Ministries are assisting in the enlistment of workers. C. H. Seaton,

director of the Brotherhood for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention said, "In the past Baptist men have responded to the challenge for work in areas where our Baptist witness is young. Some qualified men might desire to take their family on a work vacation to Idaho and spend a week on this project. The Brotherhood Department will be glad to assist in coordinating the schedule of those who would desire to go. This is, of course, a project where each person will pay his own travel expense."

Tom Logue, director of the Baptist Student Union said, "We are excited about the work that the Lord is accomplishing through Dan Robinson in Boise, Idaho, and at Boise State University. We hope to involve some of our students in the building which will have triple usage. Our Arkansas students have had a small part in the salary of the BSU director at Boise State University for several years."

Pete Petty, director of Special Ministries, Missions Department, said, "This activity is a definite way in which Arkansans can assist in extending the kingdom of God. This is an exciting and worthwhile project. I trust that the needed volunteers will respond."

Minimum workers required are listed below.

	Workers needed	
Excavation (by contractor)	July 3-7	none
Foundation (by contractor)	July 10-14	none
Masonry	July 17-28	6 masons, 3 helpers
Carpentry	July 31-Aug. 18	6 carpenters, 2 helpers
Rough electrical (by contractor)	Aug. 21-25	none
Insulation	Aug. 21-25	1
Drywall	Aug. 28-Sept. 8	4
Finish carpentry	Sept. 11-15	3
Ceramic tile	Sept. 11-15	1
Paint	Sept. 18-29	2
Electrical finish (by contractor)	Sept. 25-29	none
Floor covering	Oct. 2-6	3

Baptist men interested in assisting in this effort should write to C. H. Seaton, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

buildings

Pleasant Grove Church has completed improvements that included remodeling classrooms, installation of carpet and paneling throughout the building. The program also included enlargement and remodeling of the nursery. Work was done by men of the church.

Roseville Church dedicated an addition to their building Sunday, March 19. The addition almost doubled educational space for the

growing of the church. The growth program is being led by James Hughes, pastor. Ernie Perkins, Director of Missions for Concord Association, participated in the dedication service. Music was presented by The Merits, singers from Fayetteville.

Harmony Church in Carey Association recently rededicated its building and installed a new hand-carved sign. Roscoe Henthorne is pastor.

H. L. Lipford is serving as interim pastor at Shannon Hills First Church, Little Rock.

Tyrone Berry has been called to serve as pastor of First Church, Wilson. He comes to Arkansas from a Missouri church.

Bob Clements has been called to serve as minister of recreation and youth for Central Church, Jonesboro, effective June 1. He is presently associated with Campus Crusade for Christ, Athletes in Action. He is a graduate of the University of

Arkansas where he was selected "Outstanding Physical Education Major"; was active in Campus Crusade for Christ; University of Arkansas weightlifting team, selected as Arkansas State Weightlifting Champion in 1975. Clements and his wife, the former Barbara Jane Hugg of Little Rock are parents of one child, Megan.

T. R. Coulter is serving as pastor of Ebenezer Church near Warren.

Danny Johnson is pastor of Ladelle Church near Monticello.

Hunter Carpenter is pastor of Prairie Grove Church near Hamburg.

Bobby Meggs is pastor of Union Hill Church, Ingalls.

Ray Akridge has accepted the call to become the first full-time associate pastor/youth director of Lee Memorial Church, Pine Bluff. A native of Perryville, he is a graduate of Ouachita University and Southwestern Seminary. Akridge assumed his duties with the Pine Bluff church on April 25.

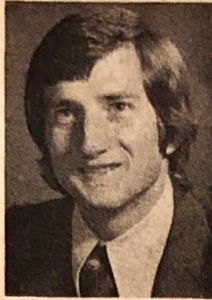
Ada Lee Smith recently did volunteer mission work with the Waikiki Church, Honolulu, Hawaii. She and her daughter, Joanne Beaty of Arkadelphia, were enroute to Japan to visit her son, David. Mrs. Smith, of Camden, worked in the Waikiki Church office in Honolulu, aiding the office staff at a time when they were involved in a state-wide evangelistic effort, "Living Proof." Charles A. Jolly, pastor of the church, said, "Mrs. Smith moved right into this work with a beautiful, helpful spirit giving our secretary some much needed relief." Mrs. Smith is the granddaughter of the late J. J. Taylor, early pioneer missionaries for Southern Baptists in Brazil, in Rio and San Paulo.

Robert Leslie Willis Jr. assumed his duties as director of music/youth at First Church, Carlisle, on April 9. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, and Southwestern Seminary. He was minister of music/education of the Philadelphia

Van H. Evans minister of education/administration in First Church, El Dorado, was honored on the occasion of his 15th anniversary at the church on March 15. A special program, sponsored by deacons of the church, was held at the Wednesday eve-



Clements



Akridge



Willis



Evans

Church, Jonesboro, for the past two years. Willis is married to the former Becky Graddy of Marianna. They have a 17-months-old son, James Stephen.

Joe A. Thompson has returned from doing mission work with the Cocoli Church in the Panama Canal Zone. He is pastor of Calvary Church, Blytheville.

ning fellowship supper. Featured in the program were special music groups, tributes both serious and humorous, and a presentation to the Evans of a micro-wave oven and a cash gift in excess of \$1000.

Evans, while serving in Arkansas, has distinguished himself in denominational service with the Arkansas Baptist



J. T. Midkiff (left) who has served on the staff of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, for 22 years, was honored by the school's board of trustees on his retirement. President D. Jack Nicholas presented to Dr. Midkiff a resolution adopted by the board. Dr. Midkiff was honored for his service as Chairman of the Department of Social Science, Dean of Men, and Director of the Baptist Student Union. The trustees also commended him for encouraging students and helping many find financial resources for their education. Dr. Midkiff also was cited for his efforts at campus beautification with trees and shrubs.



Woman's viewpoint

Joanne Jackson Lisk

Family and Child Care program, serving as president of the board for a term. He has also been minister of music/education at First Church, Monticello, as well as serving in churches in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from New Orleans Seminary in 1968.

Present with the Evans for the celebration were two of their four children.

Patsy Dillman

has been selected to serve as Education Coordinator for First Church, Little Rock. She has served the church as education secretary for the past several years.

W. O. Vaught

began his 34th year as pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, on Sunday, April 16. The effectiveness of his leadership with the church is reflected in the facts that attendance is at a 10 year high, finances are stable, outreach is growing, and the church's influence grows across the state through the televising of the morning services. The church also has an effective tape ministry across the nation.

Thomas W. Statton

became the pastor of Prosperity Church, Fordyce, on April 2. He will graduate from Ouachita University in May and has studied at the University of Durham, England. Statton is a native of McCaskill and has traveled extensively. At Ouachita, he assists Carl Goodson in academic affairs.

Larry Ring

has been called as pastor of Lake Street Church, Paragould.

You make my heart smile

I won't call you by name, for your name is unimportant to others, but it conjures up a wealth of memories for me. Just as for this moment I also represent many pastor's wives and church staff wives, you, too, are really many. You are any one of those warm and loving women whom I have known in every church where we have "shepherded the flock".

We have never spent enough hours together, for we've each had many responsibilities to call upon our time. Yet, I've always known that if I needed to talk with someone over a cup of coffee, or just across a telephone line I could count on you to stop what you were doing and listen to me. And, contrary to what some believe, I, your pastor's wife need someone to listen to me, too.

In each church you have had your own varied personality, and individual strengths and weaknesses. This very variety has matched my needs during the time of our acquaintance and days as sisters in Christ in the church family. Sometimes we have leaned heavily on one another in homesickness or through hour of illness and valleys of death. We have joyfully "infanticated" together and sometimes our children have played in the church nursery while we BYW-ed together, or visited an absentee member, a prospect of shut-in friend. We have prayed together.

Our husbands have not always been good friends. Sometimes they have, and that has brought a good dimension to our friendship and understanding, but it has not been necessary for our survival as friends. We have watched the pages of the calendar turn into years, and the color of our hair change by natural frosting. (Well, sometimes we have helped nature a little!)

Your understanding that I cannot be "Bobsey Twins" with anyone has helped me to be friends with all the women in our churches. You have allowed me the freedom of friendships beyond our own

and have been glad when our friendship has brought others with us to the house of worship or into fellowship situations.

You have often dropped me a card that has been for no special occasion, but has just said, "I love and appreciate you very much", and my day has had a silver rim around it. No doubt you have found it necessary to defend me at times, for I, too, have feet of clay.

And when we've moved on to another church, you have not always been my best letter-writing friend, and I know why: I know you are there and you know I am here, and we know that in a "crunch" we can call on each other, always. I also know, that with your characteristic warmth and kindness you are helping the new pastor's wife to adjust and get acquainted with her new church family. I hope you will be her dear friend, too, for sometimes it is very lonely in the pastor's home, and there have been many times in my own life that I have desperately needed you to make my heart smile.

Joanne Jackson Lisk — mother, homemaker, writer, Registered Nurse, and musician — is the wife of Richard Lisk, pastor of First Church, England.

Three OBU students to study in Japan

Three students from Ouachita Baptist University have been selected as 1978-79 exchange students to Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, according to Ralph Halaby, assistant professor of English at OBU and coordinator of the exchange program.

Paige Witt of Delight, Mike Sharp of Smackover, and Jill Jones of Little Rock will leave for Japan Aug. 29 and will attend school for one year in Japan returning to the states in June of 1979. Three students from Seinan Gakuin University will be attending school at Ouachita during the same time.

In the past three years of operation for the exchange program nine OBU students have attended a year of school in Japan and nine Japanese students have come to Ouachita to study.

Landes named to search committee

Rodney Landes, a layman from El Dorado, is one of six Baptists named to a committee to find a successor to Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. Routh will retire in August 1979 after 28 years in the post.

Members of the search committee were chosen from among members of the SBC Executive Committee.

