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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

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5-23-1985

**May 23, 1985**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Preview:

## SBC 1985, Dallas, Texas



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May 23, 1985

Arkansas Baptist  
NEWSMAGAZINE



SBC 1986, Dallas, Texas



Arkansas Baptist  
NEWSMAGAZINE

Dallas, Texas, a city of nighttime glitter and daytime big deals, will be the site of the 128th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13. Estimates of more than 35,000 registered messengers have been projected for the meeting.

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## In this issue

### 2, 8 SBC preview

A preview of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention—arrangements, appointments, auxiliary meetings and more—are found in this week's issue. Besides the events of the annual meeting, the programs of many auxiliary meetings are included, as are helpful info about transportation in Dallas and child care.

### 16 prayer brings rain

Rain has come to Ethiopia and missionaries there credit the prayers of Southern Baptists and others for the relief. Ironically, the mud has isolated a feeding center which is now supplied by air.

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## SBC buses, childcare provisions set

Free shuttle bus routes and childcare information for messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13 in Dallas has been released.

Shuttle buses will connect all the major hotels not within walking distance and a major parking area with the convention center.

Preschool child care will be housed at First Church, Dallas, while the Brotherhood Commission will sponsor a missions day camp for elementary-age children at a local park.

For \$7 per day (\$20 for all three days), elementary school children will be provided supervised activities which include mission studies, games, crafts, nature study and sports. Children will be taken to a city park by bus, leaving the convention center each day, Tuesday through Thursday, at 8:30 a.m. They will return to the convention center at 5 p.m. on June 11, 12:30 p.m. on June 12 and 4:30 p.m. on June 13.

Registration and additional information will be available beginning June 10 at the Brotherhood Commission booth in the convention display area. There is no pre-

registration but interested parents are encouraged to sign-up on June 10.

Preschool childcare for messengers who live outside the Dallas-Fort Worth area will be provided at First Church, Dallas, for \$5. a session. The May 24 pre-registration deadline is important. Planning will be based on the number signed up by the deadline.

"Messengers who show up needing preschool childcare without pre-registering them are not guaranteed anything," Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee and convention manager, said.

K. Adele Suddath, director of pre-school ministries at the church, is heading up the program. She may be contacted by mail at First Baptist Church, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas, 75201 or by phone at (214) 969-0111. A complete information sheet and registration will be sent to anyone requesting them.

The shuttle service won't cost users in 1985 because of the generosity of the Dallas Baptist Association and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

## Live coverage announced for annual convention

NASHVILLE (BP)—The 1985 Southern Baptist Convention will be transmitted live from Dallas on the Baptist Telecommunication Network June 11-13.

The gavel-to-gavel coverage of the convention will begin Tuesday, June 11, at 8:30 a.m. (CDT), and conclude with adjournment Thursday, June 13, at 4:30 p.m. according to officials of the Sunday School Board.

Anchorers for the coverage will be Gomer Lesch, senior BTN consultant at the Sunday School Board, and Dick McCartney, editor of the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger*.

Joe Denney, manager of the telecommunications department, said coverage will include previews and wrap-ups of each ses-

sion as well as every action of the convention. Special events such as the news conference of the newly-elected president also will be covered live.

Denney urged all BTN subscribers to open their facilities and encourage persons in the area to watch sessions of the convention.

As of Jan. 31, a total of 4,433 churches have access to BTN through church or association subscriptions, Denney said.

In addition, the BTN signal will not be scrambled for the transmission of the meeting live coverage, and persons with satellite receiving equipment will be able to view the program on Spacenet 1 (120° W), channel 21.

## Tellers, Credentials Committees appointed

DALLAS (BP)—The tellers and credentials committees have been appointed for the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13, in the Dallas Convention Center.

Stanley, as president, appoints both committees. The credentials committee is appointed by the convention president "in consultation with the vice-presidents," while the tellers body is named by the president, "in consultation with the registration secretary, Lee Porter."

Porter works with both committees during the three-day annual meeting.

The credentials committee, according to the SBC by-laws, "shall review and rule upon any questions which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers." The 26-member group also considers "any contention arising on the floor (of the convention) concerning seating of messengers.

The tellers committee, made up of 13

members, is responsible for tabulating any vote taken by ballot during the convention.

Porter said safeguards have been built into the system.

"Messengers who bring their completed and signed registration cards can register in less than five minutes," Porter said. "Persons who have letters or must rely on telegrams will have to appear in person before the credentials committee," he added. "Any disputed or contested matter also will be referred to the committee."

Ralph M. Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church in Austin, Texas, will be chairman of the credentials committee. A. Earl Potts, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery, is chairman of the tellers.

Two Arkansans, W.C. Garland Jr., pastor at Second Church, Hot Springs; and C. Lamar Lifer, pastor of Olivet Church, Little Rock, are members of the Credentials Committee.



The up-coming Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas has been called "explosive," "divisive" and apt to cause a "head-on collision." It is a critical convention. The only solution lies in a wide representation of messengers who are informed and committed to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

It is imperative that these individuals attend the convention as "messengers," not "delegates." A messenger is one who goes to the convention from his church with no previous commitment, seeking the leadership of the Lord in casting his vote as a free moral agent.

A delegate, on the other hand, is one who has been committed beforehand by his church or by some individual to vote in a prescribed manner. Such action is contrary to our polity, to the SBC constitution and denies the biblical concept of the priesthood of the believer. Those Baptist groups, such as the American Baptist Association, which send delegates to these annual meetings bind the local church. Southern Baptists do not.

The Southern Baptist messenger concept was not an accidental decision. The Bible is clear that every individual must make his own decision regarding salvation. Every Christian is a priest before God. For this reason, we have autonomous churches, and churches send messengers, not delegates, to conventions and associations.

There are certain guiding principles we believe messengers should follow in casting ballots. First, we should elect leadership which is doctrinally sound. This has not been and is not a problem. Several years ago Adrian Rogers was asked to name doctrinally unsound presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention. He named only one, a layman, from the late 1950's.

Our denominational leaders should be proven in their commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention. This means a history of service in the local association and on the state convention level. It also means that these individuals are committed to world missions through the Cooperative Program. History has proven that the best way to finance world-wide missions is through the Cooperative Program. The old society method, by direct appeals to churches, simply was not as effective as the Cooperative Program. No one who is not committed to world missions should serve in a leadership position in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Individuals elected should know, appreciate and encourage the major interest of Southern Baptists. A knowledge of Southern Baptist history provides a needed background to ensure a commitment to our future.

Such a knowledge of our history and purpose would include an understanding and commitment to the purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention. The constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention clearly states, "It is the purpose of the convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad, and other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God."

It is significant, indeed, that our founders in 1845 placed the major emphasis on missions at home and abroad. These individuals felt that our main thrust must be to win lost people at home and to the ends of the earth. Anything that detracts us from this objective would be contrary to the purpose envisioned by our founders.

Messengers should elect individuals with the highest integrity. When an individual serves as a president, vice-president, or on a committee in the Southern Baptist Convention, he must place the well-being of Southern Baptists above all special interest or association with a special interest group.

Finally, those who are elected by our messengers should be individuals who are committed to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of other abilities, an individual who is not led by God will be inadequate to serve our great denomination.

One of the great strengths of the Southern Baptist Convention is involvement of numerous churches and lay people. Yet, the percentage of lay people serving as messengers at the SBC is far too small. Churches should encourage their lay people to participate as messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention by providing expenses, if necessary. In recent years, only about five percent of our churches have had anyone present at our annual convention.

Messengers should remember that the purpose of the annual convention is to adopt guidelines which will give a sense of direction to our work. Detail matters should be left to our elected trustees and to our boards. The trustees, along with SBC employees, then implement the general directions provided by the messengers.

