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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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May 9, 1985

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

The association:
missions with a personal touch
page 8



On the cover



ABN photo / Betty J. Kennedy

Bartholomew Association's center for migrant ministry is adjacent to the housing complex in the background and reaches Spanish-speaking farm laborers like the two men (center) here with DOM Raymond Reed (left) and Ariel Hernandez, center director.

In this issue

4 on their way

Five Arkansans—two career couples and one journeyman—have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board for service abroad.

13 peace effort fails

An effort to bring together, in the interests of peace, opposing leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy has apparently failed, reports an Oklahoma pastor.

Trustees of two seminaries affirm presidents

The boards of trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have unanimously voted to reaffirm their support of their respective presidents, Roy L. Honeycutt and Milton Ferguson.

Southern Seminary trustees unanimously adopted a motion by trustee Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., in which they expressed "our love and concern and admiration of Roy Honeycutt as our president, and pledge our fellowship of him."

The trustees also heard reports of \$1.1 million in new endowment gifts and a third consecutive year of record enrollment gains. The board also participated in the dedication of a million-dollar addition to Cooke Hall, home of the seminary's School of

Church Music, and added a Doctor of Music Ministry degree, a professional doctorate for music ministers which parallels the Doctor of Ministry degree available to pastors and other church leaders.

Midwestern trustees unanimously expressed appreciation to seminary president Milton Ferguson for his leadership of the seminary during what trustees called "these difficult days of controversy within the convention."

Trustees also voted to acquire a collection of rare coins, pottery and assorted biblical artifacts owned by William H. Morton, senior professor of biblical archaeology at Midwestern. Morton, a noted archaeologist and research scholar, collected most of the artifacts while directing archaeological excavations and travelling in the Near East.

Minette Drumwright named FMB prayer leader

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A new special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer has been named by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Minette Drumwright, assistant to the executive vice-president since 1982, was named to succeed Catherine Walker, retiring special assistant to the president for in-

tercessory prayer.

Drumwright, a native of San Antonio, Texas, is the widow of Huber L. Drumwright Jr., former executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Tennessee Baptist paper names Davis to staff

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—Connie Davis of Memphis, Tenn., has been named assistant editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. She will assume the position May 7.

For nine years, she has worked in editorial positions with the Southern Baptist

Brotherhood Commission. She has been managing editor of "Crusader" and "Crusader Counselor" magazines since 1980. She will fill a vacancy created when Steve Higdon became promotion and copy specialist for the Sunday School Board's office of church programs and services.

Southern Seminary begins Monday classes in fall

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — For the first time in nearly 40 years, students at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will be able to attend class on Monday starting this fall.

A total of eight Monday-only classes in theology and religious education will be offered in the fall semester. Students will be able to enroll in a maximum of two Monday courses.

The new schedule is intended to allow pastors and other ministers to attend seminary classes while being away from their churches for only one day. The Monday of-

ferings also will allow current students to spread their loads over the week to better accommodate work and ministry schedules.

Until the 1948-49 academic year, Monday classes were a normal part of the seminary schedule. They were eliminated, at least in part, to assist student pastors who often travelled long distances to return from church fields for seminary classes. The new course offerings are a response to improved transportation and the desire of many full-time church workers to attend seminary classes, according to seminary officials.

Ring lost in jungle found in 'unbelievable' events

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—In what sounds like an entry from Ripley's "Believe It or Not," an alumnus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has reacquired a class ring he lost in a Central American jungle.

William Stoney Shaw, a 1970 graduate of Southern Seminary, lost the ring after removing it before taking a swim in a sink hole in the jungle while on a mission tour in Belize.

A clerical staff member at Southern Semi-

nary received a call from Robert Thomas of the Louisiana Nature and Science Center in New Orleans. Thomas had been to Belize, and found a Southern seminary class ring with the year 1970 and the initials S.W.S. engraved on it.

When he called the seminary recently, a check of alumni records found one 1970 graduate with those initials—Shaw.

Believe it or not.

Victory over temptation

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Temptation enters into the life of every individual. There is no sin connected with being tempted, but it is a matter that each Christian must deal with as he or she journeys the road of life. Sin only occurs when one succumbs to the temptation. Every Christian needs to learn how one can be victorious over temptation.

Most Christians would readily agree that on occasion they find themselves desiring to give in to the temptation that confronts them. In truth, there are times when most Christians really don't want to do what God would have them to do. But when one surrenders to temptation and allows sin or wrong doing to result, he or she is only temporarily satisfied. In addition, one will want more of the same type of sinful activity. A Christian also will feel guilty and will not be filled with the happiness that he or she had expected. As with all sin, one will feel uneasy, unhappy with life and disappointed. One may even reach the point of feeling that he or she would be better off dead than alive.

The reason Christians are tempted is that the act of salvation does not totally rid a person of this worldly nature (also referred to as carnal or sin nature). In the very act of salvation, one receives a new and marvelous spiritual nature as Christ himself comes to indwell the individual, this struggle within the heart continues.

The human nature has little or no regard for God. It is not especially concerned with what God wants for an individual. Our human nature is wrapped up in a form of self-worship and has little time for God.

The God-nature everyone receives in the act of salvation strives to please God rather than man. It seeks God in all the things one does. The God-nature or Holy Spirit that indwells the life of every Christian teaches and directs individuals in the important things God desires for their lives.

Obviously, temptation is not something one enjoys. However, it can be a time when a Christian is strengthened in his walk with Christ. As one is tempted, he can gain new insights and understanding of how to overcome it before it defeats him. Victory over temptation strengthens an individual spiritually.

It is important to remember that God never tempts anyone. He does allow temptation to come into our lives that we might be given the opportunity to draw closer to him and to over-

come it. There is no evil at all in God. God wants us to know the peace that can come into our lives through him. Overcoming temptation can help to bring greater peace and satisfaction in the life of a Christian.

There are a number of keys to overcoming temptation. First, an individual should give his life to the living Lord. Every Christian must remember that one can not overcome evil on his own. It is only through the help of Christ that we can be victorious over the Evil One. The apostle Paul admonished us, "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." It is only through the help of the Holy Spirit that anyone can be victorious over temptation. Only Jesus was tempted and never yielded to Satan.

Second, Christians must resist temptation which emanates from the devil. James, the half-brother of our Lord, said, "Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). In order to protect oneself against temptation, one must willfully submit to the Lord and resist the activity of Satan. In other words, one must prepare in advance for temptation.

Third, Christians should rebuke Satan in the name of the Lord or with scripture. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, in each instance he responded to the Evil One with scripture. No one can out-manuever the devil. But through the Word of the Lord and the power of Christ, we can always be victorious.

Finally, it is important for Christians to set their minds on the things of the Lord. Every one needs to recognize that personality consists of native ability, plus everything with which one comes in contact. If any one chooses to meditate, study and participate in spiritual things, he will be prepared for the temptation of the Evil One. But, if on the other hand, one constantly consumes those things which are of the flesh, he is likely to yield to temptation.

