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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Cooperation: The Baptist way
to a lost world



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March 21, 1985

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

On the cover



March 15, 1984
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

Planned Growth in Giving, a Southern Baptist emphasis that lasts from 1985 to 2000 A.D. is a "root" kind of appeal. Southern Baptists are being called to make a 15-year commitment to annual percentage increases in giving. Besides individual spiritual growth, the project will provide a continuing increase in support for all ministries of the local church and deep roots for Southern Baptist missions causes, such as those portrayed on the cover this week.

In this issue

6 marching in place

Though receipts and expenditures by Arkansas Baptist churches showed growth during 1984, most programs reported little change. An article this week compares 1984 statistics from the Uniform Church Letters to 1983.

8 course of corrections

In the course of 15 years as a chaplain to the imprisoned in Arkansas, Dewie E. Williams has watched the philosophy and methods of corrections change. Now a new position and new chapels promise more innovation.

SBC benefit auction set for April 13

WALNUT RIDGE—The auctioneer's patter will sound out again from Southern Baptist College as the annual auction to benefit the college takes place Saturday, April 13.

The fund-raising event began four years ago and has since netted almost \$15,000 in operational funds for Southern.

"This is a good way to make a significant contribution to the ministry of the college," suggested Jim Tillman, SBC's vice-president for development. All items donated to the event entitle the giver to a "non-cash" gift

receipt from the college for tax purposes.

Tillman noted that items are badly needed to make this year's auction successful. He urged donors to search through items at home or office and bring them to the college or make a request for pickup by calling 886-6741, ext. 164. Practically any item except clothing is acceptable, Tillman said.

The auction will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 13, in the Carter Field House on Southern's campus. Auctioneers Charles Jones and Bill Oakley will officiate.

Andrus, Blackwood & Co. to perform at OBU

ARKADELPHIA—Andrus, Blackwood & Co., a contemporary Christian music group, will be in concert at Ouachita Baptist University on Friday, April 19 at 8 p.m. in Mitchell Hall Auditorium.

Tickets for the performance are \$4 for OBU students, faculty and staff; \$5 for members of church groups; and \$6 for the general public. All seats are reserved. Tickets

go on sale April 8 and may be purchased from the office of Andy Westmoreland, director of student activities at OBU, P.O. Box 3793, Arkadelphia, AR 71923 or by calling (510) 246-4531, ext. 539.

The group recently cut their fifth album, "Step Out of the Night." They have appeared at Disneyland, Disneyworld, Marriott's Great America and Silver Dollar City.



DOM of the Year named—Refus Caldwell of Perryville, director of missions for the Conway-Perry Association, received the annual Director of Missions of the Year Award at a banquet Feb. 28 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. Caldwell, who has started missions in Lambrook, Melwood, Fairfield Bay, Center Ridge and Sweet Home, accepted the award from Ouachita President Daniel R. Grant.

Cooperative Program report: February

Summary for Feb. 1984		January-February gifts		
		Year	Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
Received	\$808,625.24	1979	(\$19,343.08)	15.28
Budget	956,331.17	1980	24,841.17	17.25
	(147,705.93)	1981	5,131.33	11.81
		1982	21,483.81	8.70
		1983	(156,834.15)	-2.34
		1984	(199,901.09)	5.20

Receipts ending in February are 3.88 percent more than a year ago. This represents 89.5 percent of the current budget. I trust that we all will give serious consideration to all we are doing through the Cooperative Program. — L.L. Collins Jr.

Determine to grow

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Jesus had more to say about the use of material possessions than any other subject. One's attitude toward personal property indicates, as nothing else, the spiritual maturity of the individual. The Southern Baptist Convention is launching a program entitled, "Planned Growth in Giving," in an effort to promote spiritual growth.

Planned Growth in Giving is a call to individuals and families to make a 15-year commitment to the annual percentage growth plan. Each year the percentage of giving would be increased over the previous year, though that increase may or may not be by the same percentage amount each year. The call for commitment will be issued to everyone: those who are tithing, those who are giving less than a tithe and those who are giving more than a tithe.

Planned Growth in Giving will strengthen individuals, churches, associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The greatest benefit will come to individuals as they grow spiritually. As Christians become better stewards of their possessions, local church budgets will grow, allowing churches to be more effective in spreading the gospel at home and to the ends of the earth. Associations and conventions will be strengthened, as increased finances allow larger percentages of the budget to be passed on for world mission causes.

Planned Growth in Giving utilizes a chain of public commitment which links itself with the Lord's commitment. In the local church, the pastor will be the first to publicly share his own giving growth commitment. The pastor and his family will study the family budget and the Word of God regarding the use of material possessions, in order to determine the percentage of increase that can be made by the family on a regular basis over a 15-year period. The pastor will then share his testimony with the congregation. Other staff members, those involved in the Planned Growth in Giving task force and others, will share their own commitments. SBC and state leadership have already made their Planned Growth in Giving commitments. Every family in the church will then be contacted and asked to make a 15-year growth commitment in giving.

Giving is a major dimension of our total stewardship to God. It is reflected in our family lives, our concern for others and our daily involvements. Our gifts to God through the church symbolize the commitment of all our possessions to serve in the kingdom's work. Our capacity to give is a part of our being created in the image of God. It is a natural fruit of our salvation and growth in the likeness of Christ. God intends for those of us who are created in his image to respond as he has responded. God loved, therefore,

he gave us his Son (John 3:16).

For this reason, it is essential that each church emphasize personal stewardship. The preacher should proclaim giving as straightforwardly as he does the plan of salvation. If one fails to emphasize giving, he excises from the New Testament an important element of what it means to be a Christian.

Giving is to be on a proportionate basis. Early Christians practiced sacrificial giving. The operating standard of proportionate sacrificial giving of the New Testament era should be applied today. In our contemporary affluent society, the gift of a tithe is for many no longer a sacrifice. Hence, every family should study their budget in the light of New Testament standards.

Planned Growth in Giving will also allow churches to give larger percentages and larger sums of money for missions around the world. Presently, the average portion of the church income that goes through the Cooperative Program is a little under nine percent. Church gifts to the Cooperative Program and other mission gifts range from nothing to 50 percent. Experience has shown that percentage giving is good for both Baptist churches and Baptist causes. With set dollar amounts, a congregation usually thinks it is giving better than it actually is. Individuals and churches alike should give proportionately to world missions.

A 15-year percentage growth plan would allow churches to increase their gifts to world missions annually. The amount of increase for each church would vary, as it does for individual families. Some churches, perhaps, could only increase by one-fourth of a percent, while others might be able to increase by one percent or more.

Regional Planned Growth in Giving conferences will be held over the state, providing the information which will enable each church to carry out its own Planned Growth in Giving emphasis. The pastor and at least one lay person should attend each of these conferences.

Across the years God has given Southern Baptists the spiritual gift of cooperation. He has shown us how we can overcome longstanding differences and work together. Planned Growth in Giving is essential to give major impetus to Bold Mission Thrust. God is calling on each of us to do our utmost in carrying the Good News to every lost person in the world during our lifetime. Cooperation is the only way that we can confront and reach a lost world for Christ. Finances are essential on both the local and world mission fields if we are to succeed. We must determine to grow in giving and serving if we are to do what God has assigned for us as Southern Baptists.

