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**May 26, 1983**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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May 26, 1983

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

An  
enforced  
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Jesus Christ  
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Roger Williams  
The Bloody Tenent of Persecution

FAITH FREELY EXERCISED · RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY · JUNE 1983



Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, DC

Arkansas Baptist  
NEWSMAGAZINE

An enforced uniformity of religion throughout a civil state contradicts the civil and religious liberties Christianity and that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh

FAITH FREELY EXERCISED • RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY • JUNE 1983

Editor and Publisher: J. B. Maston, P.O. Box 100, Little Rock, AR 72202

An enforced uniformity of religion would deny the human nature of Jesus, whose coming in the flesh freed men and women to make their own decisions and then to accept the responsibility for those decisions, explains T. B. Maston, professor emeritus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In urging the observance of Religious Liberty Day in June the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs calls on Baptists to work to insure that faith always can be freely exercised in America.

## Moody won't be sent to Hong Kong

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Administrators at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board decided May 12 not to send seminary professor Dale Moody as a volunteer teacher to the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary.

President R. Keith Parks said staff members felt it would be disruptive to the mission program "to export the current controversy" concerning Moody's views on apostasy, or falling from grace. Parks said the decision was not based on any attempt to judge Moody's theology. Moody has taught at Baptist seminaries overseas in the past.

Moody told Baptist Press, "I can't give them a year of my life if they don't want me to. When you're not wanted, you're not wanted. They (the Foreign Mission Board) simply did what the seminary (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.) did."

After a long running controversy over Moody's beliefs on apostasy — including a resolution passed by the Arkansas Baptist Convention calling for him to be fired — the Southern trustees declined to renew the 67-year-old professor's contract beyond the present semester but authorized a one-year, paid leave of absence.

Moody has said he accepts the Baptist Faith and Message statement, the Southern Baptist Convention-adopted standard by which the Foreign Mission Board evaluates those desiring to serve overseas. But he has criticized Southern Seminary's Abstract of Principles, which contains 20 doctrinal statements. One says once a person is saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, his salvation is eternal. Moody claims this statement cannot be supported by Scripture.

He had spoken out publicly for several years on the matter and devoted an entire chapter on the subject in one of his books.

In an address to the Arkansas pastors' conference, Moody had preached on Hebrews 10:26 and II Peter 2:20, which he said "are the clearest of the 48 passages in the New Testament" warning against falling away. He said people who think "they can believe and be baptized and live like the devil" are "going to get a surprise at the judgment."

For a number of years, Southern Baptist seminary teachers have been invited to teach at Baptist seminaries overseas when such a need existed. Applicants must go through volunteer processing by the board staff. If they are recommended by the staff, final approval comes from the elected board.

The Hong Kong seminary, in projecting its need for volunteer teachers more than a year ago, made initial contact with Moody as a possible teacher for the 1983-84 academic year. This was before the Arkansas convention action focused publicity on Moody's position.

## Correction

An article in the May 5 issue of the ABN reported information from the *World Mission Journal*, an SBC Brotherhood publication, that incorrectly gave credit to Arkansans who raised potatoes for the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello. Credit for the 5,000 pounds of potatoes should have gone to the men of Woodland Heights Church at Harrison, not the entire association.

## In this issue

### 6 June events

Arkansas Baptist activities for the coming month are listed. The dates, the places and the purposes are listed so Arkansas Baptists can plan ahead.

### 8 help for stress

In his three years as Arkansas Baptists' minister to ministers in stress, Glen D. McGriff has found his work to be almost too successful. It's the eighth in a series on the work of your state convention.

## New writer for 'Lessons for Living'

Clyde G. Glazener, pastor of Calvary Church in Little Rock, is the new Lessons For Living writer in the Life and Work series beginning in this issue.

Glazener has previously served churches in Texas and Oklahoma and been an adjunct professor in Greek and New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been at Calvary since 1980. He has also taught at Boyce Bible School in Little Rock and substituted in the Seminary Satellite program.

An Oklahoma native, he and his wife Kaye have five children, Robin Kaye, Rañdal Clyde, Russell Kent, Roger Wayne and Rodney Gary.



Glazener

## MK Prayer Calendar

Home and foreign Missionary Kids  
who attend college on the Margaret Fund

### June

- 4 Gay Davidson (Botswana) 23 Lamont, Little Rock, Ark. 72209
- 19 Steven Eford (Hawaii) OBU Box 509, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923
- 25 Jonathan Wayne Berry (HMB) OBU Box 843, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923

## The pornography epidemic

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Pornography has reached epidemic proportions in Little Rock. This includes every type of sexual display imaginable. On any given evening a person can view normal sex, oral sex and homosexuality. In addition, runaway teenagers are ensnared in prostitution and perversion. The youth becomes a virtual prisoner of the "pimps" who manage them. The present police force can, at best, only curtail this activity. The solution lies in Christians making a concerted effort to get rid of this devastating and demonic blight on our society.

The Christian Civic Foundation's executive director, John Finn, having become aware of this grievous problem, is beginning action. His first step was to contact the Little Rock vice squad, which has been most cooperative.

The vice squad, at the request of Finn, is providing firsthand information for Christian leaders and reporters. Finn, an Arkansas Gazette reporter and this editor were given a brief tour of the "porno houses" recently. The filth and degradation being shown was unimaginable and shocking.

The Little Rock Police Department is faced with an impossible task. The vice squad has only five officers assigned to that division. These five people have the responsibility of checking on all businesses which request a liquor permit, curtailing all illegal gambling (all gambling in Little Rock is illegal), and dealing with pornography and prostitution.

In upcoming articles, we will deal with the problem from the perspective of the police, the prosecuting attorney's office, and the court, as well as positive concerted actions that can be taken by Christian citizens. Basically, we have this type of filth in our state because, as Christians we allow it to continue.

It is our purpose in this editorial to let our readers know four things: (1) that we do have a problem; (2) that we will describe a problem in a series of articles to follow; (3) that the Bible deals with sexual immorality; and (4) that action can and will be taken by Christians. The balance of this editorial will deal with what the Bible has to say about pornography and sexual immorality.

The Bible teaches that sex is a gift from God, intended for the enrichment and fulfillment of human life within the confines of marriage. Sex only becomes evil when it is practiced outside of marriage or perverted. The scripture says, "... male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27). "... God saw

everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good..." (Gen. 1:31).

Paul, in speaking of sexual immorality said, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves" (Rom. 1:24). The word translated "lust" or "desires" is the key to the passage. It means a desire for a forbidden pleasure. It is that which makes a person do immoral and shameful things, a kind of insanity which makes a person do sexual acts he would not have done had it not been for evil desire. It is a sign that a person has set his heart on pleasures God never intended or approved.

Many of the "porno houses" also promote homosexuality. This kind of perversion is nothing new, as it was rampant in the time of Paul. Prominent historians have listed it among the causes of the collapse and fall of the Roman Empire. Paul said that those who practice this sin shall not inherit the kingdom of God (See I Corinthians 6:9-10.). But the power of God can deliver the truly repentant from this practice. The apostle said, "And such were some of you: but ye have been washed, ye have been sanctified, ..." (I Cor. 6:11).

Sin of all types is terrifying in its effect. No one becomes a great sinner at once. At first a person will regard sin with fear. When he sins he will feel remorse, but if he continues, he can do the most shameful acts with no feeling of regret at all. Paul spoke of such persons as "having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts" (Eph. 4:18).

The word translated "blindness" in the King James Version originally referred to a stone which was harder than marble. It came to be used medically to describe a substance formed in the joints of a person which produce a paralyzing effect.

Pornography is often the direct or indirect cause of sexual assaults. It paralyzes the heart and mind of an individual and destroys his character. If someone doubts the effect of pornography, he should look at Sodom and Gomorrah.

The peddling of filth is big business, so it won't be easy to stop. But if Christians will take a stand, it can be done. In upcoming issues of the ABN, we will discuss the problem and the effective actions which can be taken.

