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**December 17, 1981**

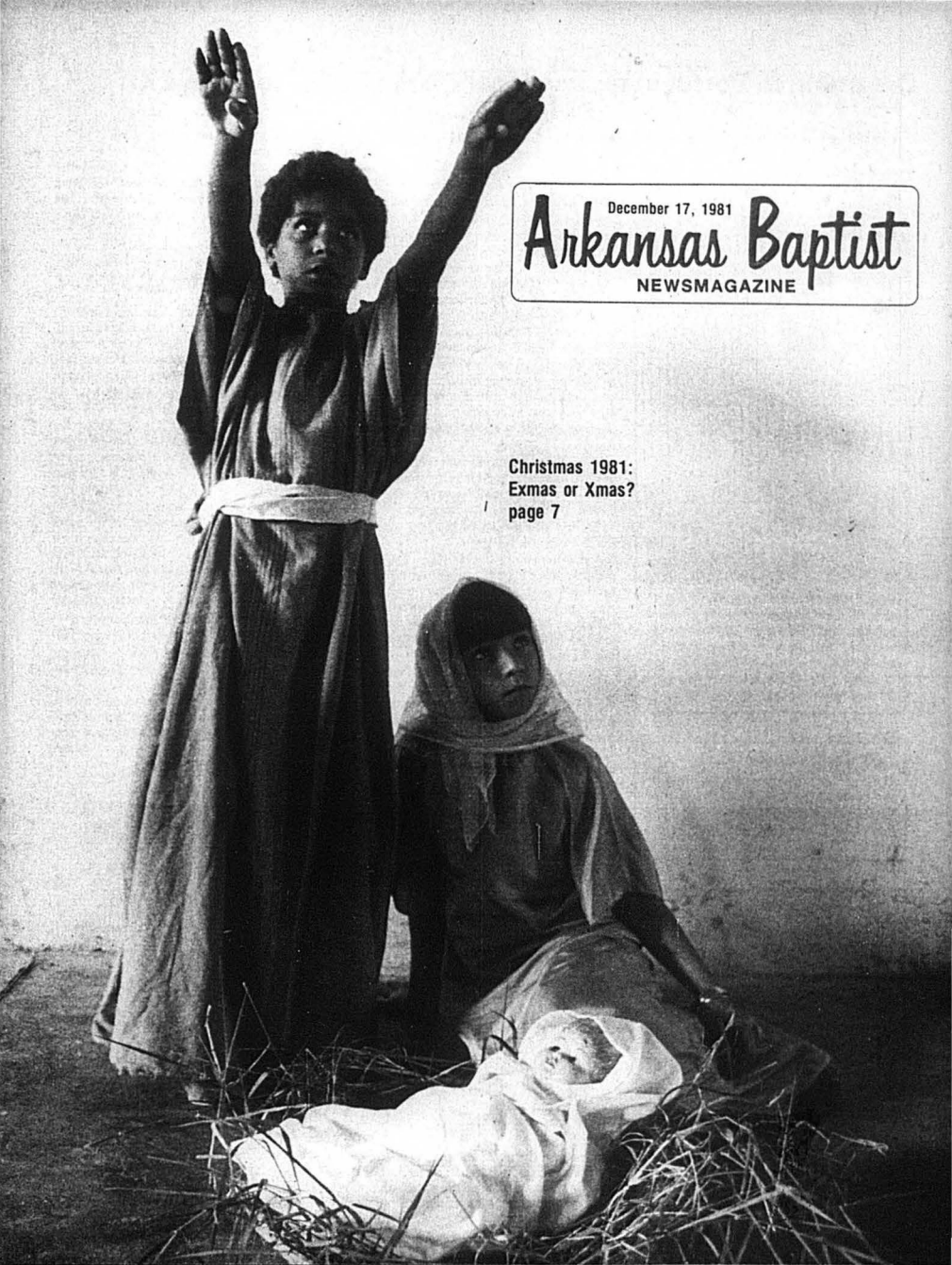
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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December 17, 1981

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Christmas 1981:  
Exmas or Xmas?  
page 7

# Dreaming in Portuguese: missionary language school pays off

by Erich Bridges

CAMPINAS, Brazil (BP) — For rookie Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil, preaching the gospel in a nation of 120 million is challenge enough. Attempting to

preach in understandable Portuguese can be overwhelming.

That's where Billy and Lee Ann Gilmore come in. Before venturing into the field, every new missionary assigned to Brazil spends a rigorous year at the Gilmore boot camp, better known as the Portuguese Language and Orientation School.

The Gilmores, missionaries with 19 years of experience in Brazil, came to Campinas in 1970 to direct the language school, a division of the radio and television board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

A tall, husky Texan with appropriate lingo, drawl and cowboy boots, Gilmore is an unlikely specialist in Brazilian language and culture, but any doubts new pupils may have about his expertise quickly evaporate in the heat of intensive Portuguese studies.

"We put 'em through two semesters, five months each," explains Gilmore. "Four hours a day, five days a week, 40 weeks. Friend, that's a lot of Portuguese."

"When you get to where you dream in Portuguese, you've got it."

Missionaries at the school, like many other Southern Baptist missionaries who attend language schools in various parts of the world, saturate themselves not only in language, but culture, geography, economics and "survival" skills — shopping, banking, travel.

Guided by 12 Brazilian teachers, they study one-on-one and in small group classes (husbands and wives are separated to prevent competition and tension). From the outset, instruction is in Portuguese.

Gilmore believes that the language school experience produces a kind of re-

gression to childhood for fledgling missionaries. "You are led again, when you've been used to leading," he says. "In a year's time, you try to pull together what a native speaker learns from birth through high school about language, communication, culture."

Even for gifted students, progress can be agonizingly slow. At language school, doctors of theology may shed tears of frustration.

Lee Ann remembers one examination day: "The teachers had just started testing, but I saw one of the missionaries run past my door. I quietly followed and found him down the hall in an empty room, his head in his hands. 'I knew the material. I knew it,' he kept sobbing, over and over." His mind had gone blank.

But experienced Brazilian instructors relieve the rigors of study with patience, compassion and genuine friendship, according to Lee Ann. "The teachers all consider this a ministry," she says. Several, like Zilda de Oliveira, have taught missionaries for more than two decades. They also develop most materials used in class.

Students and instructors worship together, eat together, and socialize after school hours, providing new missionaries a continuous contact with native Brazilians.

It's a crucial year. "This is the key to effective ministry," Gilmore contends. "What's one year for 25 of better communication?"

The payoff, he and Lee Ann believe, comes every time a Southern Baptist missionary wins a Brazilian to Christ. Until convinced otherwise, they'll keep the Gilmore boot camp oiled and running.

## On the cover



Photo by Don Rutledge, Foreign Mission Board

When today's children recall Christmas of 1981 will the memory be of toys, goodies, and mad rush or of Immanuel in a manger and the gifts of love, like God gave? Will they recall "Xmas," the celebration of Christ's birth?

## Last week's cover

The Joy Expo '81 musicians featured on the cover of the Dec. 10 issue are Tony Weston (left) and Billy Davis. The Little Rock-based team are full-time music evangelists.

## In this issue

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Dillard Miller, newly elected president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, writes an open letter to Baptists in the state.

8

The state Executive Board has called for a special session of the convention to consider the purchase of a building across the street from the Baptist Building.