Arkansas Baptist

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

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'Who cares?'

"Who Cares?" What an appropriate theme for our home missions' emphasis!

We Southern Baptists have been entrusted with the greatest vision for missions of any denomination in the world. We profess to support "Bold Mission Thrust" by pointing to our Cooperative Program receipts, Sunday School enrollments and baptisms.

But, do we really care? Our replies are swift and unequivocal: "Yes! We Care!!!" What would be the reply if the "world" answered?

In our escalating concern for doctrinal purity, our labeling each other as "liberals" and "conservatives" instead of "brother," is it possible that we've neglected to listen to the world (and to the Master)?

The current controversies are primarily over the views and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. The surface issues are resulting in a polarization of our Convention that will ultimately cause a split unless some drastic changes are made.

The following are some actions that can begin the healing process in the SBC:

(1) Begin a fervent time of prayer and fasting specifically for our convention. It's difficult to be at odds with a fellow brother-in-Christ when we're on our faces before the Righteous Judge.

(2) Listen to the world. Jesus himself demonstrated the importance of this when he asked his apostles, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? What do our lost neighbors and total strangers think about us as Christians (and Southern Baptists) when they read about our internal turmoil? Even more, what do they think about our Savior?"

(3) Listen to the Master. He gave us guidance in our relationships by commanding us to "love one another as he has loved us" (John 13:34). There can be unity in diversity within the priesthood of believers, if we heed this love principle.

The real issue in our convention's strife is not doctrinal. It's pride: "Only by pride comes contention . . . (Prov. 13:10). May God help each of us to extend the right hand of Christian fellowship to each other (Gal. 2:9). Only then will our world know we have something they need.

How much do we care? —Tom Smith, Bentonville

More meetings

I would like to respond to Jon Stubblefield in his "The President Speaks" in the Feb. 28 *Arkansas Baptist*. There is a vast difference between a secret meeting for the purpose of plotting overthrow or promotion of some individual or idea and an open meeting with an open invitation to all concerned and affected by such a meeting. An informed constituency, seeking God's will, will usually make the right decisions. It is always proper for the membership to know what is going

on. Openness has its dangers, but in a democratic body it is a necessity.

Secret meetings have gone on "forever" in politics, ecclesiastical as well as secular. Yes, even in Southern Baptist circles. With about 1,000 attending, the meeting in Little Rock on Feb. 28 was certainly not a secret meeting; it was no subterfuge. We need more such informative meetings from both sides. A pre-convention debate would not be out of order.

To call the meeting "unprecedented" is intimidating and irrelevant. The issues we face are not going to solve themselves. Someone has to be first in anything. God has never accomplished anything with or through overly cautious people or cowards.

Brother Stubblefield's analogy is not a true analogy. No one can condone clandestine meetings to connive ill will or fair. However, a publicly announced meeting open to all concerned for the purpose of discussing issues vital to everyone is quite different. Having a choice to attend is not the same as not having a choice to attend.

May I also suggest that "spiritual oversight" on the part of deacons in a local church is a far cry from the "concern" that some of our leaders in the associational, state and national bodies seem to think is their prerogative. One is God-ordained; the other is man's invention to carry out God's plans. Every member of every southern Baptist church has the right to as much concern—and an expression of that concern—as any of the highest in our convention. Openness and honesty are the only things that will bring true harmony. —Herbert Stout, Mountainburg

Defeating our purpose?

When "Bold Mission Thrust" was adopted, I believed it to be a great challenge for Southern Baptist churches. To endorse such a program and present it to the church where I was pastor was a joy.

Then came the challenge of "reaching the world with the gospel by the year 2000." Such a challenge! Beginning at home base (the church) and reaching out to the uttermost part of the world was exactly what Jesus taught us.

Now, I would like to know, who do we think we are fooling? Most weeks, for some time now, we see a page in our *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* which would seem to be a "high political anarchy chaos" among our Baptist leaders. Do we really believe that Baptists are the only ones who read about this movement?

Let's not be foolish in our thoughts. We go out to give the gospel message to lost people, like we have planned, and they say very cool like, "We have enough chaos and politics in our life now without getting involved in your fuss and feud." I ask, "Can we really blame them?"

How far have we moved from the first church in Jerusalem! Oh yes, we are living in a different age, but let us not forget we are still to live by his word.

The first Christian movement in Acts didn't have time to launch into politics or talk about who were liberals, fundamentalists or conservatives. These people of God didn't even take time to have a "Simon Peter Bible Institution" for theological learning erected. They had a more important task to do, such as following the command of our Lord Jesus Christ given to us in Matthew 28:18-20, which we call our "Great Commission."

Preachers, pastors, leaders! Let us not play at the task given us by trying to do the Lord's work our way, but let us follow his infallible, inspired word. —J.R. Hull, Diaz

A few questions

I am a conservative Arkansas Baptist pastor. I've served churches in our state for over 30 years. I believe in the virgin birth, the miracles and the bodily resurrection of Jesus and that God's truth revealed in the Bible is inerrant and infallible. But I did not attend the recent meeting at First Church, Little Rock. I am disturbed by the implication that by not attending, I may not be conservative.

Since the meeting's question-and-answer period was deleted from the program, I have some questions to ask in this way:

(1) Which of our 67 colleges, schools and Bible schools are using textbooks advocating sexual permissiveness and immorality? If there is any truth in this charge, do we not need pinpoint accuracy here?

(2) If recent years have seen a drift toward "liberalism" in the SBC, why have these same years seen the SBC assemble the largest evangelical missionary force in Christian history and reach a level of seminary enrollment so that one of five minority students in this country studies at an SBC school? How can such dedication and commitment point to a liberal drift?

(3) Roy Honeycutt's commentary on Exodus in the Broadman series was published in 1969, 15 years ago. If some of this commentary is so offensive, why are we only now hearing such charges?

(4) Some of the panelists said a drift toward liberalism is a hallmark of beginning decline. But some people also say the first signs of totalitarian rule emerge with attacks on the universities and the press. Can the current charges against SBC seminaries and Baptist Press be seen as the rise among us of a spirit of totalitarian mind control?

As a conservative, I believe in the doctrine of the Devil. I deeply regret we are giving him such great cause for joy because of our continued strife. May God deliver us from ourselves and bring a spirit of reconciliation which will preserve our bond of unity and peace in the midst of our diversity! — John McClanahan, Pine Bluff

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... Another wonderfully profitable time was spent with our director of missions. Each February, our directors of missions meet in a retreat setting to discuss their work and share ministries. Our Missions Department has helped with expenses, so it is not too much of a financial burden. The officers of their fellowship have been so gracious to call on your Executive Board employees to share in various ways. It was my joy to prepare and deliver the Bible study for their session this year.

My experience and observation lead me to believe in the indispensable role of these men. They are so vital. My fellowship with them led me to appreciate them all the more. Our thanks for all these men do to help our churches.