# Arkansas Baptist

## NEWMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 82

NUMBER 21

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor  
Betsy 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-space and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising rates on request.

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## Reaffirm heritage

We've all heard six-year olds say, "If I can't pitch, I'm taking my baseball and going home!" Somehow it doesn't seem appropriate from the director of the Little Red River Association. What pastor would not protest if his members designated their giving to control the church? I wonder how a director of missions would operate if local churches designated their funds to exclude his salary or projects?

Southern Seminary is a conservative Baptist Seminary. Her professors are committed with integrity to the Bible as the word of God. They teach it that way. Even Professor Moody sought to state his case from Scripture, at the same time sharing historic Baptist positions. One may use many adjectives to describe Dale Moody. "Dis honest" is not one of them.

President Roy Honeycutt is a committed Southern Baptist leader. Two years ago at our Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Fayetteville, he made Jeremiah alive to us through his Bible study. To say "the administration (of Southern Seminary) abdicates its moral responsibility and manifests flagrant disregard for the conscience of Southern Baptists" is a serious charge. And unfounded. This institution, under the leadership of Christian administrators and professors, trains thousands of missionaries, pastors, and Baptist ministers. Even our Boyce Bible School in Little Rock is made possible by Southern Seminary.

The president and trustees of SBTS made a difficult yet redemptive decision on a delicate and painful issue. They dismissed a loved professor of many years tenure. How can anyone insist they abdicated responsibility?

Must we continue this blood-letting? Can't we focus on the heart instead of the juglar? When will the church quit fighting herself? Since 1925 our Cooperative Program has served us well. It is, I believe, a serious mistake to encourage any Baptist to "designate their gifts so as to exclude ..." any Southern Baptist institution.

Can't we reaffirm our heritage, our programs, our seminaries? Can't we begin to trust each other again? Instead of criticism and character innuendo, can't we join to share our good news of Christ's love with a broken world? This is a language everyone can understand. — **Doug Dickens, Hot Springs**

## Be careful

Let's take time and column space to be careful!

In response to Bro. Kevin Jones' article in the April 28 *Arkansas Baptist* titled "Termination: Why does it happen?" please allow me to voice my concern.

In the column titled "Things to do" there was a paragraph containing six warning signs

that defeat (defeat of a pastor's ability to continue ministry with his congregation) is on the way. These warning signs were "according to experts in the church administration department of the Sunday School Board." They were as follows: frequent complaints by church members about the way a pastor does his job, withdrawal from the pastor, drops in giving and attendance, radical changes in lay leadership, adamant stands taken by groups who used to be flexible, and the pastor becoming defensive.

My concern is that in the perhaps necessarily brief treatment of an unusual and complex occurrence — the termination of a pastor — [lay] people who tend toward those kinds of actions anyway may find unintended fortification or encouragement.

There are few pastors who have not seen one, two, or even experienced all six "warning signs" as they correctly followed God's direction. I've seen those signs and sometimes they are not defeat for the pastor and his congregation. Sometimes they are a sign that Satan and his troops are withdrawing.

I pray that no support or endorsement is accidentally given to such ungodly demonstrations against the body. After all, God killed Ananias and Sapphira, not for withholding tithes and offerings, but for simply lying to him about the percentage of their gift. Let's take time and column space to be careful! — **Alan Ellen, El Dorado**

## Not a vacation

In response to the May 5, 1983, article entitled "Too many offerings," I became confused over the writer's point. If his concern is the Cooperative Program and conflicting special offerings, then this is a local church problem and should be handled in that church. However, there seems to be a deeper problem. Possibly the uninformed should be informed. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has in the last few years yielded to short-term missions, using lay people with skills and talents, which the Lord has greatly blessed. Also in the last few years, church planting has been envisioned by our mission board, and has been implemented by pastors, evangelists, and lay people. I was blessed by our Lord recently by being a part of a 100-member team involved in a great crusade in Mindanao, Philippines. While my church did participate in taking an offering for this, the church also responded equally with a generous gift to Lottie Moon, the weekly offerings grew, church attendance swelled, folks joined the church, and we hired an associate pastor out of the enthusiasm of my small "paid vacation."

Regarding my "paid vacation," I slept on a straw mat on dirt floors, ate rice three times a day, walked over 20 miles daily to witness to the lost, took a dipper bath behind a babbaba tree, preached several hours

each day, and yet enjoyed my little "paid vacation." Here is the bottom line! We saw over 13,000 souls saved with 78 S.B.C. churches planted. Please, please compare this to "Congressional junkets" and please respond. If you need more encouragement to the problem of "paid vacations," I'll gladly donate to yours if you join us in the next crusade in Luzon, Philippines, January 1984. Incidentally, our missionaries who are there for years at a time appreciate the church planting program and pray for its victorious continuance. As you pray over this problem of "paid vacations" will you remember the words of our Lord Jesus from John 4:35, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." — **Gene Bates, Hot Springs**

## Writing Senate

After 10 years, we finally have a human life amendment out of committee and ready to go to the full Senate in early June, which would give back to the states the right to outlaw abortion! It simply reads: "A right to abortion is not secured by this constitution."

At last we have a chance to stop the killing of 1,500,000 babies a year (4,000 a day) in America. What a carnage has been wrought by that one stroke of the Supreme Court 10 years ago. Over 13,000,000 babies have died by cruel means ... pulled limb from limb by suction abortion or cut in pieces by D&C abortion, or poisoned by strong salt solution injection ... and continue to be, until we stop it. Young mothers suffer physical damage and anguish from guilty conscience, and the babies suffer excruciating pain. Surely Isaiah could have been talking to us when he said, "It is because of all this evil that you aren't finding God's blessings; ... For your sins keep piling up before the righteous God, and testify against you," (Isa. 59.9, 12). In my mind's eye, I keep seeing that pile of dead fetuses piling up higher and higher each day, as 4,000 more are dumped on the pile every day. How long can God withhold his judgment from us, when we make the laws in our land, through our legislators?

The time is ripe to stop this evil, by writing to our two Senators, David Pryor and Dale Bumpers, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, and urging them, even pleading with them, to support and vote for the Hatch-Eagleton Human Life Amendment soon to come to the Senate for vote. It will need a two-thirds vote to pass. Surely God will bless us if we do and judge us if we don't.

Our association, in executive board session this week, voted to send letters from the board to each of the 100 Senators urging their vote for the Hatch Amendment. PTL! Let's ask God to help us flood Washington, individually, with letters and cards, too. — **Mrs. George Payne, Oark**



## prayer in schools

So many Christians today fail to see the great individual battles being waged between Christ and Satan where souls are won or lost. There are two great influences that actually radiate and permeate both mind and body and objects. Each person's body receives and radiates either Christian love and virtue or Satan's fear and hate. Each person's body is both a great transmitter and receiver. You can move your hand close to any radio antenna and increase the reception tremendously. Why? God has made our bodies that way to receive his messages and love being transmitted out of heaven. The radiation of God and contamination of Satan is not confined just to moment of broadcast. It permeates bodies, lights, school desks, books, and everything in a school room.

Just as the Ark in Moses time re-transmitted the power of God long after the cloud lifted, so does the school furniture and fix-

tures the same as church pews, cushions, and other church furniture. This is why the Lord says for Christians to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. God's goodness moves or radiates from one body to another.

Also God's goodness and evils of Satan radiates from objects. As light drives out darkness will the praise of God drive out the influence of Satan from any school room, church sanctuary, or our bodies. A sacrifice of prayer and praise will release the power of God any time and in any place. David knew this secret and he had his singers (the sons of Asaph) singing and praising God 24 hours a day in the tabernacle of God. The cloud (Holy Spirit) came down as they praised and rested in the holy of holies. Every piece of furniture there radiated and re-radiated the power of God.