Photo by Don Rutledge

Lee Ann Gilmore (second from right) takes a break with several missionary students at the Portuguese Language and Orientation School in Campinas, Brazil. Lee Ann and her husband Billy co-direct the school, where new missionaries study Portuguese and Brazilian culture for a year.

## The Christmas offering and the BMT

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The Bold Mission Thrust is but another name for the Great Commission. Since 1977, Southern Baptists have had a goal of sharing the gospel with every living person by the year 2000. Long ago, Christ told us, "to disciple all nations." If we are to obey our Master, there must be bold commitment by everyone who bears his name.

Sharing the gospel requires boldness in three areas — going, giving, and praying. Currently, the Foreign Mission Board has more than 3,000 missionaries under appointment. This number is far too small to accomplish our task of sharing the gospel with every person on the earth by the year 2000. If we are to accomplish our task we must send many more missionaries.

Mission centers around the world have requested 1,700 additional overseas missionaries right now. To meet this urgent request, the board has raised the maximum appointment age for career missionaries from 39 to 45. The young men and women graduating from our seminaries who feel that God is calling them as foreign missionaries should, also, help in meeting the personnel need for the immediate future.

Our Foreign Mission Board has a goal of launching work in 30 new countries and adding approximately 2,000 more missionaries by the year 2000. Money and commitment will be required to carry out the Bold Mission Thrust if we are to accomplish what our Master would have us to do.

This year's Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal is \$50 million representing an 11 percent increase over 1980. Much of the \$5 million increase will be taken up by inflation. The inflation rate here is remarkably low compared with many countries. Israel, for example, had a 117 percent inflation rate last year. Until recently the dollar had lost ground in the exchange rate in many countries. To compensate for lower exchange rates and inflation, we must have more dollars.

The Lottie Moon Christmas offering represents approximately one-half of the operating budget of the Foreign Mission Board. The money has already been earmarked for needs on various mission fields around the world in anticipation of reaching our goal.

The Foreign Mission Board is trying to make every dollar count to its maximum. They are, also, developing indigenous

leadership as fast as possible in the countries we are serving. But even more is necessary if we are to provide opportunity for every person to hear the gospel by the year 2000.

We believe that the bold plans of our Foreign Mission Board will be met because Southern Baptists have a commitment to world missions. We are in the mission movement to stay. The \$50 million Lottie Moon Christmas offering will be reached because Southern Baptists believe in the Great Commission.

Jesus' mandate to his followers was bold (Matt. 28:16-20), as he commanded them to "carry the gospel to all nations." But he promised them his presence and power. It must have been a startling thing for that small band of followers to contemplate starting out to conquer the world for Christ. Their number was small and their resources meager, but they were committed to their assigned task.

The theme of this year's Lottie Moon Christmas offering "How Shall They Hear" reminds us of our responsibility to carry the gospel. If we fail to carry out the Bold Mission Thrust, many may never hear the gospel in their lifetime.

Today our resources are vast. Southern Baptists have the people, the money and the resources to accomplish anything God wants us to do. Certainly, it is our Lord's desire that we carry out his marching command of sharing the gospel around the world.

The timing of the Lottie Moon Christmas offering is excellent because it comes at the season set to commemorate the birth of our Lord. It reminds us of the greatest gift ever given. The offering has done much to stimulate joy in giving.

The Bold Mission Thrust should, also, involve personalized praying. This means we should pray for lost men, women and children around the world. We should pray, by name, for the lost we know as well as for our missionaries who serve around the world. And we should pray that God will reveal our own role in the BMT.

How much should you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering? This is a question that each family must answer under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As each family earnestly seeks God's will and respond to it, our Bold Mission Thrust will take a giant step forward.

# Arkansas Baptist

## NEWSMAGAZINE

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

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J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor

BETTY KENNEDY . . . . . Managing Editor

ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D. . . . . Editor Emeritus

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

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

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

### A tribute to the bosses . . . and the secretaries

The bosses at Ouachita Baptist University were recently given a very nice tribute from their secretaries, but also an overdue "comeuppance." The Christmas season has been the occasion for an annual dinner for the bosses, hosted by the hardworking OBU secretaries, with all kinds of flattering remarks about the superhuman supervisors. This time it turned into more roasting than toasting, with the following "tribute" written by Joyce Helms, secretary to Dean Bill Dixon, and read by Jesse Johnson, secretary to Dr. Ken Locke:

He's the man who can always find the time for progress. He's the man who can always find time to better his community. He's the man who can always find time to hold out a helping hand. *He's the man whose secretary gets things done.*

He's the spark plug of every campus drive for the benefit of others. He keeps the dreams of OBU alive. His enthusiasm generates progress. *He's the man whose secretary gets things done.*

He believes in America . . . teamwork . . .

hard work . . . loyalty . . . friendship. He's many things to many people. He's boss, top management, leader, partner, chairman. *He's the man whose secretary gets things done.*

He has the courage to take responsibility, the courage to decide things, the courage to say "yes" or "no." He has the dignity of a diplomat, the poise of an ambassador, the charm of a fine host, and the energy of a pioneer. *He's the man whose secretary gets things done.*

He's the campus' best advertisement. He solves problems, serves on committees, greets strangers, and helps make his campus grow and prosper. He firmly believes he works in the best school in the best state in the best nation in the world. *He's the man whose secretary gets things done.*

He's first class citizen and warmhearted good neighbor. He's the most valuable citizen at Ouachita. He's a president, a vice-president, a dean, a registrar, a department manager, an instructor, a director, an assistant, a dedicated worker. He's a friend to

education. *He's the man whose secretary gets things done.*

I suspect the same tribute could and should be paid to secretaries everywhere. This is especially true of church secretaries and pastor's secretaries who continue to get all those necessary things done in the midst of the Christmas season of "frantic generosity and retaliatory goodwill," smiling all the while.

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

## No Newsmagazine for Dec. 31

There will be no *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* published for Dec. 31, one of the times each year when an issue normally is skipped. Sunday School lessons for Jan. 2 will appear in the Dec. 24 issue.



## The Southern accent

### Christmas means a savior is born

by D. Jack Nicholas

The authentic meaning of Christmas will never occur to the vast majority of people of the world as they move frantically through the festivities of another Christmas season. Christmas has been so thoroughly commercialized, paginated and secularized that the memory of the Christ-child has been obliterated so far as the masses of humanity are concerned.

It is as though Satan has successfully executed a strategy to diminish the recollection of the story of the birth of Christ. The first phase was to commercialize Christmas. That strategy was not initially offensive to Christians because the exchange of gifts with loved ones can be regarded as an appropriate expression of Christian love and



Nicholas

the business created by such a tradition seemed to be in harmony with the free enterprise system of the Puritan ethic. But the time came when the commercialization of Christmas seriously obscured its real meaning and people began to give more to each other than to him whose birth they were celebrating.

The second phase of Satan's strategy to annihilate the real meaning of Christmas was to paganize the holiday. An evergreen with blinking lights, a large, jolly man with white hair and a white beard, and a reindeer with a red nose seem harmless enough until it is noted that they have become more recognizable as symbols of the Christmas season than him whose birth is the occasion for that season.