4th Anniversary

Help celebrate your Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission's 40th year.

Observe MAY 21 — "Radio-TV Sunday"

A card to Radio-TV Commission, Ft. Worth, TX 76150 now will bring free program materials for your church.

Lottie Moon Offering surpasses record total

by Jennifer Hall

FT. WORTH, Tex. (BP) — A crowd of 5,000 broke into applause in a Ft. Worth convention arena with the announcement that Southern Baptists had surpassed their record for contributions to the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Close to \$29.5 million had been received as of April 5 for the annual seasonal love offering, Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told the spectators at the April 11 missionary appointment service in Tarrant County Convention Center. The final total won't be tabulated until late May when all the contributions will be received.

"It's the largest sum ever given at one time, to my knowledge, for the gospel of Jesus Christ," said an exuberant Cauthen. He then paid tribute to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for its part in the foreign missions endeavor.

Compared with the amount given this same date for the 1976 offering, the 1977

subtotal exceeds it by more than \$2 million. The 1977 subtotal of \$29,475,670.65 is already well ahead of the complete 1976 total of \$28,763,809.71 — for a difference of \$711,860.94.

In the first appointment service Southern Baptists have held in Texas since 1969, 30 new missionaries, 28 with Texas ties, were given a charge by Cauthen to "let not this book depart from you." Carrying a black Bible, Cauthen told the group "no matter how skillful you are . . . you won't be an effective missionary . . . except as this word gleams through your testimony."

He urged them to "put your feet in his (Jesus') footprints and follow where he leads. I speak to you what I know by experience. Be very courageous."

The 15 new missionary couples received their charge following a colorful procession of flags from all 90 countries where 2,755 Southern Baptist missionaries now serve.

All but two of the 15 couples were assigned to Western South America. Add-

ing to the unusual aspects of the evening service was the appointment of Arkansans Charlotte Halbert (Mrs. N. Benjamin) Kirby and Judy Halbert (Mrs. C. Ellis) Leagans, sisters. The sisters and their husbands pursued and considered missions for some time but neither couple had consulted the other until just a few months ago. (See separate article on Arkansans.)

Also among the new missionaries is a husband-wife nursing team, Mr. and Mrs. J. David Wilson, registered nurses. Two of the men appointed were certified public accountants. And two of the appointees had been on the mission field as children with their Southern Baptist missionary parents.

Sixty persons went forward to commit their lives to special Christian service during an invitation given by Cauthen at the close of the evening.

Cauthen also reminded the crowd to consider volunteer missions: 13 responded to Mission Service Corps. Also that night one person made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Arkansans appointed

Two sisters who are Arkansans natives were appointed, along with their husbands, to foreign mission service at the Ft. Worth meeting of the Foreign Mission Board.

Charlotte Halbert (Mrs. N. Benjamin) Kirby and Judy Halbert (Mrs. C. Ellis) Leagans who grew up in Star City will serve with their husbands in South America.

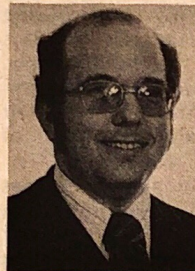
The Kirbys will work in Venezuela, where he will be a teacher in extension. Currently Kirby is minister of Trinity Church in Portland, Maine.

A Little Rock, Ark., native, Kirby received the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Kirby was a summer missionary to Washington and Oregon under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Later he was pastor of Rankin Chapel Church in Dumas, Ark., and minister of visitation at Rosen Heights Church in Ft. Worth.

Mrs. Kirby, was born in Little Rock and grew up in Star City. She was graduated from Ouachita with the bachelor of arts degree and later worked as a medical secretary in Ft. Worth.

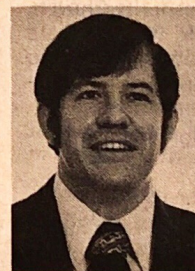
They have two children. Jodi



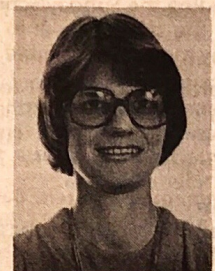
Kirby



Mrs. Kirby



Leagans



Mrs. Leagans

Carol was born in 1970, and Brian Benjamin, 1971.

Rev. and Mrs. Leagans will work in Colombia, where he will be a general evangelist. Currently, Leagans is associate pastor of youth and education at Central Church, Livingston, Tex.

Born in Salisbury, N.C., Leagans grew up in Davie County, N.C. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

He attended University of the Andes in Bogota, Colombia, through an exchange program at Wake Forest University. Also his seminary studies were interrupted for a year when he accepted a Rotary Foundation Graduate

Fellowship to attend the National University of Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

For two summers, Leagans was minister of youth at Bethesda Church in Durham, N.C., and at First Church, Star City, Ark. Later he was the Spanish department pastor at North Ft. Worth Church.

Mrs. Leagans is the former Judy Halbert of Star City. She received the bachelor of science in education degree from Ouachita University, Arkadelphia. She also attended Southwestern seminary. Mrs. Leagans was a second grade teacher in the Star City Public School system and later was a secretary in the regional personnel office of the Foreign Mission Board in Ft. Worth.

They have two children. Andrea Elisa was born in 1974, and Monica Joanna, 1976.

First Church Leslie

honored Mrs. Lex Treece in morning worship services Sunday, April 9. Mrs. Treece has served the church for 32 years as music director. She was presented a corsage and certificate of appreciation for her dedication to the church's music ministry. A noon meal was served in the fellowship hall, and young people of the church presented Mrs. Treece with a gift of appreciation for time spent working with them. Members of her family, from over the state of Arkansas, were guests. J. R. DeBusk is pastor.

New Harmony Church

was in revival March 5-11 with Neal Stevens of Osceola as evangelist. Harvey Fowler is pastor.

Pine Grove Church

was in revival April 17-23. Clarence Shell, associate/state evangelist of the Evangelism Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. Louis Jefferies led the music program. Elbert Warren is pastor.

Reynolds Memorial Church

men have begun a prayer fellowship on Sunday mornings immediately preceding the Sunday School hour. Women of the church meet in homes on Thursday mornings for Bible study and prayer.

Northside Church, Monticello

is in revival April 24-30. James D. Wallace, pastor of the Eudora Church, is evangelist. James Hickman is pastor.

Emmanuel Church, Batesville

is in revival April 23-30. David Coleman of Evening Shade is evangelist. Earl Croxton is pastor.

Greenland First Church

was in revival April 19-23. John Finn, Director of Missions for North Arkansas Association, was evangelist. Mike Sonnier, music/youth director of the Greenland church, led music for the week.

West Fork First Church

was in revival March 27-April 2. Jack Armstrong of Dumas, Tex., was evangelist. David Savage, music/youth director of the West Fork Church, led the music.

Green Memorial Church, Little Rock

broke ground recently for a building which will provide additional educational space, a fellowship hall and kitchen, office complex, library, and nursery. The building program will also include remodeling of the present auditorium. Gary Young is architect and Taylor Building Associates are contractors. The new project will cost approximately \$150,000. Charles Atkinson is pastor.

Delta Association

a "Delta Crusade for Christ" April 2-8. Harold Elmore was crusade chairman. Larry Taylor of San Antonio, Tex., was evangelist and music was directed by Lloyd Young of Mobile, Ala. There were 43 professions of faith.

North Main Church, Jonesboro

was in revival April 2-9. Paul Jackson of Little Rock was evangelist. There were 30 professions of faith and five joined by letter. The North Main Church has received 107 for baptism since Oct. 1, 1977. Bill H. Lewis is pastor.

Harmony Church

in Carey Association was in revival recently. Roscoe Henthorne, pastor, was evangelist. Otis Jones led singing. There were four professions of faith and three joined by letter.

Van Buren First Church

held ordination services on April 16. Quinton Waldo, Lewis Ballard, Frank Wofford, Paul Gant and G. L. Dotson were ordained as deacons. Bruce Cushman is pastor.

Hillside Church, Camden

is in revival April 23-28. Roger McDonald is evangelist and Harrell Slack, music director. Randy Maxwell is pastor.

Dumas First Church

will observe Homecoming on April 30 to conclude a month-long attendance campaign. Activities for the day will include a 500 attendance goal for Sunday School and old time religion gospel service. Minor Cole, a former pastor, will be speaker. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by a musical program for the afternoon. Former members and staff are to be special guests. Dennis Baw is pastor.

Kensett First Church

youth held a banquet on Saturday, April 22. Dave Woodman, television personality of Little Rock, was speaker.

Highland Hills Church, Texarkana

is planning a revival for May 1-7. Leo Hughes, Director of Missions for Southwest Association, will be evangelist. Orville Farren, assisted by his five-year-old son, Michael, will be in charge of special music. James Lindsey is pastor.

South Texarkana Church

was in revival April 16-23. D. C. McAtee was evangelist and Raymond Johnson directed music. Ray Nichols is pastor.

Southwest Association

sponsored an associational awareness conference on "Reaching-Out to the Physically Handicapped" on April 14. The special ministry conference was held at Beech Street First Church in Texarkana with Betty Brown, "Miss Arkan-

sas Wheelchair", as special guest and speaker.

Other speakers include Joe Rubert of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center; Bob Gross, Director of the Migrant Mission Center, Hope; Pete Petty, Director of Special Ministries, Arkansas Baptist State Convention; and Leo Hughes, Director of Missions, Southwest Association.

The associational Woman's Missionary Union held a rally at First Church, Fouke, on April 20. Betty Brown was also guest speaker at this meeting.

Hot Springs Second Church

will be the meeting place for a single adult seminar on April 28-29. The seminar is planned for single adults of Central Arkansas. Barbara Burkett from Park Cities Church in Dallas, Tex., will be leader. Mike Rothman and Jim Akins are in charge of arrangements for the Hot Springs church.