Any local church willing to give a sacrifice of praise day and night not only would see people saved by the hundreds, but

would see sick bodies healed of all diseases. The power of God would radiate into every songbook, pew cushion, pulpit, and each person's body the virtue and goodness of God. — James Young, Warren

by Don Moore

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

... Arkansas Baptists are a warmhearted and grateful people! What a blessing it is to go from church to church from week to week and meet our people. They are reading the *News* magazine, praying and showing wonderful interest in matters beyond their own local church. This is gratifying! It is a matter of concern that this is true chiefly amongst the people 60 and above. It makes me wonder if we are failing to instill group loyalty in our young people. Perhaps that is an area that needs attention. They may not be aware of how much they benefit from relationships beyond their immediate daily contacts. A grateful people are not only a joy to be around, but they are also eager to be led. It is my happy privilege to try to be a leader-servant to you. Thank you for allowing me to be.



Moore

... **It's coming!** I am not sure of the proportions or the nature of the manifestation, but what I see, hear, and feel leads me to believe our churches are on the way to their greatest days. When I see pastors devoting themselves to the study and application of growth principles for their Sunday schools, my heart quickens. When I hear them emphasizing ministry and discipleship through the Sunday school in a strong balance with evangelism, I get excited. If our church families will fall in behind and follow this type of solid leadership, we will see many of our churches take on resurrection characteristics. New life, excitement, joy and fellowship will abound. May it please God to give our pastors leading grace and our people serving grace to work as a team under the Holy Spirit's leadership. The result will be indescribable.

... **God blessed the pastors' retreat** marvelously! We thank him! A chief joy was witnessing pastors ministering to pastors. They are all urging another be held in the fall.

You are special!  
**Don Moore is executive secretary/treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.**



## The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

## Civic versus Biblical values

My last article referred to a recent publication by the Atlantic Council of the United States entitled, "The Teaching of Values and the Successor Generation."

That publication expressed concern that young people are approaching leadership positions without adequate knowledge of the common heritage and values of Western civilization and expressed the fear that this tendency, unless checked and reversed, bodes ill.

The goals of the publication were to identify those values which "constitute the common denominator" and to "determine how they should be transmitted to succeeding generations."

At first those of us who have longed for America to reaffirm and return to the great Judeo-Christian values from which she has wandered might be encouraged by this publication which warns that "free societies cannot survive unless the values upon which they are grounded are fully comprehended and practiced by each generation." But closer examination prompts serious apprehension about this effort to identify a core of values and to devise a strategy for their transmission.

For one thing, there is in the publication a preoccupation with "civic values" — values as a cement of society. Part one is entitled "The Civic Values of Democratic Society" and, after a list of the various

kinds of values (which excludes religious values), states flatly "our concern is with civic values . . . more specifically those crucial to a free and democratic society."

Consequently, the particular values identified for promulgation are limited to those where there is "virtually universal agreement" and which "are basic to the governance of any civilized society." There is no reference to God, Moses, Jesus Christ, or the scriptures, nor is there any appeal to any other source of authority.

The glaring omission of any reference to the Scriptures is a matter of grave concern. That fact, coupled with the emphasis upon "civic values", raises the fear that rather than signaling the return to traditional Judeo-Christian values, this project may instead represent the presentation of an alternative and competing "civic morality" which will contribute to the further erosion of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Having seen in the late 1960's a small number of high influential educators announced the death of (in loco parentis) and successfully revolutionize morality on the college campus, I have no doubt that such a group of leaders could successfully define a "civic morality" (the official morality of the state), and mobilize the educational system of America to transmit those values, to the exclusion of all others. That prospect is too frightening to contemplate.

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

# Moore honored by Baptist schools

by J. Everett Sneed

Executive Secretary Don Moore was honored recently by both Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, and Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge. Ouachita conferred on Moore an honorary doctor of divinity degree, while Southern presented him the "Distinguished Baptist Minister's Award." Moore preached the same baccalaureate address at both institutions.

Ouachita's commencement exercises were held on May 7 and Southern's on May 13. In the baccalaureate service Moore told the graduates, "You will be moving from a world with some risks to a world with even greater risks. You will have many painful decisions to make."

In conclusion, Moore listed a number of comforting assurances for the Christian. Among these he named God's Holy Word, the Holy Spirit, the Christian family and the local church.

In addition to honoring Dr. Moore, Southern honored Mrs. Marilyn Simmons of Little Rock as "Distinguished Baptist Lady," and Jerry Frankum Jr. M. D. of Newport as "Distinguished Baptist Layman."

OBU presented the "Distinguished Alumnus Award," to Dolphus Whitten Jr. of Arkadelphia, executive director of the Joint Educational Consortium, and to Mary Margaret Haynes, a teacher and historian from Washington, Arkansas; Dennis Holt, professor of drama at Ouachita since 1955, was recognized as Professor Emeritus.

Ouachita graduated 314 students, and Southern College graduated 83.



Don Moore, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, received an honorary doctorate from Ouachita Baptist University recently. Conferring the certificate is Daniel Grant, (right) university president. Tom Turner, academic dean and Charles Wright, dean of the music school, prepare to place the doctoral hood around Moore's shoulders.

ABN photo / Sneed

JANUARY 1982	FEBRUARY 1982	MARCH 1982	APRIL 1982	MAY 1982	JUNE 1982	JULY 1982	AUGUST 1982	SEPTEMBER 1982
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## Next month in Arkansas

**June 2-4, Campers on Mission Spring Rally.** Campers who use recreation as a vehicle to share a Christian witness will meet at Spring Lake camp at Lonsdale, near Hot Springs.

**June 5, Religious Liberty Day.** Suggested Sunday for Baptists to consider that faith, to be faith, must be freely exercised and resolve to remain alert to loss of religious liberty.

**June 6-10, Royal Ambassador Camp at Paron, first week.** Outdoors experience for boys, plus Bible study, worship, missionary speakers and fellowship.

**June 7-10, Student summer missionaries orientation at North Plaski Association's Mills Valley camp.** Students who are assigned through the State Missions Department to work this summer in the state are prepared for their ministries.

**June 10-11, Lad and Dad Mini Camp at Paron.** Younger Royal Ambassadors and fathers camp overnight for a scaled-down version of RA camp.

**Royal Ambassador Camp at Paron.** Second week (see June 6-10).

**June 13-18, Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs.** First of seven weeks for campers of all ages to enjoy worship, Bible study, recreation and more in an away-from-it-all setting.

**June 14-16, Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa.** Messengers from Southern Baptist churches across the nation convene to conduct the denomination's business. Auxiliary meetings of many groups precede the annual meeting.

**June 20-23, Young Musicians Camp at Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.** Fourth through sixth grade youth attend for training in vocal and instrumental music. In-

struction for leaders is included.

**June 20-24, National Baptist Boys Camp at Paron.** For youth of black Baptist churches, through Arkansas Baptists' Cooperative Ministries program.

**June 20-25, Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs.** The second of seven weeks of camping (see June 13-18).

**Girls in Action Mother-Daughter Camp at Paron.** Second of three overnight sessions for girls in first through third grades and their mothers. Camp provides a time away for communication, worship, campcraft and mission study.

**June 27-July 1, National Baptist Girls Camp at Paron.** Girls from black Baptist churches around the state attend.

**June 27-July 2, Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs.** The third of seven camping weeks at Siloam Springs (see June 13-18).

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

**Brad Rogge**

began serving May 22 as pastor of Memorial Church in Hot Springs, coming there from the Harmony Church in North Little Rock. He and his wife, Marilyn, have a daughter, Stephanie Marie.

**Reece Morrow**

is serving as pastor of the Grandview Church at Berryville.

**Bob W. Gray**

has joined the staff of Blytheville First Church as minister of education. He is a graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Gray has served churches in Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina and Mississippi. Mrs. Gray, the former Christine Cole, is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. They have two sons, William David and John Mark.