The final stage — secularization — is now in process and, if it is successful, will officially divest Christmas of its authentic meaning. Those who hate Christ and the gospel are determined to eradicate every

reminder of his birth. There has been the rash of lawsuits in recent years objecting to nativity scenes on public premises and Christian themes in Christmas programs in the public schools. The late December holidays are no longer called "Christmas vacation" but "winter break." Based on a distorted interpretation of the principle of separation of church and state, the enemies of Christ have launched an all-out assault to totally secularize Christmas.

This is all the more reason for those who love him to shout the truth of the gospel; let the churches sing out to the world with greater joy and boldness than ever before the eternal Christmas message, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." That is the meaning of Christmas.

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

## Revival spirit marks conference at Southern Baptist College

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, held its annual Bible Conference (formerly called Church Efficiency Conference) Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

The program, under the direction of Evangelism Billy Walker, featured a number of speakers from Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri.

The conference, which had approximately 150 people attending from six states, was originally started under the direction of H. E. Williams, the founder of Southern Baptist College. The purpose of the conference at its beginning was to minister to rural churches in the area and was called "The Rural Church Conference." It originally gave strong emphasis to the religious education program of churches.

Because the state convention and associations today provide assistance to churches in the area of religious education, the conference has been restructured to meet other needs.

Program director Walker said, "this was one of the best attended and finest programs that I can remember."

President D. Jack Nicholas, also, felt that the program was a tremendous success. He said, "the powerful preaching, the inspirational testimonies and the thrilling music produced a genuine spirit of revival among the participants. I believe that everyone left the conference with a new vision, a fresh inspiration and a deeper commitment to the Lord's service."

The conference was concluded with a message by Thomas A. Hinson, pastor of West Memphis First Church. Hinson, who was the major speaker for the conference,

gave an invitation to the Southern College students. A number of these students made rededications and commitments to fulltime

Christian vocational service.

Next year's conference will meet Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 1982. — J. Everett Sneed



Photo by J. Everett Sneed

Participating in Southern's annual Bible Conference were (back row, left to right) Billy Walker, C. E. C. director at Southern; Rex Holt, pastor of Pocahontas First Church; Jimmy Millikin, professor of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.; David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association; Doyne Johnson, pastor of Pleasant Valley Church in Salem, Mo.; (front row) Jack Nicholas, president of Southern College; John Wright, pastor of Little Rock First Church; Tommy Hinson, pastor of West Memphis First Church; and Earl R. Humble, professor of religion at Southern College.

### An open letter to Arkansas Baptists

#### Miller foresees task-filled year

Thank you, dear friends and messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your president this next year. This is a signal honor bestowed upon me. I am deeply humbled by your faith, your trust and your confidence, which I will not consciously violate in any way.

I hope and pray that this will be a wonderful year in the life of our convention. We will be as open minded and as impartial as we know how to be. We will listen carefully to your counsel. We will work with our Executive Board, our committees, our institutions and our denominational staff in every possible way. All that is done should result in reaching people for Christ and his church and in developing their spiritual lives.

Our convention has begun programs that must be brought to a successful conclusion. The Lord has other programs and assignments, in his will, for us to discover. The task is too great for any one person. The Lord wants to use us all. I am glad to be a cooperating Arkansas Baptist. I love you, my brethren. God bless you in your service to him.

I am a pastor. I have great responsibilities here in my own church. However, if I can minister any place, at any time, except Sunday, I would count it a privilege to do so. If some small church, in the seemingly out of way place, wants a representative of our convention to come share the Lord, call on me. If some pastor, discouraged in heart and hope needs someone to share a burden, call me. We want to help our pastors, our churches, and our denomination. Within the bounds of my own limitations and responsibilities, I will be available.

Dillard S. Miller, president  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Photo by J. Everett Sneed

Tommy Hinson (left) and W. M. Brown, pastor of New Friendship Church in Memphis, Tenn., chat during the Southern Baptist College Bible Conference. Both pastors were on the meeting's program.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

**David Hanning**

is serving Little Rock Brookwood Church as music director.

**Charlie Winters**

is serving the Harrisburg Greenfield Church as pastor, coming there from Oklahoma. He is a native of Fort Smith. Rev. and Mrs. Winters are parents of two children, John and Emily.

**Paul Ginn**

is serving the Gosnell Church as minister of music/youth.

**Bob Neeley**

is pastor of the Grandview Church, coming there from Cassville, Mo.

**David Cassidy**

is serving Mena First Church as minister of youth. A senior ministerial student at Ouachita Baptist University, he has previously served Arkansas churches at Dumas, Ward and Stephens. He is a native of Hampton and is married to the former Rejeana Schaaf of Derby, Kansas.

**Ken Davenport**

is serving the Bear Creek Springs Church as pastor. He was a member of the Harrison Northvale Church.

**Don Estep**

has resigned as pastor of the Harrison Trinity Church.



Cassidy



Sewell

**Dennis Sewell**

began his service as pastor of Cabot Mount Carmel Church Dec. 13, coming there from the Lavaca First Church. A native of Texarkana, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by Trinity Church there. Sewell attended East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, and East Texas State University, Commerce. He has pastored churches in New Mexico, Texas and Arkansas. He is married to the former Vicky Green of Texarkana. They have two children, Carrie and Chad.

## briefly

**Corning Shiloh Church**

ordained Ron Hayes as a deacon Nov. 15. The council was composed of deacons and pastors in the Current-Gains Association. Director of Missions J. D. Passmore served as moderator. Bill Hutchings preached the ordination message and Bob Kinnett led prayer.

**Fort Smith South Side Church**

ordained Cleo Moss and Larry Edwards as

deacons Nov. 22.

**Little Rock Calvary Church**

will ordain Martin Babb, Rick Broglen and Vincé Jasay as deacons Dec. 20 according to Pastor Clyde Glazener.

**Newark Church**

ordained two deacons, Scotty Lasater and Berry Farris, Dec. 11. Pastor Alwyn Coleman led the service.

## News about missionaries

**Mr. and Mrs. Logan C. Atnip**, missionaries to Zimbabwe, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Box 3295, Beach Station, Vero Beach, Fla. 32960). He is a native of Marmaduke, Ark.; she is the former Virginia Hill of Elberton, Ga. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.

**Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Ballard**, missionaries to Paraguay, have returned to the States for medical leave (address Rt. 8, Box 54, Meridian, Miss. 39301). He was born in East Saint Louis, Ill., and she is the former Sue Wilson of DeWitt, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

**Mr. and Mrs. N. Benjamin Kirby**, missionaries to Venezuela, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Box 356, Star City, Ark. 71667). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Little Rock. The former Charlotte Halbert, she was born in Little Rock and grew up in Star City. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

**Mr. and Mrs. David L. Vick**, missionaries to Argentina, may be addressed at Casilla de Correo 336, 3360 Obera, Misiones, Argentina. Born in Fort Smith, Ark., he also lived in Midland, Texas, and Tulsa, Okla. The former Barbara Caston, she was born in Iowa, La., but moved to Hope, Ark., when she was small. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.