Though Christian life begins with the experience of the new birth, the true excitement of the Christian life is experienced as one grows with the Master. In order to overcome temptation, an individual must personally follow in the Master's footsteps. This produces growth. The growing Christian can feel secure, no matter what happens. In times of temptation, trial, heartache, death and suffering, the growing, conquering Christian can know peace and joy that comes from a daily walk with the Lord.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 18
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced 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.

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ABSC Executive Board employs ministry personnel

Three new persons have been employed by the state convention's Executive Board to serve Arkansas Baptists. Approved in a March 21 meeting of the Operating Committee were John Preston Lewis, chaplain at the Youth Services Center at Alexander; James W. Lagrone, personal evangelism associate in the State Evangelism Department; and Franklin Scott, regional associate for southeast Arkansas for cooperative Ministries with National Baptists.



Lewis



Lagrone



Scott

of the University of Louisville Medical School. Lewis has been pastor at Lowell (Ark.) First Church, and at Ebenezer Church in Greenbrier, Tenn. He is married to the former Diana Edmonson of Springdale, and they are the parents of one son.

Lagrone, 28, will direct the Evangelism Department's pre-college evangelism programs for children and teens, as well as conducting lay evangelism schools in local churches and at camps, and directing the TELL program of witness training, aimed primarily at teachers. As personal evangelism associate, Lagrone also will assist the director of evangelism with other programs.

He is a graduate of Trumann High School and holds the BA degree from Arkansas State University and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lagrone has been pastor of Ironton Church at Little Rock from 1983 to the present. He served First Church at Aubrey, Texas, as pastor and was minister to youth at Fisher Street Church in Jonesboro.

Lagrone and his wife, the former Rebecca Talbot, are parents of a son and a daughter.

Scott is a South Carolina native who is a master of divinity graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also holds the B.S. degree from Francis Marion College at Florence, S.C. He has been campus minister at the University of Louisville.

As regional associate for southeast Arkansas, Scott, who is 32, will serve as BSU director at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He also will interpret the programs of cooperation between National and Southern Baptists to southeast Arkansas churches and associations.

Scott and his wife, the former Georgia Mae McCants, are the parents of two children. He was ordained to the ministry by Bushy Creek Church in Taylors, South Carolina.

Five Arkansans prepare for mission service abroad

Five Arkansans—two career missionary couples and one journeyman—are preparing to leave this summer for foreign mission fields of service.

Joseph D. and Heather Dillon will work in Venezuela, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He is now pastor of First Church, Hunstville.

The Dillons, both natives of Alabama, have two children, Christopher and Kari. Dillon is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jeffrey K. and Mary Polglase will work in Zaïre, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He is now pastor of Trinity Church, Mineral Wells, Texas, and attends Southwestern Seminary.



Edwina Davis



Joseph Dillon



Heather Dillon



Jeffrey Polglase



Mary Polglase

Polglase is a graduate of Arkansas State University and considers Central Church, Jonesboro, his home church. Mrs. Polglase is a Texas native and teaches at Mineral Wells High School.

The Dillons and Polglases were among 37 persons named missionaries April 16 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

In the same meeting, the Foreign Mission Board appointed Edwina Davis, a student at Arkansas State University, among a group of 69 young persons who will serve as mis-

sionary journeymen.

Davis, who has been editor of the ASU campus newspaper, *The Herald*, will serve as a secretary with the Baptist Mission in Seoul, Korea. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Davis of Vilonia, she is a member of the Holland Church. She has served as a student summer missionary in both Arkansas and Indiana.

Journeymen are college graduates under 27 years of age who work alongside career missionaries overseas for two years.

MK Prayer Calendar

Home and foreign missionary kids
who attend college on the Margaret Fund

May

26 Robert Pinkston (Ivory Coast), OBU Box 4501, Arkadelphia 71923

GOOD NEWS AMERICA



March 16 -
April 6, 1986

GOD LOVES YOU

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...The stones still cry out! Jesus said, "If these shall hold their peace, the very stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40). Having just recently returned from traveling throughout Israel again, I continue to be blessed by the physical evidences that confirm the scriptures and affirm our Lord and those early followers of his. Perhaps this is the reason the activity of God throughout the biblical period was centered in a land of so much stone, with world rulers and cultures that preserved so much of their life and history in stone. Individuals, families, tribes, emperors, battles and experiences recorded in scripture are continuing to be verified by the archaeologists' discoveries. Inscriptions, symbols, baptismal pools and scrolls tell the good, old story of Jesus and his love.

...The birds too. It was a tremendous joy to draw aside for several moments of reflection and scripture reading near the empty tomb. Perhaps not as dramatically as with Mary, but he met us there again, alive! Our hearts were filled with horror as we thought on the angry mob that had gathered nearby at Calvary to demand his death. Then our hearts were filled with ecstasy and praise over his love and over his victory accomplished there. Bursting out over the area with a sound as clear and distinct as a trumpet was the strong, sweet song of a bird. He didn't do much to dry our tears, but he did much to enhance our experience. He seemed to be a heaven-sent oracle saying to us "He is alive!" Rejoice! The tone of confidence and cheer in that bird's voice let you know that it would be futile to try to convince him his creator was lying somewhere lifeless in a tomb.

...The Spirit cries out, too! What human eyes see and human ears hear, the Holy Spirit needs to interpret. His interpretation always coincides with the scripture. He, too, bore witness with our spirit that we were children of God by virtue of Christ's atoning death and regenerating work accomplished and being accomplished in his life. Praise God for these special opportunities of renewal!

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



Moore

Letter to the editor

A serious commitment

There is no secret about some folk trying to take over the Southern Baptist Convention. Their strategy and tactics are secretive, however. One might easily suspect the CIA or the Mafia being involved.

The spirit of this move is not one of gospel goodwill or evangelism. In fact, it is not one like Jesus at all.

Some have even expressed the intention of either controlling us or pulling the convention apart. And they boast about having the finances and political clout to do it. They are committed to hurting the SBC so severely that God's people will be forced to bow to their demands. What a serious commitment! What a dangerous attitude! What a demonic spirit! How distinguishingly different from

Jesus!

In Dallas '85, everyone one of us will need an extra measure of humility. We will need the spirit of meekness. We will need the proper attitude to keep us from being revengeful and keep us from adding to the fights among us.

May the Lord Jesus Christ be praised and may God be pleased with us. The usage of "us" is a reference to those of us who believe in what Jesus taught. You see, we who love the Lord, who hear him and obey him, we have a special task to do...

...The Southern Baptist Convention is God's work and God's people. Persons might do well to consider that fact before they try to sabotage it or conduct themselves recklessly toward it. — Howard Lisanby, Pekin, Ill.