**Dennis Smith**

has accepted the call to join the staff of Camden First Church as minister of educa-



Rev. Bone



Mrs. Bone

tion and administration. He is a 1983 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was ordained May 22 at Beechmont Church in Louisville, Ky. He and his wife, Karen, will move to Camden in June.

**Charles M. Cossey**

is a May graduate of Mid-America Seminary. A native of Batesville, he received the master of arts degree in religion and education.

**Goodman L. Cox**

will begin serving June 1 as pastor of the Rosewood Church at Paragould.

**J. Daniel Gordon**

received the master of divinity degree this month from Mid-America Seminary. He is pastor of the Lexa Church.

**Steven M. Kittrell**

was graduated this month from Mid-America Seminary with a master of divinity degree. He is a member of West Memphis First Church.

**Cary F. Worthington**

was graduated with honors from Mid-America Seminary this month. A native of Forrest City, he received a master of divinity degree.

**Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Bone**

will observe their 50th wedding anniversary May 29 with a reception in the fellowship hall of Clinton First Church. Hosts will be their three sons, Paul of Clinton; Gayle of Dallas and Larry of Arkadelphia.

## briefly

**Oregon Flat Church**

recently honored pastor Bill Kendrick in recognition of his 20 years of ministry, the last 12 of which have been with the church.

**Delta Association**

began a ministry for migrant workers and their families May 20. Ariel Hernandez will lead weekly Bible study and worship services in the Lake Village Church.

**Mount Pisgah Church**

in Jonesboro was in revival April 25-30. Bert Hargett, pastor of Jonesboro Woodsprings Church, was evangelist. Bill Waterman

directed music. Pastor Dave Montalbano reported six professions of faith and six rededications.

**Chicot Road Church**

at Mabelvale will observe its 10th anniversary June 5. Special 2:30 p. m. services are planned.

**Moro Church**

held its annual mother/daughter banquet May 7. Men of the church prepared and served the meal.

**South Side Church**

in Pine Bluff observed its 66th anniversary

May 22 with an old-fashioned day. Charles Barfield, associate pastor of Little Rock's Immanuel Church, was the speaker.

**Meridian Church**

at Crossett has organized Sunday school and church training young adult singles classes as the result of a recent Sunday School revival.

**El Paso First Church**

will observe homecoming May 29 with pastor Jackie Maddox the featured speaker. A noon meal will be served and an afternoon music program will conclude activities.

## Arkansas datelines

**HMB appoints Gross**

Karen Gross, of Hope, Ark., has been appointed a missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

She will remain in Arkansas, assisting her husband, Bob, in his work at the migrant mission center in Hope. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is currently Sunday school director for the Southwest Arkansas Association.

**Prison invites public**

Inmates at Cummins Prison at Grady will present a program of religious songs and testimonies Sunday May 29 at 2:30 at the prison chapel to which the public is invited.

The Chapel Choir and three singing groups will present a variety of music.

**Baptists give scholarships**

Jawanda Barnett, of Rose Bud, a UA student who is a Baptist, has been chosen to receive a special award designated for a student who plans to enter a full-time church-related ministry or vocation.

The Velma Amis Birdwhistell Award was established through a gift by Dr. Edward Amis, professor emeritus of chemistry at the school, in honor of his wife.

She was chosen by a committee chaired and selected by Jamie Jones, BSU director at the Fayetteville school.

**Southern starts fund drive**

Highlighting the commencement exercises at Southern Baptist College May 13 was the announcement of a new fund-raising campaign. John Wright, of Little Rock, president of the school's board of trustees, said

\$340,000 of the million dollar goal has already been committed to the New Dimension Campaign.

The campaign is designed to enable Southern to enter into new academic programs, expand course offerings, increase enrollment and additional space in the college library.

The board is leading the effort by pledging to secure \$25,000 each in pledges and gifts.

**State Acteen to be page**

Shannon Brawley, of West Memphis, will serve as a page for the annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Union June 12-13 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

A member of First Church, West Memphis, the 17 year old is one of six members on the Acteens National Advisory Panel.



## Arkansas pastors accept McGriff

by J. Everett Sneed

Glen D. McGriff, director of the Ministry of Crisis Support, is pleased with the acceptance and response he has received in his three years in Arkansas. "The ministry has already developed to the level that the Advisory Committee had anticipated at the end of five years," Dr. McGriff said.

The purpose of the Ministry of Crisis Support is twofold: (1) to prevent problems from developing for pastors and church staff members, while enriching their lives; and (2) to provide crisis or renewal counseling. "So far, the primary emphasis has been renewal by necessity," McGriff said. "It has become almost a consuming endeavor."

McGriff wants to move more into the preventive aspects of his work. "It is my hope that time will permit me to conduct more workshops and seminars to assist pastors and staff members in dealing with problems before a crisis has developed," he said.

"The kind of problems that pastors, staff members and families have covers almost the entire gamut of counselling needs," McGriff observed. In response to why Christian workers have problems, McGriff said, "It is because of our humanity. God does not make his servants perfect when they respond to his call.

"A second factor," he continued, "is because of our culture. There is a great deal of erosion of religious and spiritual vitality today. And this has produced an erosion of moral and ethical values."

McGriff believes that the pressure of ministry often produces crises in the lives of Christian vocational workers. "There is a great deal of stress for many of our pastors and staff workers. This tension is produced in many ways. Many carry heavy loads, but the most heartbreaking thing for most is the erosion of moral values. This causes pain, and sometimes, in an effort to alleviate this pain, the leaders themselves become involved," McGriff said.

McGriff praised his office secretary, Janet Mowrey. "My secretary plays a vital role in my work. She is a deeply caring dedicated person, who complements my work. She is not only a competent secretary, but her concern for others is invaluable," he said.

McGriff's background has equipped him for his present ministry. He grew up in rural Jackson County, Alabama, which is in the northeast part of the state. His parents were active members of the Baptist church in that community.

His father was a farmer. "The preacher stayed in our house often, and I am sure that it was because of the dedication of my family that I trusted Christ at age 10," McGriff was the youngest of 12 children.

McGriff acknowledged his call to the ministry at age 17. "For a time, after making

public my call, I taught a Sunday school class and preached as I had opportunity," he said.

McGriff was married at 18 and was called to serve as associate pastor with his uncle. During this period, he preached once a month on Sunday evenings. Later he was called to two half-time churches.

When McGriff was called to his first full time church, he entered college. He is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. and holds a Master's Degree from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He is also a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served as a director of missions for 18 months. "I have served in about every capacity possible in the association," McGriff said. "I enjoyed my involvement in the association immensely."

It was after McGriff had been serving churches for 25 years as a pastor that he entered the field of Christian counseling. "My decision to enter to the ministry

of Christian counselling came as a result of observing for many years the need for strengthening families. I felt that this could best be done from the perspective of the Christian ministry. Finley Edge and W. W. Adams' philosophy of renewal have had a profound impact on me," he said.

While he was in family ministry counselling, the Alabama Baptist State Convention asked McGriff to do counselling for pastors and other staff members on a fee basis. McGriff had been serving as a counselor in Alabama for three years, when he was called to his present position.

McGriff's services are available without charge to any Baptist pastor, staff member or their family. He can be contacted at the Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Tower Building, Suite 660, 9601 Lile Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72205, phone 225-1113

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



Glen McGriff, director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, counsels a client on her personal problems. McGriff's services are available without charge to ordained ministers and employees of the state convention.

ASB photo / Gill



senior adults

## No longer lonely

by J. Lowell Ponder

From the old American Hymnal we used to sing a hymn with the title, "No Longer Lonely." The words told us that when we walked the lonely roads, that "Jesus is the friend you need; Jesus is the friend indeed." Nobody would argue



Ponder

with the truth of that, but it is possible for the most devout Christian, confidently aware of Jesus' presence along the rocky roads, to experience a devastating sense of loneliness. It is a loneliness that has nothing to do with the fiber of one's faith, or a test of his belief about God and his infinite goodness. Nobody — but nobody — should carry a burden of guilt about their lack of faith simply because they are walking the tightrope of human loneliness.