We believe that the 1985 convention need not result in a "head-on collision." It can be a great time of victory if messengers will follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, be informed and place the best interest of missions above all other interests. All of us should pray that the up-coming convention will be a time of victory in which we will reaffirm our commitment to carrying the gospel of Christ around the world.

# Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 84

NUMBER 20

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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. They must be marked "for publication."

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (USPS 031-280) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., Little Rock, AR. Subscription rates are \$6.98 per year (individual), \$4.40 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.00 per year (Group Plan) and \$19.00 per year (to foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

## Letters to the editor

### Laymen must act

This is an appeal to other Southern Baptist laymen in Arkansas to act because of the emergency we face.

The Southern Baptist Convention is being destroyed by a group of religious politicians. They want to turn us away from our cooperative pattern of doing missions together, and make us into a top-heavy, lock-step, authoritarian group to whom they can give orders.

If this "takeover" group continues to capture the highest office in the Southern Baptist Convention—like they have for the last five years—then you can be sure they will try to capture the freedom of your church to conduct its own affairs. None of our churches needs a pope or an archbishop to call the shots.

If you cherish your liberty under Christ, then you must act quickly. The Dallas meeting of the convention is only a few weeks away. Laymen who cherish our historic Baptist way must be present, as duly elected messengers, and vote to put new leadership into office.

We need to turn this situation around. The only way we can do it is to show up in Dallas on Tuesday, June 11, with a messenger card and vote for a new president for the Southern Baptist Convention who will lead us back to the main highway, and out of the woods this group has gotten us lost in. — Thomas O. Murchison Sr., England

### Not 'Bibliolatry'

While pastoring in Kentucky, I met an ex-student of Southern Seminary. He told me that he didn't need the Bible to know God. A recent article in ABN, April 25, is just as absurd. True Southern Baptists are "people of the Book." The Bible is "God's revelation of himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter." (*The Baptist Faith and Message*, para 18). Either one agrees with this statement completely, or one disagrees with it. Jesus said in Matthew 12:20, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathered not with me scattereth abroad." This statement is either truth or falsehood.

If it is truth (I believe it is), then it is complete truth without any mixture of error. If it is falsehood (Jesus cannot lie, Titus 1:2), then what are we to believe? If, in "my interpretation," I decide not to believe a particular passage, then "my knowledge, my wisdom, my judgment" is greater than God's. If this is right, then I don't need God. I praise God that I am not greater than he, and that I do need him.

I agree the early believers were obedient to the Lordship of Jesus. But in doing so, they were obedient to the Word of God, the Bible. John 1:1 very firmly says that Jesus is the

Word. He is the Living Word; the Bible is the written Word and there is no separation. If the written Word is full of errors, then so is the Living Word. I cannot except this idea.

Our Bold Mission Thrust depends upon our view of the Word of God. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." The Word of God then is a must for the salvation of souls. Bold Mission Thrust is a soul-winning effort by Bible-believing Southern Baptist to reach a lost, hell-bound world for Jesus Christ. — Guy Parker, Lavaca

### Setting wrong example

Inerrantist Jimmy Draper is quoted as threatening to escrow his church's Cooperative Program receipts if his choice for convention president is not elected.

Go, and do thou likewise. Moderate Cecil Sherman is quoted as saying that because of the bullying tactics of the inerrantists he has given up hope of reconciliation.

For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Inerrantist Bailey Smith is quoted as saying that nobody can bring the Southern Baptist Convention together because the issues are so deep and strong. He claims we already have two denominations, we should just admit it and go on.

Well done, good and faithful servant. Moderate Roy Honeycutt is quoted as declaring a holy war within the convention.

And the world watches and says, "Now we know that you are his disciples by the way you love one another." Shades of Corinth!

I don't mind telling you, this convention fight has placed me in an awkward position. My first pastorate had a history of disagreement and division. And I have labored for six years teaching them to work out their differences without name-calling, side-choosing, vote manipulation and threat of economic blackmail. And now, the leaders of our convention are role-modeling the unacceptable behavior which, I've tried to teach my congregation, has no place in church life.

And that's not the worst part. The men involved—on both sides of the issue—are authors of books I've shared with my people and are preachers of sermons I've quoted to them. Influential men who have been the subjects of my testimony to my congregation. What do I tell my people when they bring me clippings from the secular press naming these men as contestants in the Southern Baptist heavyweight fight of the century?

If our convention conflict is resolved by division, each side, undoubtedly, will claim victory. But when the dust has settled and we have licked our wounds, counted our casualties and gathered together what little

remains, will we then turn faces heavenward and say, "To God be the glory"? — Jack Cavanaugh, San Diego, Calif.

### Misplaced energies

It appears to this born again Bible believing layman that the current controversy in our convention is more political than theological.

A few years ago, Baptist papers informed us of a "take-over" plan designed to win control of Southern Baptist life. The plan involved control of the convention presidency and its boards and agencies. The convention president's office was made a political plum and a power base to promote a particular view. Precinct politics, meetings of partisan groups and called meetings of self-appointed groups are being used to further this political plan.

Diversity has been one of the significant strengths of Southern Baptists and has made possible the implementation of the most comprehensive program of ministries and mission activities in the world. However, a new persuasion has developed which apparently cannot tolerate diversity. It seems that disagreement no longer means you have another point of view; rather, it means you are a "liberal" and if you are a "liberal" you are wrong. This disregards an important Baptist distinctive, that of the priesthood of the believer in relation to the Bible. Our predecessors were intimidated by officially decreed interpretations of scripture and now it appears some would return to this practice.

Much is said about the doctrine of inerrancy. However, this writer knows of no responsible Southern Baptist, seminary president, professor or otherwise, who does not support the inspiration and authority of the and all that it affirms about itself. Why can't we continue to believe that what the Bible says about us is more important than what we say about the Bible? God gave us the Bible and has promised that it will endure forever. Why divert so much time and energy from Bold Mission Thrust? Jesus called us to be fishers of men, not hunters.

Let us stay on the task of sharing the one gospel and the one savior. Let us follow the example of Jesus Christ by loving one another, praying for one another and serving one another. Let us devote our energy to confronting a lost world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. — Audie J. Lynch, Conway

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Don Moore

## You'll be glad to know...

...What happened in 1984! That is, as pertains to foreign missions. It seems the annual report will never come each year. I've "bugged" our WMU ladies, wanting the report. It finally came (no reflection on our Foreign Missions Board staff, just eagerness on my part).

You may wonder why I should be so concerned. The main reason is that 50 percent of all the money we send on to Nashville for you ends up with the Foreign Mission Board. I like to see how our investment is working. The other reason is the Jesus identified our "field as the world." I want to be a part of moving into as much of the field as possible.

You can, therefore, understand my delight in getting the report for 1984. Baptisms numbered 156,326, an increase of seven percent over the previous year. The number of churches on foreign fields increased from 13,586 to 14,791, an increase of nine percent. Our missionaries averaged starting 3.3 new churches per day, or 23 per week. In addition, they started 2.1 new missions per day, or 15 per week. The philosophy of our Foreign Mission Board is that we evangelize and congregationalize. Some para-church groups may show more converts, but few if any have the follow-up and stabilizing ministry that Southern Baptists do because of our commitment to establishing New Testament churches.

Career missionary appointments were the second highest in history. Re-appointments of former missionaries reached an all-time high.

Financially, the Cooperative Program (39 percent) and Lottie Moon offering (41 percent) carried the burden of support for these great achievements. Practically, 11,394 volunteers went overseas to help our missionaries and returned as heralds of good news about what God is doing through our missionary force.