Grace Church, Augusta

will begin a revival Sunday, April 30. P. J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch, Miss., will be evangelist. Sing Oldham, interim pastor of Immanuel Church, Forrest City, will direct music. Ron Flurry is pastor.

Fayetteville First Church

deacons have launched a new ministry, "The Deacon Family Ministry Plan." This is designed to care more adequately for members of the church and their needs.

Delaplaine Church

held ordination services recently. They ordained Gary Harpole and George Weaver as deacons.

Center Hill First Church

recently ordained Mile Woodside, Mike Easton and Dwight Kieffner as deacons.

Calvary Church, Texarkana

has purchased new choir robes. Their old robes have been sent to East Africa as a special mission project. James Hampton, Field Representative to East Africa, now on furlough, shipped the robes for the Texarkana church.

Correction

In a brief item on page 11 of the April 13 issue of the ABN, a report of a revival at Parkview Church, El Dorado, incorrectly identified the pastor of that church and gave incorrect information about the evangelist for that meeting.

Lawrence Harrison is the pastor of Parkview Church. Doyne Robertson is not a former pastor at Parkview, but has served Ebenezer Church in El Dorado.

Talents now tied together for service new Christian discovers

by Erwin L. McDonald

BATESVILLE — Music, magic, and mental health were main interests in the life of Dr. Bob Spray at the time he became a Christian, two years ago.

These still are his main interests, but his perspective has changed dramatically. Whereas music, magic, and mental health were formerly ends in themselves, now they are means to the greater end of serving Christ.

"All things have become new for me in Christ," said Dr. Spray, in a recent interview. "And that includes me and everything I do."

The 30-year-old native of Ponca City, Okla., has a Ph.D. degree in psychology from the University of Arkansas and is staff psychologist with the North Central Arkansas Mental Health Center here. And since his conversion, he is an active member of First Church, Batesville, where he is now church pianist.

His hobby of practicing magic, an interest from early childhood, he now uses to great advantage in spreading the good news of the gospel. He is actually receiving more invitations as a Christian magician than he can accept. He performs gospel magic shows for both adults and children's audiences.

Dr. Spray said, "Basically, gospel magic is the use of magic effects to demonstrate gospel truth. None of the effects are claimed to be in any way 'supernatural'; rather, all can be accomplished by natural means, any adult in the audience being capable of the same if he or she knew the method. The use of magic effects drives home the gospel message in a vivid way that is more likely to be remembered by children as well as adults. All principles presented are documented biblical truths.

"One thing of great importance to me," he continued, "is that now I'm a Christian, my professional life and my Christian life are one and the same.

"I have now found, much to my delight, that I have not had to change any of my therapeutic treatments here at the Center at all. I have changed the way I look at things; but the active technique and the way I conceptualize what's going on with the people I'm trying to help is pretty much the same as it always has been."

Dr. Spray titles his magic-gospel performance for children, "Becoming a New Creature." And that, in a very real sense, is what has happened to him in the few months he has been a Christian — and what is still happening.

"The people I associate with have noticed a difference in me," he said. "They tell me my attitudes and moods have changed."

As a young person much of Dr. Spray's interest and activities was in the field of music. "I played coronet in the band. I was in the Dixieland Band, a rodeo band, a jazz band, a stage band, and an orchestra. I was even conductor of my high school band and orchestra."

As Dr. Spray became aware of the difficulty in pursuing a professional music career, he found that psychology was something which was interesting to him and he chose to enter that field.

"When I got further into my new major," Spray said, "I found that I really liked it. I eventually decided what I wanted to do was psychotherapy, focusing on family psychotherapy."

Dr. Spray came to his present position with North Central Arkansas Mental Health Center following his internship at Ft. Roots in Little Rock and his graduation from the University of Arkansas, in 1975, and he is happy with his calling.

Now, many of Dr. Spray's talents have been tied together so they serve in a meaningful way. And whether he is playing the piano for the services of his church; using his life-long hobby of performing magic — now also as a way of spreading the gospel; or performing his daily duties at the mental health center, he sees these aspects of his life as ministry.

"If nothing else comes from this interview," he said, "I hope it will help other Christians to realize that they really have



Magic is one of the talents Spray uses for Christ. (ABN photo)

something valuable in their relationships with Christ. I hope they can allow themselves to use their relationship with Christ for living life to its fullest."

Erwin L. McDonald is Editor Emeritus of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

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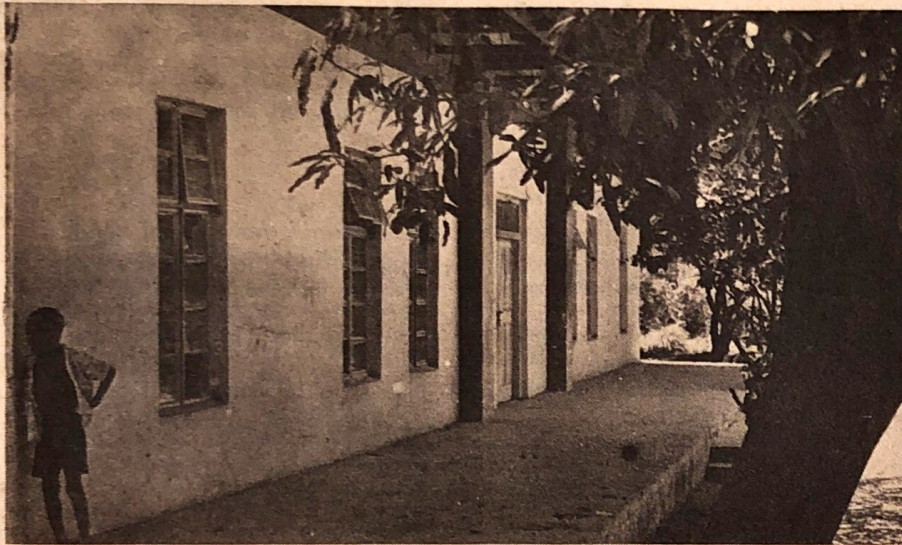
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For more information on Your Will and Ouachita, write to Lloyd Cloud, Director of Planned Giving, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923 or call 246-4531, Extension 169.



TOP PHOTO: Revival meetings at Masaebi were held in a tent.
BOTTOM PHOTO: The Hindu Temple at Kyela, the site of the meetings there, has been purchased for the local congregation by the Hamburg church.

Arkansan preaches second Kenya crusade

by Evelyn Knapp

Revival meetings held in seven churches in Kyela Association, Tanzania, have resulted in 506 first-time decisions for Christ. Pastor Raymond Atwood of First Church, Hamburg, was the visiting evangelist, and agriculturist Douglas Knapp was the sponsoring missionary.

Meetings were held for the first time in the District headquarters, Kyela town, in the only available meeting hall, the unused Hindu Temple. Baptists came from all over the area and the building was packed for the first meeting. A breakthrough for Baptists was the decisions made by two Asians who accepted Christ — a young Muslim mother and an eight-year-old Hindu boy.

It was Atwood's second visit to Tanzania. He was a member of the evangelistic team which conducted the country-wide Crusade in 1976. The Kyela Association voted to ask Atwood

to return for a second visit of preaching for three weeks. Atwood's visit was underwritten financially by his home church in Hamburg.

In the Ngeleka Baptist Church the pastor introduced a young man who had been saved in the '76 Crusade under Atwood's preaching. Today he is attending Bible School in preparation for the ministry.

During the last week of the revivals, the Katete Baptist Church sent word that one of the members, who had been saved two days earlier, had died. The truth of the scripture, "Today is the day of salvation", was made evident to all who heard of the man's salvation and subsequent death. The man's family and Christian friends rejoiced in the knowledge of his salvation.

Evelyn Knapp, Southern Baptist missionary, is press representative for Tanzania.

TOP: Harry Mwasanjala, president of the Tanzania Baptist Convention (center), who was in Arkansas for two weeks, talks with Atwood and James Hampton (left) field representative for Eastern Africa.

MIDDLE: Missionary Evelyn Knapp wears a shirt representing Hamburg athletic teams. Douglas Knapp was the sponsoring missionary.

BOTTOM: Baptismal services were conducted in a lake bordering Malawi and Tanzania.

Churches pledge toward \$1 million for BSU endowment

This is the first report on churches that are participating in the BSU Third Century Campaign. If there are omissions or errors, please let us know.

Additional commitments (pledges) will be forthcoming. Some churches, because of prior financial commitments to church building programs, Associational Camp building programs, mission projects, etc. informed us that they would have to delay their commitments to the BSU Third Century Campaign. This is understandable. Our primary concern is not a rigid timetable, but the commitment and support of the maximum number of our churches. We have just received a generous commitment from a church to

begin in 1981, because of their building program responsibilities.

It is impossible in a report like this to spell out the various commitments of churches. Later, our reports will reflect the gifts received from each church, but the primary purpose of this report is to list the participating churches, to date.

The legend is as follows:

P—Pledge (commitment, or goal). The number indicates the period of time. eg. P5 is a five-year pledge.

G—Gift. In some cases, this means a lump sum gift. In others, it means that a gift (or gifts) has been received in our Accounting office, but we have not received a pledge or commitment card from that church. Where this is true, we

urge those churches to mail their commitment cards as soon as possible, please.

We are grateful to God, our churches, and BSU alumni and other friends who have responded so readily and so generously during this past year. We urge many other churches and individuals to help us reach our goal of \$1,000,000 in pledges and gifts for this unique and vitally important campaign during this year. Our Christian witness and ministry to thousands of college students for all of our future will be significantly increased by the financial support derived from this campaign. Thank you very much. — Jamie Jones.