Velma Darbo Stevens stated the case succinctly in her book, "A Fresh Look at Loneliness," in this manner, "... there is no one cause for loneliness. There is not a 'loneliness virus' that can be isolated and treated. Rather, there are almost as many causes as there are persons afflicted with loneliness" (p.16). Sometimes the condition is so intense that it leads to the brink of depression. It is here that one may question the genuineness of their Christian experience. A common self-criticism is, "If I were the Christian I ought to be, I would not be at this low spiritual level." That might be followed by the conclusion, "Maybe I am not a Christian at all."

Don't let the devil sell you that line. In the vernacular, "it won't wash." Of course dealing with loneliness is not easy. It is a malady often slow in responding to treatment. Don't sell yourself short during these pressure points in your life. Never downgrade your capacity to perform, or your ability to handle the pain that goes with the territory.

You could be the center of a whirling vortex of humanity and be utterly lone-

ly, or you could be the only person in miles of another human being and have no sense of loneliness. It is an inner response to an event outside ourselves. There are many reasons for its appearance. Perhaps the one most widely known is the loneliness that comes to the surviving member of a couple that has been married for many years. Only the one who has traveled that road can know the desolation. This writer cannot know because his companion of more than 53 beautiful years is still beside him. I have tried to sympathize with those who have walked that road, but the depth of it is beyond my understanding.

In my mind I have tried to rationalize the possibility of being without her, and the exercise was one of utter futility, because my mind dodged the real problem of being without her. I dealt with things: her things, my things, our things, the house, other living arrangements... just things. But no answer to what I would really do without her. You see I don't know.

I once heard Dr. R. G. Lee talking about human suffering and heartbreak

and what to say to people in the midst of it. He said, "The hurt is real. Certainly you do not tell them to count their blessings at such a time. That would be like telling someone to count the stars on a stormy night. The hurt is very real."

Don't cut away from your friends when the blues are upon you. More than ever they want to be your friend. Let them. Abandon the idea of resigning all your responsibilities — church or otherwise. You might put them on hold for a time, or take an interim vacation — but not too long.

You may be sure help will come. At the heading of Psalm 73 in my well marked Bible, I have penciled "Trial By Faith." It is a Psalm most helpful for the lonely person. Verse two says, "... my feet were almost gone: my steps had well nigh slipped." Verse 14 tells us, "For all the day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning." The spirit lifter is the very last verse: "It is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God..."

J. Lowell Ponder is associate pastor at First Church, Fayetteville, working primarily with senior adults.

### Stewardship

## Cooperative Program report: April

### Summary for April 1983

	Year	January-April gifts		
		Over (under)	% increase	
Budget	\$833,333.36	1978	\$17,594.20	11.90%
Received	<u>832,276.10</u>	1979	(\$64,263.62)	7.18%
Over (under)	(\$ 1,057.26)	1980	\$ 5,802.23	11.81%
		1981	\$17,046.19	13.68%
		1982	(\$41,666.75)	11.24%
		1983	\$12,895.17	11.62%

With over \$800,000 a common occurrence, Arkansas Baptists can soon anticipate a million dollars a month for world missions. The churches' gifts represent an 11.62 percent increase over last year and April's gifts reached 99.87 percent of the monthly goal. That's grace giving. — James A. Walker, director

## GA mother-daughter camp June 24-25 / Camp Paron

for mothers and daughters (grades 1-3)



Barbara Massey  
WMU, SBC

### Features . . .

Missions: Marjorie Grober, Brazil; Karen Gross, Arkansas; Carla Carswell, Japan  
Campfires, swimming, crafts, quiet times  
Music: Kathy Ferguson

WMU/P.O. Box 552/Little Rock, AR 72203

# SBC 'moderates' frustrated; trim plans for Pittsburgh

by Stan Hasty and Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention "moderates" will make no organized efforts at this year's annual meeting in Pittsburgh to challenge incumbent president James T. Draper Jr., or persons nominated as trustees to agencies and institutions.

Meeting in Atlanta five weeks before the SBC gathers June 14-16 in Pittsburgh, the core group of moderate leaders, numbering about 30 pastors, concluded Draper, pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, is not vulnerable to a challenge to reelection to the second, one-year term customarily given SBC presidents.

According to several members of the group, the decision not to bring challenges to the report of the powerful committee on boards was reached after a study of the list of nominees revealed no individuals with glaring weaknesses akin to those of nominees successfully challenged during the past two annual meetings.

Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C., and one of the founding members of the faction, was critical of the report of the committee on boards, released May 4, by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, and committee chairman.

"All we have done on the floor of the convention previously is to eliminate the deformities, the eccentricities and the deviates," he said, referring to successful challenges the past two years, in which persons who did not use Sunday School Board literature were named to the Sunday School Board, or did not give to Cooperative Program causes but were named to agencies supported by the CP, were replaced.

"This committee on boards has removed the eccentrics, the strange people. It is filled with people who are doctrinaire, narrow. They are one kind of Baptist. They are people who have a low estimate of our schools and publishing house, are basically critical of the denomination, but continue to give some kind of support to it.

"This committee on boards has surgically excised the kind of Southern Baptists who will not conform (to their kind of fundamentalism). The exclusion is not an accident; it is a very meticulous thing," Sherman said.

David Sapp, pastor of First Church of Chamblee, Ga., added the report "is pretty right wing ... representing only one element of the convention. It would be hard to attack, however."

Another leader of the moderate group, M. Vernon Davis, pastor of First Church of Alexandria, Va., told Baptist Press the moderates probably will nominate candidates for first and second vice president. Unlike the traditional second one-year term of-

ferred a sitting SBC president, vice presidents traditionally have served only one year. However, nothing in the denomination's by-laws forbids vice presidents from being renominated.

Another moderate who participated in the Atlanta meeting, Bedford, Va. pastor Howard V. Pendley, said the moderates' agenda in Pittsburgh will be "issue oriented." Moderates will be alert to any "bad resolutions" that might be proposed, he said, as well as to efforts to amend the 1983-84 Cooperative Program budget "to punish any of our agencies and institutions or individuals."

Persistent reports indicate some within the conservative, or fundamentalist, wing of the denomination will seek to delete funding for the Washington, D.C.-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The agency, composed of the SBC and seven other U.S. Baptist bodies, works for the preservation and enhancement of religious freedom and separation of church and state. It has been under fire for the past year for opposing President Reagan's proposed amendment to the Constitution to return state-authored prayers to public school classrooms.

Another possible budget move by fundamentalists would be a challenge to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., which recently announced veteran theology professor Dale Moody will not return to the classroom after the current academic year but will stay on the seminary payroll during 1983-84. Moody has been at the center of a theological firestorm in recent months because of his view the Bible teaches that Christians can "fall from grace."

Despite its more limited projected agenda for the Pittsburgh convention, the moderate movement is still alive, according to its leaders. "We feel there is going to be a need for the foreseeable future for people who believe in our institutions and believe in our historic directions to work to preserve these institutions and values," Davis said. "We believe the threat to them is very real and continuing."

Pendley said despite his view past moderate strategy "has not borne the fruit we had hoped for," the group "is not going out of business. We are not going away. We are not surrendering," he insisted.

He said moderates have suffered from a "perceptual problem," particularly in the denominational press and among leaders of SBC agencies and institutions. "We are seen as troublemakers, contentious, boat rockers, but at this point we are doing the only thing we are permitted to do as Southern Baptists."

The denominational press, and particularly editors of state Baptist newspapers,

are "either unaware of what is going on, unwilling to acknowledge it, or afraid to expose what is going on," he said. While admitting Baptist editors have not generally treated the moderates "unkindly," he added: "Basically, we have not been treated at all."