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Larry L. Bailey, missionaries to Togo, have completed language study in France and arrived on their field of service (address: BP 1353, Lome, Togo). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Wynne and both consider Jonesboro their hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald W. Greenwich, missionaries to Brazil, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Caixa Postal 1041, 88000 Florianopolis, SC, Brazil). They also are the parents of Joel Allen, born April 15. Both consider Monticello their hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. David E. Crutchley, missionaries to South Africa, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: 20 Ayrshire, Rondebosch East, Cape 7700, Republic of South Africa). She lived in Arkadelphia while growing up.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Browning, Baptist representatives to Jordan, report a change of address (Box 1, Baptist Hospital, Ajoun, Jordan). He is a native of Judsonia. She is the former Nancy Woodward of Lonoke. They

were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. Johnson, missionaries to Peru, have arrived in Costa Rica to begin language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Brinkley. The former Debbie Wilson, she was born in Arkadelphia and considers Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

Mr. and Mrs. David L. Vick, missionaries to Argentina, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 336, 3360 Obera, Misiones, Argentina). He was born in Ft. Smith. The former Barbara Caston, she lived in Hope while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Geiger, missionary associates to Ghana, have arrived on the field following their re-employment. They may be addressed at Mission Baptist, BP 580, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. She is the former Faye McClendon of Springdale. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976 and resigned in 1978.

1984 'Ouachitonian' receives award

ARKADELPHIA—The 1984 edition of Ouachita Baptist University's yearbook, the "Ouachitonian," has received one of three Gold Crown Awards, the highest recognition conferred by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

The "Ouachitonian" has received the award in three of the four years since the

association created the award in 1981.

Editor of the yearbook was Tim Woolridge, a senior from Bryant. Other staff members included Wendy McInvalde Kizzar, a Texarkana junior; Dena White, a senior from Arkadelphia; Stephen Bowman, a Little Rock junior; and Beth Morehart, a sophomore from Midland, Texas.

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Phelan Boone is serving as pastor of El Dorado Ebenezer Church, moving there from Mandeville Church, Texarkana.

Frank Pfenenger of Hot Springs is serving as pastor of Little Hope Church, Oden. He and his wife, Connie, have two sons, John and Adam.

Jack Findley is serving as pastor of Lake Ouachita Church, Mount Ida. He moved there from Webb City Church near Ozark. Findley is a student in the Seminary Studies program in Little Rock. He and his wife, Chris, have two sons, Joshua and Ryan.



McCord

Eddie McCord resigned May 1 as pastor of Highland Heights Church, Benton, to become director of missions for Independence Association. McCord, who has pastored the Benton church for more than seven years, was serving as president of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He has served as a member of the board for four years and has also served as chairman of the ABSC nominating committee. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. McCord and his wife, Margie, have two adult sons, Bob and David.

Les Stanley has resigned as minister of education at Hot Springs Second Church to assist local churches with stewardship emphases.

Bill Neal has resigned as pastor at Lonsdale Church.

Tim Rye has joined the staff of Twelve Corners Church, Garfield, as minister of youth.

Charles Foster has joined the staff of Springdale First Church as assistant to the pastor. He came there from serving as pastor of Nettie Church in West Virginia. Foster and his wife, Florida, have two daughters, Alésha and Dawn.

Dane Anglin began serving April 14 as pastor of Spring Valley Church. He and



Richardson



Morris

his wife, Cindy, have one daughter, Brandi.

Roger Owen has resigned as pastor of Mountainburg Church to move to Lake Charles, La., where he will serve as associate pastor of the Victory Church.

John Neilhouse of Fort Smith is serving as pastor of Shady Grove Church at Van Buren. He and his wife, Dorris, have three children, Erin, Wade and Sara.

Ricky Porter has been called to serve as pastor of Lakeshore Heights Church in Hot Springs. He and his wife, Linda, will move there from Fordyce.

Andrew M. Hall is serving as pastor a new mission located between Rogers and Benton on the by-pass of Highway 71. The new work is sponsored by Rogers First Church. Hall, who formerly served as a pastor in the Fayetteville area, moved to Rogers from Delray Beach, Fla.

Harold Gateley has returned from Lake Yale, Fla., where he assisted Korean pastors with their work. Gateley, who serves as director of missions for Washington-Madison Association, formerly served as a missionary to Korea.

John Summers has been called to serve as pastor of Sulphur City Church. He has been serving as pastor of Fayetteville Southside Church.

Terrell Gordon has retired as chaplain at the veterans' hospital in Fayetteville. He formerly served as pastor of Fayetteville Immanuel Church.

Seibert Haley has retired as assistant chaplain at the veterans' hospital in Fayetteville. He has served as pastor of several Arkansas churches.

Fred M. Bridges of Benton died April 27 at age 48. His funeral services were April 30. He was employed by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist

Convention and had served in the Little Rock Baptist Book Store. He was a member of Little Rock Immanuel Church. Bridges was an ordained minister and had served as minister of music in Arkansas and Texas churches. Survivors are his wife, Norma; two daughters, Susan Leigh and Elizabeth Ann Bridges; his mother, Alice G. Bridges of Atlanta, Texas; and a brother, David Bridges of Washington, D. C.

Del Medlin will begin serving June 2 as pastor of Cabot First Church. He will come to Cabot from Ennis, Texas, where he has served for more than seven years as pastor of the Baylor Church which, under his leadership, received associational awards for largest numerical increase and the largest percentage increase in attendance and increased its Cooperative Program giving from 12 to 15 percent. Medlin graduated from Central High School in Little Rock, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Peggy Geran of Little Rock, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. They have three children, Jason Todd, Michael Paul and Ashley Diane.

Johnny Burnett will join the staff of Russellville First Church as minister to youth and college students. He is a graduate Tulsa Junior College and the University of Tulsa and will graduate this month with a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Cheryl Denise Clay, a graduate of Oklahoma State University.

Lillie Vaughn of Rosie died April 19 at age 85. She had been a member of Rosie Church for 68 years.

Bob Richardson will begin serving June 1 as pastor of Atkins First Church. He will move there from Melbourne where he has served for more than four years as pastor of Belview Church.

Mark Morris will become minister of music and youth at Stuttgart First Church in July following his graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla., and Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. He has served churches in Texas, Alabama and Florida. Morris is married to the former Lisa Brown who has studied at both Gulf Coast Community College and Samford University.

briefly

Osceola First Church ordained Mike Gibson as a deacon April 28.

Clarksville First Church will observe its 100th anniversary May 26 with activities that include a worship service, luncheon, fellowship and 6:30 p.m. presentation of "Alleluia" by the sanctuary choir.

Nettleton Church in Jonesboro recognized Donald Sefers, senior deacon, April 28 for his 50 years of service.

Gilmore Chapel held its first services May 5 as a mission of Central Church, Marked Tree. Trinity and Tri-County Associations are also assisting with chapel sponsorship.

Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith Vietnamese congregation celebrated 10 years of ministry in April. Minh van Lam now serves as pastor of this congregation

which was first led by Jim Files, preaching through an interpreter. The Fort Smith church, Home Mission Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Concord Association have provided financial assistance to the congregation.

Northvale Church at Harrison will observe Senior Recognition Day May 26 with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast and an 11 a.m. worship service.

Jonesboro First Church observed a family life weekend May 2-3 with seminars led by pastor Emil Williams, Jim Burke, Kathy Holler and Dennis Coop. A picnic concluded activities.

Judsonia First Church honored John and Velma Loewer with a reception April 28 prior to their move to Kansas City where he has enrolled in Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as a ministerial student.

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock ordained Ron Bohannon to the ministry April 28.