Praise the Lord! Join the team at whatever point you need to. It's a great investment!

**Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.**



Moore



## The Southern accent

Jackie Burton

### Unto the least of these

Numerous sermons, devotionals and articles have been written and discussed around the theme of the words of the Scripture, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40). The question arises, however, how many life styles have been committed to walk and live daily by this powerful statement of our Lord?

We may need a reminder of this type of daily commitment to our Christian witness and ministry. Often, we hear "unto the least of these" with our ears but not with our heart. The true meaning of the Scripture passage may get lost in the hectic pace of our doing our thing that may just be "busy work" for the Lord.

Barbara Jurgensen tells a story in her book, *The Lord Is My Shepherd, But...* that helps me.

In this story, a man dreamed about going to heaven. St. Peter met him at the gate and

gave him a slip of paper. Immediately, the man began searching for other people he knew must be there. He saw flowers, animals and other material things, but no people.

He came to the throne room and saw God sitting on a rock. He has to ask God about all the other people he has not seen since his arrival in heaven. God speaks slowly these words, "You asked where everyone is. Did you not know there was no one earth but you and me?"

The man then remembers the paper from St. Peter and reads, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Is it possible the Lord is hurting today because you passed him on the street or you said an unkind word to him? Have you ministered to the Lord today?

**Jackie Burton is dean of women at Southern Baptist College.**

### Cooperative Program report: April

Summary for April 1985		January-April gifts		
		Year	Over (under) Budget to date	% increase over previous year
Received	\$902,496.82	1979	\$ 5,802.31	11.81
Budget	956,331.17	1980	17,046.19	13.68
	(\$53,834.35)	1981	(41,666.83)	11.24
		1982	12,895.28	11.62
		1983	(355,206.92)	(2.10)
		1984	(224,530.37)	9.92

Cooperative Program gifts through April show an almost 10 percent increase over gifts a year ago. However, we are still running slightly less than 95 percent of budget for the year. Failure to meet budget results in unfulfilled ministries. — L.L. Collins Jr.

### Wanted Relief staff couple

**Baptist Children's Shelter, Searcy** needs a couple without children to be relief staff every other Friday a.m. through Monday p.m. The husband may be employed elsewhere. Must have the ability and interest in working with older children and a family in residential living. Training and supervision provided. Salary plus benefits. For information call Doug McWhirter at 376-4791, ext. 5361, or write to P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

### Wanted Full-time youth/musical director

Send resume to:  
**First Baptist Church**  
P.O. Box 297  
Charleston, AR 72933

**25th Anniversary Celebration**  
**Oak Cliff Baptist Church**  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
June 14, 15, 16, 1985  
All former members are invited



'Herein is love'...  
(1 John 4:10)  
**Pray for Arkansas' Brazil partnership**



by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Marvin E. James** is serving as pastor of Second Church, Clarksville, moving there from Hot Springs where he served for eight years as pastor of Harvey's Chapel Church. He was serving as moderator of Garland County Association and is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention constitution and by-laws committee and in revival preparation with the Evangelism Department. James is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary and the International Bible Institute and Seminary. He and his wife, Adella, have two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren.

**Terry L. Dwigings** has resigned as minister of education and youth at Harrison First Church.

**Lloyd Blanton** is serving as pastor of Center Ridge Church. He formerly served Heber Springs South Side Church as associate pastor and music director.

**Van Harness** is serving as pastor of West Side Church, Heber Springs. He moved there from Mount Vernon Church at Benton. Harness is a graduate of Southern Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University. He and his wife, Lisa, have a daughter.

## briefly

**Van Buren First Church** will celebrate its 100th anniversary June 23-30 with June 23rd to be special emphasis day. Don Moore, executive director of Arkansas

Baptist State Convention, and Charles Graves of Oklahoma City, a former pastor, will be featured speakers. Special guests will include former staff members.

**Bald Knob Central Church** ordained Jim Mason and Larry Crosby as deacons May 5.

**Hunter First Church** will observe homecoming June 30 in conjunction with the Hunter School reunion on June 29. Former and non-resident members will be special guests at the morning worship service and a fellowship luncheon that follows. Former pastors will speak at the afternoon music program.

**Salem Immanuel Southern Church** held a service May 5 to ordain as its first deacons Scott Baker, Gary Barker, John Brink and Alan Winberry and install as a deacon Aubery McGhin. The church which was organized June 17, 1984.

**Mountain Home First Church** will observe "A Day of Miracles" May 19 with a ground breaking service at a new location site. Lane Strother is serving as for the building campaign director, assisted by a steering committee of nine church members.

**Lakeside Church** at Rogers held a groundbreaking service April 28 for construction of a multi-purpose steel building that will house a gymnasium, a kitchen, classrooms, restrooms and storage space. The parking lot will also be expanded. Funding for the building program will

come from a "Challenge to Build" campaign, according to pastor Robert Burk.

**Magnolia Central Church** observed Senior Adult Day May 5 with worship services and a fellowship luncheon. Raymond Coppenger, retired religion professor of Ouachita Baptist University, was guest speaker. Special music was presented by a senior adult choir.

**North Arkansas Association** sponsored a Royal Ambassador olympics day at Bomber Stadium in Mountain Home April 23. There were 100 boys, representing eight churches, that participated in 38 different events. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to individual winners. Awards were given to the churches totaling the greatest number of cumulative points. Harrison First Church was first place winner; Flippin First Church, second and Mountain Home First, third.

**Harrison Emmanuel Church** observed its 25th anniversary with homecoming May 19. Dennis James was morning worship service speaker. The afternoon service was moderated by George Campbell. Others on program were Mary Jones, James, David Hacker, Rodney Pillow, John O'dell, Bill Jones and L. B. Atchison, director of missions for North Arkansas Association.

**Benton Temple Church** licensed Charles K. Martin of Haskel to the ministry May 8. He is a student at Boyce Bible School.



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## Arkansas SBTS students affirm seminary faculty

Twenty-two Arkansas students at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have signed a letter sent last week to the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine to register their support for administration and faculty at the school. (The ABN prints only letters to the editor which are signed by one person.)

David Young, a student from Little Rock, said he and Jeff Pounders, also of Little Rock, wrote the statement and sent the letter to all of the 32 Arkansas resident students, asking them to sign it and return the copies to them. Young said there was no contact by phone by him or Pounders to the students so they would not feel coerced.

Young, who is to receive his master of divinity degree from the seminary May 24, said he has become very concerned about accusations against the seminary's president, Roy L. Honeycutt, and blanket accusations against professors whose Christian commitment he has observed during his studies.

"The letter," Pounders said, "is a small outlet for some frustrations caused by the disparity of the accusations and what we see here on campus." "We're feeling real caught in the middle because nobody bothers to ask those of us who live and work here with the professors."

Young feels that having to deal with the labeling and criticism prevents the professors from using their "best energies for the ministries to which God has called them." Young was president of the Arkansas Club at Southern last year and came to feel that many students and others in the seminary community agree with him.

In the letter, the 22 students declare their confidence in the seminary administration, faculty and staff because they believe they are "capable persons of faith seeking to do the will of God under the leadership of the Holy Spirit."

Since sending the letter Young has had some additional thoughts on the problem of the professors being diverted from their main tasks by the inuendo and name-calling. Interviewed by phone by the ABN, Young noted the "the letter refers to the 'peripheral issues of denominational politics.'" "I now question whether the issues are peripheral," he said.

"While politics is peripheral, I think denominational leaders no longer really have a choice in whether to participate in this conflict," Young concludes. "It seems to me that the issue is one of control and whether Southern Baptist churches can remain free to do ministry and those called can be free to minister."

The original copies of the letter, with signatures, plus address and phone number of each student were sent to the ABN.