Pastors respond about pledges

Guy Whitney, pastor of First Church of Rector:

"Just a note to tell you that our church has voted to have a part in the BSU Endowment Campaign to raise a million dollars. The enclosed budget was adopted — unanimously. We are pledged to give \$3,000 at \$10 per week until our pledge is paid in full . . ."
Harrison Johns, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church of Conway:

"Enclosed please find our commitment to the Third Century

Campaign . . . You will see that 1 percent of our current budget will amount to about \$350. We anticipate the amount will increase year by year, and therefore chose this method of participation . . ."
David Chappell, pastor of Hardin Church of Pine Bluff:

"I am very happy to report to you that our church enthusiastically pledges its support in the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign. We do so because we are also greatly con-

cerned about the spiritual needs and opportunities represented in the large number of students on our Arkansas campuses. Several of these students are from our church . . . Our commitment is 1 percent of our budget each year for 5 years . . ."

Charles Crowson, pastor of Salado Church in Independence Association:

"We plan to give \$100 per year for five years. This is more than 1 percent of our total budget per year."

BSU Third Century Endowment Director Jamie Jones is heartened by the fact that churches with few members and churches with many members alike are making commitments to the endowment campaign.

One of the first churches to respond to the challenge was Mount Olive Baptist Church of Heber Springs. With the pledge of \$500 (\$100 a year for five years), church treasurer Mrs. Bryan Bardwell said "our church is small, averaging only 12-15 in Sunday School, but we want to share in this great need for our young people to have a place on college campuses for Christian guidance." William Good is pastor.

The largest commitment to date is Central Church of Magnolia with a pledge of \$19,835 in a five year pledge. Jon Stubblefield is pastor.



On the cover



Arkansas Valley Association
 Elaine P1
 Hughes, 1st P1

Ashley Association
 --

Bartholomew Association
 Warren, 1st P5

Benton Association
 Bella Vista P5

Big Creek Association
 --

Black River Association
 Newport, 1st P1

Buckner Association
 Abbott G
 Fellowship P4
 Hartford, 1st G
 Haw Creek G
 Mansfield, 1st P5
 Midland, 1st P5
 New Providence G

Buckville Association
 --

Caddo River Association
 Oden, 1st P5

Calvary Association
 Antioch G
 McCrory, 1st G
 Morrow P5
 Rosebud P5
 Searcy, 1st P1

Carey Association
 Bearden, 1st P5
 Fordyce, 1st G
 Hampton, 1st P5
 Sparkman, 1st P1
 Thornton, 1st P5

Caroline Association
 Biscoe, 1st P5
 Carlisle, 1st P1
 Des Arc P5
 England, 1st P1
 Hazen, 1st G
 Hummoke P5
 Keo P5
 Mt. Carmel P5
 Toltec P5
 Ward, 1st G
 Wattensaw G

Centennial Association
 DeWitt, 1st P5
 Stuttgart, 1st P5

Central Association
 Benton, 1st G
 Central P1
 Hot Springs, 1st P5
 Hot Springs, 2nd P5
 Lake Hamilton P1
 Riverside P1

Clear Creek Association
 Batson P5
 Clarksville, 1st P1
 Concord P1
 Van Buren, 1st P1

Concord Association
 Booneville, 1st P5
 Eastside, Ft. Smith P5
 Grand Ave. P1
 Oak Cliff P5
 Paris, 1st P5
 Southside, Ft. Smith P1

Conway-Perry Association
 Casa P5
 Morrilton, 1st G
 Nimrod G

Current-Gains Association
 Piggott, 1st P5
 Rector, 1st P5

Dardanelle-Russellville Association
 Atkins, 1st P5
 Dardanelle, 1st P5

Delta Association
 Bellaire P5
 Collins G
 Dermott G
 Eudora G
 Jerome P5
 Lake Village BC G
 Portland P1

Faulkner Association
 Pickles Gap P1
 Pleasant Grove P5
 Wooster P1

Greene Association
 Paragould, 1st P4
 West View P5

Harmony Association
 Centennial P5
 Dumas, 1st P5
 Forrest Park P1
 Grady, 1st G

Green Meadows P5
 Hardin P5
 Immanuel P
 Oak Grove G
 Pine Bluff, 1st P1
 Pine Bluff, 2nd P1
 Rison G
 Star City P1
 Watson Chapel G
 White Sulfur Spring P5

Independence Association
 Batesville, 1st P5
 Calvary P5
 Desha, 1st P5
 Floral G
 Marcella P5
 Mountain View, 1st P5
 Pilgrim's Rest P5
 Ruddell Hill P1
 Salado P5
 Sulphur Rock P5
 White River, Oil Trough G

Liberty Association
 Caledonia G
 Calion, 1st G
 Galilee P5
 Harmony G
 Hillside, Camden G

Joyce City P5
 Junction City, 1st G
 Liberty P5
 Midway P5
 Parkview P5
 Strong P5

Little Red River Association
 Mt. Olive P5

Little River Association
 --

Mississippi County Association
 Blytheville, 1st P5
 Leachville, 1st P5
 Manila, 1st G

Mt. Zion Association
 Jonesboro, Central P5
 Jonesboro, 1st P5
 Monette, 1st P5
 Philadelphia G

North Arkansas Association
 Batavia P5
 Bear Creek Springs P1
 Bellefonte P5
 Berryville, 1st P5

Boxley P5
 Casaville P5
 Deer P3
 Eagle Heights P5
 Everton, 1st P5
 Gaither P5
 Grandview P5
 Grubb Springs P3
 Harrison, 1st P5
 Hopewell P5
 Jasper P5
 Lead Hill, 1st P5
 Osage G
 Parthenon P5
 Rock Springs P5
 Rudd G
 Saint Joe, 1st P5
 Southside, Lead Hill P1
 Trinity P5
 Union P1
 Valley Springs G
 Woodland Heights P5

North Pulaski Association
 Baring Cross P5
 Bethany G
 Calvary P5
 Graves Memorial P5
 Jacksonville, 1st P5
 Park Hill P1
 Pike Avenue P5

Quachita Association
 DeQueen, 1st P5
 Mens, 1st P5
 Wickes G

Pulaski Association
 Baptist Tabernacle P1
 Crystal Hill P5
 Forrest Highlands P5
 Geyer Springs P1
 Immanuel P1
 Lakeshore Drive P5
 Lifeline P3
 Martindale P5
 Pulaski Heights P5
 South Highland P5
 Tyler Street P1

Red River Association
 Arkadelphia, 1st P5
 Arkadelphia, 2nd P5
 Beech St., Gurdon P5
 Bethel G
 Curtis, 1st P5
 Prescott, 1st P5

Rocky Bayou Association
 Melbourne, 1st P5

Searcy Association
 Leslie, 1st P5

Southwest Arkansas Association
 Beech Street, 1st P5
 Bradley P5
 Canfield P5
 Central, Magnolia P5
 Hope, 1st P5
 Lewisville, 1st P1
 Memorial G
 Stamps, 1st P5

Tri-County Association
 Cherry Valley P5
 Forrest City, 1st P1
 Forrest City, 2nd P1
 Parkin G
 West Memphis, 1st P1
 Wynne B.C. P5

Trinity Association
 Trumann, 1st P5

Van Buren Association
 --

Washington-Madison Association
 Fayetteville, 1st P5
 Liberty P3
 Rolling Hills P1

White River Association
 Flippin, 1st P5
 Lone Rock P1
 Mountain Home, 1st P5
 New Hope P5
 Norfolk, 1st P1

State at Large
 Clinton, 1st P5
 Russellville, 1st P5

Other Groups
 WMU, 1st Benton G
 Brooks Hays Bible Class of 2nd
 Baptist, Little Rock G
 Fidelis Sunday Sch. Class of 1st
 Baptist, Arkadelphia G

Commitments Just Received
 First Baptist, Garfield G
 Campbell Station, Tuckerman G
 South Texarkana, Texarkana G
 Calvary, Huntsville G
 Emmanuel, Harrison G

BSU
111th Century Campaign

Pledges & Gifts Through March, 1978

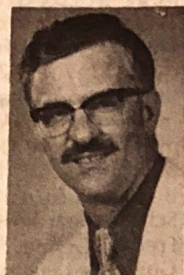
<p>\$ 90,509.51 435,406.92 91,772.29</p>	<p>Gifts Received Balance on church pledges Balance on individual pledges</p>
\$617,688.72	Grand Total



In recognition of more than 27 years of service as Director of Associational Missions for Black River Association, Cecil Guthrie (left) received a plaque from the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Guthrie retired Dec. 31, 1977. The presentation was made at the associational evangelism rally in Newport by R. H. Dorris, Missions Department director. Guthrie will devote his time to writing and recording his audio broadcast program, "The Little Broadcast", which is heard on four radio stations and a television station. (Photo by Robert Riherd)

Acteens Far and near missions look is planned

Far away places with strange sounding names and persons close by with different needs are both to be featured at ACT 9, May 6, at Burns Park. Planned for all Acteens of the state, the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Teenage girls in missions organizations enjoy the outdoor setting, the small group, informal talks with missionaries and others, and the sack or picnic lunches they bring.



Evans

"Far away places," features Dr. and Mrs. Orlynn Evans from Liberia, a country Arkansas Acteens have heard very little about. Evans has worked in a full-time media ministry. He has done some entertaining and educational television programs for children. He has also trained a puppet team made up of Missionary Kids (MK's) and developed a film cassette program.

Mrs. Evans is press representative for the Liberian Baptist Mission. In addition, she has written a novel entitled "House by an African Path," which is the story of a missionary family.

Two MK's and a missionary from Brazil complete the foreign missions emphasis. These are Bob Berry and Jim Spann, students at Ouachita University, and Marjorie Grober, missionary homemaker. Berry and Spann will be entertaining the girls as they team their vocal and instrumental talents in both English and Portuguese.

How to meet needs at home will feature Bob Focht, home missionary; John Gearing, associational missionary; Neal Barnes, summer missionary; Wilene Pierce, WMU staff member; Francis House, associational WMU officer; Betty Harp, Master Tutor Trainer for Laubach; and the Ken Hughes Family, who will talk about family mission action.