... **Refus Caldwell**, a product of missions, a starter and lover of missions, was chosen Director of Missions of the Year. A committee of director of missions, convention leaders and Ouachita administration made this fine choice. Our congratulations and appreciation are extended to Refus and Mrs. Caldwell. Their small association (numerically), Conway-Perry, is well on its way to starting three new churches they voted to start in their annual associational meeting.

... **Arkansas leadership stands out.** It was recently brought to my attention that a number of leaders have been chosen to head national organizations of their fellowship. Each of these has just completed or is serving as president of their respective fellowship groups: Johnny Biggs, Family and Child Care Directors; Clarence Shell, Evangelism Directors; Everett Sneed, Southern Baptist Press Association; Harry Trulove, Foundation Directors. It is noteworthy they have been chosen by their peers and interesting they have all been serving at the same time.

When I took office, I was the sixth Arkansas native to be serving at that time as executive director of a state convention. Two of these have since retired.

I am proud of our Arkansas people. Let's not turn aside from the high calling given to us by our Lord.

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



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Burning the house to kill the roaches

My preacher friends on both sides of the current "fundamentalist-moderate controversy" in the Southern Baptist Convention have been spending hours of their time, and mine, lately making their most persuasive arguments about who's right and who's wrong.

Last summer, I was with a group of Southern Baptist leaders traveling through Germany prior to a meeting of the Baptist World Alliance. They spoke sincerely and fervently in terms of the coming convention in Dallas as "our last chance to head off a 'power takeover' of the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies and institutions by fundamentalists." For some years, I have been hearing equally sincere and fervent pastor friends decry the steady drift of our convention "to the left, under the leadership of dangerous theologians who do not believe every word and every miracle in the Bible."

I am a Southern Baptist, both by upbringing and by choice. I was told in my early and formative years that the genius of Southern Baptists is in their unity with diversity and their intense commitment to the priesthood of the believer, resulting in individual freedom and local church freedom. Indeed, I came to be pardonably proud of our hallmark, "the only creed for Southern Baptists is the Bible itself!"

When it came to deciding on a career, I felt God leading me into teaching at the college level, in the field of political science and government. As a Southern Baptist, as well as a political scientist, I have always felt a sense of pride in our commitment to democracy in church polity, under the

leadership of the Holy Spirit.

My first teaching job was at Vanderbilt University where Mrs. Grant and I became members of First Church, Nashville, Tenn. One of the great shocks in my young life was attending my first deacons' meeting in that church with a number of outstanding Southern Baptist leaders present. I shall never forget a heated disagreement in that meeting and initial disappointment at the humanness and apparent bitter spirit of those great men.

Following the heated debate over the issue, a vote was taken, and we adjourned shortly thereafter. To my amazement, those contesting men went to each other, shook hands, gave a friendly hug and left the room chatting and smiling. I began to learn firsthand that the genius of Southern Baptists is unity within diversity and the fine art of disagreeing agreeably.

I am deeply concerned about our current controversy, not because fundamentalists and moderates disagree, but because an un-Christian spirit seems to characterize all too much of the discussion on both sides. Evangelism, missions and Christian education—the powerful three-fold thrust of Southern Baptists—will all suffer immeasurably if we cannot return to our wonderful tradition of disagreeing agreeably. Surely we will not burn down the house to eliminate the roaches. Christ will not honor either "going for the jugular" or "waging holy wars" within our Christian fellowship.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

OBU "CONTACT!" teams prepare for summer

ARKADELPHIA—For the 14th year, Ouachita Baptist University will send out three student "CONTACT!" teams to lead in revivals, retreats, fellowships and church camp activities across the state this summer, according to Buddy Barnett, OBU admissions counselor.

Each team, consisting of three students, is chosen by a committee of Ouachita administration and faculty.

Students on the first team include John Huff, a sophomore from Jonesboro, evangelist; Bryant Moxley, a senior from Harrison, music director; and Karen Quinn, a freshman from Little Rock, pianist.

The second "CONTACT!" team consists of Ken Lovelace, a junior from White Hall, evangelist; Shawn Presley, a sophomore from Jonesboro; and Kenda Reeves, a junior from Little Rock, pianist.

The third team includes Bryan Bullington, a senior from Ivory Coast, West Africa, evangelist; Roger O'Neel, a senior from Bella Vista, music director; and Shannon Newborn, a junior from Waldron, pianist.

For more information on scheduling a "CONTACT!" team, persons should contact Barnett at OBU P.O. Box 3776, Arkadelphia, AR 71923 or call 246-4531, ext. 110.

You witness to people everywhere
through the **Cooperative Program**

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Robbie Jackson was ordained to the ministry March 10 at Atkins First Church where he serves as associate pastor. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he is enrolled in the Seminary Studies program. Jackson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Jackson of Humphrey. He has previously served on the staff of Waldo Memorial and Stuttgart North Maple Churches. R.G. Merritt of DeWitt preached the ordination message and Klois Hargis of Tillar led the questioning.



Jackson



Scott

Gary Scott recently joined the staff of Pine Bluff Immanuel Church as associate pastor with responsibilities in the areas of administration, education and evangelism. Scott, who serves as first vice-president of Arkansas Religious Education Association, previously served on the staff of Forrest City First Church.

Tom Deere is serving as pastor of Fairdale Church, Hot Springs. He moved there from the Walnut Valley Church at Hot Springs.

Billy Randles of Rogers will participate in an interstate oratory contest at Bradley University in Illinois in May. Randles, a senior at Southwest Baptist University and the son of Wanda and Benny Randles of Rogers, will represent Missouri in the contest.

Alan Reynolds of Rogers advanced to finals in extemporaneous speaking when he participated in a Missouri speakers tournament in St. Louis Feb. 22-23. He is

the son of James and Louise Reynolds of Rogers and is a junior at Southwest Baptist University.

Glenn E. Hickey of Little Rock joined 35 other presidents of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's state alumni groups for a workshop Feb. 7-8 in Fort Worth. Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association and president of Arkansas' alumni group, visited the campus to learn how to maintain alumni contacts and plan for the state's fall alumni gathering.

Captain Lovell was recently honored by Harrisburg Rotary Club as its sixth annual outstanding citizen. He serves as pastor of Harrisburg First Church.

Fred Blake recently observed five years of service as pastor of the Winslow First Church.

Doyle Houston of Dell died of a heart attack March 11 at age 58. He was a

member and deacon of Dell Church where his funeral services were held March 13. Houston was a farmer. Survivors include his wife, Betty Hardin Houston of Dell; two sons, Morris Houston of Dell and Doyle Houston Jr. of Jonesboro; a daughter, Susan Tusing of Dell; his mother, Daisy Houston of Dell and seven grandchildren.

Michael P. Ball was licensed to the ministry March 10 by Danville First Church. He is a senior at Danville High School.

briefly

Dover First Church ordained Pat Johnson, Earl Nolen and Miles Johnson as deacons March 10. Pastor Don Hankins led in questioning the candidates with Jimmy Bradford, a former member of the church, preaching the ordination sermon. James Martin, chairman of deacons, presented the charge. Ivan Skelton, a deacon, led in prayer.