## Moore will allow presidential nomination

AMARILLO, Texas (BP)—With the urging of "several hundred letters" and the conviction "it is time to turn our convention back to the mainstream and its main commitment to missions, Christian education and service," W. Winfred Moore announced May 10 he will allow his nomination for president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The announcement, he said, came after long deliberations and prayer and with the full support of his wife and the deacons of First Church, Amarillo, where he has been pastor for the last 25 years.

Moore, 65, thus ended months of speculation about whether he would oppose current SBC President Charles Stanley who previously announced he will permit his nomination for a second term.

Moore, who is in his second year as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said after his second straight election without opposition last fall, he did not think he or Stanley were the man to lead the SBC.

He has changed his mind, he said, "because nobody else has come forward to say they are willing to do it."

"I have kept hoping somebody would emerge that everybody could agree is the person to lead us, but it hasn't happened," he said. Instead, he has received hundreds of letters from pastors and laymen from every area of the SBC insisting that he is the man, he said. Nevertheless, he is reluctant.

"I have found myself in the middle of this through the nomination I made last year," he said, referring to his unsuccessful nomination of Bruce McIver to replace that of Paul Pressler for the SBC Executive Committee.

"Nobody asked me to make that nomination and I did so without any animosity toward anyone," he said. "I just didn't think it (Pressler's nomination) represented mainstream Texas Baptists—where we are."

He said, "as the year has gone by and I have tried to look at what we are doing as Southern Baptists, I have been convicted we have to go back and support our institutions and agencies and get on with Bold Mission Thrust."

He never has given credence to the charge of "liberal drift" in the convention, he said, "because I knew where I stood and where the people I am associated with stand—as conservative as anybody could be."

"In fact, I have been kidded and laughed at about being such an arch conservative. The people I know are people who believe the Bible.

"As I have said many times, I don't agree with all of them but it doesn't occur to me, just because I disagree with them that they don't believe the Bible. They may be some who don't, but I don't know them."

Of his own theology, Moore said, "I believe the Bible just like it's written. I ac-

cept it as God's word to me. I have no problem accepting any of it, original manuscripts of the Bible we have today."

"I don't understand a lot of it," he added, "but I accept that which I do understand and that which I don't—every bit of it from beginning to end."

Moore's church was for many years the SBC leader in contributions through the Cooperative Program and this year will give \$827,000—19.5 percent of its undesignated receipts.

"The church voted in 1981 to increase its CP support by 10 percent per year through the 1980s," Moore said, "and thus far we are ahead of schedule."

If he is not elected SBC president, he said, it will not effect the church's CP support.

Some fundamentalist leaders have indicated they might lead their churches to "escrow" their Cooperative Program gifts if Stanley is not elected. Others have asked they be allowed to exclude some SBC agencies and still have gifts considered Cooperative Program gifts.

He denies the emergence of politics in the denomination, he said, and doesn't like any part of it—on any side.

If elected, he said, he will support a committee to try to find a solution to the denominational controversy.

"The only way we can arrive at reconciliation is to look specifically at areas where people think there are problems, whether in the seminaries or agencies," he said, "to look at them realistically, prayerfully, with a view to making whatever corrections need to be made without accusing anybody and everybody."

"Such a committee," he said, "would have to represent every school of thought—to sit down together and work through this so we can all do the mission work God has given us to do."

Moore is a native of Tennessee. He received his education at Lambeth College, Union University and George Peabody College. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Wayland Baptist University and Baylor University. He did not attend seminary.

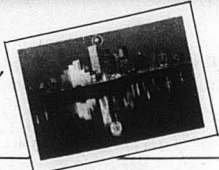
He has a long history of involvement in the Amarillo association and Texas convention. He was chairman of the committee to reorganize the executive board staff a few years ago and was a member of the search committee which recommended William M. Pinson Jr. as executive director of the Texas convention in 1982.

First Church of Amarillo, has more than 10,000 members and is one of the largest churches in the SBC. Last year it recorded 234 baptisms and \$591,428 in gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Its total gifts to missions were \$1,266,204 out of total receipts of \$4.8 million.

preview: SBC 1985, Dallas, Texas preview: SBC 1985, Dallas, Texas. Page 8





# Pastors

DALLAS (BP)—The annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will meet at the Dallas Convention Center, June 9-10. The 1985 theme is "Tracing the Rainbow Through the Rain."

The program includes 15 sermons, including two by former presidents of the SBC. Though most speakers will be Southern Baptists, a minister from England (educated at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a former pastor of SBC churches in Florida) and a Presbyterian pastor are also on the program.

"This is the 50th anniversary of the Pastors' Conference and we felt it was a good time to focus on God's promises," O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and president of the conference this year, explained.

"Ever since God set the rainbow in the sky for Noah, rainbows have made people think of promises. Each of our speakers will focus on one of God's promises. The program

reflects an effort to gather a cross-section from across the Southern Baptist Convention. Several speakers have never spoken at the conference before and, of course, others have been on the program, such as (W.A.) Criswell and Adrian Rogers.

"This could be the pivotal meeting in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention and we hope, by preaching the precious promises of God and centering on the positive, the Pastors' Conference can set the tone for the convention to be Christ-honoring."

The Sunday evening program June 9 begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature Bill Weber, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas; Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism at the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta; D. James Kennedy, senior minister at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn. (and president of the SBC in 1980).

The first session June 10 starts at 9 a.m. and

features David Walker, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, Texas; Jack Graham, pastor of First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Tom Elliff, pastor of Applewood Church, Denver, Colo.; and Arthur Blessitt, evangelist from Hollywood, Calif.

The afternoon session June 10 begins at 1:15 and will include the election of officers as well as sermons by Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas; Edwin Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston; John Wood, pastor of First Church, Waco, Texas; and Jack Taylor, head of Dimensions in Christian Living, Fort Worth, Texas.

The 1985 conference will conclude with a session beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured speakers will include Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Arizona) Church; R.T. Kendall, senior minister from Westminster Chapel in London, England, and W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas (and president of the SBC for 1969 and 1970).

# Campus ministers

DALLAS (BP)—The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will hold its annual meeting June 9-10 at the Red Bird Inn Best Western in Dallas.

There will be five sessions spread over one-and-a-half days examining the theme, "Heritage, Development and Update: Our Convention. . . Our Faith. . . Our Work."

Session One on Sunday evening will feature Phil Briggs, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary speaking on

"Faith Development in Ministry." Walter Shurden, professor at Mercer University, will address "Roots of Our Diversity" in the Sunday night session.

Monday morning will include two sessions: Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, on "Care and Maintenance of the Campus Minister's Life," and Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission for Mississippi Baptists, on

"Ethical Issues Which Demand Attention."

The Monday afternoon focus will be on "History and Development of Student Work" by W.F. Howard, retired state director of student work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The final session, Monday evening, will feature the yearly awards banquet, music by recording artist Gary Rand of Chicago and an address by John Tadlock, BSU director at Clemson University in South Carolina.

# Music

DALLAS (BP)—The role of music in missions and evangelism will receive considerable attention during the 1985 meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, June 9-10 at First Church, Dallas.

There will be two sessions Sunday, June 9, and three sessions June 10.

The Sunday afternoon session features the theme address, "Musicians on Mission," by Wes Forbis, church music secretary at the Sunday School Board; concerts by the Southwestern Seminary Singers and Neilson and Young (concert artists from Dallas), and a lecture/demonstration on "Choral Techniques for the Church," by Hugh Sanders, professor at Baylor University.