Jack Riley, pastor of First Church of Russellville, will lead in a closing time of commitment. — Betty Jo Lacy, Acteens Director

Looking ahead: Arkansas events

April 1978

28-29 Youth ministry conference, Camp Paron (Church Training)

May 1978

1- 5 Continuing Education workshops (Missions)
5- 6 Royal Ambassador Congress, Little Rock
6 ACT IX, Burns Park, North Little Rock (WMU)
7 Share Love—Associational hymn sing
7-14 Christian Home Week
9 Creative Teaching Workshop, Immanuel, Pine Bluff (Sunday School)
11 Creative Teaching Workshop, Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith (Sunday School)
11 Graduation, Southern Baptist College
13 Spring commencement, Ouachita Baptist University
16 State association program promotion (Sunday School)
18 State association program promotion (Sunday School)
19-20 GA mother-daughter camp, Paron
21 Day of Prayer for Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine
23 Special ministries workshop (Missions)
25-26 Ministers of education personal growth conference, DeGray Lodge (Church Training)
28 Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
30 Church Growth Seminar (Church Training)

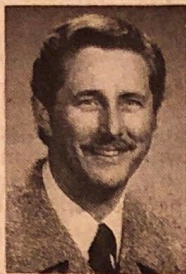
June 1978

Annuity ministries
2- 3 Boys (6-8) and Fathers Retreat, Camp Paron
5 Area Youth Evangelism Leadership Conference, Jonesboro
5- 9 RA Camp, Paron
6 Area Youth Evangelism Leadership Conference, Mountain Home
8 Area Youth Evangelism Leadership Conference, Fayetteville

The Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches reported that Southern Baptists ranked fortieth in per capita giving to their churches.

Minister of education seminar is a first

Arkansas' first seminar for ministers of education will be led by Will Beal at DeGray State Park Lodge on Thursday and Friday, May 25-26. Beal is a consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He will be assisted by Fred McGehee, consultant in the Career Guidance Section of the Church Administration Department.



Beal

The seminar will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday and will adjourn at 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon. Seminar topics include leadership assessment, role clarification, support systems and goal building.

This Personal Growth Conference is the first such seminar in our state planned specifically for the minister of education. Those who serve in a full-time professional capacity in any area of the church's educational program are invited to attend. For reservations and additional information, write the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — Robert Holley

Church Music

Baptist Hymnals will be loaned

The new ^BBaptist Hymnal '75 is a tremendous songbook. Would your church be interested in borrowing enough copies to use for a few weeks, or for a revival meeting or other special occasion?

The State Music Department has 150 copies that are available for short periods of time. We would be happy for you to use them. They can be obtained on a first-come first-served basis simply by contacting our department.

Your only obligation will be to pick them up and deliver them back to us on the agreed dates. Call or write today and reserve them for a glorious singing experience in your church. — Ervin Keathley, Department Secretary

Must sell — Best offer

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Arkansas Baptists have 84-year history of caring for children

(First in a series of articles)

The name has been changed and the services have been expanded, but caring for children has remained the first concern of the Arkansas Baptist Child Care Ministry throughout its 84-year history.

The Arkansas Baptist Child Care ministry had its beginning in 1894 when Mrs. Hannah Hyatt Gardner gave her home and 80-acre farm near Monticello to Arkansas Baptists. The home was named Arkansas Baptist Orphan's Home with its primary purpose being to provide orphan children a place to live. Dormitory-style buildings were constructed and matrons supervised 20 or more children living in each building.

In 1924 the home was renamed Bottoms Baptist Orphanage in honor of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bottoms of Texarkana, who provided strong financial support for the home.

For over a half-century the home accepted children of all ages. But during the 1950s the Board of Trustees voted to accept only school-age children. It had become evident that babies and preschool children needed the home-type environment and that the needs of these children could best be met through foster home programs. So pre-

school children were referred to other agencies which could provide foster care. It was during this period that the dormitory style buildings were gradually replaced by smaller units with a home-like atmosphere.

Over the years the emphasis shifted from providing custodial care for orphans to a total ministry to dependent and neglected children who had been spiritually and emotionally injured by family breakdowns and such problems as alcoholism, drugs, crime and mental illness. So in keeping with this expanded ministry Arkansas Baptists voted in 1961 to change the name to Arkansas Baptist Home for Children.

During the next few years Board and staff members observed the need for further changes in the child care ministry. The emphasis shifted from providing only a ministry of institutional care for children to providing a total ministry to families in an effort to keep families and children together. Responding again to change, Arkansas Baptists voted in 1970 to adopt the name Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services and to make it a state-wide ministry. — Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

Stewardship

Bold Mission Thrust and lifestyle

A critic of uncontrolled consumerism charged that the problem people on Spaceship Earth are the first-class passengers. The fifteen percent of the population that gets around eighty percent of the goods causes others to hurt.

Unbridled consumption is supposed to be good citizenship. Industries' wheels are kept in motion by ever expanding demands. Our wants have become needs and our desires have graduated to necessities.

Ready credit raises few questions about the ability to possess. A charge card entitles one to immediate possession. Wants can be quickly translated into fulfilled needs. Stuffed closets, ugly junk yards and landfills, and an overweight citizenry give little evidence of concern for world needs.

When is enough, enough? The Bible does not fight possession of goods. It warns against greed, covetousness, extravagance, and indulgence.

God placed a limit on what Adam and Eve could take from the garden. Moses reminded the freed Israelites that God gave a daily supply of manna. They couldn't hoard tomorrow's supply.

Augustine wrote, "Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need . . . The superfluities of the rich are the necessities of the poor. Those who retain what is superfluous possess the goods of others."

A 6th-century Syrian commented on riches: "It is not he who has many possessions that is rich, but he who has no needs."

Bold Mission Thrust calls for commitment. The goals are an illusion unless we recognize the need for increased giving. To fulfill mission, our desire for more should be contrasted with the needs of the world. Personal ownership and consumption of unnecessary goods needs comparison with the Macedonian who calls "come over and help us."

Bigger barns were worthless to the foolish farmer. Bigger cars, bigger houses, and bigger holdings in the Western World look foolish to missions strapped by limited funds.

Bold Mission Thrust is more than more money, more personnel. It calls for a lifestyle consistent with biblical stewardship. — James A. Walker, Secretary of Stewardship

The Assembly: Cool it!

Neither the founders or present participants in the assembly program would have believed an air conditioned assembly.

Many people think there is natural air conditioning at the state assembly grounds in Northeast Arkansas. That is partly true, mostly at night.

Since the assembly weeks have been expanded there is an ample supply of hot weather to cope with. This is especially at the dining hall and tabernacle.

The same "openness" of these two facilities will prevail, air conditioning will simply be used during the meal and meeting periods.

Other improvements include remodeling of the faculty building and the provision of permanent surfaces for basketball and volley ball courts.

A gazebo has been added. A gazebo? What is a gazebo? A gazebo is a small outdoor pavilion, and old-fashioned summer picnic place. Assembly usage will be a place for water fountains. The gazebo is a memorial to Grandad W. E. Gill, beloved assistant at the Snack Shack.

Cool it this summer at the state assembly. — Lawson Hatfield, director.

This summer, It's the Orient

Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, The Philippines, and Hawaii. (Including the Baptist Youth World Conference in Manila.)

17 Days/16 Nights,
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Only \$1,549.

Scheduled airlines, first class hotels, personally conducted by Editor and Mrs. Marse Grant of the "Biblical Recorder".

For more information, write:
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No news is not good news!

If news about your church has been conspicuously absent from the pages of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and you've wondered why, ask yourself or your church staff these questions:

- *Is some person in the church responsible for sending news?
- *Do they send news before it becomes history?
- *Do they send complete information (full names, exact dates, figures)?
- *Do they give the name, address, and phone number of a person to contact for more information?

If any of your answers are "no" that's bad news. The good news is that your church can change the circumstances. Meet the criteria above and send your news to *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Call us at 376-4791 if you have questions.



STATEWIDE PASTOR'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
MAY 1-3 1978

Conference Preacher

Dr. Russell Dilday, President-Elect of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and former Pastor of the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

Conference Teacher

Dr. Jack MacGorman, Professor of New Testament, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Registration

Fees \$25.00, includes room, board and materials. Conference will conclude at noon Wednesday.

All interested persons are welcome to attend!

For additional information contact: Dr. Gene Petty, P.O. Box 638, OBU, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Fifth in a series

Biomedical reproduction: questions of ethics abound

by Henlee H. Barnette
for Baptist Press

Abraham "laughed in unbelief" at the idea that he at the age of 100 and his wife Sarah at 90 could produce a child (Genesis 17:17). Though an elderly couple having a child is an oddity to us, biological technology is presenting us with even stranger possibilities in human reproduction. Now there are alternative ways of sexual reproduction, either developed or being developed, for human beings: artificial insemination, "in vitro" (test tube babies), and cloning.

Artificial insemination has been used by animal breeders for many centuries. It was practiced by the Arabs to produce high quality horses as early as the 1300s. The procedure consists of using an instrument to deposit sperm into the uterus of the female.

There are different types of artificial insemination: AIH (from the husband), AID (from donor other than husband); and AIHD (from husband and another donor). AIHD has some psychological advantages since there is the possibility of the husband's sperm fertilizing the wife's ovum, or egg.

"In vitro" reproduction is the fertilization of an egg in a test tube. Aldous Huxley, in his "Brave New World" published in 1931, predicted the production of test tube babies. Time magazine reported that in 1961, an Italian biologist, Daniele Petrucci, fertilized a human egg in a laboratory and kept it alive in a glass tube for 59 days before an accident halted the experiment.

One of the possibilities of "in vitro" reproduction can be seen in the case of a woman married for several years but who could not have a child because she had defective organs which could not supply an ovum the normal way. One of her eggs could be artificially taken from her ovary and fertilized "in vitro" with her husband's sperm and then reimplanted in her womb.