Photo by Lehman Witzko

### New church organized in Clear Creek Association

*Oark Mission in Clear Creek Association has been organized into the Oark Church. The constituting service was held at the church with Ed Ramsey, pastor of Clarksville Second Church, sponsoring church, as moderator. Lance Messengill, a retired military man, is pastor. There have been 13 baptisms at the mission, and the church was constituted with 27 members. Taking part in the service were (left to right) Jan Akins, pastor of Woodland Church; Richard Davis, pastor of Brewer Mountain Mission; Burnett King, pastor of Union Grove Church; Paul Wilhelm, retired director of mission for Clear Creek Association; George Domeresse, director of missions for Clear Creek; and Julian Rowton, chairman of the association's missions committee.*

# Back to 'Xmas'

by Betty J. Kennedy

It reminded me of that November night more than a decade ago when, finally, at 2 a.m., I finished pecking out an editorial for the student newspaper at Ouachita Baptist University.

The commercialization of Christmas had really gotten to me and I pondered a scenario of shop employees spending their Thanksgiving decorating the place so the selling season could begin in earnest the next day. I lamented the ever longer season of celebrating "Xmas."

William Tanner's column, "In passing," in *Missions USA* magazine brought it up all

over again.

The Home Mission Board head urged us to consider what we really mean when we proclaim that we "love" Christmas. Do we love the fun of giving, the food and the family gatherings so much that these crowd out our gifts to and love for Jesus?

Just what I was trying to get at more than a decade ago, I thought, knowing well that my perspective has been tempered in those years. Now it's clear that the folk customs even Christians observe are not all bad. It's just that those of us who should know how to celebrate Christmas settle for the wonder and warm feelings rather than searching for deeper, maybe disturbing, truths.

Without preparation, we can walk past the truth of Christmas like the people of Bethlehem walked past the manger. How many of us take time for contemplation, like the shepherds, or disciplined curiosity, like the three kings?

No wonder Christmas often seems like a lot of rush to go nowhere. Without a spiritual journey it is "Exmas," meaning "from, out of, without, free from" the mass or celebration of Christ's birth.

Years ago I thought the enemies of real Christmas were letting ourselves confuse "buying" with "celebration" and using "Xmas" as a cheap substitute for the right word.

Now I see people celebrate "Exmas," a watered-down version of Christmas, which may even include acts of good will and selflessness. Increasing secularization begs for action by Christians, but some would legislate that all Americans kneel at the manger, rather than proclaim the good news and see changed persons come in true worship.

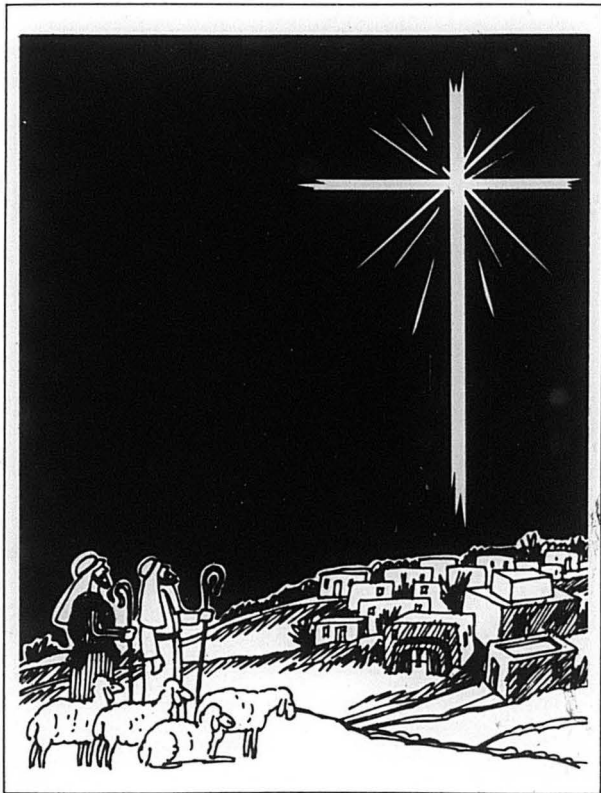
Christmas is celebrated even by non-Christians and nominal Christians. We could observe the customs, sing the carols, even give sacrificially to good Baptist causes and still avoid piercing the surface of our proper "Christian" veneer.

Do we dare to look for the truth of Christmas in places other than carefully landscaped middle class suburbs, proclaimed to people other than religious leaders and seemingly carried to an ugly conclusion between two common criminals? We may not celebrate "Exmas," but do we really celebrate "Xmas," meaning Christ's mass, as the early followers wrote it?

Christmas, the real one, cannot be bought at half-price on Christmas Eve. It requires preparation. It may require discovering some truths we would rather not unwrap. It may require us to choose, deliberately, between Exmas, Christmas and Xmas.

I think I've come back to a new version of the letter.

Betty J. Kennedy is managing editor of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine."





# Executive Board calls special convention

Arkansas Baptists' Executive Board has issued a call for a special session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention when many Baptists meet for the State Evangelism Conference Jan. 26.

The Board, authorized to take such action by Article nine of the constitution, voted the called session to consider the purchase of a building and land at 601 West Capitol Ave., across Arch Street from the present Baptist Building.

The call for the special session was the second of two motions passed unanimously after a report by the Baptist Building Expansion Study Committee. The first motion authorizes the committee to negotiate, with authority to put down earnest money on the property, currently offered at \$435,000.

Charles Barfield of Little Rock, chairman of the committee said that the committee is pledged to do nothing that runs ahead of the convention and could go only so far in the negotiations before the messengers from Arkansas churches would have to make a purchase decision.

He explained that studies had shown that adding a third story to the present building would cost approximately \$2 million and relocating and building could run as high as \$5 million.

"Basically, we are looking at a chance to do the very thing that has been the burden of this committee," he said. The committee was formed in 1978 to study the space needs of Executive Board staff housed in the Baptist Building.

Previous studies had concluded that expansion in some form was needed to provide for the staff, but messengers to the 1976 annual meeting rejected a proposal to build on the property across Arch Street where the Baptist Building parking lot is located.

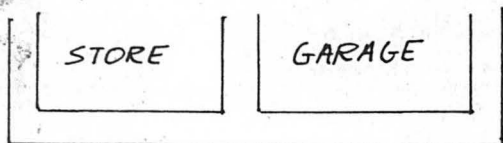
The present committee's report said that 5,000 sq. ft. of floor space and 25-30 parking places on the property being considered would provide enough expansion room for present and immediate future needs.

The entire purchase price could be borrowed from the convention's reserve funds, according to Barfield, and then replaced as soon as Arkansas Baptists finish paying for the present building in 18 months. By that method the convention could avoid high interest rates.

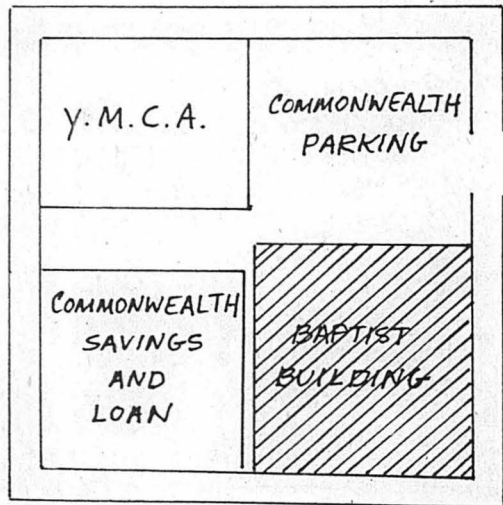
Barfield said that the committee had a firm offer on the property only the night before, but they would have to close the sale before Feb. 1. State Convention messengers would have a chance to vote on the proposal in January, or the called meeting could be cancelled if negotiations fell through. The Board gave the study committee the latter option in the second motion.