Sunday night will include worship at First Church, including music by the church

choirs and orchestra and a sermon by W.A. Criswell. Other program activities include an organ recital by Joyce Jones, professor at Baylor; a concert by the Southern Seminary Choir and presentation of a commissioned anthem, "Lord Thy Church on Earth is Seeking," by David Schwobel, music assistant, First Church, Montgomery, Ala.

The evening will close with a reception hosted by the church music department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Monday morning will begin with worship lead by Joel Gregory, professor at Southwestern Seminary, followed by a concert by the Sunset Serenaders of Cliff Temple Church in Dallas, and a panel discussion on "The Role of the Music Evangelist."

The session also will include presentation

of honorary memberships and a concert by R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music evangelists from Yazoo City, Miss.

Monday afternoon will center on "Musician on Missions. . . in Action" with looks at prison ministry, youth choir mission tours and "Adopt a Missionary." There also will be concerts by Carol McClure Hahn, a harpist from Atlanta, and the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma and a demonstration by Sanders on "Choral Techniques in the Church."

The closing session, Monday evening, includes another sermon by Gregory and two concerts: one by the choir and orchestra from First Church, Roanoke, Va., and another by the combined voices of the 1985 Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir and the Singing Men of Texas.

## DOMs

The Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions will meet June 9-10 at the Central Expressway Inn, Dallas.

The three-session program, under the theme, "The Director of Missions—Who? How?," will look at basic information for the job.

During the opening session Sunday afternoon: J. Woodrow Fuller, retired director of missions in Texas and Florida, will discuss "Who is a Director of Missions and What

Does He Do?," while his wife, June Fuller, will talk about the role of a wife of a director of missions; Morton Rose, vice-president at the Sunday School Board will discuss, "How Does a Director of Missions Maintain Excellence in Programs?," and William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will speak on "How Does a Director of Missions Dream?"

Sunday evening Gene Daniel, senior vice-president for marketing at the Annuity

Board, will explore the relationship between the Annuity Board and the director of missions.

During the closing session Monday morning, Doram C. McCarty, professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, will speak on "What Does the Future Hold?," and W. E. Thorne, retired president of Dallas Baptist University, will discuss, "How Does a Director of Missions Plan for and Enjoy Retirement?"

## Women in Ministry

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Women In Ministry will hold its annual meeting June 8-9 at Wilshire Church and the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas.

The all-day session at Wilshire Church on Saturday June 8 will feature worship and interpretations of the 1985 theme ("Voices of Home from the Exile") led by Jane Medema from San Francisco, Addie Davis from Cov-

ington, Va., and Marie Bean from Mars Hill, N.C., at 1:30 p.m. and a concert by Ken Medema and Cynthia Clawson at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday the meeting shifts to the Adolphus Hotel for a Bible study at 8:30 a.m. led by Carolyn Blevins, professor of religion at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., followed by a worship service led by Nancy Ellett, associate pastor of Royal Lane

Church in Dallas and Molly Marshall-Green, assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pre-registration (before May 20) for the meeting is \$5, the cost of the Saturday lunch is \$3.75 and the Saturday banquet is \$6.75 per person. Advance fees should be mailed to Sandra Richardson, 1401 Asburton Road, Raleigh, N.C., 27607.

## Forum

DALLAS (BP)—The second annual meeting of the SBC Forum will be Monday, June 10, from 1:30-5:00 p.m. in the West Hall of the Dallas Convention Center.

Begun last year in Kansas City, Mo., the Forum offers in its second year an expanded program and doubled seating capacity. Organizers expected last year's attendance of over 2,000 to increase significantly.

Featured speakers and their messages include James Flammig, pastor of First Church, Richmond, Va., "Orthodoxy of Love;" Randall Lolley, president of

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. "Integrity in Proclaiming the Gospel;" Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, "The Doctrine of First Things;" Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth, Texas "To Trust Again," and William Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Church, Atlanta, "What They Don't Teach You at a Baptist Preacher's School."

CBS Television news analyst Bill Moyers also is committed to speak if not called away on special assignment. Presiding for the se-

cond time is Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Featured musicians include Christian artists Cynthia Clawson, Ken Medema, Darrell Adams and Bob Bailey. Bill James, minister of music, Wilshire Church, Dallas, will direct the afternoon's music.

Organizers of the meeting are continuing the Monday night fellowship for messengers to the convention begun in Kansas City. This year's reception will be in the Reunion Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 7 to 10 p.m.

## Evangelists

DALLAS (BP)—Different aspects of the work of Southern Baptist evangelists will be represented by the three featured speakers at the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, June 10-12 in Dallas.

The conference will hold its primary meeting at First Church in Dallas, June 12. The business session and three fellowship functions will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism at the SBC Home Mission Board, Bill Stafford, an evangelist from Chattanooga,

Tenn., and Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., will preach.

Also Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, will deliver greetings to the evangelists as president of the SBC.

The Home Mission Board will host a reception for all Southern Baptist evangelists and state directors of evangelism 10-11:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Then Tuesday and Wednesday nights, after the SBC sessions have adjourned, the evangelists' conference will host a Festival of

Praise featuring 15 individuals or groups each night who are music evangelists from 10-11:30. The public is invited.

The annual meeting, according to Mike Gilchrist of Shreveport, La., president fulfills several of the purposes of C.O.S.B.E. such as "providing deep spiritual fellowship among Southern Baptist evangelists, providing greater visibility for Biblical evangelism, and providing evangelistic inspiration and information to messengers attending the SBC meeting.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Return to your first love!" will be the rallying cry for Southern Baptists attending the national annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union in Dallas June 9-10.

"It is because of the love of proclaiming the good news that we cooperate together. No matter how much good we may do, unless we remember our first love (missions), we will not be effective as God's instruments," said Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC, executive director.

"First Love" is the meeting's theme, and speaker topics in general sessions will be centered on phrases from Revelation 2:1-6.

"... else I come quickly and remove thy light," will be the phrase from which Weatherford will give the meeting's keynote address. She will focus on the convention's first love, and also on WMU's response to recent controversies in the SBC.

The meeting will be filled with home and foreign missionary speakers. The foreign missionaries are either from new work areas, or they represent crisis spots in the world, such as Lebanon or Central America. Home

missionaries were chosen from areas relating to contemporary crisis, such as ministry to street people, or from work in church development.

Monday Missions Night will be a major element of the meeting. The theme will be "unity in missions" as attendees gather to support M.A.P.S.—Missions and Prayer, People, Places and Priorities.

Displaying their unity in missions, several SBC agencies and groups have joined to sponsor M.A.P.S.: the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the Sunday School Board, the Brotherhood Commission and the Directors of Missions Conference. The Baptist General Convention of Texas is assisting in coordinating the session.

M.A.P.S. speaker John Cheyne, FMB, will give firsthand accounts of the African famine crisis. Nancie Wingo, missionary to Lebanon, will share her experiences in a country torn by war, and Michael Williams, home missionary in New York, will tell of his work in Harlem.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, and president of the Baptist

General Convention of Texas, will illustrate the importance of missions and partnership. His church has added a fulltime member to help start new churches.

Other speakers will add to this rally around M.A.P.S. The final address will be given by William M. Pinson Jr., executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Monday night will also feature the premier production of music from the new Bold Mission Thrust dramatic musical "2000 A.D.," by Wesley Forbis and Mark Hayes.

WMU will elect national officers during the meeting. Current president Dorothy E. Sample and recording secretary Betty Gilreath are eligible for re-election.

Preliminary annual meeting events include a Baptist Nursing Fellowship luncheon, an ethnic luncheon and a prayer dinner for all WMU members.

Music director for the meeting will be Forbes Woods, concert artist from Dallas. Scott Bennett of Jackson, Tenn., will be organist. Jennifer Jones, a student from Cincinnati, Ohio, will be both pianist and soloist.