Clone comes from the Greek word "klon" meaning a cutting in the sense of a gardener using a cutting to produce a new plant. Through cloning it is predicted that in the near future a person will be able to produce biological carbon copies of himself. Cloning occurs when a cell of a particular organism is removed from the organism and the

nucleus is stimulated in such a way that it begins to reproduce.

Cloning occurs naturally in certain bacteria, plants, and some lower animals. Biologists have already cloned frogs, salamanders, fruit flies, and a few vegetables. No report has appeared that any mammals have been reproduced by cloning but the theoretical know-how is now a fact.

Christians are divided on the subject of biomedical reproduction. Those who reject AID do so on the ground that theologically it violates the monogamic (one man-one woman pattern of marriage) principle of the "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24) relationship. Psychologically AID, it is held, may result in a sense of failure on the part of the husband. Again, there is the danger of incest. A young couple planning to be married were told by their family doctor that both had been conceived by artificial insemination with different mothers but by the same donor sperm. Hence, they were actually half brother and half sister. The marriage was cancelled.

Those who espouse AID and AIH believe that these are legitimate ways for a woman to overcome childlessness. A planned child, it is argued, would be a wanted child and would receive love and care.

Adoption, of course, is an alternative to artificial insemination. But adoption is often a long and frustrating process. And some couples want a child by the wife even though it means taking the AID route.

"In vitro" reproduction poses ethical problems. There is the ethical question of separating procreation from sexual love and marriage. Transferring procreation to the laboratory poses a threat to marriage and the family by destroying

This is the last in a series on Christians and biomedical issues, written by Henlee H. Barnette, Ph.D., Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Louisville School of Medicine. Barnette prepared these articles in consultation with the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

a vital personal relationship in an increasingly impersonal world. In short, it may have a dehumanizing effect upon the whole process of reproduction and upon persons.

"In vitro" procreation also poses the problem of commercialization. The "womb renting" business is already emerging. Now that it is possible to fertilize eggs in the test tube, wives who desire children but do not want to go through the natural process of having them because it would interfere with their careers can rent a surrogate mother. Laboratory grown embryos can be implanted in a hired woman who will bear the child.

Cloning likewise involves a bundle of moral questions. There is the identity problem. Does not everyone have a right to his or her own genotype and not to be a carbon copy of someone else? Who wants to have a genetic type of someone who has already lived? Is it not possible that cloning will upset nature's balance of the sexes? More males than females or vice versa may be desired and produced.

Yet some of these new ways of procreation can be a blessing. They bypass the problem of sterility in husband or wife, may avoid passing on genetic diseases, and preserve the family likeness. Cloning from the dead may be possible if done before "cell death" which takes place a few hours after the brain and heart cease to function. Hence, the family line could be carried on in case the deceased had no children.

Love, the willing and working for the well-being of all of God's creatures and creation, is the ethical principle of moral decision making. The means of human procreation must be in harmony with agapaic-love as revealed in the words and works of Jesus Christ. This means that moral and humane methods of procreation must be employed. Experimentation must proceed in terms of guidelines to avoid inhumane use of these new ways of producing people. In short, these new technologies must be used to achieve the positive values and consequences of biomedical reproduction for improving the quality of life.

Bi-vocational pastors want seminary study

NASHVILLE (BP)—Bi-vocational pastors want more help from the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department, James Nelson told a group of state Seminary Extension representatives here.

Citing a recent survey by the research services department of the Sunday School Board, Nelson noted that a higher percentage of bi-vocational pastors expressed an interest in receiving help from Seminary Extension than from any other agency, including even their local Baptist association.

"I would say that if there is any group in our denomination that has got a big job, it is this group right here," Nelson told the state representatives. "We are not talking about fantastic opportunities tomorrow. This is where we are now!"

Nelson directs the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of rural-urban missions, which has major responsibility for working with bi-vocational pastors. He addressed the annual workshop for state representatives sponsored by the Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. J.T. Burdine, recently named by the Home Mission Board as consultant on bi-vocational pastors, and Wendell Belew, director of the board's division of ministries, also participated in the three-day workshop.

Raymond M. Rigdon, Seminary Extension director, expressed both delight and dismay over the survey results. "We're very pleased to see the high level of interest in Seminary Extension among these men, but we're concerned about the large number of them who said they were getting little or no help from Seminary Extension at present. Hundreds of bi-vocational pastors are enrolled in Seminary Extension centers and our home study program, but we need to be doing much more."

Early cancellations asked for assemblies

NASHVILLE—Persons holding confirmed summer reservations at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers but who will be unable to attend should make cancellations as soon as possible, according to Robert M. Turner, director of the conference center

division.

"Lengthy waiting lists for some 1978 conferences, particularly Sunday School weeks, prompt us to make this request," Turner said. "We want to accommodate as many of those on waiting lists as possible."

Many reservations are made in blocks by church groups, Turner noted. Groups that will need fewer rooms than confirmed can provide space for other groups by altering their reservations.

The two nationwide conference centers, owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, expect more than 50,000 persons to attend 1978 summer conferences.

Reservations correspondence should be mailed directly to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535 or to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C., 28770.

Action on IRS rule advised for Baptists

DALLAS (BP)—James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, advised Southern Baptist institutions to consider judicial, administrative and legislative remedies to government regulations which impose financial accountability to the Internal Revenue Service on all church agencies and institutions not ruled as "integrated auxiliaries of churches."

"The seriousness and gravity of the situation have increased," Wood told the 16th Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference. "We're now in a position which I think can accurately be called a crisis. Indeed, it's a mounting crisis involving our churches and church agencies and the IRS."

Southern Baptist churches and church agencies and institutions have opposed any attempt by the IRS to define "integrated auxiliary of a church" since this means, in effect, that the government would be defining the mission of the church by determining what is and is not a "religious activity."

Those agencies or institutions which don't qualify as an "integrated auxiliary" are now required to file Form 990 annually. The form calls for detailed financial information.

Wood said church-related institutions can use "petitioning" to call on the president and the Treasury Department to "revise, re-examine or even rescind" the IRS definition of 1977.

He said correspondence and contacts with the White House—an example of what he means by "administrative remedies"—have drawn no response to the issue of the financial accountability of churches, church agencies and institutions.

In "judicial remedy," a Southern Baptist organization might refuse to comply with the regulation with the full intention of entering into litigation and court action against the ruling.

"The hope would be that the federal court would find the entire regulation unconstitutional," Wood explained. "We believe that it is in violation of the First Amendment."

Institutions could also seek a legislative remedy for the regulation by securing the introduction of a bill in Congress which would modify or even rescind it, Wood said. He stressed that any Southern Baptist organization should seek legal guidance before attempting any of the three remedies.

'Local churches need balanced growth'

by Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Balanced, systematic church growth, has been neglected by ministers of education in Southern Baptist churches in recent years, but interest is on the upswing, according to church administration consultant Will Beal.

A new awareness of evangelistic expectations by Southern Baptists is a primary reason for the increased interest, Beal told 64 ministers of education from 17 states during a Sunday School Board seminar on how to function as an effective growth agent in the local church.

Church growth, based on winning more people to Christ, should be a major part of the minister of education's responsibility, emphasized Beal, consultant to ministers of education in the board's church administration department.

Interest in church growth has increased noticeably, but the concept is not new to Southern Baptists — merely concentrated application of efforts now known and used in local churches. Beal recommended use of existing

organizations as the best way to approach a growth plan, and he listed Sunday School as the chief evangelistic agency in the church.

The Sunday School organization contains a majority of church members, is well organized, is the largest organization in the church, and is assigned the task of outreach, a primary concern of growth, he said.

"Church growth is not accomplished just with preaching or buses, or any single element," he continued. "It needs to be a mix of things to give sustaining growth."

Although overall Southern Baptist Convention membership continues to rise, Beal said, SBC growth mostly involves biological and transfer growth in local churches. This involves children and relatives of church members joining churches, or members transferring from one church to another. While some churches grow, he said, many times churches in other cities or states decrease in membership.

"The Southern Baptist Convention needs conversion growth," Beal told the group, "by winning lost persons to Christ. Every church needs to plan a growth strategy to maximize use of physical, organizational and financial resources. This will provide a balanced program for growth."

Course shows pastor key role women play

NASHVILLE (BP)—Ken Jordan doesn't say that his mind has been changed. But studying a new Seminary Extension course on women in the church, he says, "opened my mind to some things that I had been blind to for a long time."

Jordan, pastor of First Church, Bruce-ton, Tenn., is the first person to complete the newest course of the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention's six theological seminaries. That leaves him one course short of the 16 required for Seminary Extension's diploma in pastoral ministries.

"I had taken several courses in church history," Jordan says, "but had never realized the important role women had taken in making our denomination the great denomination it is today. I recommend this course to all pastors, especially to those who think they already know what the Bible says about the woman's role in the church."

The study guide for the course, written by Minette (Mrs. Huber L.) Drumwright of Fort Worth, Tex., includes

separate discussions on women in the Bible, in Southern Baptist history, in contemporary society, and in Baptist churches today.

Since the course was released in January of this year, 205 persons have enrolled to study it by correspondence through Seminary Extension's Home Study Institute. Based on average course enrollments for several recent years, "Women in the Church" already has become one of the 10 most popular Seminary Extension courses for 1977-78.

Autrey returns to Southern Baptist post

MEMPHIS (BP)—C.E. Autrey, long-time Southern Baptist leader, has moved to Salt Lake City, Utah where he will serve as pastor of University Southern Baptist Church and as professor in the chair of religion connected with the University of Utah.

The chair of religion is being financed by the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board.

Since his retirement, Autrey has taught at the independent Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis. Autrey said that he was pleased that the opportunity had opened for him to move to the pioneer mission project in Utah. "Having spent my life supporting the (Southern Baptist) Cooperative Program (unified budget for world missions), I did not want to spend my last years of ministry teaching in an institution that is not supported by the Cooperative Program," Autrey said.

Autrey previously was director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board and taught evangelism at two Southern Baptist owned seminaries, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and New Orleans (La.) Seminary.