Smackover First Church will conduct a renewal weekend March 29-31, studying a journey into lifestyle evangelism and ministry. Coordinators will be Dennis LaRavia, Gary Johnson, Buzz Scott and Sharon Williams.

South Highland Church in Little Rock observed Family Day March 17 with a family emphasis message by pastor James Hays and special music and family recognitions.

Arkansas churches post giving gains; baptisms decline

by Mark Kelly

Despite a marginal gain in total membership, Arkansas Baptist churches posted substantial growth in receipts and mission expenditures during 1984, according to recent Sunday School Board statistics.

And, like their counterparts nationwide, most Arkansas programs appeared to hold their own during the year, despite a decline in baptisms matching a similar SBC decline.

In Uniform Church Letters from Arkansas' 1,269 Southern Baptist churches, total membership grew 1.5 percent over 1983 to 466,467. Resident membership increased 0.4 percent to 316,490.

Baptisms, however, declined 5.1 percent from 1983, with 709 fewer reported than the previous year's 13,911 baptisms. Southern Baptist baptisms declined 5.7 percent.

Although they failed to match the SBC-wide increases, total receipts, total gifts and mission expenditures showed good gains.

Arkansas total receipts grew 8.2 million (7.7 percent) over 1983 for a total of \$115,384,710. Receipts across the convention grew 8.8 percent to nearly \$3.7 billion.

Total offerings and other gifts in Arkansas increased by \$7.1 million (7 percent) to \$107,349,335 in 1984.

Increases in mission expenditures in the state lagged behind the increase in receipts, however, with \$1.2 million (6.5 percent) more being given in 1984. Total mission expenditures for the year equaled \$19,373,610. SBC mission expenditures grew 7.3 percent to \$568 million in 1984.

Arkansas Cooperative Program receipts for 1984 were almost five percent greater than 1983 but \$51,000 under budget.

Three of five major church programs posted gains or losses of less than one percent over 1983, but two programs recorded larger declines.

Arkansas' Sunday Schools listed a 1984 enrollment of 255,377, a gain of 364 or 0.1 percent over 1983. Nationally, Sunday School experienced a gain of 0.5 percent.

Woman's Missionary Unions in the state lost 89 members (0.3 percent) for an enrollment of 27,865. SBC WMLUs lost 0.5 percent.

Arkansas' Brotherhood organizations gained 30 members (0.3 percent) for a 1984 enrollment of 11,703. SBC Brotherhoods grew 0.5 percent in 1984.

Church Training programs in the state lost 2,108 enrollees (2.5 percent) over 1983, for a 1984 enrollment of 81,158. Church Training programs nationwide lost 0.7 percent.

Arkansas' music programs dropped 1.1 percent (564 members) to 50,170. Music programs nationwide grew 0.6 percent.

Mark Kelly is a staff writer with the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Maynard Sneed

Power in prayer

Prayer, as a means of grace, is communion of man with God. It is through prayer that we seek to know God, his graciousness and his goodness. Through prayer, we appeal for divine mercy and favor for ourselves and others. We express thanksgiving for his infinite mercies and dedicate ourselves to his service. Yet, if our prayers are to be effective, it is necessary that our hearts be right with God.

The power of prayer and the elements which compose successful prayer may best be seen by a close inspection of the manner in which our Lord taught his disciples to pray (Matt. 6:9-13). No one will learn to pray effectively until his heart and lips have been schooled by the Master. For this reason, we have been given the pattern by which we are to form our prayers, if we are to win favor with God.

The first thing we must understand about the Lord's Prayer is that it is a prayer which only a disciple can pray. It is only by a true

commitment to Christ that one can express this prayer with earnestness and sincerity.

Faith in God is the all-important first step in effective prayer. A person must believe in God, believe that he is and believe that he hears and answers prayer. (Heb. 11:6; Mark 12:24).

Secondly, we must approach the almighty God in reverence and holiness. For it is in the name of Christ that we enter into his presence and not through any righteousness of our own.

Thirdly, we are to voice a distinct need for ourselves, with sincerity and earnestness, with confession of sin and with forgiveness of others (Mark 11:25-26). This means getting in touch with our true feelings, accepting the feeling or situation as a fact, then abandoning the unwanted emotion, attitude or situation to God.

By closely examining the Lord's Prayer, we discover that the first three petitions concern God and his kingdom and the last three con-

cern our own needs and necessities. It is only after God has been given his supreme place that we turn to our own needs and desires. Thus, prayer must never attempt to bend God's will to our own desires but to submit our wills to the will of God.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the three essential needs of man. First, we are to ask for bread, which is necessary to satisfy the needs of the present. Second, we are to ask for forgiveness, which concerns the past. Finally, we are to ask for help in temptation; thereby committing the future into the hands of God. Thus, it is these three petitions that we learn to lay the present, the past and the future before the throne of God.

As we follow the pattern of prayer that was given us by our Lord, we can gain power in our communication with God.

Mary Maynard Sneed is a North Little Rock homemaker and an adult Sunday School teacher at Park Hill Church.

Mission Service Corps consultants trained

FOREST HILL, La. — Twenty five Baptist Mission Service Corps regional consultants from four states learned techniques of assisting volunteers in mission and ministry in the first regional orientation meeting in the Southern Baptist Convention.

David Bunch, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps, said consultants have responsibility to assist volunteers with achieving their goals of mission and evangelism projects.

nessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Consultants also are resource persons to help volunteers who desire to be involved but do not know how, Bunch said.

"The consultant system is new and enlarging. We developed the system in Texas over the past four years. Now we are beginning to organize regional orientation sessions for the consultants. Other sessions will follow this one," he said.

Mission Service Corps was approved at the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention to enlist mission volunteers for Bold Mission Thrust.

Bunch said a recent survey shows that 94 percent of individual MSC sponsors provide funds over and above their regular church offerings.

During the orientation sessions MSC consultants studied prayer support, funding and recruiting.

Bunch told the consultants that volunteers need prayer support from friends and churches "when they go on their mission, sustaining prayer while they are there and re-entry prayer as they return home."

Bunch noted that contributions from sponsors are used 100 percent for the volunteer's ministry but "checks should be processed through a tax-exempt organization such as the church, association, state convention or Home Mission Board."

Consultants attending the sessions from Arkansas were: Paul and Pat Dennis of Springdale, Maurice Hurlley of Sherwood and John Ragsdale of El Dorado.



HMB photo / Dave Young

Arkansas volunteer—Vickie Smith (right) gives a piano lesson to a young Puerto Rican girl at Carib Christian School, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Smith, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and member of Immanuel Church, El Dorado, teaches piano and serves as a librarian at the school. Smith is a volunteer through Mission Service Corps, a Southern Baptist plan to recruit full-time, self-supporting volunteers for mission assignments.



"The consultants also have an opportunity to create an awareness of the role and opportunities of volunteers in our churches and associations," Bunch said.