Pendley specifically criticized those editors who have chosen to call recent SBC presidents peacemakers when their appointments to key committees and some of their public statements "have contradicted that."

He also was critical of "most" denominational executives who, he said, "have not been supportive" of the moderates despite their primary objective "to preserve the moderate character of our agencies and institutions" and to help keep them "from going off the right wing."

Instead of rallying to the cause, he added, many heads of agencies and institutions "have aligned themselves with or allowed themselves to be aligned with the fundamentalists."

Admitting to a sense of frustration among moderate leaders "because we feel we have a lot of potential in the Pittsburgh convention that we will not be able to deliver," Davis said moderate momentum has been thwarted by Draper's performance as president and by the fact that members of the committee on boards "seem to have done their homework very well."

Pendley, granting that "the other side has learned from its mistakes of the past," said it is now time for the moderates to reassess their strategy. "We are not, as a group, politically astute," he said, "but we are learning."

Despite a feeling that moderates are being "painted out of the convention," Davis likewise declared the battle is not over. Although "it's hard to be a flaming moderate," he said, "we are people who love our denomination" and are determined "to hang in there."

## SBC resolutions group holds preliminary meet

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — For the first time in recent history, the Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee met prior to the annual meeting to organize, discuss potential resolutions and get acquainted.

Written versions of potential resolutions are requested to be sent to Harold C. Bennett, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn., 37219.

# Inerrantists to 'conserve' at Pittsburgh

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The inerrancy faction of the Southern Baptist Convention is expected to conserve previous gains but launch no new strategies at the 1983 annual meeting of the 13.9 million member denomination.

"We really don't have much agenda for Pittsburgh," said Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, and a leader of a movement to turn the convention and its agencies to a more conservative stance. "We hope Pittsburgh will be a reasonably peaceful convention."

With an incumbent president generally sympathetic to their views, a very conservative slate of nominees to serve on SBC boards and previously-passed, strongly conservative statements on abortion, doctrinal integrity, belief and support of the Constitutional amendment on school prayer already in place, the inerrancy faction is not expected to launch any new battles, but merely to react to challenges to these gains.

Incumbent President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, who says he is a believer in the inerrancy of the Bible, but has tried to be open to all elements of the denomination, is expected to win unopposed re-election to a second term.

He will be supported by the inerrancy camp, as will be John Sullivan, current first vice president and pastor of Broadmoor Church of Shreveport, La., who may be nominated to a second term, a departure from SBC tradition, which generally allows vice presidents only one term.

The faction also is expected to support Tal Bonham, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Columbus, as second vice president. Gene Garrison, current second vice president and pastor of First Church of Oklahoma City, is not expected to run for a second term.

Another item expected to gain the group's support in Pittsburgh is any effort to discipline the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., which has continued its opposition to the prayer amendment.

One expected act of discipline is contained in the committee on boards report, which nominates two conservatives to the SBC's Public Affairs Committee (the group which relates to the BJCPA, composed of nine Baptist bodies).

"If the board of trustees cannot control them (and keep them) from misrepresenting the views of Baptists to the public and the government, then the only alternative is to defund it," Patterson said, adding he does not believe the BJCPA "has represented conservative concerns."

Although there is no formal agenda, the faction also is expected to support a resolu-

tion on support of Israel, to oppose proposed bylaws changes which would require disclosure of the names of appointees 45 days in advance of the convention, and to support any effort to further clarify the Dale Moody issue at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"We don't have anything to do with it, but there is indication the Dale Moody thing at Southern might not be dead," Patterson said. He referred to a controversy concerning the views of Moody, a veteran SBTS professor, on apostasy, or falling from grace.

The Arkansas Baptist Convention passed a resolution calling for Moody to be fired. Southern trustees granted him a paid leave of absence for 1982-83, but ended his teaching assignments at the end of the current semester. Moody, 67, has taught on a year-to-year extension since he reached 65.

The inerrantist movement began in the denomination about 10 years ago, born of the concern of some persons that denominational institutions were becoming more liberal in theology. It surfaced in the 1979 annual meeting, with Patterson and Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, its visible leaders.

"Contrary to popular expectations, we did not set out to cause a rupture," Patterson said. "We felt it had taken a long time for the denomination to drift away from its historic positions... and we could not reverse that overnight. We deliberately chose not to cause a big upheaval on the floor of the convention, but to work within the existing framework to try to bring about changes."

Pressler and Patterson have publicly said they intended to use the machinery of the denomination to make their views heard. That strategy included electing presidents sympathetic to inerrantist causes, who would appoint like-minded committees, which in turn would nominate inerrantist trustees for the 20 denominational agencies, including six seminaries.

Patterson says the faction does not intend to take over the seminaries and agencies, but seeks to achieve "parity" in which their views on inerrancy of the Bible and theology are given fair treatment in publications and in the classroom.

The 1979 and 1980 conventions featured marked turns to the right, including the elections of Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, and Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., as presidents.

In the fall of 1980, a faction generally referred to as moderates was formed to counter the "takeover." Its leaders are Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Church in Houston and Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C.

The moderate faction met May 4 at the

Atlanta airport to devise strategy for the 1983 meeting, and came away "frustrated" by their failure to stem the conservative tide.

"We were just waiting for the liberals to meet and see what they were going to do," said one pastor active in the conservative movement. "If they don't try anything mean (at Pittsburgh) we won't do much."

A feeling pervading the inerrancy camp is that many gains already have been made and their movement is underway and on schedule. With strong resolutions on abortion (1980), doctrinal integrity of the institutions (1980), reaffirmation of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, with interpretation (1979 and 1981) and affirmation of a Constitutional amendment on school prayer (1982), they see no need to fight those battles again, unless challenged.

"I feel the convention is moving in the right direction and that direction is set," Pressler told Baptist Press. "I think most Southern Baptists now recognize that it is not improper for a person with legitimate concerns to voice those concerns in the system."

Both Pressler and Patterson said the faction did not call a formalized meeting, as did the moderates, but generally have communicated their concerns in small meetings and in telephone conversations.

"We have not had a meeting where we called in people from across the country," Patterson told Baptist Press. "We have met with people wherever we have been... and have communicated on the telephone a great deal." He added he "generally" is invited to speak to associational pastor's conferences "whenever I am in a city," and estimated he has made "30 or 35" such presentations during the past year.

"When we started this effort, we realized we did not know, except by reputation, many of the people across the nation we felt would feel about things as we did. We simply tried to introduce like minded conservatives to one another. We thought this was true because we had watched these guys come before the convention with a complaint or a heartache — like the challenge to the Broadman Commentary — and get ostracized," Patterson added.

Since the beginning, the "network" — as it is called — has been an informal communications system designed to "disseminate information and stay in touch," Pressler said. "We realized our motivation would be badly misrepresented in the Baptist media and we would have to communicate with people in ways other than the state Baptist newspapers."

Patterson added the network "includes eight or 10 people we try to stay in touch with in each state on a regular basis. We find out what is going on where they are and try to keep everybody informed."

# Your state convention at work

## Sunday School

### The Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross attendance/enrollment campaign was a great boost for most of the churches that participated. There were over 322 churches which ordered the material. Each of these churches was sent a survey/evaluation form asking for feedback on the campaign.

Of the 322 churches ordering the material, 133 returned the survey form with all or part of it completed. Of the 133 returning the form, 94 of them provided a comparison of the six weeks of the campaign with the same six week period the previous year.

Looking at those results, we find that total attendance grew 2,135, from 19,184 during the same six weeks last year to 21,319 after the six week campaign this year. New members increased 579, from 630 to 1,209 during the same reporting period. Baptisms were up 191, from 305 to 496.

Those gains are from 30% of the participating churches. If the remaining 70% averaged the same . . . WOW!

Listen to some of the individual testimonies about The Way of the Cross from churches which experienced good results.

"I have never witnessed anything ever to turn a bunch a people on as this campaign did our folks. They were doing pretty good to begin with, but this was like an after burner cutting in," said Elvis Smith, of Temple in Benton.