## R.E.

DALLAS (BP)—Seven "vocational groups" within the membership of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association will receive special attention during the group's annual meeting June 9-10 at the Marriott Hotel, Market Square in Dallas.

The 1985 meeting will be the 30th for the SBREA. Presentation of distinguished leader awards at a closing banquet the evening of

June 10 will be another highlight.

The seven areas: children/preschool ministry, singles ministry, youth ministry, senior adult ministry, general education/administration, association/state/SBC ministry and teaching ministry (professors) will allow members to spend two 90-minute sessions (one Sunday afternoon and another Monday morning) with people with similar goals and

situations to exchange ideas.

Each group will give a summary report to the entire body Monday afternoon.

Meeting times are 1-9 p.m. on Sunday, June 9 and 7-30 a.m. until approximately 9 p.m. on Monday, June 10. General sessions will consider "Future Trends and Educational Ministry," the "general status of the profession," and "working together!"

## Ministers' wives plan luncheon June 11

Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives will meet at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, at the Fairmont Hotel-Ross in Dallas. The luncheon meeting will feature the theme of spiritual gifts, interpreted by ministers' wives from around the SBC. Cynthia Clawson will interpret the theme in music.

Tickets may be ordered by sending a check for \$12.50 with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Martha Garrison, 432 NW 17th, Oklahoma City, OK 73103. Tickets will cost \$15 at the convention booth.

The 700,000 square foot Dallas Convention Center will be the center of attention for the 128th annual meeting of the SBC.



# Registration

DALLAS (BP) — "The integrity of the registration and balloting process at the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention depends on the integrity of the local church," said Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary.

Porter noted the registration process has been "tightened up" across the past several years, particularly as controversy in the 14.3-million member denomination has intensified.

"Because feelings are so intense on both sides, it is absolutely essential the registration and balloting process be without question," he said.

As in the past, he added, the local church is the key. "It is the responsibility of each local church to see they follow the provisions of the convention constitution in selecting their messengers and in making sure the messengers are properly certified," he said.

Porter added the "messenger's conscience and the local church's integrity are the main insurance the system works." However, he said, checks will be made to make sure churches and individuals do not violate the registration provisions in the SBC Constitution and Bylaws.

"At the convention," he said, "we want to certify every messenger from every church who follows proper procedure. The church needs to understand the importance of elec-

ting 'messengers'. In Southern Baptist life, we elect 'messengers' and not 'delegates'. They come to the convention, hear the discussions and then, as best they know how, follow the leadership of the Lord in every vote."

Porter said every church "which is in friendly cooperation with this convention and is sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bonafide contributor to the Convention's work" is entitled to one messenger.

One additional messenger is allowed for every 250 members or for each \$250 paid to the work of the convention. "No church is entitled to more than 10 messengers," Porter said, pointing out some churches become confused because they are allowed more messengers to the state convention or associational annual meeting.

Porter pointed out two additional factors which have caused some confusion in the past:

— "There is no provision for alternates, and alternates should not register until they are positive they are needed to replace a regular messenger. The constitution provides only for a maximum of 10 messengers.

— "Churches which have organized since Jan. 1, 1985, are not eligible for representation. We count the provision in the constitu-

tion concerning contribution to mean the preceding calendar year. Therefore, churches organized since Jan. 1, 1985, would have been mission churches and their contributions were counted through their mother church."

Porter added: "No one is automatically a messenger. Messengers must be elected by the churches. Pastors, denominational employees or missionaries are not messengers by virtue of their position. They, too, must be elected by the congregation."

He said churches should secure registration cards either from state convention or associational offices. They should be properly filled out and signed.

"The messenger should bring that card to the registration booth at the Dallas Convention Center. I would suggest messengers register as soon as possible after arriving," Porter said. "If persons are unable to secure cards, they should bring a letter from their church certifying they are messengers. If they do not have a card or letter, they will have to telephone the church and have the church send a telegram to the credentials committee at the Dallas Convention Center."

Porter added: "If messengers come with proper credentials, signed and totally filled out, they can register fairly quickly. And, we will have to do that since we are anticipating between 26,000 and 27,000 messengers, the largest convention we have ever had."

# Program

DALLAS (BP)—Prayer times at each session and expanded business time are features of the program for the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13 at the Dallas Convention Center.

The program, released by Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and chairman of the committee on order of business, has the theme of "Pray ye therefore..." "The scriptural theme is a call to prayer and to missions which has the potential to grip the heart of every person attending the convention with an overwhelming burden for the unsaved," Chapman said.

One of the highlights of the three-day annual meeting of the 14.3 million member denomination, according to Chapman is "small group prayer sessions which have been inserted into almost every session." The 15-minute prayer times, he said, were added at the request of SBC President Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta.

"He asked that we insert this special time for prayer. He (Stanley) is very conscious of God's people collectively praying for God's will and God's power," Chapman added.

Another feature, he said, is more time for business. "Messengers (to previous conven-

tions) had expressed a desire to have a relatively unlimited amount of time for discussion of any issue," Chapman said. "The commitment of the committee has been to provide that kind of time."

Chapman added he is not predicting the convention will be rancorous, saying he believes "it is totally unpredictable at this time. We (the committee) were simply trying to respond to the expressed desires of messengers. We did not make this decision based on anticipation (of much business)."

One way in which the business time has been expanded has been to start the sessions a half hour earlier, Chapman said. Another has been the elimination of a theme interpretation at every session. Instead, there will be one theme interpretation, delivered at the Tuesday evening meeting.

Tom Elliff, pastor of Applewood Church in Denver, will deliver the interpretation. Elliff, a former Oklahoma pastor, served briefly on the foreign mission field before having to return because of family health reasons.

"We felt Tom Elliff personified as much as any man the dual emphasis on prayer and missions," Chapman said. "He has been to the mission field, has a great mission heart and is a man who has put a great emphasis

on prayer during his entire ministry. We felt his life gave strong emphasis of Matthew 9:38 (the scriptural text of the program theme)."

The strong emphasis on prayer and missions will be carried through Tuesday and Wednesday nights, with presentations by the Foreign Mission Board (Tuesday) and the Home Mission Board (Wednesday). "We expect those to be extraordinary nights of inspiration and strong statements about Bold Mission Thrust," Chapman said.

He added there will be no business following the presentations, allowing messengers to depart "on a note of inspiration. We hope we will be able to leave the hall each night rejoicing over the great missions advance we have been able to make around the world."

Chapman said there will be a business session Wednesday evening but added "it will be in advance of the HMB presentation."

"Also, each evening Bill Reynolds (convention music director) will begin singing choruses as we are dismissed as a reminder that even when we are having business our ultimate intent is just to praise the Lord."

The convention program also will feature the annual presidential address by Stanley and the convention sermon by Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church of Roanoke, Va.

# Your state convention at work

## Sunday School

### Nominating committee

A nominating committee should work toward enlisting the smartest, brightest, happiest and healthiest people to teach



Ratton

preschoolers! These people, babies through five-year olds, are growing and learning more than they will during any five years of their lives. They deserve the very best.

Every preschool department needs two teachers. One of these should be designated the department director.

Teaching preschoolers is easier and more effective if each department has the recommended ratio of teachers to preschoolers. Babies through toddlers need one teacher for every three children enrolled. Twins through five-year-olds need one teacher for every four children enrolled.

A division director is recommended if there are two or more departments for preschoolers.

One visitor-teacher is needed for every six to eight families enrolled in the Cradle Roll department.

Organization is a necessity for an effective preschool ministry. We should be organized so that the preschooler can be the main concern of the teachers from the time he enters the department room until he leaves. Preschool teachers are better able to perform their tasks successfully through the guidance provided by good organization. — **Pat Ratton, preschool consultant**

## Evangelism

### Security in Christ

As a new Christian you can be sure of your eternal security. You have repented of your sins as stated in Acts 3:19. You have placed your faith in Christ as stated in Ephesians 2:8-9. You have committed your life to the Lord Jesus Christ as found in Romans 10:9-10.