Elmdale Church at Springdale held a training meeting May 1 to equip individuals in personal witnessing. Pastor Mark Brooks reported this program was planned to strengthen the church's total evangelism program.

Booneville First Church observed Norman and Doris Lerch Day April 28. Lerch, who served the church as pastor from 1959-1965, preached the morning message. Highlight of the worship service was recognition of members of his pastorate and those who made professions of faith during his ministry.

Hoxie First Church was in revival April 21-27, according to pastor Howard Paul Tankey. Donnie Smith of Alicia was evangelist.



The Southern accent

Keith Rosenbaum

The parable

Two brothers are at odds with one another concerning their father's business. Each brother believes he knows what is best for the business. They can agree on very few things, although they have many things in common. They each work hard in the business, but they also spend time attempting to solicit workers to support their individual positions. As a result, there is disharmony among many of the workers and certain items are not receiving the attention they need and deserve. Each accuses the other of being a detriment to the business and being unfaithful to the principles upon which the business was founded.

The business is doing well despite the bickering. The founder of the business and the brothers' predecessors have laid a strong foundation that has helped the business weather the strain of controversy. But the years of agitation have begun to strain the adhesiveness of the foundation.

This is not the first time the business has had problems. The business itself was founded in a time of controversy. Throughout the history of the business, there have been times when there were family squabbles. Sometimes, the divisions were so strong that some of the family departed and established their own companies. Other times, there

were events that brought the family closer together and made the bond even stronger. But this time the rift seemed so deep that division and harm to the father's business was inevitable.

The problem of Christian division is not new. Mark 9:38-40 states, "And John answered him saying, 'Master we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us, and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.' But Jesus said, 'Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.'"

One of the first things I learned when doing marriage counseling was that a marriage could not be saved as long as the couple centered all of their actions and thoughts on

their differences. Before the problems could be resolved, the couple had to commit themselves to three things. First, they had to remember what brought them together. Next, the couple had to focus their attention on their partner's good points as well as the bad. Last, and most important, the couple had to dedicate themselves to work on staying together.

As Christians, we have a commitment to Christ and each other. This commitment should remind us we are servants of Jesus Christ, working together for the glory and honor of God.

Keith Rosenbaum is professor of psychology and director of counseling at Southern Baptist College.

Ouachita students selected for study in Japan

ARKADELPHIA—Three Ouachita Baptist University students have been awarded scholarships for the 1985-86 academic year to Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, as part of an exchange program between the schools.

Cheryl Southerland, a sophomore Spanish major from Fayetteville, was awarded a full scholarship which includes tuition, room,

board and fees. Sonya Wiley, a junior communications major from Arkadelphia, and Janet White, a junior nursing major from Greenville, Texas, were awarded scholarships for tuition only.

The students were chosen by a Japanese Exchange committee which includes various students, administration and faculty members.

Back in the mid-1970s, two Home Mission Board-sponsored volunteers who came to Bartholomew Association to minister to migrant farm workers realized their limitations as summer workers. They were urging Director of Missions Raymond Reed to lead the association toward something more permanent.

Reed agreed the need was there. He and his wife, Norene, had been ministering by going from farm to farm on Sunday afternoons, holding services wherever there was a group. "We both studied Spanish," he explained, "and she learned it." Still, the task was too big.

The two HMB volunteers were not able to come back after their third summer, but the ministering continued. Ouachita Baptist University students Debbie and John Major, brother and sister, started coming on weekends in the spring of 1978. They were followed by a BSU summer missionary, Fred Ball, who worked over a period of 20 months, beginning in 1978.

It was in 1978 that the businessmen and farmers at Hermitage began talking about a housing project for the migrant workers who came to pick the seasonal crops. They got \$4.5 million in federal grants and low interest loans and got underway with a complex that would house 900.

Meanwhile, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department bought land adjacent to the housing complex and purchased the materials for a building to minister to the farm workers. Almost all the labor was done by volunteers in Bartholomew Association, according to Reed, and the center was erected for only \$15 a square foot (including furnishings) in 1980.

The association had a place to minister, but no fulltime worker. They did not have to look very far geographically. The HMB already had a Spanish-speaking Baptist preacher at work at Fort Chaffee in northwest Arkansas. Ariel Hernandez, a native of Mexico, was ministering to Cubans being resettled from the military post.

When Hernandez and his wife, Elda, moved to the Hermitage center in July of 1981, Bartholomew indeed had something more permanent.

The ministry to the Spanish-speaking farm workers has evolved into an associational project that covers a 10-county area in southeast Arkansas. DOM Reed notes that 10 percent of the association's budget now goes to the ministry.

And, the ministering extends many miles beyond the center, with Hernandez traveling to towns as far away as 60 miles to aid families who have settled in the area. In turn, the workers come to the center at Hermitage for Sunday afternoon and evening activities. A few come after they attend morning services as far away as the Baptist church at Dermott or as close as Hermitage Church, where they have a Spanish-speaking Sunday School class.

"We encourage them to go to the local church," Hernandez reports, "and in the



Children learn under the watchful eye of a volunteer from Immanuel Church at Warren in a mobile building added a year ago after the group overflowed the center.

afternoon they can come here for the service in Spanish." Hernandez says he tells the newly-professed Christians they can join the church at Dermott or Lake Village when they are more settled. He encourages study and Christian growth before they ask for baptism into a local church.

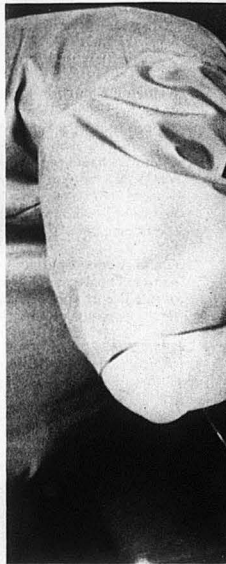
The farm workers also are drawn to the migrant center for English classes, help with letter writing and paperwork for immigration or sewing classes. Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Hernandez teach sewing, crafts and quilting to the women.

Volunteers from several area Baptist churches teach the Sunday School lesson—in English—to the children during worship time.

Hernandez says it is significant that most who come are men who are here without their families, since in Mexico, by far, most church goers are women and children. "We were told at a training conference that you can't get the men to come," Norene Reed adds, "but that's not true here."

Southeast A MISSIONS WITH

by Betty J. Kennedy



The migrants who come to the center on Sundays are maybe 97 percent Roman Catholic, according to Hernandez. "But they are open to the gospel," he feels. Not all of them participate in other activities, but almost every one comes to worship.

Last year, 167 professions of faith resulted from the ministry to the farm workers. Four churches in the association have received them, Reed explains. Nine were baptized into Hermitage Church on Easter Sunday.

While worship is the focal point of activity at the migrant center, Hernandez and his wife and the Reeds are busy with meeting needs as they arise. Hernandez often makes a trip to El Dorado or Camden to take one of the migrants for medical care, although some medical attention is provided when a volunteer doctor comes to the center on Sunday.