"Enthusiasm was high in our church. Our Easter Sunday attendance of 585, even though short of our 605 goal, was still a 20 year high," said Gary Glasgow, of Immanuel in El Dorado.

"This was our third consecutive year to do The Way of the Cross, and we still recorded significant increases," said Rich Kincl, of Berryville First.

"The simplicity of The Way of the Cross was very beneficial to me as the only staff member of a small but growing church," said Henry Magee, of Hartman Church.

A lot of good ideas were gained which can be shared next year in the campaign material. We plan to do The Way of the Cross one more year! — **Freddie Pike, associate.**



Pike

keep you going back again and again.

The final encouragement is to write facts down in your Bible and read them constantly. God wants me to go and will bless me (Matt. 28:19). God will empower me as I go (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit will convict them as I give them the gospel (John 16:8). Some soul is at stake and I can help change the course of his destiny (James 5:20). Be not discouraged for we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. — **Clarence Shell, director**

## Christian Life Council

### Stew a la Roadrunner

An interesting recipe comes from the town of Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico. It stems from the belief of a 92 year old curandera (folk healer) that such a concoction will cure tuberculosis. Here it is; you may want to try it someday: Roadrunner meat, onion, tomatoes and garlic. Chop up and mix with an amount of water determined by the number served.

The curandera apparently believes that since this fascinating winged creature has the formidable ability to digest poisonous creatures and survive, diseases like tuberculosis can be conquered.

Centuries ago, Jeremiah asked if there was no balm or cure for Gilead's sin problems (Jeremiah 8:22). God has a sure cure for man's sin problem. Jesus Christ is the answer. To believe there's another way to eradicate sinful poisons of the soul is more ridiculous than believing that roadrunner stew can cure tuberculosis.

Man's only means of salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8). He is our only hope. ". . . the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin. . . (I John 1:7). ". . . without shedding of blood is no remission." (Heb. 9:22). Rehabilitation is not the answer. Neither is reformation, as much as evangelicals love the thought. Those justified by faith live by faith. There is great need for demonstrating new life in Christ. When such is positively lived before others, a "beep, beep!" is unnecessary as we travel along. — **Bob Parker**



Parker

## Annuity

### Annuity Board cares . . .

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board cares for the 12,000 plus annuitants in our convention, those retired from Southern Baptist service and receiving benefits from the board. You perhaps know some of them personally and know that many of them are receiving inadequate benefits.

The Annuity Board has established an endowment fund to help meet the financial needs of these retired servants of God. If you would like to know how you can help, please write the Annuity Board for information.

The month of June is designated by the Southern Baptist Convention for special emphasis on Annuity Board ministries. I hope you will recognize in some way those annuitants in your congregation on one of the Sundays in June.

If you would like a bulletin insert accenting this emphasis on that Sunday, please contact your associational office or me: Nadine Bjorkman, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR, 72203, or call (501) 376-4791. — **Nadine Bjorkman, annuity representative.**



Bjorkman

## Evangelism

### Encourage yourself to witness

It is very important to set aside a time each week to witness. This does not mean that you cannot be a perennial witness for Christ. It does mean that there is a certain time that is completely devoted to the ministry of soul winning. Even though you are committed to this time of witnessing, be aware every day of the opportunities God gives you to introduce Christ. Keep a prayer list that is current with prospects. Pray for them day by day until you lead them to Christ.

It is very valuable to have a visiting partner. Have an understanding that you will visit together week by week. If you are tempted to skip visitation, the fact that he is depending on you to go with him will produce an added effort on your part. At the same time, you will be training your partner or partners to become a good witness also. Remember, Jesus sent them out two by two in New Testament days.

You will encourage yourself to witness as you set a goal to win people to Christ. Beginners may set a goal to win on a month. An experienced witness should attempt to win one a week. The joy of winning souls to Christ each week will become an addiction to



Shell



**International****Paul in Rome**

by Ronald M. Ford, Central Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 28:11-23

Central passage: Many Christians witness through very difficult situations.

After many a long week of difficult travel which included shipwreck and near tragedy, Paul was able to bring to completion his journey to Rome. Now he would finally come face to face with those believers he had written to during his last missionary journey in Corinth. The journey to Rome is an exciting travelogue which provides adventure par excellence.

1. Paul "thanked God and took courage" (28:15). The brethren at Rome were coming to meet Paul as he approached the city. Just the sight of these brothers in Christ touched the heart of the apostle. There is no Christian so strong that he does not need the encouragement and strength that other Christians can provide. There is no such thing as a "Lone Ranger" Christian. We need each other for help, care and concern.

2. Paul had an undefeatable love (28:17). Notice when Paul arrived in Rome he called together the local leaders of the Jews. Isn't it a sign of undefeatable love that Paul could still be reaching out to the Jews? After all, he was imprisoned in Rome as a result of the Jew's complaint. His love for the Lord would not allow him to give up on his Jewish brothers. Do you have those you have given up on?

Paul used his imprisonment in Rome as an opportunity for service (23). Even though Paul was under house arrest he could receive guests. He preached and witnessed to all those who came his way. Isn't it odd how some witness and serve in such difficult situations while others who have it so easy pass up opportunities of service and witness.

As the Jewish people closed the door on the preaching of Paul, refusing to believe the gospel, another door opened even wider. If Paul could not convert the Jewish brethren, he would take his message to the Gentiles.

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**Silk worms help church**

It looked like silk worms were going to keep C. Gowda from starting a church.

An Indian farmer, he wanted to start a home church, but silk worms he grew were in the way.

He decided to ask a friend to keep the worms.

Cultural rules kept outcast families from worshiping with the others, so they stood outside. Now this group is starting another village church.

**Life and Work****The character of God's people**

by Clyde Glazener, Calvary of Little Rock  
Basic passage: Isaiah 56-59

Focal passage: Isaiah 56:3, 6-8; 58: 6-9

**Central truth: Full fellowship with God is always based on one's faith toward God which issues into love toward others, and never is based on external distinctions.**

1. The prophet deals with the question of exclusiveness among God's people. Surely the Lord wants his people to have standards which must be met by true worshippers. Some Israelites believed the standards should be so restrictive that only "pure" Israelites, who have never been subjected to physically deforming experiences, be accepted by God.

God's spokesman makes clear the fact God's exclusiveness will not be based on such things as race or physical blemishes. The only prerequisites for coming to God's "holy mountain" and being made "joyful in my house of prayer" are a desire to join oneself to the Lord, so serve the Lord and love his name, and to take hold of his covenant. No external qualification is included among the prerequisites for true worshippers of God.

We may have accepted this truth intellectually, but still with us is the sin of seeing as second rate prospects for the kingdom those who are unlike us.

2. The right kind of worship impacts the lifestyle of the worshipper. The prophet informs us that God doesn't accept fasting as desirable worship when the one fasting acts with injustice and oppression toward others. Proper worship of God makes the worshipper see his fellows through the eyes of compassion and with a heart of concern for the well-being of every other person.

Not only is the worshipper enjoined to refuse to oppress or cause injustice to fall on anyone he may affect, but the worshipper is enjoined to take positive steps to relieve the hurting of the wounded and oppressed. The word from the Lord is that God will respond with fellowship and favor to those whose worship makes them relate to their fellows with acts of compassion.

We may not be as narrowly nationalistic and provincial as the ancient Israelite, but still with us is the sin of substituting mere rituals (Bible study, church attendance, offering) for the fleshing out of a faith that believes toward others rightly.

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**Bible Book Series****Continuation of the kingdom of Judah**

by Allen D. Thrasher, First Church, Booneville

Focal Passage I Kings 14:21-24; 15:1, 3-4, 9, 11-14

Central truth: God keeps his promises.