Another building project was okayed by the Executive Board when a committee on Camp Paron brought plans for a chapel, to be built at the camp near Little Rock with

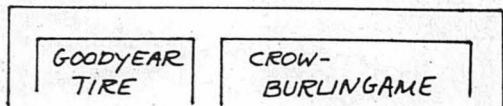
volunteer labor. Robert Ferguson, director for Camp Paron, said that nearly \$120,000, which would buy building materials for the chapel, had been saved over past years.



SIXTH



CAPITOL



# to consider purchase of property

The Board approved plans for the stone and wood building which would seat 329 persons. The chapel still would be adequate when other camp buildings are ex-

panded to provide for more than the current capacity of 200.

Ferguson explained that the chapel has been in the camp's master plan for years

and money has been set aside for the project. He showed architectural drawings and noted that furnishings for the sanctuary and several conference rooms would be an additional cost.

The construction is expected to take a year.

The Executive Board divided duties for convention business when they voted to place their members on three subcommittees (see article next week for a complete list). The Board's own nominating committee recommended the assignments.

Meetings of the subcommittees were included in the day's agenda, and chairmen brought reports from these meetings.

Chairmen already were designated, but the subcommittees named other officers. Those who will serve for 1982 are: Finance subcommittee, Jerry Wilson of El Dorado, chairman; Thomas Hinson of West Memphis, vice chairman and Norma Lee Bowers of Hot Springs, secretary.

Program subcommittee, Cary Heard of North Little Rock, chairman; Ed Hinkson of Pine Bluff, vice president and Betty Gibson of Paragould, secretary.

Operating Committee, Kerry Powell of Forrest City, chairman; Frank Lady of Jonesboro, vice chairman and Joy Fawcett of North Little Rock, secretary.

The Operating Committee met following the Board meeting as their first opportunity to take up the business of searching for an executive director to replace Huber L. Drumwright who died Nov. 2.

Other actions by the Board:

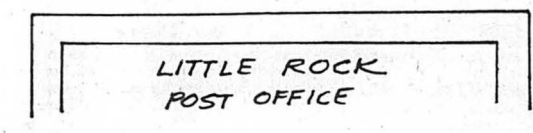
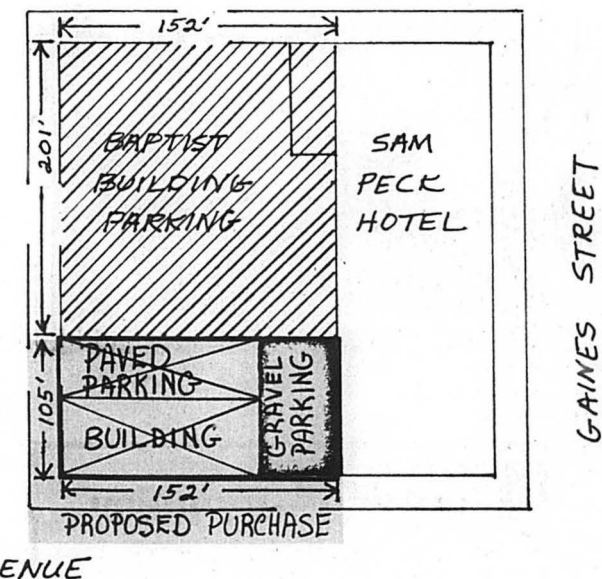
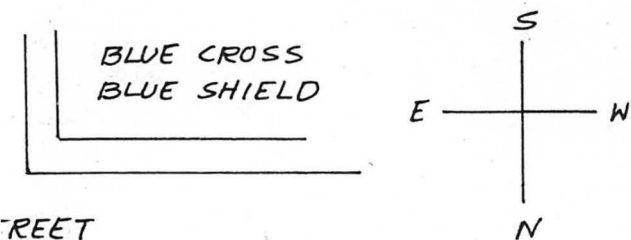
- Set dates for 1982 meetings of the Board and subcommittees.

- Hear reports by heads of convention agencies and institutions.

- Hear L. L. Collins, interim Executive Secretary, say that the work of the programs of the convention would go on during the search for a new leader.

- Hear Ken Lilly, a Fort Smith physician who is president of the Executive Board, invite members to feel free to discuss matters, and caution them not to "mount a campaign" to get a person for executive director to fit their preconceived ideas.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 26. — Betty J. Kennedy



The special session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will convene on Jan. 26, 1982, at 6 p.m. at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Information on messenger registration will be in the Dec. 24 issue of the "Newsmagazine".

## Report from Special Baptist Building Study Committee

At the state convention in November we reported that the need for office space was being met with reasonable adequacy, but that there is still considerable inconvenience because of limitation of parking and storage space. Since that time an opportunity has arisen to meet these needs. The committee has taken this information to the Executive Board. We now share it with all Arkansas Baptists.

The property that lies between our parking lot and Capitol Avenue west of Arch Street is available for purchase. The lots total 100 feet by 152 feet. On the property there is a one-story brick building containing approximately 5,000 square feet of floor space which is in good condition and would require little or no renovation to be used as office, storage and work area. There are about 30 additional parking spaces.

The purchase of the property would enhance the value of our parking lot by pro-

viding Capitol Avenue frontage. The added space would meet present and foreseeable space needs. Our Baptist Building would remain in the strategic location in downtown Little Rock three blocks off the expressway.

Several financial factors were considered by the committee: (1) To add a third floor to the present Baptist Building would cost \$2 million. (2) To relocate would cost \$5 million or more. (3) While we are still negotiating, we are confident that the property can be purchased and integrated into our present property for less than one half million dollars. (4) We can borrow the funds for this transaction from our own reserves with minimum impact on the state convention budget.

Problems faced by the committee are: (1) We must accept or reject this opportunity by Feb. 1, 1982. (2) We are convinced that an action of this magnitude should be approved by the entire convention. (3) The

present occupants have two years remaining on their lease.

When this information was shared with the Executive Board they: (1) authorized the committee to negotiate for the purchase of the property subject to the approval of the convention; (2) authorized the calling of a special session of the convention to meet Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1982 in conjunction with the state evangelism conference; authorized the Executive Committee to cancel the call for a special convention should negotiations for this purchase not succeed.

While the committee feels that the purchase of this property is in the best interests of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, we are subject to the will and instruction of the convention. We submit the above information and will submit more detail as soon as possible. — **Charles Barfield, chairman; John Maddox; Eddie McCord; Terrel Gordon;**

## Brotherhood Commission makes staff changes

Mike Davis has been named director of marketing and J. Michael Hatley has been named editor of Brotherhood materials in two staff changes announced recently by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

As director of marketing, Davis will handle promotion of Brotherhood products and periodicals, advertising, public relations and audio visuals.

Hatley's duties will include scheduling and editing special materials, editing *Brotherhood Builder*, and serving as production editor of *Missions Digest*.

## Wisconsin parents lose parochial busing appeal

WASHINGTON, (BP) — An 11-year battle in a Wisconsin school district over transportation of parochial school pupils ended when the U.S. Supreme Court let stand lower court rulings that the state has no constitutional obligation to bus such pupils beyond a five-mile limit authorized by the legislation.