Hernandez routinely travels to a satellite center at Lake Village, where ministries are provided. A sister association, Delta, cooperates to provide that center, and the

Kansas association models *a personal touch*



photos by Norene Reed



Medical care (top photo) is one of the much needed ministries provided by the center and volunteer physicians. A building expansion for a clinic is in the works. Another ministry (above) is help with learning English. Trained volunteers teach each Sunday. A proud moment for a group of young people (top, right) comes as they get a basketball tournament trophy from Hernandez.

Lake Village Church has helped a great deal, according to Reed.

Expansion of the ministries over southeast Arkansas came after Ariel Hernandez began work as director for the Hermitage center. "Before, we had no contact with migrants outside Bartholomew Association," Reed recalls. Now, Reed points to the cooperation of several neighboring associations in helping reach farm workers.

The migrants are not the only ones reached, either. "The farmers and timber contractors [who allow us to contact the workers] need ministry, too, and we have done some ministering to them," Reed explains.

The director of missions points out that the people Bartholomew Association reaches through the migrant center are not the farm workers just stopping overnight on their way to work in the north. "Most of the men had to leave their families in Mexico, but some come as families and settle here." Some are not legal immigrants, Reed knows, and he

does not try to estimate how many. "We don't ask," he says. The center workers do estimate that about 2,000 persons receive some ministry at the center in a year.

The work continues to attract community interest. Plans are underway for an expansion of the center's building to provide space for a medical clinic. A local church of another denomination already has voted to finance it.

Mission Bautista, however, remains an example of the churches of a Baptist association pulling together to provide missions with a personal touch. Raymond Reed says he found the churches willing from the beginning and they were involved in each step.

That wasn't hard, he claims. The result affirms his philosophy: "If churches can see mission work going on in the association, they will support it."

Betty J. Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Nesmagazine.

High Court rules against Tony and Susan Alamo Foundation

WASHINGTON (BP)—Commercial activities of a private religious foundation are not exempt from the minimum wage, overtime and recordkeeping requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act because of the organization's religious character, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled April 23.

In an opinion written by justice Byron R. White, the high court rejected claims by the Tony and Susan Alamo Foundation of Alma, Ark., that application of the federal fair labor provisions violated the First Amendment.

The foundation, founded in 1969, operates a variety of commercial businesses located in four states. These businesses are largely staffed by the foundation's "associates," mostly former drug addicts, derelicts or criminals who receive no cash salaries from the foundation but are provided food, shelter, clothing and other benefits.

In its ruling, the high court held the Fair Labor Standards Act "contain no expressed or implied exception for commercial activities conducted by religious or other non-profit organizations." It further noted what it called "broad congressional consensus that ordinary commercial businesses should not be exempted under the Act simply because they happened to be owned by religious or other non-profit organizations."

The high court affirmed lower court findings that "the Foundation's businesses serve the general public in competition with ordinary commercial enterprises" and "payment of substandard wages would undoubtedly give petitioners and similar organiza-

tions an advantage over competitors."

The justices also affirmed a ruling that foundation associates were employees under definitions of the act. While not expecting compensation in the form of ordinary wages, the high court declared, they did expect the foundation to provide benefits such as food, shelter, clothing and transportation.

The court ruled "the Act reaches only the

"ordinary commercial activities" of religious organizations," and "only those who engage in activities in expectation of compensation. Ordinary volunteerism is not threatened by this interpretation of the statute."

Furthermore, the court said, religious organizations are not exempt from governmental activities such as fire inspections and building and zoning regulations.



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Feeding the sheep

"Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

This column is addressed to all of you for whom cooking is a daily chore, "chore" in the meaning of a routine activity or a daily drudgery.

When Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep," he was not picturing a woman over a hot stove or a man at the supermarket. Yet, a real part of the ministry of many of us is daily feeding our family and friends. Sometimes we enjoy it, and sometimes we hate it, but it is there to be done. It is good to be reminded that it literally fulfills Christ's command to us.

How do you feed your sheep every day? It's not easy when they're on the run every minute. Once we were accustomed to three "square" meals a day. That doesn't fit our lifestyles anymore. Most of us want to hold out for at least one full, well-attended meal—meat, potatoes, vegetable, dessert—with all the family around the table. Maybe your family can manage that, and maybe it can't. Keep trying, but also accommodate yourself to other patterns.

Sheep graze all day. "Grazing" is a new idea in human eating too. Instead of eating three meals a day, some eat several small meals whenever they become hungry, choosing whatever kind of food they wish. Many people are not hungry before ten o'clock. Brunch and a late afternoon meal make sense for them. Snacks are often soft drinks and chips unless we offer other alternatives: crunchy bite-size vegetables, nutritious dips and seasonal fruits.

The important thing is to feed the sheep so that they become healthy and strong. Train the sheep to help keep the kitchen clean too.

This soup is an adaptation of Gazpacho, a cold Spanish soup and is good for snacks or luncheons on hot days. The spinach dip is another nutritious "grazing" food. Serve it with raw vegetables. Both dishes will keep in the refrigerator for several days.

Cold tomato soup

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 medium sized tomatoes, chopped | 3-4 cups tomato juice |
| ½ cup onion, finely chopped | ¼ cup red wine vinegar |
| 1 large cucumber, chopped | ¼ cup olive oil |
| ½ cup green pepper, finely chopped | ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper |
| 1 clove garlic | ¼ teaspoon basil |
| 3 tablespoons parsley, chopped | salt and pepper to taste |

Combining all ingredients in a larger pitcher or bowl. Cover and place in refrigerator for at least 2 hours (Can be kept in refrigerator for several days). Serve cold with seasoned croutons.

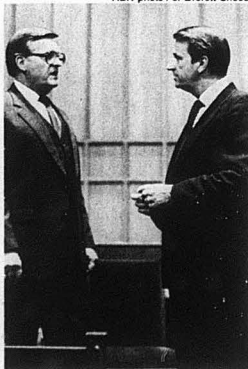
Spinach dip

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ½ cup cooked, chopped spinach | 2 green onions, finely chopped |
| 3 oz. cream cheese, softened | ¼ teaspoon nutmeg |
| ¼ cup sour cream | ¼ teaspoon garlic salt |
| 1 tablespoon lemon juice | salt to taste |

Mix and chill for at least 1 hour. Serve with raw vegetables.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jan Purtle lives near Tyler, Texas and is a college teacher. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

ABN photo / J. J. Everett Sneed



Addresses meeting—James T. Draper Jr., former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke with ABCS Executive Director Don Moore April 29 after addressing the annual Key Leaders Meeting for state associational leadership sponsored by the state convention and held at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Photo by Glen Ennes



Choir festivals held—Forty-two Arkansas Baptist churches sent 942 children in grades four through six to the five Young Musicians Choir Festivals recently held in North Little Rock, Texarkana, Wynne, Fort Smith and Pine Bluff. The choirs performed for each other and were critiqued by judges. (Above) Talmadge Butler of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary led children at Immanuel, Pine Bluff, in an exciting experience as they learned new songs and worked on festival selections. The festival concluded with a worship experience incorporating all the music learned during the day.