The group, meeting at the Louisiana Baptist Tall Timbers Conference Center Feb. 25-28, included MSC consultants from Ten-

Veteran chaplain recounts changes in correction system, plans for

Two chapel "facilities" at the Pine Bluff complex of the Arkansas Department of Correction may just be the icing on the cake for the Baptist chaplain Dewie E. Williams. His 15-year career alongside the Arkansas correctional system has paralleled a lot of change, and permission to plan for the chapel comes at the time he has been named Administrator of Chaplaincy Services for the Arkansas Department of Correction, an entirely new position.

Arkansas Baptists are represented on an ad hoc steering committee which will enlist a board of directors for the project. Then the directors will raise funds for the pay-as-you-go project, working with the Arkansas Correction Department every step of the way.

The steps will be much the same as those followed for building a chapel at Cummins Prison in the 1970s, not long after Chaplain Williams first began to work with the Arkansas correctional system. But there have been many changes in the system and the ways Williams ministers.

The chaplain's new role is a far cry from his beginnings as the first chaplain at Cummins. Employed by Arkansas Baptists under R.H. Dorris' supervision in January of 1970, Williams began his duties at Cummins with a Missions Department-owned typewriter, a borrowed chair and a desk he bought himself.

He points out that he has not worked for the Department of Correction, but for Arkansas Baptists. "They [corrections officials] have offered me all the freedom in the world," he emphasizes. "I work with, not for, the

Department of Correction." He is quick to add that he knows the stringent rules and regulations of correction institutions.

The Department allowed chaplains to work at other institutions after Williams' began his ministry, he notes, but each was on his own. Arkansas' correctional facilities are now served by six full-time chaplains, but there has been no coordination of their work.

As administrator, Williams will oversee these, plus a full-time chaplain intern—which Arkansas Baptists provide—weekend student interns, and about 200 volunteers. Plans are to add three more chaplains July 1, if the Department of Correction budget request is approved.

The expansion of chaplaincy services is a good news/bad news situation. The expansion of services will mean more ministry to

HMB photo



Dewie E. Williams (left), newly-appointed director of chaplaincy at the Arkansas Department of Correction, attended the first meeting of state directors of correctional chaplaincy sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Huey Perry (right), HMB director of institutional and business-industrial chaplaincy, hosted the meeting.

Pine Bluff volunteers share 'New Life' with women inmates

by Mark Kelly

When Bev Hester began offering a twice-monthly Bible study at the Women's Unit of the Pine Bluff Correctional Facility, she was warned not to be disappointed if only a handful of women responded.

A year later, the prayer and share time sponsored by New Life Church, Pine Bluff, averages 30 in attendance, a special blessing for Hester in light of the fact the prison houses only about 200 inmates.

Hester is delighted, of course, but not surprised. She knew God would honor a commitment to minister to the imprisoned.

More than a year ago, she was working full-time, helping put her family's three college-age kids through school, when a physical difficulty hospitalized her. Reading the Bible during her illness, she was impressed by the words, "I was in prison, and you visited me."

Sharing her concern in a family forum, the difficult decision was made that she should quit her job to give herself to a prison

ministry. A visit with the Women's Unit chaplain confirmed the decision: he told Hester he had been searching without success for someone to lead a Baptist-preference Bible study.

Now Hester, who teaches a young married women's Sunday school class at New Life, and three other church members come regularly to the prison. Several church members have given money or Bibles to the ministry, Hester said. A few women from the unit have been guests in members' homes on weekend releases.

One Bible study convert has been baptized and four others are waiting, Hester added. Several other women who made professions of faith were released before baptism could be arranged.

Hester currently is writing former inmates who live as far away as Wyoming. She encourages them to maintain contact after their release. Several New Life members have adopted released inmates as prayer partners.

That Hester and her co-workers are meeting significant needs in their prison ministry becomes apparent as the women file into the tiny classroom reserved for them on alternate Tuesday evenings.

Hester and her "regulars" exchange warm smiles and affectionate hugs. Expressions of concern are shared about the needs of various women in the unit. Tidbits of news are traded about others who have been released. Simple choruses and prayer times draw the group together. A brief Bible study points the way toward salvation in Jesus.

One chorus in particular speaks to the freedom these women have discovered behind bars:

"I've got a river of life flowing out of me, Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see, Opens prison doors, sets the captive free, I've got a river of life flowing out of me."

Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

persons in the correctional system, but the changes come because Arkansas' prison population is mushrooming. Chaplain Williams recalls that there were about 1,200 prisoners in 1970, whereas the population is close to 4,400 today.

The persons in the system are incarcerated at six units with varying degrees of security, plus several specialized work release centers and pre-release centers around the state.

Some of the changes in correctional practice is the result of rethinking the philosophy of correction of offenders, he says. "The present view is that these are human beings, persons, and that some can be reached and become useful citizens."

The attitudes of legislators, the Correction Board, the director and the wardens have changed through the years, so the methods also changed, Williams notes. "And they see that religion helps individuals to develop a more positive personality, to control themselves, and to work productively in society."

One warden testified that changes in the inmates are readily apparent. After the fourth annual revival at Cummins, he told Chaplain Williams, "I wish you would have one every couple of months." The warden explained that disciplinary actions drop the weekend after a revival from 100 to 15 or 20 and the incidence stays low for weeks.

The revivals are a recent phenomenon, as are lay witness missions at Tucker. "This kind of thing was unheard of 10 years ago," Williams notes.

Now Bible study, worship services and

counseling are led by groups from Baptist churches and other denominations.

The correctional chaplains depend on churches to help them buy stamps, pens and paper for the inmates. At Cummins alone about \$200 a month is spent on stamps, Williams explains. The chaplains get, through donations, greeting cards by the thousands, he says, and last year furnished close to 30,000 Christmas cards to inmates.

While the new chapel facilities are a major project for Chaplain Williams now, he has plans that center on building a strong department for chaplaincy services. His goals include setting standards for the department and building team attitudes among the chaplains. A retreat for all the chaplains already has been scheduled for this June. A chaplaincy services manual has been approved.

Dewie Williams remembers the time when worship and Bible study was conducted in an old auditorium littered with cigarette butts from the Friday night movie showing. He had a hand in building the first chapel in the Arkansas Department of Correction system.

The chaplain has watched correction philosophy change and the system population boom, but the chaplain has not despaired of pursuing the challenges. He echoes the declaration of another chaplain who ministers to the imprisoned—"Ain't it great to be a chaplain!"

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

Church shares profit with mission causes

by John Rutledge

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—The sale of 22 acres of land by Shearer Hills Church in San Antonio for \$5.4 million has allowed the church to give a 20 percent "tithe" of the proceeds to mission causes.

Pastor Charles Wisdom, who is leaving to become pastor of First Church in Katy, Texas (a suburb of Houston), said the church paid \$250,000 for the acreage north of San Antonio in the late 1970s with the idea of starting a church.

Instead the land was sold. About \$3 million will go to buy land elsewhere and build a church and \$1.2 million will pay off the church's indebtedness and build education space. Another \$100,000 will be placed in a scholarship fund to benefit ministerial students from the church.