John and Jeanne O'Connell claimed throughout their lengthy legal fight that Mukwonago school officials denied them equal protection under the law by refusing to provide transportation for their children to Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, Wis., a distance of just over five miles.

School officials argued that the law was applied uniformly to all families in the district and did not violate the O'Connell's constitutional rights.



ABN photo/J. Ewert Sneed

Charles Barfield (center), chairman of the Baptist Building space committee, discusses the proposed purchase of the building at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Arch Street, while Executive Board President Ken Lilly (right) looks on.

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# Your state convention at work

## Sunday School

### Associational family training

On Jan. 12, 1982, there will be an important training session for the associational Sunday School age-group workers. These age-group workers are known as ASSIST (Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team).

Ideally, every association in the state will have a full team of Sunday School workers: preschool, children, youth, adult, and general officers. If you are part of this team for your association then you need to be at Immanuel Church in Little Rock on Jan. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. A full schedule appears in this month's "Sunday School News."

The session this year will be a study of the new "How to Guide" series of books. This is a new release in the age-group series and is replacing the older "Guiding" books. The new books are: "How to Guide Adults," by Polly Cooper; "How to Guide Youth," by Ann Sullivan; "How to Guide Children," by Louise Caldwell; and "How to Guide Preschoolers," compiled by Jenell Strickland.

Conference leaders from the Sunday School Board in Nashville will be leading the conferences. Let's have all of our associational teams present for this important

training session. — Martin K. Babb, youth consultant

## Stewardship

### The gifts we offer

December is the month to give. And Baptists do give the last month of the year. Most churches receive more budget offerings during December than any month. Why does this happen?

It is the end of the year and time to balance family budgets. Some families discover they have discretionary funds. They give these extra funds to the church. Others hear about how far behind the church is on its budget and these faithful families respond to need.

People who make commitments, if they have fallen behind, use December as a catch-up month.

The spirit of generosity causes some to give. After watching tight money all year, some finally decide to give to the church. Baptists know about tight money for many are tight toward the church and its ministries.

A Christmas spirit brings out the best in people. If a person can respond to need, beauty, love, missions, ministries, or kindness, then December is that person's month to give. It is the gift of God's Son that motivates believers to give. — James A. Walker, director

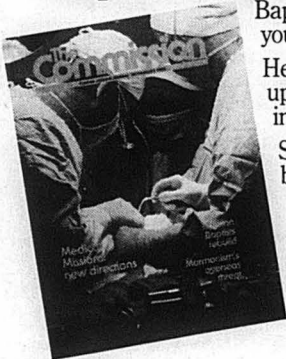
## Your Arkansas Baptist Foundation working



Photo by David Hayward

Your Baptist Foundation manages gifts for Ouachita Baptist University, Southern Baptist College, Boyce Bible School, the Baptist Student Union and several of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. These gifts are for scholarships or endowed chairs. They provide quality education in a Christian environment. The BSU endowment enables Arkansas Baptists to share Christ on every college campus. The income supports "Student-to-Student" workers who witness for our Lord.

## To understand being a Baptist in this world, you need to know what Baptists are doing in this world.



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# Your state convention at work

## BSU Third Century Campaign

### Two deacons sold me

by Don Nall

When five years ago plans were underway to launch the BSU Third Century Campaign, I will frankly admit that at first I was a little dubious. I thought initially, "another fund raising campaign." I listened to the proposal half-heartedly.



Nall

My mind began to change, however, toward a more positive attitude when in a budget planning session, two younger deacons testified to the influence of BSU in their lives while university students — one in Arkansas, the other in Virginia. They set the stage for the Budget Planning Committee to adopt a five-year giving plan to the Third Century Campaign of one percent of our church budget each year.

There was a second factor, however, that actually clinched it for me. When I saw the slide presentation and read in the promotional brochure about the STS (Student-to-Student) workers that could be employed with the funds raised by the campaign, I was sold! I have had a longstanding conviction that Baptists should be more aggressive in sharing the claims of Jesus Christ with the college student. I saw the employment of STS workers as a big step in that direction.

My church joined me in the excitement over the prospect of these additional student workers, young and aggressive, actively engaging other students in Bible study, prayer meetings and personal witnessing. These two factors led our church to put the BSU Third Century Campaign in our budget.

For four years now our church has gladly given one percent of our budget to the Third Century Campaign. We will proudly complete our fifth year commitment in 1982. I would urge every pastor to lead his church to do likewise and be a part of our BSU's ministry on 27 campuses in Arkansas.

Don Nall is pastor of First Church of Batesville and now serves as chairman of the state BSU Advisory Committee.

### Sunday School

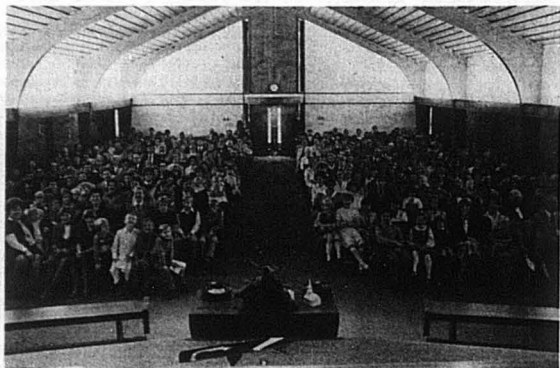
## Great Day in the Morning picture contest

In a recent issue of the *Newsmagazine*, pictures from two churches of larger Sunday School enrollments were published, having earned recognition in the picture contest related to Great Day in the Morning Oct. 25. The two other churches with smaller enrollments are pictured here. Central Avenue Church, Bentonville, in the category of up to 150 enrolled, had an attendance of 109 or 119 percent of their en-

rollment present. The pastor is Bill Wall, Sunday School director is T. L. Rowe Jr.

Among churches with 151 to 500 enrolled, Second Church, Russellville was the winner. They had 316 present or 82 percent of their enrollment. Bill Ladd is pastor and Mike Miller is Sunday School director.

Congratulations to the four churches of recognition. Great Day in the Morning was just great! — Lawson Hatfield, director



In the category of churches enrolling between 151 and 500, Russellville Second Church ranked first Oct. 25 with 82 percent of its enrollment in Sunday School.



Bentonville Central Avenue Church had 119 percent of its Sunday School enrollment attending Oct. 25, placing it in first place in the category of churches with 150 or less enrolled. Because a photo of the full congregation was unavailable, pictured are a few of the 109 persons in Sunday School that day.

## Evangelism

### Goals for evangelism

It is an accepted fact that it's better to shoot at the stars and miss than to shoot at the mud and hit. This applies in setting goals. It takes commitment, concern and courage to set goals in evangelism and seek to reach them.

The number one goal for evangelism in Arkansas is to share Christ with every lost person. This will only be possible as we train our lay people to put on lifestyle evangelism. Each pastor will be concerned about training lay people to be witnesses. This can be done in the WIN schools, the WOW schools, the TELL and Continuing Witness Training. Some have desired to use EE, the Campus Crusade or the Roman Road. We are not nearly as concerned about what method is used as we are about using the method to train.