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Winfred P. Bridges, pastor

Evangelist says Sandinistas confiscated food, clothing

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Southern Baptist evangelist has charged that Nicaraguan authorities have gone back on their agreement to permit him to distribute food and clothing and to conduct evangelistic services in the war-torn Central American nation.

Larry Jones, who heads an Oklahoma City-based evangelistic and relief ministry called Feed the Children, told reporters top Nicaraguan officials, including President Daniel Ortega, had assured him he could preach without restrictions and that more than 130 local participating churches would be allowed to distribute the food and clothing supplied by his ministry.

Instead, Jones charged during a press conference on Capitol Hill that Nicaraguan authorities had confiscated his large food shipment as well as religious publications he took with him to Nicaragua. Rather than being permitted to preach in a national stadium or some other large facility, Jones told a group of reporters he spoke in a church yard while in Nicaragua.

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Stanley appoints two committees for 1985 annual meeting

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee for the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting have been announced by Charles Stanley, convention president.

The two committees are appointed by the convention president, and do not require ratification by messengers. Stanley also appoints the Credentials and Tellers Committees, which will be released later.

The key responsibility of the Committee on Committees is to nominate the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Commissions, which, in turn, nominates trustees for the 20 national SBC agencies.

The Resolutions Committee receives, processes and reports back to the convention any resolutions presented during the three-day convention session.

The Committee on Committees is made up of 52 persons, two from each state which qualifies for representation on SBC boards by having more than 25,000 members. The Resolutions Committee is made up of 10 persons, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee.

Stanley told Baptist Press he received more than 500 nominations for the 62 posts.

"The appointment procedure is an enormous task," he said. "There are so many wonderful people out there to serve, it is hard sometime to make a choice. Stanley added he "telephoned each of the people appointed personally to talk with them about their responsibilities."

He said in early fall, 1984, he solicited names from state convention executive directors, presidents, as well as receiving nominations from individuals. The 500 names were put into a computer and the winnowing process started.

"We asked every state convention if there was any reason any person should not serve. Any person they mentioned, we did not appoint," Stanley said. "Any names submitted by persons viewed in their state as extreme, hostile or representative of a political coalition were not considered. We tried to choose people who could make a contribution, who did not have any axe to grind."

Stanley said each state convention office was called and asked about Cooperative Program contributions from the churches of which potential nominees were members. "With two exceptions, the conventions provided the information requested," he said. "I sought to appoint people who are, in my opinion, loyal, cooperating, Bible-

believing, evangelistic, mission-minded servants of God. The churches they represent are from a wide spectrum in size, giving and involvement," he said.

Stanley said he provided the lists to vice-presidents Zig Ziglar of Dallas and Don Wideman of Kansas City, Mo., for suggestions and input. "We did not sit down and discuss the whole thing, but I told them to provide me with suggestions and I would consider them," he said.

Stanley named George Schroeder, a physician and a member of Little Rock (Ark.) First Church, chairman of the Committee on Committees.

Larry Lewis, president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., was named chairman of the Resolutions Committee. Hannibal-LaGrange College is a four-year school affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Representing Arkansas Baptists on the Committee on Committees, in addition to chairman Schroeder, will be James Bryant, pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith.

Thomas A. Hinson, pastor of West Memphis First Church, was appointed to the Resolutions Committee as one of three representatives of the SBC Executive Committee.

SBC vice-president objects to omission from process

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—SBC Vice-President Donald V. Wideman says he was "not given opportunity or asked to give input to the list of names from which President Charles Stanley made his appointments" to key committees for the SBC annual meeting.

Wideman's reaction came following a Thursday morning telephone call from Stanley in which the SBC president said the appointments had been released to Baptist Press Wednesday afternoon.

Wideman, pastor of First Church, North

Kansas City, Mo., said his only input was to suggest a person to serve on the committee on resolutions from a list of individuals provided by Stanley's office.

"I asked him (Stanley) why he didn't include me and the reason he gave for omitting me was that he was so busy and that the appointments were such a tremendous job," Wideman recalled. "I find that incredible. He was too busy to consult me, but I know for a fact that he did call and ask other people for suggestions. That has been

announced in public meetings.

"I consider what he has done to be not only a violation of the bylaws, but also a violation of Christian ethics and courtesy and the spirit and fairness and right," he said.

Wideman said, "All I was ever allowed to do was to react to names which Stanley's office provided. I was never able to initiate any suggestions. I find it certainly upsetting to realize that the first time I will know who Charles has appointed will be when I read it in Baptist Press," he said.

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SBC pre-convention 'peace initiative' fails; said 'too late'

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—A "peace initiative," designed to avoid a "wholesale blood-bath" at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention apparently has failed.

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City, proposed a meeting of key leaders from various groups in the denomination in an effort to "keep this thing (the SBC) from coming apart."

Leaders of the "inerrancy" group turned down the plan, he said. "They said it was too late. . . that the missiles are already in the air," Garrison explained.

Garrison said he had "at least three long phone conversations with Adrian Rogers," pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.,

about ways to bring about such a meeting.

Rogers said he talked to Stanley about the proposal during a meeting. "Basically Charles (Stanley) felt he doesn't have anything to bargain with except good will. He said he has gone overboard to make (his) appointments good, solid Southern Baptists."

Although Rogers did not elaborate on the meeting in which the proposal was discussed, Baptist Press has learned Stanley and Rogers met in Dallas in the Amfac Hotel April 17. The meeting also included former SBC presidents Smith and Draper, Paul Pressler; Paige Patterson; Russell Kaemmerling, editor of the *Southern Baptist Advocate*, and Fred Powell, senior associate pastor at

First Church, Atlanta.

Garrison said he called Rogers about Stanley's reaction to the proposal. "He told me he had met with Stanley and 'the brethren' and they felt they had nothing to negotiate with and such an effort was 'too late.'"

Rogers added he "certainly" expects Stanley to be re-elected and said, "I don't think the 'conservatives' ought to fail to negotiate because they think they have a position of strength.

"The point is that I don't know that we have anything really to negotiate with other than matters of conscience. And that cannot be negotiated."

Baptists challenged to remember roots in religious liberty

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists were challenged to remember their roots in religious liberty in Nashville during a two-day meeting focusing on Baptists and the history of church-state relations. Participants heard a church history professor declare Baptists played a significant role in forging American church-state separation.

G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., said "Baptists' commitment to principles which eventually evolved into separation of church and state grew out of their experience as a dissenting, non-conforming minority in religion. . . they came by their credentials the old-fashioned way. They earned them."

Unlike denominations in colonial America that were "established" — state-sponsored churches whose credo was "When we are

in control, let everybody be like us" — Wamble said Baptists and Quakers "were always on the religious 'outside.'"

Wamble said actions employed by Baptists both in England and America that eventually resulted in separation of church and state in the U.S. included confronting magistrates and colonial governments, pamphleteering and petitioning. He noted further their awareness "the cause of religious freedom would win or lose in the public forum," and "therefore they courageously entered it and zealously contended" for it.

Wamble also underscored, however, that Baptists came to a desire for church-state separation because of theological ideas, foremost among them "their view of faith as voluntary and experiential, not as assent to propositional truth."