Shell

You can be sure of your eternal security because of the promises made to us by Jesus. Jesus stated in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them... And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." There

is the promise of possession, "my sheep." There is the promise of never perishing, "they shall never perish." There is the promise of positions, "none shall pluck them out of my hand." Our eternal security does not depend upon our grip on Christ, but upon our Christ holding us.

We enjoy this eternal security because of the price paid for us. Jesus stated in John 10:17-18, "I lay down my life... No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself." Our Lord willingly became a substitute for us. He died to cleanse us from our sins.

We can be sure of eternal security because of the living Christ. Jesus burst the bonds of death and made tracks on the other side of the grave. He is alive today to assure us that we will live with him forever.

— **Clarence Shell, director**

## Woman's Missionary Union

### Missions at Siloam

Missions class at Siloam Springs Assembly was a happy experiment last year. So another happy experience is being planned for the week of June 17. Missionaries already on the dotted line are Cheryl Reed, a journeyman to Yemen, and Floyd Tidsworth, who works in church extension in our own Missions Department in Arkansas. Other career missionaries will be recruited as available. In addition, there will be games and other learning activities related to Acteens and Pioneer Royal Ambassadors.

Encourage the youth from your church who plan to attend this first week at the assembly this summer to sign up for this class. — **Betty Jo Lacy, Acteens director**

## Family and Child Care

### Beef! beef! beef!

For several years now, Woodland Heights Church has provided potatoes for our Children's Home in Monticello through their "Potato Patch Ministry."

J. A. Hogan, pastor of Woodland Heights, stopped by the office the other day to tell us that he and his people have another potato crop coming on. Now we need some beef to go with the potatoes.

A couple of years ago, we expressed the idea that someone or some groups might want to provide beef to go with the potatoes, since we use about a beef a month. You began to respond and the beef started coming our way. We received 14 that year.

We are appealing to you again. I believe there are some folks out there who want to respond to this challenge.

If some individual or group wishes to become involved in this much needed mission enterprise, you may contact me at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone 376-4791 or Charlie Belknap, P. O. Box 180,

Monticello, AR 71655, phone 367-5358. We will provide information on current needs. "Where's the Beef?" We believe it is out there. — **John A. Ross, director of development**

## Missions

### Pastor's attitude

James Guthrie, pastor of West Helena's Second Church, invited me to come over and help with a Spiritual Needs Survey

(Feasibility Study).



Tidsworth

The survey was to be done in Wycamp, a new area of West Helena. It was discovered that five new residential areas now exist with a population of about 1,800. Missionary Carl Fawcett and representatives from five other Arkansas Valley Association churches joined the "windshield survey" and discussion. It was discovered that only about 140 people attend the three existing churches in Wycamp. About 1,400 people are unchurched. Everybody agreed that a new Baptist church is needed.

The prayer service at Second that night was truly inspirational. Pastor Guthrie said to the church people, "I know we are planning to remodel our sanctuary. But I feel that this mission should come first, even if we must wait on our sanctuary."

Is it any wonder that the church has now voted to sponsor a new church in Wycamp? The association is also planning to join in the project. This new congregation will be a Mission Model. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

## Family Ministry

### Senior Adult Chautauqua

Approximately ten thousand senior adults will gather at Ridgecrest and Gorieta this fall for the Senior Adult Chautauquas.



Holley

The Senior Adult Chautauqua is a week of fellowship, inspiration, Bible study and worship in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina and New Mexico. We have designated Sept. 23-27 at Gorieta and Oct. 7-11 at Ridgecrest as Arkansas Senior Adult Chautauquas.

We will provide a charter bus to each of these weeks for senior adults from Arkansas who wish to attend. The Gorieta group



**YOU WITNESS TO  
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE**



**THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.**

will leave on Saturday, Sept. 21, and return on the following Saturday afternoon. The Ridgecrest group will leave on Saturday, Oct. 5, and return the following Saturday at noon.

Many Arkansas senior adults have had unforgettable experiences at the Chautauquas. There are special conferences for leaders of senior adults including pastors, staff members and volunteer leaders of Senior Adult Ministry. Sightseeing is planned enroute to both conference centers and during the afternoons.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience a Senior Adult Chautauqua this fall. For reservations or additional information, write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**

*Christian Life Council*  
**The interrogation**

Much is currently being heard about political and theological interrogations. A simple yes or no answer is often demanded with no opportunity for elaboration.



*Parker*

Nobel peace prize author Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago* devotes an entire chapter about questioning of "enemies of the state" in the U.S.S.R. during Stalin's dictatorship. He lists 31 methods of interrogation. A few

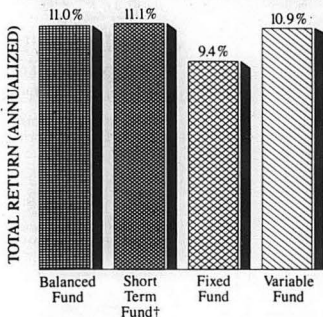
are as follows: Night Questioning, Foul Language, Psychological Contrast, Humiliation, Confusion, Intimidation, The Lie, Sound Effects, Tickling and Cigarette Burns.

One who loves the Lord and his neighbor as himself, if engaged in questioning, must do so with humility, kindness and above all, a prayerful spirit. We must remember the way we treat others is the way we treat our Lord!

"And Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him saying, are you the King of the Jews?..." Matt. 27:11A "...to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even to the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40b). — **Bob Parker, director**

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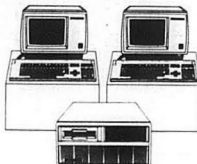
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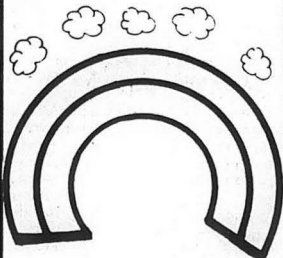
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## International

### Two ways of life

by Mark Coppenger, First Church, El Dorado

Basic passage: Proverbs 1:7-19; 3:3-8; 14:1-12

Focal passage: Proverbs 1:7; 3:5-8; 14:1-12

Central truth: Wisdom is grounded in reverence for God.

In his excellent book, *The Idea of a Christian College*, Christian philosopher Arthur Holmes prescribes the "integration of faith and learning." He argues that a Christian scholar should bring his spiritual understanding and commitment to bear on his discipline and that his discipline should inform his Christian walk. For instance, an historian could both read God's hand in history and use his historical studies in accounting for the present shape of his own church.


A scholar who proceeds without the "fear of the Lord" is making a tragic mistake. He has no fit base upon which to build his understanding. And it is for this reason that colleges and universities which are staffed by people indifferent to God are radically defective.

Once served on the long-range planning committee of a Christian college. In the course of that committee's work, a member suggested that we should resolve to make ours "the best Christian college in the nation." Another member proposed, instead, that we should aim to make it "the best college in the nation, because it is profoundly Christian." His proposal reflected the sound conviction that colleges which do not recognize God in Christ suffer a serious blind spot. They neglect indispensable truth.

Of course, Proverbs focuses primarily upon the affairs of everyday living and not the theoretical work of academicians. It's a practical guide from God. It's more concerned with personal morals than meteorology and macro-economics. But the rule, "Begin with God," applies just as well to all studies. As Holmes puts it in the title of another one of his books, "All truth is God's truth."