Our second goal in evangelism for '82 is to break the all-time baptism record. This record was set in 1950 with 16,367 being baptized. It is amazing that this record has



Shell

stood for 31 years. We are not seeking to break the record for bragging purposes. We are seeking to break the record to lead lost souls to Jesus. Jesus said, "For the son of man is come to seek and to save the lost." Jesus is still the Savior in the 20th century but you and I are the seekers. If you will set a goal to reach 10 percent more in '82, this will break the all-time record.

A third goal for 1982 is every church in Arkansas having a Bold Mission Revival. This project was presented by the Evangelism Department in relation to the Bold Mission Thrust. The state Executive Board approved this project. This was taken to the directors of missions and chairmen of evangelism in each association. Each association then voted to enter this Bold Mission Simultaneous Revival project. Our prayer is that each of the local churches will vote to participate, select their evangelist and prepare for God's blessings.

In conclusion, your Evangelism Department staff is committed to having an overall program second to none. Each staff member is called of God, committed to evangelism, concerned for lost souls and courageous enough to stand in the gap for God. The end result of this is total New Testament evangelism. — Clarence Shell Jr., director

Dec. 4, 1981	Sunday School	Church Trng	Church
Church, Arkansas	148	148	36
First Viny Ridge Immanuel	71	46	32
Alabama, First	124	72	1
Batesville	282	112	1
First West	229	69	1
Nursing Home	29		
Bella Vista	193		
Benton, Salem	240	125	3
Bentonville, First	477		2
Berryville			
First	217	84	
Freeman Heights	243	83	
First	98		
Bogert			
Bonerville	319	111	1
First	162	115	1
South Side			
Brazel	339	108	3
First Southern	129	77	5
Indian Springs			
Cabot	412	111	2
First	463	200	
Camel			
Cherokee Village, First	141	44	2
Conway			
Harlan Park	129	84	
Oak Bowery	108	84	
Ficken Gap	213	103	
Crossett	476	126	
First	107	73	
Meridian	193	90	
Temple	148	37	
Denville, First	128		
Nursing Home	122	92	
Deo. Arc, First	148		
Delaha	104	75	
El Dorado			
Pathways	162	48	2
Nursing Home	12		
Second	304		
West Side	461		
Forest City, First	576	105	1
First South			
First	2,094		13
Grand Avenue	1,400	510	3
Mission	25		
Windsor	25	42	
Gentry, First	103	48	
Foxtie, First	136	49	4
Cradle	72	39	2
Green Forest	184	40	
Hackett Memorial	48	41	
Hampson, First	165	80	
Hardy, First	127	51	
Hampson	263	104	
Eagle Heights	94		
Woodland Heights			
Hot Springs			
Immanuel	78	53	
Fairdale	69	56	
Grand Avenue	331	116	4
Hanery's Chapel	164	90	1
Leonard Street	205	62	2
Memorial	89	40	
Midcreek	33	28	
Park Place	301	117	
Revere Heights	76	31	3
Vista Heights	29	15	
Hughes, First	157	63	
Jacksonville, First	342	41	1
Jessieville	119	65	
Jonesville			
Friendly Hope	171	110	
Heintzen	278	113	
Philadelphia	150	79	
Little Rock, Crystal Hill	116	47	
Magnolia, Central	708	155	4
Maynard, Writts Chapel	104	94	
Mountain Pine			
Cedar Glades	33	35	
First	88	24	
Mountain Valley	48	24	
Mulberry, First	224	67	2
North Little Rock			
Cedar Heights	314	140	2
Harmore	96	58	
Starz	96	62	
Chick, First	299		
Paragould			
Calvary	246	193	
East Side	433	256	
First	464	101	
Pine Ridge, First	231	63	1
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	129	67	
First	645	78	2
Len Memorial	233	77	15
South Side	518	113	7
Sulphur Springs	182	83	3
Watson Chapel	465	92	5
Prairie Grove, First	162	74	
Rogers			
First	703	153	5
Immanuel	1,002	47	4
Russell, Antioch	80		
Sankusky, Okla., Faith	28	22	
Springdale			
Berry Street	81	48	2
Brush Creek	78	58	1
Cauldie Avenue	95	58	
E Lindale	301	152	3
First	1,970		
Texarkana			
Highland Hills	113	70	
Shiloh Memorial	149	67	2
Trinity	333	194	1
Valley Springs	102	58	
Van Buren, First	530	88	1
Vanderhoop, First	25	26	
Vidalia, West	127	83	
Vicks, First	100	92	4
Ward, First	152		
West Helena, Second	256	106	
Woolster, First	113	67	
Yellville, First	167	64	

# JOY EXPLOR '81

## Youth Evangelism Conference



His Light  
Music Evangelists

Dec. 28-29, 1981, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock  
Dec. 29-30, 1981, First Baptist Church, Ft. Smith



Gannaway

## International

Dec. 20, 1981

Luke 2:1-20

by Jody Gannaway  
Crossett Magnolia Church

## A Savior is born

The purpose of this lesson is to describe what knowing Jesus as our personal Savior means to us and the ways Jesus' mission affects our lives today.

The theme verse is found in verse 11. Luke said, "A Savior is born." The name Jesus is not given, but the title "Savior" is equivalent to it. Luke also said, "Christ the Lord." Christ is the Greek word corresponding to the Hebrew word "Messiah," and both mean "The Anointed One." "The Lord" is the uniform name used as a substitute for the ineffable name, Jehovah. It is twice used of God in verse 9.

### The birth of the Savior (v. 1-7)

Mary and Joseph went up to Bethlehem. It had been foretold that there Christ was to be born (Micah 5:2). Yet the fulfillment of the prophecy was not brought about by any human contrivance or plan. Mary and Joseph went up to Bethlehem in obedience to the emperor's decree; and so far as the fulfillment of the prophecy was concerned, were led like the blind by a divine hand.

In this text we see what sort of beginning the Son of God had. He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. He was placed in a cradle and wrapped in swaddling clothes. Such was his condition from his birth, because he had taken upon him our flesh, that he might "empty himself" on our account (Phil. 2:7). It was that heaven might be opened to us, not as a temporary lodging, but as our eternal country and inheritance, and that angels might receive us into their abode.

### The first to worship the Savior

It was to simple men of the fields that God's message first came. The angel was the first evangelist, sharing the blessing of the good news. The one angel voice had barely time to tell its message, when suddenly, the "multitude of the heavenly host poured out its praise." The Bible says, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

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

## Freed to be God's children

For centuries upon centuries the Jewish people lived by the law of God. It was ingrained in them as a part of their culture and religious tradition. But when the gospel of Jesus was proclaimed and many Jewish people were saved, some people did not understand the place of the law. Some believed that it was still necessary for salvation. In these verses Paul is seeking to clarify the place of the law in reference to God's saving work in Christ.



O'Neil

The purpose of the law (v. 23-25)  
The law has had and continues to have an extremely important part in God's plan to bring the world to himself. Paul speaks of the law as a schoolmaster or guardian. It is there for all men to see what God expects of us and to keep us under control.

The law is good in that it shows us our inability to keep the law. It tells us we cannot be saved by the law. Its purpose then is to drive us to Christ for salvation.

### The plan of faith (v. 25-29)

Faith in Christ Jesus brings about a whole new dimension of life. The law is not needed any more. By faith we are born into the

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## Life and Work

Dec. 20, 1981

Galatians 3:23-4:7

by George O'Neal  
Bella Vista Church

family of God. This is our new identity — sons of God.