Although they inherited Luther's convic-

tion of the priesthood of every believer, early Baptists "heartedly embraced" it, Wamble said, and went beyond it to fashion "the doctrine of liberty of conscience as an antidote to the view that there is a civil intermediary between God and man." Closely related, he added, was their view "that they owe government obedience in civil, temporal matters but that they are bound to obey God, not man, in spiritual matters."

Lamenting "sometimes Baptists forget their roots and do servisservice to their principles," Wamble cited former SBC president W.A. Criswell's statement during the 1984 presidential race that church-state separation is the "figment of some infidel's imagination."

He concluded, "History will not be kind to us if we . . . betray principles. . . which our Baptist forefathers struggled to establish two centuries earlier."

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for graduates, former students and friends. Homecoming 2 is set for Monday, June 10, 1985, a day prior to the opening of the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. The day's activities, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., include an open house, programs, audio-visual presentations, campus tours, a barbecue lunch and class reunions. Don't wait another 10 years, write now for more information.



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The seminar will begin with a banquet on Friday night at 7:00. There will be five sessions on Saturday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The seminar is for all church members and pastors and ministers of music throughout the state. There will be a \$15 registration fee for all non-Second Baptist members. The deadline is May 13.

For more information, contact Tom Wideman, Minister of Music, Second Baptist Church at (501) 374-9284.

Your state convention at work

Woman's Missionary Union

AMAR supplies needed

Woman's Missionary Union has been involved in the Amazon-Arkansas project in many ways, but one need is urgent. The kitchen of the camp in the Para State Convention needs to be furnished for the summer camping season. The needs include serving utensils such as large spoons and ladles, kitchen

towels, metal forks, spoons and knives. These may be donated and sent to the WMU office in the Baptist Building. They will be taken to Brazil by Arkansas volunteers. Other needs include plastic serving trays and glasses which will need to be purchased by the camp so they will be uniform. You can help purchase these by sending a check to and payable to Arkansas WMU designated for the Brazil camp project. These need to be in our office as soon as possible.

Camping programs have been an effective tool for winning and discipling persons on the foreign mission field. Be a part of changing lives as we help make possible a camping season in the Para Convention by providing necessary utensils for feeding those who come. — **Betty Jo Lacy, Actees director.**

Family and Child Care
Camp is decision time
Summer camp provides a great time for the children at Arkansas Baptist Home for Children. It is a time for reflection, recreation and growth. Camp also provides an atmosphere for very important decisions to be made. Often these decisions change lives for a better and more meaningful life of service.

We are indeed grateful for folks like Mrs. Mildred Merryman of Texarkana who recognizes the importance of camp sponsorship. She writes: "Dear friends at the Children's Home... How I wish I could help send several children to Siloam Springs every year. But I just can't. I am sending one. The enclosed check is for that. I attended the first assembly at Siloam Springs. I was 18 years old."

You, too, can have a significant part in this area of sponsorship by joining Mrs. Merryman and others like her. Our children will be going to Siloam Springs June 17. As we do each year, we are encouraging people to send a youth to camp. The cost is only \$35. That is a very good investment. I know many of you will want to send a check real soon. Send your check to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services and write "Camp" on it. Mail it to Box 552,

Little Rock, AR 72203.

Thank you for your faithful support that makes possible the sharing of Christ that will yield eternal dividends. — **John A. Ross director of development**

Missions

Commitment Sunday

"Start a Church Commitment Sunday" on March 24 was a good time for us to focus on local churches becoming involved with

starting new congregations. The response could not be described as a leap forward. But certainly a significant step was taken by Arkansas churches.

Seventeen churches have on-going church-type missions. Ten other churches have voted to start missions in specific places. Twelve other churches have indicated a desire to become involved in some measure with a mission project. So we know of a total of 39 churches that are, or are willing to, become involved in local mission sponsorship in Arkansas. That is three per cent of Arkansas Baptist congregations.

I am told this is the largest number of sponsors we have had for years. We are thankful to the Lord and appreciative toward the churches for that response.

Please join me in prayer because we need 60 more sponsors for Arkansas missions. We need to keep a strong, solid launching pad at home in order to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. — **Floyd Tidworth Jr. church extension director**



Tidworth

Cooperative Program CP: what is it?

The April 1985 issue of *The Commission*, published by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, contains the following comments regarding "What the Cooperative Program Is—and Isn't."

"Why does the Foreign Mission Board see Cooperative Program support by Southern Baptists as vital to foreign mission causes? Here are some thoughts from Sam Pittman, in charge of denominational relations for the Board:

"The Cooperative Program is not perfect, but it does have an outstanding performance record.

"The Cooperative Program is not a golden calf; it is a guiding path to cooperative missions.

"It is not a sacred cow. It is a solemn vow to support those we send.

"The Cooperative Program is not an assessment of resources. It is an acceptance of responsibilities.

"It is not an admittance fee. It is an admission of faith.

"The Cooperative Program is never a burden, but always a blessing.

"It is not bureaucratically manipulated. It is democratically operated.

"It is not overemphasized, only underutilized."

I trust that these statements will help us to remember that the Cooperative Program is the objective reality of our commitment to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord. — **L. L. Collins**

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International

Coping with futility

by Mark Coppenger, First Church, El Dorado

Basic passage: Eccl. 1:1-2:11; 12

Focal passage: Eccl. 2:1-11; 12:13-14

Central truth: Worldly pleasures cannot satisfy the soul.

The Dec. 13, 1984, *Newsweek* proclaims "The Year of the Yuppie." Yuppies are (Y)oung (U)rban (P)rofessionals who live, according to *The Yuppie Handbook* (Pocket Books, 1984), on "aspirations of glory, prestige, recognition, fame, social status, power, money or any and all combinations of the above." *Newsweek* heads one segment of its report with the proclamation, "They Live to Buy," and says that this generation's battle cry might be the Michelob Light beer pitch, "You can have it all."

Let me spotlight a few other points from Marissa Piesman and Marilee Hartley's handbook:

Among Yuppies' most cherished goals are a six-figure salary, live-in help, a home that has been photographed by *Architectural Digest* and instant recognition by the maitre d' at the city's top five restaurants.

Among the Yuppie ten commandments are "Thou shalt take unto thee only designer labels" and "Thou shalt remember to have brunch on Sunday."

A Yuppie budget allots two percent for "self improvement courses" (includes materials fee for Sushi class), five percent for "ski house share" and three percent for "imported cheese."

Get the picture? Well, the perspective it represents is strikingly similar to the one we find in Solomon in Ecclesiastes 2:1-10. Note how he filled his life with laughter, wine, houses, gardens, servants, money, entertainment, sex—in short, pleasure. Solomon has been where they are going, and he brings back the report, "It's all meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

Traditionally, Southern Baptists have been a rural Southern people with no chance of playing Solomon's expensive games. But with our growing affluence and urbanity, we're starting to chase the winds that Solomon chased. Let's use this Sunday to warn the wind chasers and then to counsel, "Fear God and keep his commandments."

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Life and Work

Social justice and right living

by Clyde P. Spurgin, First Church, Piggott

Basic passage: Amos 5:10-15; 21-24

Focal passage: Amos 5:14-15

Central truth: God's people must walk their talk.