Foreign board hears Broda

by Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — N. Aldo Broda brought only a short message to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at its March meeting, but his presence said much more. He symbolizes the mature national leadership

emerging in overseas missions.

Broda, the first Latin American to head the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, since its founding in 1906, directed the Argentine Baptist Convention's publications work before coming to the States last year. A third-generation Baptist, he represents what Foreign Mission Board area secretary Thurmon Bryant calls the "denominational maturity" of Baptist work in Eastern South America.

In Richmond for the first time since assuming his new post, Broda expressed appreciation from "all the people in my country and from my family" to Southern Baptists for sending their missionaries, prayers, and money and for "helping us in the extension of the gospel."

He presented the board's executive director, Baker J. Cauthen, with two copies of "La Biblia de Estudio Mundo Hispano," a new study Bible the El Paso institution has published for use in more than 40 countries to which it supplies literature and other church materials. This publishing house, although located in the United States, operates under an international board of trustees representing these countries.

Bryant, a missionary to Brazil for 17 years before his election last October as area secretary for Eastern South America, told the board that on a recent tour of his area he was particularly impressed with the quality of missionaries serving there and with the quality of the national Baptist leadership.

"One might think," he said, "that as capable national leaders emerge and assume their rightful places in convention leadership there might be the tendency for them to ignore the need for the presence of the missionary."

But he said that at a recent conference in Argentina, attended by both missionary and national leaders, Juan Calcagni, president of the Argentine Baptist Convention, said to him:

"Tell the Foreign Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention to send us more missionaries. We love your missionaries and will need them in Argentina for many years to come to help us in evangelizing this great nation."

Bryant said there is concern as to how long the doors will remain open to missionaries in some countries. This is the time, he emphasized, for Southern Baptists to take full advantage of the opportunities that exist.



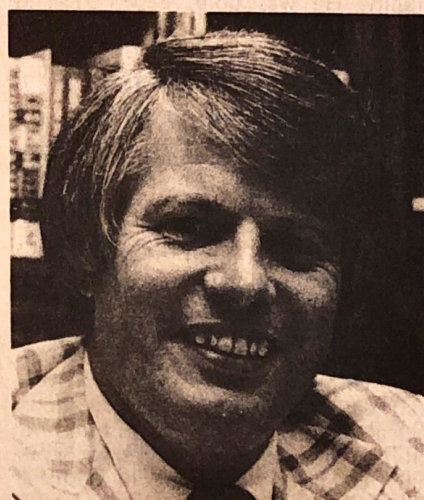
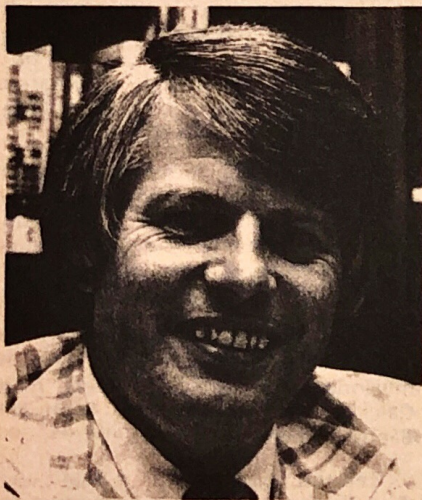
\$1000 for Ole Main

Arkansas Baptist College's "50/50 Matching Fund" is \$1000 closer to its \$106,000 goal as a result of a gift from Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. Pastor Cary Heard (left) presents the check to J. C. Oliver, president of the school, outside the historic building which the fund seeks to preserve. The college must match the federal grant to renovate the 88-year-old structure in Little Rock. Park Hill Church voted April 9 to make the gift. (ABN photo)

Roots are the source of life — for violets, or giant Redwood trees, or Bold Mission Thrust.

For a look at the Arkansas roots of BMT, see a special issue of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, coming May 11.

Does Retirement Talk Make You See Triple???

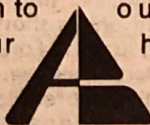


Do you see triple when you talk about retirement planning? You are not alone. It can be confusing but the Annuity Board wants to help make it simple.

A staff of specialists will man the booth to assist you at the Southern Baptist Convention in

June. Stop by the booth. Our people will answer your questions about retirement and insurance.

Also, we'll have a phone connection to our WATS home of Dallas, plus help-



ful brochures that explain the Annuity Board programs.

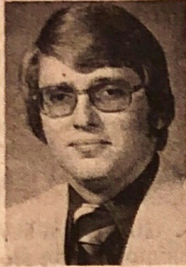
The booth will be in the EXHIBIT AREA of the Omni Convention Center in Atlanta. It is blue and white with a big "AB" — just like the one in this ad.

A new direction

April 30, 1978

Acts 9:1-16

Throughout history men and women of fame and authority have been compelled to change their total life-style because of a personal encounter with the Risen Christ. He calls forth a change which demands complete trust and radical obedience. It is not enough to believe. When Christ saves, he asks for a totally-surrendered life, one which may even lead to suffering or even martyrdom.



Statton

Saul the man

Our passage of study is one of the three accounts written by Luke describing what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-16; 26:12-18). The repetition of this significant story points to the importance of both the man and what God had in store for his life. Saul was a prime candidate for heavy Christian responsibility. He was bold, educated, and steeped in Israelite culture.

Few men held the respect and authority of Saul. His untiring enthusiasm to oppress the Christian movement had won him an honored seat on the Sanhedrin. His educational and cultural background had equipped him with keen understanding of both pagan ways and Old Testament theology. With these qualifications, it's not surprising that God chose Paul to herald the name of Christ before Israelites, Gentiles, and even kings (9:15).

Saul the persistent

Saul was not a lazy, unmotivated man. In verse one Luke tells us that Saul "kept up his violent threats of murder against the followers of the Lord." He was present at the stoning of deacon Stephen (8:58). Moreover, and in Acts 8:1 we discover "that very day the church in Jerusalem began to suffer cruel persecution."

Saul was a persistent and dedicated protector of the Jewish law. Because of his standing with the Sanhedrin he was able to obtain permission to expand his crusade of violence into the synagogues of Damascus, a city nearly 150 miles from Jerusalem. Saul would go any distance to stop the spread of this

blasphemous story of a risen Messiah.

No doubt Saul knew Damascus housed many believers. History tells us that Damascus was a heavily populated Jewish community and during the reign of Nero, 10,000 Jews were murdered in Damascus alone.

Saul's purpose was to arrest both men and women and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment. Though Saul himself was indeed a man of mission and purpose, he was soon to meet the author of purposeful life, the Risen Savior.

Saul the follower

Saul had always been the one in control of every situation, but in verses 3-6 Saul became an humbled listener.

As Saul and a companion neared their destination of Damascus, Saul was pressed to the ground by a blinding light. From this moment on he would cease to be master and begin a life of servanthood.

In those few short moments, on the ground, Saul experienced fear, remorse, and repentance. He knew the kind of power he was opposing. It was the same power that allowed Stephen to die with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. And the same power that raised this Jesus of Nazareth from the dead. He had met his superior and was being prepared for a new direction of life.

Saul the humbled

As Saul lay there on the ground, blind and stunned, he must have seen his entire life flash before the eyes of his conscience. No doubt he feared for his very life.

When he arose, at Christ's command "to go into the city" (v. 6), and discovered his blindness (v. 8) he was forced to reach for the helping hand of his fearful companions who led him into Damascus. For three days he could not see, eat, or drink.

I believe those three days were the most lonely days of Saul's life. Jesus had given him no answers to this startling experience, just the command to "go into the city, where you will be told what you must do" (verse 6, TEV). Saul was at the mercy of an almighty God, and he knew his life would be completely different. He must humbly wait and listen for

further instructions.

Paul the commissioned

In verses 10-16, we read the highly suspenseful account of a timid, devout Christian Jew (22:12), leading a mighty persecutor into a Christly commission of divine apostleship. Though Ananias feared for his life, he obediently followed the Lord's instructions and went to Saul with the loving greeting of "Brother" (verse 17).

Saul's Commission found in verses 15-16 is of utmost importance to our whole theme of study in this unit of material. Saul had been chosen by God to carry the gospel to "Gentiles and Kings and the sons of Israel." In fact, he, the Jew, was to pitch his tent in the camp of Gentiles for a life-long task of "heathen" evangelism. No, he was not to disregard his Jewish friends, but primarily his job was to preach to the Gentiles. Furthermore, Paul would suffer for the sake of the very one whom he had persecuted.

What important implications are hidden in this very familiar passage?

First, I believe it is significant to note that God will always take the initiative in revealing his will for our lives. Though Saul had turned his ear from the Lord, Jesus still came to Saul, calling him to a life-long task of servanthood.

Second, I believe God sometimes has to stop us in our tracks and slow us down from our religious frenzy in order to speak his words of commission. Saul was indeed busy for the God of Moses, but failed to stop long enough to see the man of Galilee.

Third, when Christ does give us a specific opportunity to witness or minister, it is our responsibility to respond with "Here I am Lord." Ananias must have believed that he had an appointment with death when he stepped out on faith to meet Saul. However, he went because Christ said "go." In short, discipleship means risk.

Lastly, God can use both the timid and the bold to "carry his name." Ananias was indeed timid. He reminded Christ of his fear of witnessing to such a man as Saul. Yes, he was timid and fearful, but he was also willing to listen. God made it very clear to Ananias that Saul was already prepared for a visit. We too must depend on God to go before us as we share his message of reconciliation with a lost and dying world.

The Outlines of the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series, are copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education. Used by permission.

God's active judgment in history

Genesis 6:9-13, 17-18;
7:11-12, 15-16

Judgment always follows degeneration. The Flood, as recorded in Genesis, gives a stirring account of the judgment of God upon the sinfulness of mankind. At the same time we are shown God's mercy extended to those who trust in him and obey his words.