There is even a new intimacy with Christ which the law could never bring. This is described by the phrase "baptized into Christ." At the new birth we are placed into him. This is what believer's baptism symbolizes. We are surrounded by the Lord Jesus.

The phrase "have put on Christ" is another description of the believer's close personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. It means he has put on Christ like a suit of clothes. He is enveloped by him and wrapped up in him.

**The predicament of a juvenile (4:1-3)**

Whether a child is a slave or the heir of a large estate, he is still under a parent or a guardian until he comes of age. That is our moral and spiritual condition before we come to know Christ as Savior. We are held captive by "the elements of the world," which are philosophies like astrology or humanism. They are anything to which we give the control of our lives.

**The privileges of sonship (v. 4-7)**

The Lord Jesus came in order to deliver us from anything and everything that would enslave or control us. In his salvation he places us as adult sons in the family of God. Then as children we receive an inheritance. All that God has made available to his Son is also ours because we are in him.



Jackson

## Bible Book

Dec. 20, 1981

Luke 1:20-2:20

by Gerald Jackson

Associate, Church Training Department  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

## The birth of the King

The Christmas lesson is from the Gospel of Luke, a departure from the study of the Gospel of Matthew. The study is from the section of the gospel often called "the Gospel of the Infancy." It tells the story of Jesus' birth. It presents Jesus as the one who occupies the throne of David, whose reign is forever, and whose kingdom shall not end. It is a beautiful story which affirms the birth of the King!

### The announcement to Mary

Gabriel, "God's hero," tells Mary she has been chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Her response expresses a great faith because she is willing to experience Jesus' virgin birth. Her son's name, Jesus, means "God is salvation," the same as the Old Testament name Joshua.

Luke, like Matthew, declares the divine intervention of the Holy Spirit as the agent of the baby's conception. This miraculous conception affirms Jesus as God and man. His birth is unique and agrees with all the Scripture reveals about the King's divinity and humanity.

The kingdom of God and the salvation of man are announced by a tiny baby's birth. Mary's faith to accept its truth is an example of the faith necessary for anyone to experience God's salvation.

### The birth of Jesus

Mary's baby was born in Bethlehem because Joseph and Mary were there to comply with the requirements of a Roman census. Jesus was born in a stable and placed in a manger, circumstances quite different than we would expect for the birth of a king! He was born into a poor family away from home.

How unusual for the King of kings to be born this way! God's will and power are affirmed by the unique conception, humble birth and great faith of Mary and Joseph that Jesus is God's salvation.

### The announcement of angels

The angels announced the birth of the Messiah to simple shepherds. Shepherds were considered unclean and could not participate in many Temple observances. Jesus came to save sinners, all sinners including the unclean and outcast. His peace reconciles men to God and men to men when they trust him as their Savior!

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## HMB officials urge ministry to poor

by Jim Newton

PINEVILLE, La. (BP) — Officials of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board urged ministries to the poor, the hungry and the refugees of life in America during Home Missions Experience at Louisiana College.

Home Missions Experience is an annual week-long emphasis sponsored by the Home Mission Board at one of the 46 Baptist senior colleges or universities in the nation.

The week began with a plea from Nathan

Porter, the board's domestic hunger consultant, calling for Baptists to minister to the poor and hungry in America, and ended with a call from Wendell Belew, director of the missions ministries division, to reach out to the refugees of life.

Porter, who lives in Arkadelphia, Ark., pointed out there are more than 1 billion hungry and starving people in the world, "but the most shocking and scandalous truth is that poverty and hunger exists in the land of plenty in the midst of wealth."

"People are hungry in America, however, not because of scarcity of food but because they are too poor to buy the food that is available," he asserted.

To most middle-class Americans, the poor and hungry are hidden from view, so the majority refuse to acknowledge they exist, said Porter.

"We who are middle class never get off our expressways of life to see the people who are poor and hungry," he added.

Belew, looking at the number of refugees in America today, said there is another type of "refugee" who seems to be constantly moving to find meaning in life. Most Americans, he said, are refugees in the broadest meaning of the word.

"We need to move into the world to care with the hurt of the people," Belew challenged. "We need to move out of the comfort of our middle-class houses, down into the ghettos and out into the streams of all kinds of lostness as Christian refugees chosen to proclaim good news to the brokenness of society."

Belew pointed out the Southern Baptist Convention has become the most diverse and the most integrated denomination in America. He said there are more Spanish-

speaking Baptist churches in the United States than in the rest of the world, three times as many Vietnamese Baptist churches in America as there ever were in Vietnam, and 700 black congregations with 275,000 members. "The Holy Spirit has forced us to move across racial barriers," he said.

Sam Choy, associate director of the missionary personnel, said Southern Baptists in the United States worship in 79 languages; yet this is not enough. There are still people of 50 other language groups in America in which Southern Baptists have no work, he said.

Jimmy Jones, pastor of First Church in Trenton, Mich., shared the struggles of his church in the Detroit metropolitan area where there has been a 36 percent reduction in the work force.

In the face of unemployment among church members, decrease in contributions and tremendous increase in utility bills, Jones' church voted to decrease their giving to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget from 20 percent to 15 percent. But one week later the church reversed its decision.

"We learned that you can be a church and not pay your gas bill, and not have a building, but you can't be a church and not be missionary," Jones said.

As a result of that conviction, Jones said the church members rallied and gave \$10,605 in one Sunday to pay off their huge utility bill.

Also during the week, the Home Mission Board commissioned five missionaries, including one newly-appointed couple, Mike and Debbie Lee, who are evangelism interns in Southfield, Mich.

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## Middlesboro church booted from Kentucky association

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. (BP) — First Church of Middlesboro has been disfellowshipped by the Bell Association on charges the congregation practices alien immersion.

The action came during the association's annual meeting Oct. 16, and culminated a year-long deliberation over a policy of the Middlesboro congregation that receives as members those of other faiths without regard to mode of baptism.

Pastor John Pennington and other messengers from the church attended the first session of the annual meeting, answering the roll call of messengers.

However, a motion was made and passed that messengers from all churches but Middlesboro First Church be seated.

In a subsequent action, the credentials committee presented a recommendation "that the Bell Association of Baptists dis-

associate itself from the First Baptist Church of Middlesboro until such time as that congregation elects to realign itself with the doctrinal stance of member churches of the Bell Association of Baptists."

In the same motion, messengers committed themselves to continued prayer for the church and for the day when unity and harmony between the association and the church may return.

Both parts of the motion were adopted. Pastor Pennington, in a statement to the association, said he does not believe the church has strayed from Baptist principles in their membership policy. "Our policy is that we receive as members any Christian who has received believers' baptism, regardless of mode," he said, adding that "our Baptist forefathers in England stressed

'believers' baptism rather than the mode.'" Pennington said the church does not "sprinkle or pour" and "shall continue to immerse all requesting baptism."

The difference surfaced in the 1980 annual meeting, and the credentials committee, headed by Wayne Morgan, pastor of Bethlehem Church of Middlesboro, was charged with investigating allegations of doctrinal deviation by First Church.

A meeting was held, and it was reported the First Church had adopted a policy whereby a person could seek membership in the church upon previous baptism, regardless of mode.

The report was heard in the November 1980 meeting of the association's executive committee, but action was postponed until the 1981 annual meeting.