God is faithful and keeps his promises. He kept his promise to Solomon to "rend the kingdom from him", because of Solomon's transgressions (I Ki. 11:11). He gave 11 of the 12 tribes of Solomon's kingdom to his servant, Jeroboam, leaving only the tribe of Judah to Solomon's son Rehoboam. Judah remained under Rehoboam's kingship because of God's promise to Rehoboam's grandfather, King David, that he would establish David's throne forever (II Sam. 7:12-16). God kept his promise throughout the succeeding generations and eventually gave David's throne to his earthly and divine descendant, Jesus the Christ (Matt. 1:1-17). God is faithful.

The power and ever worsening nature of sin is illustrated in the reign of Rehoboam (17 years) and his son, Abijam, who reigned three years. These 20 years were not only filled with the transgressions of Solomon's reign, but far worse transgressions (14:22c). Solomon's sons went after even more false and strange gods than their father; eventually the morals of Judah were akin to those of the Canaanites whom their forefathers had displaced in the land (14:23-24). Satan will never stop his advances. He will lead men deeper and deeper into sin, until finally total calamity overtakes them.

King David's great, great grandson, King Asa, assumed the throne of Judah after his father, Abijam's death. He reigned over Judah 41 years and his "heart was perfect with the Lord all his days" (15:14). Asa tried to set Judah on a right path, and he was quite successful. He was unable to remove the high places, however (15:14); entrenched sin is hard to banish. Asa's experience teaches us that although God's appointed leaders may not be able to lead God's people entirely in the paths of righteousness, the leaders themselves can have a heart which is perfect with the Lord.

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RELIGIOUS  
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## 4,624 Koreans make decisions

SEOUL, South Korea — Southern Baptists worked with Korean Baptists in March to lead 4,624 Koreans to faith in Jesus Christ or special Christian commitment. Sixty-five volunteers from Virginia, Tennessee and several other states spent two weeks sharing the gospel in small churches, assisted by Korean Baptist translators and Southern Baptist missionaries. The partnership evangelism project was coordinated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

## CLC praises Reagan action

by Tim Fields

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A specialist on peace with justice has praised the passage of a House of Representatives resolution calling for a mutual verifiable freeze on production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Ron Sisk, director of program development for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, also lauded President Reagan's positive response to a recent Soviet offer to reduce its nuclear warheads in Europe.

"The House passage of a resolution favoring a verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons demonstrates a willingness at the highest levels of American government to bring the current mad arms race to an end," Sisk said. "Nothing is more important for our security and freedom than first to halt and then to reverse this headlong rush toward nuclear oblivion."

In spite of long and often heated debate over the resolution, which was passed 278-149, Sisk said the goal of the resolution "is one which Southern Baptists of all political persuasions can support wholeheartedly both with our prayers and our votes."

"At the same time, the recent Soviet offer to reduce its intermediate range nuclear forces aimed at Western Europe and President Reagan's positive response now hold out strong hope for genuine progress in the Geneva arms reduction negotiations," Sisk said.

Sisk called on Southern Baptists to promptly offer their elected government representatives support and encouragement to further pursue negotiations. "Our Lord has called all Christians to do the things that make for peace," Sisk said. "Finding a way to put the hideous nuclear genie back in its bottle could well be the most important step toward peace with justice that we will take."

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## Fifth Baptist church born

WINDHOEK, South West Africa — The two Southern Baptist missionary couples in South West Africa saw the country's fifth Baptist church born in mid-February. Forty-six charter members constituted the congregation, an Afrikaans-speaking church mainly made up of Baster (ethnic group) and Colored (mixed race) people in the Khomasdal suburb of Windhoek. It's the first church of its kind in the country, according to Myrtice Owens, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for South West Africa. Missionaries Charles

and Betty Whitson had nurtured the church through difficult times as it met for more than two-and-a-half years in the garage of a home.

## Bomb goes off at school

MUSSOORIE, India — A bomb blast in the boys' bathroom during school hours at Woodstock School destroyed two doors and five windows. Three children of missionaries in Bangladesh attend the school, located about 135 miles north of Delhi, India. No one was injured and no one was in the room when the blast occurred.

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Continuing Education for Ministry, P.O. Box 22207,  
Fort Worth, Texas 76122.

## Bell gives to OBU

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. has made a pledge of \$40,000 to the Little Rock area campaign of the Centennial Advancement Campaign of Ouachita Baptist University.

Bell's money will be given over a four year period and goes toward the Little Rock area goal of contributing \$1 million to the school's Centennial Advancement Campaign, due to climax in 1986. Little Rock has already contributed \$974,000.

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**A group plan** (formerly called the Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church. Subscribers through

## RTVC's Allen says all systems go

by Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Some parts of the puzzle are falling into place faster than others, but Jimmy Allen says all will be positioned for launch of the ACTS network in May, 1984.

Allen has set that date for the start of daily, national TV broadcasts by Southern Baptists through the American Christian Television System (ACTS). It will be the end of the beginning of Allen's 30-month plan and longtime dream to give Baptists a consistent gospel witness on television.

Late in 1980, Allen, president of the SBC's Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), went to work on an idea to deliver family and Christian TV programs by satellite to American homes. Much has changed since the plan first took shape. Low-power television (LPTV), thought to be the key to the SBC entry into telecommunications ministry, is now only one factor in a broad strategy that includes cable TV systems and educational TV stations.

What hasn't changed is Allen's determination, which has weathered complicated and capricious signals from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the various way stations of Baptist policymaking. "I keep learning that the Father's timing is not my timing," Allen said. "I have to remember that I'm in sales and he's in management."

But as ACTS enters the last year of preparation for the most massive communications effort ever attempted by a Christian denomination, there are indications the plan has hit its stride. ACTS is on schedule with all three components of the strategy — daily network programs, a satellite to deliver the programs and a network of stations and cable systems to carry them.

Faced with the prospect that few of ACTS' low-power stations would be ready when its satellite is placed in orbit in 1984, Allen's attention turned to other means of delivering ACTS programs to homes. Cable, first considered as a way to extend the reach of LPTV stations, emerged as the vehicle to get ACTS into communities ahead

of low-power. Many of these systems are required to carry public affairs and/or religious shows and Allen reported cable operators are increasingly receptive to ACTS when they see the quality and integrity of its programming.

Educational TV applications have been filed in Fort Worth, Houston and San Francisco by groups planning to use ACTS programs. Eight-to-ten others are in various stages of planning. Although the stations cost much more to build than LPTV's, they have fewer limitations. They have the same broadcast range as other full-power stations, are mandatorily carried on all local cable systems and do not face the licensing bottleneck of low-power.

The vital link in getting these programs to the network of TV stations and cable outlets is the satellite. In 1981 the RTVC signed a contract for a long-term lease on the Spacenet 1 satellite, scheduled for launch next spring. A recent failure in the rocket that will place the satellite in space may cause a short delay in Spacenet start up. But Allen said if that happens short-term satellite rental will take up the slack.

Despite the expense, Allen insists ACTS will not resort to on-the-air pleas for money. While such methods are indispensable for most religious broadcasters, Allen said they alienate too many viewers, particularly nonChristians, and take time away from sharing the gospel.

By May, Allen expects to have in place 200 cable affiliates, 20 LPTV's and three educational stations, delivering ACTS programs. But even if ACTS makes those goals, it won't be soon enough for Allen. "We're late," he said of Baptists' entry into telecommunications ministry. "Many of us have been saying that for a long time. But there are some advantages to being late. You can learn from someone else's putt."

"We feel we have the right time, when broadcast technology is now within our reach. And we feel we have the right strategy because it centers the message where God has centered it — in Jesus Christ and the local church."

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## MK helps vaccinate

MAGURA, Bangladesh — Missionary kid Jamie Young, 7, is helping in a vaccination program among Christian villages in the Magura area of Bangladesh. Presbyterian nurse

Carol McLean, who is in charge of the program, lets Jamie hand out vitamins to prevent night blindness to the villagers.



Observe Religious Liberty Day - June 1983

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