Southern Baptist institutions receiving part of the "tithe" include: the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (\$50,000 for scholarships honoring former China mis-

sionaries Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Culpeper); the San Antonio Association (\$500,000 for a land holding fund); the Baptist General Convention of Texas (\$100,000 for its land holding fund); and Hispanic Baptist Seminary (\$300,000). The San Antonio Educational Television board, which is applying for a full-power license to provide Christian programming in cooperation with the American Christian Television System (ACTS), will receive \$50,000.

With the purchase of the land to start another church and with the \$600,000 to the local association and the state convention land funds, "we feel like we've had a hand in starting new works," Wisdom said.

John Rutledge is a staff writer for the Baptist Standard, the newsmagazine of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

parks events calendar

tips for church groups to state parks in Arkansas

CRATER OF DIAMONDS, Murfreesboro, Ark., phone 285-3113

April 12-14: "Spring Fever-Diamond Fever." History of the diamond, gypsum and cinnabar mines.

LAKE CHICOT, Lake Village, Ark., phone 265-5480

April 5-7: Spring festival and Easter Egg Hunt.

April 12-13: Eagle awareness program with Jane Gully. Bird Banding demo. on Sunday.

MT. NEBO, Dardanelle, Ark., phone 229-3655

April 5-7: Easter weekend meditation daily in the pavilion at sunrise.

April 20: First annual old timers Mt. Nebo history photo exchange day.

OZARK FOLK CENTER, Mountain View, Ark., phone 269-3851

April 19-21: 23rd annual Arkansas folk festival.

April 26-27: Folk Center mountain music/hammered dulcimer workshops and contests.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN, Roland, Ark., phone 868-5806

April 5-6: Canoe caravan overnight interpretive float trip on the Maumelle River.

April 6: Introductory backpacking course.

April 20: Photo float. Accompany photographer Allen Rolf for photo instruction.

April 21: Canoe day float. Guided by park interpreter.

QUEEN WILHELMINA, Mena, Ark., phone 394-2863

April 1-May 11: First annual spring photo contest. Prizes will be given for best photo of park area.

April 27-28: Tulip festival.

TOLTEC MOUNDS, Scott, Ark., phone 961-9442

April 6: Artifact identification day. Professional archaeologist available.

April 20-21 and 27-28: Guided nature hikes.

There will be wildflower walks at DEGRAY, DEVIL'S DEN, LAKE CATHERINE, LAKE OUACHITA, LOGOY and VILLAGE CREEK.

For more information on state parks events call the park or the program services section of state parks at (501) 371-1191.

Your state convention at work

Woman's Missionary Union BYW retreat

The pressures at work are getting to you. The kids seem to demand more than you are capable of giving. Tests and project

deadlines are staring you in the face. You feel the need to get away!



Porterfield

Young women, ages 18-30, you are invited to a "Missions Getaway" April 13, 1985, at Camp Paron. This one-day meeting will enable you to leave home and explore mission frontiers. The getaway begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m.

In just five short hours, participants will see the exciting sights and mission work of Doug McWhirter, Little Rock; Wilma Giddings, Indiana; and Marjorie Grober, Brazil.

We will board a plane to "fly" to these faraway places. There will be in-flight viewing of the popular new film, "Like a Mighty River." Anne Leavell Collingsworth of Ft. Smith will lead a Bible study during the trip.

Every seat on the trip is first class. A delicious lunch will be served at a quaint eating establishment at Camp Paron. Because this is a day to "get away" from home, there will be no child care provided.

You will want to be a part of this great trip! The registration deadline is April 5th. For more information, contact Arkansas W.M.U., P.O. Box 552 Little Rock, AR 72203. — Carolyn Porterfield, BW/BYW director.

Church Administration Minister of education seminar April 25-26

Ministers of education and other church staff members with education responsibilities will gather for a retreat at Camp Paron on Thursday and Friday, April 25-26. This will be an opportunity for fellowship and personal growth in a retreat setting. The theme of the seminar is "The Minister of Education: Personal and Professional Growth."



Beal

Will Beal, consultant in the Church Administration Department, BSSB, will lead seminars on self esteem, healthy team-building and communication. Shared Ministry, an approach to planning, leadership and team building,

will be presented. The closing session will focus on the future of education ministers and an open forum on topics of interest to those in attendance.

The program will begin with lunch at noon on Thursday and conclude with lunch on Friday. This is a Church Administration project of the Arkansas Baptist Convention in cooperation with the Church Administration Dept., BSSB. For reservations or information write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — Robert Holley, director

Evangelism God's purpose

God loves us and has a purpose for our lives. John states it this way, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begot-



Shell

ten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The cause of our salvation is God's love. God's ultimate purpose for his creation is that we might have eternal life.

The Bible teaches that this eternal life is a free gift from God. Paul stated to the Romans, "The gift of God is eternal life" (Ro. 6:23). God has shared and will continue to offer this free gift to those who would receive it.

Jesus informed his followers that we can enjoy the full and meaningful life now. He stated in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." We can know this joy unspeakable and full of glory in the present life. We can share in that peace that passeth all understanding here and now.

The ultimate of God's purpose for our lives is that we will spend all eternity with Jesus in heaven. Jesus stated in John 14:2-3, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." We have a place prepared, a pathway provided and a peace promised when we share in the total purpose of God.— Clarence Shell, director.

Family and Child Care "I want to help"

Our 90 years of child care ministry represents, in a beautiful way, the caring spirit of Arkansas Baptists working together to fulfill a command of Christ. Because of this cooperative effort, thousands of children have received a second chance in life. Troubled children need a second chance and a third chance and even a

fourth chance for some. It takes whatever it takes for them to deal with the traumas that they have experienced. Many need a fresh start, a chance to begin again.

The decision of many to join with us in this ministry of love enables us to reach out. One who has made such a decision to help us writes:

"Last school year, I participated in the educational sponsorship program and sent \$12 each month to help Calvin. I would like to do this again during the coming school year, so I'm enclosing a check for \$12.

"God bless all of you as you give of yourselves and your time to those who need you so desperately. Fulfilling the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs of your children must be quite draining and frustrating at times. However, the investment we make in these children's lives will be well worth it later when, as adults, the quality of their lives will be vastly improved because of the background they received from you."

Working together, with the blessing of God, we can improve the quality of life for the children in our care. — Johnny G. Biggs, executive director

Sunday School Effective Workshops

On Saturday, April 13, an unusual training opportunity will be offered at Levy Church, 3501 Pike Ave., North Little Rock.



Edwards

All Sunday School workers throughout the state of Arkansas are invited to take advantage of this training.

What's so unusual about a training clinic, you might ask? We have them all the time. But have you ever attended a clinic which was designed

specially to help you know how to enlist workers, to help you in training those new workers, to help you in planning a weekly workers' meeting?

This Effective Workshop will do all three! There will be conferences for all age groups and will be led by BSSB personnel. They are: General Officers, Tom Lee; Adult, James Berthelot; Youth, Becky Martin; Children, Betty Thomas; Preschool, Martha Durepo.

This clinic begins at 9 a.m. and adjourns at 3 p.m. Bring a sack lunch with you. Tea and coffee will be provided.