Wright

The spiritual teaching of Noah's deliverance has always been recognized by Christians. Jesus used the story of the Flood to teach lessons of judgment, righteousness, repentance and faith (Matt. 24:37-39). The dual truth of judgment and mercy is clearly seen.

The Flood account also expresses the patience of God toward mankind. God is willing to begin again with his efforts of redemption. Mankind is given another opportunity to follow righteousness.

Genesis 6:1-7 records the moral mess that made the Flood necessary. The first four verses are very obscure, yet they point out the degree of wickedness which grieved the God of creation and provoked him to severe action.

Walking with God (6:9-10)

Noah stands alone in righteousness among the sinfulness of his day. His character judges all those around him. Noah has discharged all the duties of the law. He is "blameless" (perfect) in his various relationships. Noah is a man mature in integrity and responsibility.

The passage does not imply that Noah was sinless. The words express a relative and not absolute completeness. To be blameless does not mean to be without fault. It means to be open and responsive to God's will and living in God's plan.

"Noah walked with God." In that evaluation he became the solitary saint of his day. He is fully committed to God. And the number of persons so judged is very small.

The lesson to learn is that goodness is possible. Goodness is even possible when everyone else is unrighteous. It is hard to stand alone in the things that are

right, but it can be done. Noah did. But the place of the saint has always been "in his generation."

Noah's companion in his walk was God. The expression "he walked with God" is said only of Enoch and Noah. The company of the committed has always been a minority. And yet this companionship is the foundation for righteous conduct. Since he walked with God, he was "blameless" and "just".

Missing God's plan (6:11-12)

Moral corruption and violence describe the human race at this time. In other words, bad men are cruel men. Sin strikes at the very foundations of life. Sin leaves life corrupt and rotten. Sin always leaves in the end chaos what God declared in the beginning to be "very good."

These verses describe how utterly man had fallen from God's plan of righteousness. God was indeed moved with regret that He had made mankind.

Punishment and mercy (6:13, 17-18)

As God speaks to Noah in verse 13, he shares with him his intentions to blot out all living things with a flood. It is an open expression of God's righteous judgment.

The sentence upon the earth is a stern one. All life must pay the penalty for man's sin. Because sin affects everything associated with the sinner. The plants

and animals share in the human destruction and later deliverance.

The same verb used in verses 11 and 12 to express "corruption" is used in verse 13 to express "destruction". This obviously teaches us that corruption is destruction the same as sin is death. God's punishment is in accordance to the act of transgression. Death is sin finished.

God's most severe punishment is accompanied by God's way of escape. This was the basis of God's command for Noah to build an ark.

The covenant was God's sign of mercy or God's promise of deliverance. The darkest events of life are laced with divine ways of overcoming as the righteous continue to trust and obey the Lord.

The expected flood (7:11-12, 15-16)

The Flood came as the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of Heaven were opened. Water was falling from above and rising from below.

The rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. All inside the Ark were safe. As carefully as God had led them into the Ark so safely he would keep them through the chaos.

It is always true. Noah lived for the future and trusted God for his care. It is true now. Men who live for the future, by faith in Christ, will be found to be the wisest by far.



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— by Gene Herrington —

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Attendance report

April 16, 1978

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church adds.
Alexander, First	111	36	
Alpena	71	17	
Ash Flat, First	70	35	
Batesville, First	254	99	
Bentonville			
Central Avenue	77	37	
Mason Valley	79	35	
Berryville			
First	151	54	
Freeman Heights	160	45	
Biscoe, First	88	38	
Booneville			
First	266		
Blue Mountain Mission	13		
South Side	85	53	
Bryant, First Southern	200	99	4
Cabot			
First	458	151	1
Mt. Carmel	381	137	11
Camden, Cullendale First	522	138	
Center Hill, First	110	88	2
Charleston, First	170	59	
Conway			
Pickles Gap	204	92	1
Second	385	173	1
Crossett			
First	502	116	
Mt. Olive	351	113	4
Danville, First	187	55	1
Dardanelle, First	193	42	4
Des Arc, First	185	64	
Forrest City, First	527	98	5
Ft. Smith			
First	1415		10
Grand Avenue	942	228	1
Mission	23		
Trinity	166	51	
Fouke, First	99	48	3
Gillham	80	38	
Grandview	113	77	6
Greenwood, First	383	211	4
Hampton, First	145	71	
Hardy, First	120	44	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	225	98	
Woodland Heights	149	67	3
Hector, First	34	21	1
Helena, First	47	28	
Hilldale	47	28	
Hope, First	315	92	1
Hot Springs			
Harvey's Chapel	170	82	3
Park Place	306	108	
Hughes, First	185	77	
Jacksonville			
First	386	69	1
Second	189	54	
Jonesboro, Nettleton	302	134	2
Kingston, First	68	41	
Lavaca, First	314	150	1
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	148	48	
Life Line	434	124	
Magnolia, Central	680	206	
Marked Tree, First	162	61	
Melbourne, Belview	185	90	
Monticello, Second	284	88	3
Mulberry, First	251	145	1
Murfreestboro			
First	198	74	
Mt. Moriah	59		1
North Little Rock			
Harmony	68	44	
Levy	374	89	
Park Hill	966	238	6
Paragould			
Calvary	330	189	3
East Side	326	168	
First	409	85	1
Pine Bluff	335	65	
Centennial	145	47	
Central	141	53	7
East Side	147	72	
First	674	114	1
Lee Memorial	277	91	1
Sulphur Springs	155	68	
Watson Chapel	474	184	32
Rogers			
First	516	610	6
Immanuel	461	105	4
Russellville			
First	350	100	3
Second	130	61	4
Sheridan, First	169	42	
Springdale			
Berry Street	48		2
Elmdale	271	93	8
First	1407		3
Sweet Home, Pine Grove	100	42	2
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	214	83	
Van Buren, First	573	152	3
Vandervoort, First	88	51	
Ward, First	120	67	
West Helena, Second	199	101	1
Yellville, First	194	62	

Israeli, Christian leaders meet to discuss new law

by Elizabeth F. Smith

JERUSALEM (BP) — In an unprecedented consultation between evangelical Protestant leaders and high government officials, Aharon Barak, attorney general of Israel, assured a delegation from the United Christian Council meeting in his office that a recent law regarding change of religion "applies in both letter and spirit to all men and all religions equally and without discrimination."

As he answered questions of the delegation, which included Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative, Robert L. Lindsey, Barak said the only aim of the law, passed by the Knesset (parliament) last December, is to

surances given by the attorney general to help prevent harassment and false accusations under the new law, Christians, as well as other religious minorities in Israel, are still without legal basis for protection since Israel has no written constitution.

"We are being defamed publicly, and we are helpless to change the myth held by 90 percent of the Israeli public that Christians have unlimited sums of money which they use to bribe people to convert and then to leave the country," Lindsey said.

"Only the passage of a constitution with clauses similar to that of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights and guaranteeing freedom of religion and thought can give us the protection we need," Lindsey stressed.

Barak told the delegation that he is presently involved in drafting a constitution containing such features and that he hopes the Knesset document will pass at the earliest possible time.

Barak, scheduled to accompany Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to the United States for meetings with President

Carter and other top government officials, told Christian leaders that the police have been instructed to relay all complaints related to the law directly to him or to State Attorney Gavriel Bach. Bach was present in the meeting, along with Meir Gabai, director-general of the Justice Ministry.

Paul Swarr, general secretary of the Christian Council, said that although the meeting with the attorney general was positive, the council would continue to work for the repeal of the law which has the potential to limit Christian activity and endanger religious liberty in this country.

A three-man delegation representing the 20 member bodies of the council has just returned from Europe where "extensive and significant" contacts were made with leading officials in Protestant and Catholic groups. The council is considering sending a delegation on a similar mission to the United States. It is also studying the possibility of setting up a liaison office to coordinate all Christian groups in Israel to monitor the local scene and to disseminate information abroad.

Retirement income main problem for the elderly

SAN ANGELO, Texas (BP) — Inadequate income in retirement is the number one problem affecting America's elderly, Darold H. Morgan, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board said.

Speaking to the Southern Baptist Association of Ministries With the Aging, Morgan focused on segments of needs for older people and pinpointed major developments toward meeting them.

He said that although older Americans have won the attention of the government, a gap still exists between the elderly and religious and private sectors in establishing worthwhile programs for facilities and services greatly needed compared with those available.

Greater income heads the list of needs, Morgan said, noting that Social Security is the chief source of support for most elderly. But many recipients remain at poverty level or below, even though Social Security benefits have almost doubled since 1970.

Supplemental security income was initiated to assist but even the maximum amount is not enough for many elderly persons, he said.

Morgan commended churches for establishing programs to serve the elderly

and the association for extending its vision to promote them. He predicted the church will be more sensitive and creative in this ministry as the older population grows.

"Our older population will live long, enjoy better health and have less money due to inflation, so our churches will have to help them cope with these challenges," he declared.

In a four-session workshop, Elbert C. Cole, a Methodist pastor, led the group in "creative concepts in care," all based on the successful Shepherd's Center he established in Kansas City.

Cole said the Shepherd's Center provides home services which play a major part in helping older persons avoid institutionalization and live in their own homes. The center provides seven home services, ranging from young people who help the elderly shop to handyman projects which utilize the skills of craftsmen who make minor home repairs.

Older people are futuristic, eager to keep informed and stay up-to-date about new developments and ideas, Cole continued. The center conceives of itself as a conduit to help older persons in these areas and help other agencies in serving them more effectively.

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After the meeting, wire services reported, the Israeli minister of justice sent a letter to Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee, stating, "There is no intention whatsoever on the part of the Israeli government to restrict in any way religious freedom of the Christian community or any other community in Israel." Maass had protested that the "sweeping provisions" of the law appeared to be "intended to intimidate the Christian community."

Lindsey, Baptist leader in Israel for 34 years, pointed out in the March 9 meeting that even though the Christian community in Israel appreciates the as-