It is impossible to enjoy a movie when the audio is not synchronized with the video. The lips of the characters say one thing and their voices something else.

In like manner, it is impossible for almighty God to enjoy our acts of worship and praise when our lips say one thing and our attitudes and actions something else. Such was the case in Israel. The Lord expressed his feelings very clearly through Amos, "I hate your religious festivals, I cannot stand them!" Neither would he accept their offerings nor listen to their songs.

Now we know that God wants his people to "freely give," also scripture states he loves a "cheerful giver." Scriptures also abound with passages encouraging us to praise him with instruments and our voices. But it is impossible for our Holy God to accept offerings or enjoy praise when neither harmonizes with our attitudes and actions toward him and our fellowman.

The injustice of the affluent in Israel toward the poor had become shameful. Yet they were very religious and assembled for worship. They even composed songs and, accompanied by the harp, sang them to God. They possessed a "form of godliness" but were not demonstrating godliness in daily encounters with their fellowman. Israel had become so satisfied with meaningless worship that anyone speaking out against it was in trouble. Amos said; "... keeping quiet in such evil times is the smart thing to do!" And yet, he could not be silent. God had given him a message to deliver to the leaders of Israel.

The message was not well received. Few people enjoy having their sins revealed and condemned by either prophet or preacher. Amos, like a good surgeon, was sharing the results of God's spiritual examination of Israel. Then he recommends the only remedy for their problem: repentance and obedience.

Perhaps the prophet's message to ancient Israel is more relevant today than we would like to admit. Our God is "the same yesterday, today and forever." He still demands that social justice and right living synchronize and harmonize with the worship and praise of his people!

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Bible Book

Parables on prayer

by James C. Walker, Archview Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Luke 18:1-34

Focal passage: Luke 18:1-14, 16-17

Central truth: Christians should be constant in prayer and not become discouraged and should approach God humbly with childlike faith.

Because of our action-oriented, largely man-centered philosophy, prayer has become one of the most neglected facets of Baptist life both in doctrine and practice. As a people, we need from time to time to be called back to our pietistic roots. Our lesson, therefore, is a healthy emphasis.

Today, we are looking at three very specific lessons on how we ought to approach God in prayer. First, we ought to approach the throne of God with persistence and faith. The presence of a loving Father who wants the best for his children ought always to encourage us to continue in our requests. It is a trick of Satan that would cause us to believe that God is not willing to grant us his best in our best interest. Therefore, we are to come continually believing that he will grant our petitions.

The parable of the Pharisee and the publican teaches us that we must come to God with repentance and faith. The proud, self-justifying attitude of the Pharisee as he "prayed with himself" cut off any hope of communion with God. When the publican agreed with God as to his moral state, turned from his sin and by faith asked forgiveness, he was justified, pronounced "not guilty" by the court of heaven.

The third lesson on prayer teaches us the necessity of humility and faith. We have used this passage to show the necessity of humility in approaching God for salvation and rightly so for this is the major thrust of the statement. But could it not be that our "Please, God, I'd rather do it myself" attitude is one of the reasons that there is not more evidence of divine power in our midst?

Let us learn to approach God with persistence, repentance and humility always trusting him to give us his best for our best.

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'Herein is love' . . .
(1 John 4:10)

Pray for Arkansas' Brazil partnership

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Youth program builds lifestyle evangelism

NASHVILLE—Youth who participate in the evangelism/discipleship course, Disciple-Youth, gain confidence which allows them to be better leaders in their churches, schools and communities, according to leaders who have taken groups through the course.

"The skills youth learn while participating in the program help them build a confidence about their abilities and gifts," explained Mike Gilbert, minister of youth, First Church, Kenner, La.

Gilbert, who recently moved to Louisiana from Florida, has led three groups of youth through the 26-week program which develops skills in witnessing, discipling, counseling, Bible study, prayer and Scripture memorization.

"One of the benefits youth receive from DiscipleYouth is that it helps them to discover their personal faith and teaches them that witnessing is a lifestyle," explained Gilbert. "Sometimes youth rely on their Christian families for their faith and never really develop a personal, growing relationship with Christ. But DiscipleYouth helps them develop spiritually."

John Long, growth consultant and youth specialist in the Church Training Department

of the Alabama Baptist Convention, noted as youth begin to take an active part in the ministry of the church, parents and other adults are challenged.

"As adults see youth take more interest in the worship service, develop a prayer life and begin to witness to others, the adults are often challenged to follow the lead set by youth," he notes.

However, Long cautioned youth leaders to be sure parents and church members understand the time requirements and commitment youth are expected to give to DiscipleYouth.

"Parents need to realize that their youth will be spending daily time in Bible study and prayer and also keeping a journal of their spiritual progress. It is important to the youth for parents to support them and respect their need for privacy during this time," said Long.

Long agreed with other youth leaders that youth must be given opportunities to witness and counsel others, thereby helping them to apply the concepts learned in the first 13 weeks of DiscipleYouth. Leaders suggested youth be involved in getting and counseling new church members, church visitation programs and witnessing blitzes.

VBS evangelism helps churches grow

NASHVILLE—"Vacation Bible School is still one of the best things a church can do to grow," according to Willie Beaty, VBS projects promotion consultant at the Sunday School Board.

Vacation Bible School often proves more effective in discovering prospects and enrolling new Sunday School members than any other program, Beaty said.

Almost 29,000 churches are expected to have Vacation Bible Schools this summer with another 5,000 mission Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs being conducted.

Evangelism is the prime tangible result of Vacation Bible School, Beaty said. Last year, approximately 57,000 professions of faith were made during VBS or a result of VBS.

Also, Southern Baptist churches discovered 600,000 new prospects through VBS. "We have a one in three chance of winning those people to Christ within the first year after enrolling them in Sunday School," Beaty said.

"If they work at promoting VBS in the community, the typical church can find 40 to 50 new prospects through Vacation Bible School."

There were 3.25 million people enrolled in Vacation Bible School in Southern Baptist churches last year, which represented a gain of 10,000 over 1983.

VBS is not just for children, either. Adult

VBS is a strong highlight with an enrollment increase of 20,000 last year, Beaty said.

Adult VBS programs seem to do best if the church has identified a target group: senior citizens, ethnics, young adults or others, he added.

Churches with mixed schedules also seem to have the greatest success with a variety of VBS programs, Beaty said.

He pointed out that youth VBS could be a different time than children and preschool VBS so that the youth will be available as workers in the other programs. Adult VBS could be held at night or another time.

VBS can be an important program for a church no matter what the size of the church, Beaty said.

However, of the nearly 8,000 Southern Baptist churches which did not report a Vacation Bible School in 1984, more than 7,000 are churches with Sunday School enrollments of 150 or less.

To encourage development of Vacation Bible Schools for smaller churches, the Sunday School Board is encouraging larger churches to participate in a link-up with a smaller church.

Larger churches may share their resource materials and provide training sessions for the smaller church. Hopefully, with help and training, the smaller church will be able to conduct its own program the following year, he explained.

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