The lunch hour will include a time for Assist teams to be trained in leading associational Workshops. Financial assistance and lunch will be provided for Assist teams. Associations need to notify the state Sunday School Department if their

Assist team will attend.

We will be looking for you at Levy Church on April 13 as we share this unusual training opportunity. — Jackie Edwards, children's consultant

Missions

Missions help churches

The church that starts a new mission usually does so out of a caring, giving attitude. It is usually operating out of that spirit that is the very essence of Christianity. It says, "How can we help? Where is a need that we can meet? What can we do to serve?" It is not seeking to get, but to give.



Tidworth

However, it may do us good to look through the eyes of experience and see the returns to a church that sponsors missions.

Grace Church started sponsoring two missions. Members were also being added to the mother church. Several new members said they wanted to be a member of a church that cared for others.

The new members that Grace attracted became giving, caring, serving people. Giving through the church increased. A higher percentage of the members became active in church activities.

The fellowship in the church improved. It seems that minor differences of members faded in favor of the larger goal that was worth reaching. The church had purpose. Members began to have a greater esteem for their church. It seems that they saw their church was not self-centered and self-serving. Enthusiasm for their church became contagious in the community. — Floyd Tidworth Jr., church extension director

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Arkansas'

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Purpose:

- to present materials for use by the churches
- to train leaders to lead churches in the church event.

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Expenses:

Expenses for the pastor/staff member and one lay person are covered. The convention will issue expense vouchers at the state seminars to cover up to \$35 for a room, \$20 for meals and ten cents per mile for travel.

Twelve dates and places for seminars:

March 25-26
March 29-30
April 12-13
April 15-16
May 6-7
May 17-18
May 31-June 1
June 3-4
June 17-18
June 17-18
July 12-13
July 29-30
August 9-10

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Hope, First Church
Van Buren, First Church
Hot Springs, First Church
Jonesboro, Central Church
El Dorado, First Church
Pine Bluff, First Church
Russellville, First Church
Little Rock, Markham Street Church
Mountain Home, First Church
Heber Springs, First Church
Forrest City, First Church



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Overseas volunteers top 6,000 for first time in 1984

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists participating in volunteer missions overseas topped 6,000 for the first time in 1984.

Nearly 6,100 long- and short-term volunteers served in 45 countries last year and helped lead more than 17,000 people to faith in Christ. The total, almost a 30 percent increase over 1983's count, takes in all types of volunteers.

More than half of the volunteers worked in evangelistic projects, and the great majority of evangelism-related volunteers were lay people. That meant about 95 percent of all requests for evangelism volunteers were filled, said Ronald Boswell, volunteer enlistment director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Still, the mission board filled only 65 per-

cent of total 1984 requests for volunteers from missionaries on the field, according to Boswell. Approximately 11,000 volunteers have been requested so far for 1985.

Board officials project the Bold Mission Thrust goal of placing 10,000 volunteers overseas every year by the end of the century will be the first Foreign Mission Board goal met and will be reached by 1992.



Officers elected— Above, elected officers of the Association of State Convention Executive Directors are (l to r) Dan Stringer (Fla.), vice-president; Rheubin South (Mo.), president; and Ellis Bush (Penn.-S. Jersey), secretary-treasurer. Below, Officers of the Southern Baptist Press Association are (l to r) Jack Brymer (Fla.), secretary-treasurer; Bob Terry (Mo.), president; and Lynn Clayton (La.), president-elect.



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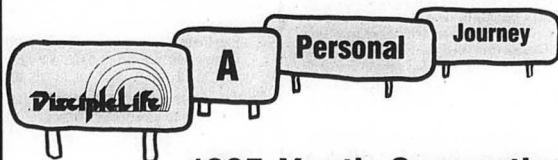
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International

Brought to trial

by Jerry Wilcox, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 18:33-37; 19:6-11, 14-16

Focal passage: John 18:33-37; 19:6-11, 14-16

Central truth: The religious people were more interested in doctrines than the work of God.

Since the experience of the transfiguration, Jesus has "set his face toward Jerusalem." He knew that his being truth would get him killed. Speaking the truth is dangerous enough, but being the truth is strictly hazardous.

Pilate asks the question, "What is truth?" He is obviously puzzled by the man who stood before him. He said, "I find no fault with this man." Pilate knew the crowd. He knew they were a group of hotheads, often boiling over. He tried to dismiss the case. The crowd pressured him.

The accusation against Jesus by the Jews was that he claimed to be king. He admitted to being king. Only, his kingdom is a dominion not over people's bodies but over their minds and souls; it is maintained and extended not by violence and force of arms but by the persuasion of the truth finding its way from heart to heart and winning subjects.

Pilate first considered this case a religious matter. He wanted the Jews to handle it. They said their law required death. Pilate still hesitated. The leaders of the Jews then cried out, "We have no king but Caesar." He threatened to tell Rome of Pilate's willingness to let go a rival king who said he was God. Caesar was considered god.

Pilate was pressured to release Jesus to certain death. He was not to die by stoning, which Jewish law allowed. He would die according to prophecy. He would die on a Roman cross.

The trial of Jesus reveals the degenerate state of the rabbis' sense of morality. The ultimate defamation came when they were willing to call Caesar their king. All their tradition and all their scripture had taught them never to have another god. They were never to bow a knee to Baal.

At the trial, they were willing to abandon everything and distort all facts in order to see Jesus crucified. The great irony is that they hurled Jesus toward complete victory in the cross.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Love one another

by Glenn E. Hickey, D.O.M., Pulaski Association

Basic passage: John 15

Focal passage: John 15:9-19

Central truth: True love for others communicated and modeled by Christ is essential to surviving and overcoming.

Throughout chapters 13-17 of John, the concern of Jesus is that his followers shall be equipped to survive and to overcome in the world after his physical removal from them. One of the essentials for survival is love.

Genuine Christian love is described biblically as agape. It can only be adequately defined by seeing it at work in the life of Jesus. His love for the Father has already been described here as an "abiding in the Father" and the Father in him (see 14:10,11). In the figure of the vine and the branches, this mutual abiding or indwelling love is extended to Jesus' relationship to believers and the believers' relationship to others. The word "abide" is used no less than 10 times in the passage. Several characteristics of this abiding agape love are noteworthy.

(1) It is modeled and communicated to us by Jesus. His whole ministry, including his death, was love in action on behalf of those loved. He is the vine, and we are the branches, receiving from him that which we can never have without him. I cannot love without him. My lovelessness is evidence of my failure to abide in him.

(2) It has a productive, growing, maturing quality. Agape love is more than a cozy emotional feeling for someone. His love abides in us for a purpose: "that you should go and bear fruit, enduring fruit" (v. 16). Christian marriage is built upon a growing, maturing love which enables each of the partners to realize a more fruitful, fulfilling life.

(3) It demonstrates itself in obedience. Verse 10 speaks of love and obedience as mutually dependent. Love arises out of obedience, obedience out of love. When love is present, obedience is a spontaneous joy, not a painful duty.