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## Life and Work

### God desires peace

by Clyde P. Spurgin, First Church, Piggott

Basic passage: Micah 4:2-4; 5:2-5

Focal passage: Micah 4:3,4; 5:2

Central truth: Lasting peace can be a reality.

Peace. Most people desire it, many politicians promise it, but only God can grant it. History records temporary peace enjoyed by certain nations. For some, it has been brief, and, for others, it has spanned many generations. Never has peace been permanent. Yet, God desires peace.

In Micah 3:23, the prophet laments his own troubled times and the doom of Jerusalem, announcing that the people would be carried away captive to Babylon (4:10).

Present conditions in Jerusalem were deplorable and the future foreboding, yet Micah's vision of sublime grandeur brought hope to the fainting heart. Eventually, there would be peace. A ruler from Bethlehem is to be at the head of Zion (5:2-5). This deliverer from Bethlehem will bring peace and a glorious future (4:2-4).

Perhaps Micah was not aware of the far-reaching fulfillment of his prophesy. He may have understood it only as Zion's deliverance from Assyria, but God was foretelling the coming of the Messianic King, making his advent out of eternity (5:2).

God desires peace! He wanted peace for Israel. He desires peace for every generation, but real peace, lasting peace will never come until the Prince of Peace comes. His peace was available to Israel. Why, then, did turmoil and war exist? Because of their rebellion toward and rejection of the God of Peace.

Today, world leaders are trying to bring peace to a world torn with conflict. Individuals are trying desperately to find peace. The sad truth is that all these who seek peace through their own efforts are doomed to failure because they fail to go seek the source of peace. God is the only one who can give peace, for he is the source of peace—not that which is dependent on circumstances, but real peace within which is eternal.

Jesus said, "I am leaving you with a gift, peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." (Jn. 14:27 L.B.)

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## Bible Book

### Acclaim and opposition

by Ben J. Rowell, First Church, Rogers

Basic passage: Luke 19:18 to 21:4

Focal passage: Luke 19:35-38, 45-48; 20:20-26

Central truth: Jesus' clear demonstration of his messiahship and his teaching about right allegiances call for all people to respond to him as Savior and Lord.

Jerusalem is more than 3,000 feet higher than Jericho, so in verse 28, it was literal in interpretation when it says "ascending up to Jerusalem." Jesus had just left Jericho and his encounter with Zacchaeus. As he was going before them leading the multitudes, he knew what was awaiting him. He knew that many would turn against him and reject him.

I'm sure many of us have felt the same pangs of hurt by being rejected. Rejection is one of the deep hurts in many of our lives. It is almost devastating to some, as in matters of peer pressure and marital problems.

Jesus also knew the cross awaited him. The people with him thought he was going to be crowned royally, but Jesus knew the way of the cross was ahead of him. He was ready to do his sacrificial work.

In verses 41-44 of chapter 19, we see Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. The word "wept" really says more than a shedding of tears. It also means weeping with loud words of lamentation. Even though people around him were praising him and there was joy among them, he alone weeps.

As we Southern Baptists have been reading, talking and praying about bold missions. I wonder as we do this if we are looking into the future, and we are refusing to see the need to begin new Sunday Schools and new churches. We talk about bold missions but do little about it.

In verses 45-48 of chapter 19, we see Jesus cleansing the Temple. He knew where to begin the process of correction. If we have the wrong spirit and attitude in our churches, we will be wrong everywhere.

In chapter 20, the ecclesiastical leaders of the Jews challenged his authority. The chief priests and elders came up against him. They demanded his credentials. He then showed them their great and terrible doom by the parable of the vineyard let out to the wicked husbandmen.

Chapter 21 begins with a beautiful story of the widow's mite. A mite was the smallest coin current in Palestine. What she gave was worth about two-fifths of a cent. Her gift truly teaches real self-denial.

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## Baptists give \$5 million in record drought response

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists gave more than \$5 million for world hunger and relief in the first four months of 1985—only \$2 million short of their total overseas relief giving in 1984.

The record gifts—a 186 percent increase over the first four months of 1984—were spurred by worldwide concern over an African drought which claimed hundreds of thousands of victims in 1984 and promises to do the same this year.

Already, more than \$3.9 million has been allocated, with more than \$3 million going to Africa. Allocations are 50 percent ahead of last year.

Since Jan. 1, the Foreign Mission Board has allocated funds to continue major grain distribution programs in Ethiopia and Mali, two of the six African countries named as most needy by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

But in recent weeks, the board also allocated just over \$1 million for water development in Mali, \$290,000 to distribute 6,000 tons of grain in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), \$46,000 for grain distribution in two areas in Kenya and \$270,000 for seed rice for Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia).

## Rains come to Ethiopia; prayer credited

RABEL, Ethiopia (BP)—Rain has come to give starving Ethiopians hope for a growing season but has choked shut the road to the Southern Baptist feeding center in mountainous Rabel.

The muddy road has hampered four-wheel drive trucks, but missionaries have kept the center operating on grain brought in by helicopter and "bombing run" air drops by low-flying planes of Britain's Royal Air Force.

Agricultural missionary Lynn Groce said the feeding and health care center also has begun distributing sorghum and wheat seed which Ethiopian farmers will plant along with barley seed the Ethiopians had on hand.

Groce said many parts of Ethiopia, including the 10,000-foot highlands where Southern Baptists operate the center, can expect a crop in four to six months. But he said short-term feeding and health care will have to continue until the farmers get back on their feet and long-range assistance begins.

Missionaries credit the life-giving rain to prayer by Baptists and others around the world. "God has answered prayer," Groce said. "It's unusual to have rains in May as heavy as they are now." Leaders of the Southern Baptist FMB and state Baptist conventions and newspapers urged prayer for the drought-stricken continent under the theme: "Water is Life. Pray for Rain in Africa."

Since then rain has come to a number of

John Cheyne, the Foreign Mission Board's human needs consultant, expressed optimism Southern Baptist giving will continue at record levels, but said the board is not promising missionaries more than it can deliver if the rate of giving drops.

For example, Baptists have given more than \$1.3 million for Ethiopia since late last year. Already the Foreign Mission Board has allocated \$842,500 of that amount. The missionaries are operating a feeding center in remote Rabel and project at least two more feeding centers this year. The board is holding the remaining funds pending further decisions by the missionaries on other short-term relief and long-range development projects.

Noting the Lord had answered prayers for rain in Ethiopia and southern African countries, Cheyne urged Baptists not to assume the problem is over. Needs in Africa will be urgent for several years, he said.

Food distribution, livestock and seed replacement and the implements, personnel and funding to teach improved farming methods will still be needed if Africans are to recover from this drought and become self-sufficient in food production, he said.

countries in Africa, but others, especially the Sahel countries of West Africa below the Sahara desert, still suffer from severe drought. Ironically, rain has caused flooding and damage in parts of Ethiopia but the benefits outweigh the problems, Groce said.

Recently in Zimbabwe, where rain has broken drought, hundreds of people from several denominations, including Baptists, met on a hilltop in Sanyati for a four-hour service to thank God for rain. "We felt your (Southern Baptist) presence with us for so many of you have joined in praying for a good rainy season," wrote missionary Mary Monroe. "The dams are full, the crops promise an abundant harvest and there's no longer rationing of water."

Meanwhile from Ethiopia, Groce urges, "Don't stop praying and giving to support our efforts because one rain and one crop don't solve the problem. We still have a long way to go."

Groce said Ethiopians won't have any food from crops before November or December, and it's uncertain whether the "long rains" will come on schedule.

Already 10 volunteers have arrived to assist three career families. The FMB is processing nursing applicants to succeed volunteer nurses Mary Saunders and Sally Jones, who will leave Rabel in August, and to fill other slots. The missionaries also need a volunteer qualified to survey water development approaches.