(4) It is the distinguishing mark of the Christian fellowship. The "new commandment" affirmed in 13:34 is repeated twice: "Keep on loving one another" (v. 12, 17). The survival of Christianity in a hostile, skeptical world already oversupplied with religions was due in large part to a total commitment to this command to keep on loving. Is this not also true today?

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Bible Book

Responses to Jesus

by J. Lowell Ponder, First Church, Fayetteville

Basic passage: Luke 11:14 to 12:12

Central truth: Some who hear the truth and accept it; some who reject it, and openly oppose it; and those who make no open choice are in effect saying "no" to Jesus (11:23).

There is no better summary of this lesson than "He who is not for me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters" (11:23 NIV). Again, we find ourselves dealing with priorities. There are no gray areas in Christian discipleship. No neutral zone in our loyalty to Christ. No decision is in fact a rejection.

The rejected enemies of Jesus determined to avenge him and attract public attention to that rejection. They even made the ridiculous charge that he cast the demon out of a mute by the power of Satan. Some who saw the miracle were amazed, others made the charge about Beelzebub and others demanded even more, a sign from heaven.

Jesus responded to their amazement in verses 23-28. The logic of Jesus' response to the Beelzebub charge is sound (vv. 17-22). He replied that the business of the devil was to get into men, and casting a demon out of a man by the prince of demons was totally illogical.

Of course, the reference to the sign of Jonah (vv. 29-32) was his reply to those asking for a sign from heaven. If they could accept the story about Jonah, why couldn't they accept the word of the very Son of God in person? People came from afar to hear the wisdom of Solomon but today reject one even greater.

The invitation to visit the ophthalmologist is found in verses 33-36. The purpose of the visit is to determine whether our darkness is blindness or the absence of light. There is a difference.

The lecture of the Pharisee to Jesus about ceremonial righteousness (vv. 37-41) is almost amusing. Teaching the Teacher. Jesus got to the heart of the matter when he said, "... you neglect justice and the love of God... you should practice that, but continue to title also..." (v. 42). (See also Deut. 6:5 and Micha 6:8).

Chapter 12, verses 8 and 9 are the key verses as the chapter relates to this particular lesson. It is a call to total commitment.

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American Indians propose missions strategy

DENVER (BP)—Baptist American Indian leaders from seven tribes have proposed a mission strategy for Southern Baptists to reach the nation's 1.4 million native Americans during a national language missions conference.

Meeting at the annual language missions leadership conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Indian leaders called on Baptists to begin 175 new Indian churches, train 670 Indian pastors and 4,280 lay leaders.

They also urged Southern Baptists to establish 129 Ethnic Leadership Development Centers for training Indian leaders.

Southern Baptists currently work among

97 of the 495 American Indian tribes and bands in the United States and Canada, noted B. Frank Belvin, former national consultant among American Indians for the SBC Home Mission Board. He added 70 percent of all baptized Christian Indians are in six "civilized" Indian tribes.

The 360 Southern Baptist American Indian congregations includes 12 language families and 22 dialects, Belvin said.

An ad-hoc group of Baptist Indian leaders, led by Russel Begaye, Home Mission Board national consultant for American Indians,

recommended goals tied to the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust.

Indian leaders called on Southern Baptists to present the gospel to all native Americans while also leading American Indian churches to achieve 13,500 baptisms among American Indians during the next five years.

The ad-hoc group called for Southern Baptists to establish 838 new Indian congregations by the end of the decade and set a goal of leading 65 Southern Baptist American Indian congregations to start a new mission-type church each year.

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Chile earthquake strikes during Sunday worship

SANTIAGO, Chile (BP)—Chilean churchgoers were attending Sunday evening worship services when the March 3 earthquake struck the South American country.

Collapsing church walls killed about 12 Catholics in one building and four Methodists in another, according to Bryan Brasington, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for western South America.

No deaths or injuries have been reported among Chilean Baptists or Southern Baptist missionaries, said Walt Chambless, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Chile.

About 40 of 208 Chilean Baptist churches and 45 of 70 Southern Baptist missionaries are in central Chile, where the earthquake did the most damage. The region stretches from Santiago, the nation's capital, to the Pacific coast cities of Vina del Mar and Valparaiso.

Three Baptist churches reported extensive damage, said Brasington. Reconstruction efforts will be organized for the damaged churches, he said.

Early counts totaled more than 150 people killed and 2,000 injured in the quake, which registered 7.4 on the Richter scale.

First deaf men's group formed in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A Deaf Men's Fellowship started at First Church, Memphis, Tenn., is believed to be the first such organization in the SBC.

The group has been meeting for several months to learn about Brotherhood and Baptist Men. The fellowship was formally organized Jan. 23.

The organization has decided to follow the study/fellowship approach as outlined in the Purpose and Plan of Baptist Brotherhood. This approach includes mission action, prayer groups, witnessing groups and other emphases as determined by the group.

Claude Burgess is minister to the deaf at the Memphis church and Earl Davis is pastor.

Humor journal brings 'Light' to theological studies

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Robert Larremore takes humor seriously.

The alumnus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, recently published the first issue of *Light*, journal of religion and humor. *Light* is an acrostic for "Laughter in God, History and Theology."

Other editorial staff members are listed as Tal D. Bonham, executive secretary-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio; Conrad Hyers, professor of religion at Gustavus-Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn.;

John Newport, Southwestern's vice-president for academic affairs and provost; and Ralph L. Smith, distinguished professor of Old Testament at Southwestern.

Larremore said the journal is sponsored by SALT, a Southwestern organization promoting "Salvation And Laughter Together."

"Most people think they have a sense of humor," Larremore said. "But when they get into religion, they think it's not appropriate. We have so many negative emotions. We need more positive emotions, like humor."

Joint Committee panel to seek new counsel

WASHINGTON (BP)—Acting to fill a key vacancy on its staff, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs March 5 approved a search process for securing the services of a new general counsel and director of research services.

The position is open because of the recent death of John W. Baker, a member of the staff from 1969 until his death in January.

Executive director James M. Dunn, along with the agency's four current officers, will conduct the search. Besides Dunn, they are chairperson Donald R. Brewer, a Southern Baptist attorney from Chicago; first vice-chairperson Wesley Forsline, pastor of the American Baptist-related Calvary Church, Minneapolis; second vice-chairperson Violet Ankrum, past president, Women's Auxiliary, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.; and secretary Donald E. Anderson of Arlington Heights, Ill., editor of *The Standard*, monthly publication of the Baptist General Conference.

The search panel is currently receiving applications for the position and indicated it welcomes all interested Baptist attorneys to

send resumes to Dunn at 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Once the panel makes its choice, the entire Baptist Joint Committee will be asked to approve the selection in a mail ballot.

Baker died Jan. 12 of heart failure following a heart attack suffered last Christmas Day. He was 64.

During his 15-year tenure at the Baptist Joint Committee, Baker became known as one of the nation's foremost legal experts on matters of religious liberty and separation of church and state. He filed 21 friend-of-the-court briefs in federal courts, all but a few at the U.S. Supreme Court, and assisted Baptist churches and institutions in many other legal battles. He also represented the Baptist Joint Committee before congressional committees and lobbied Congress on a variety of church-state issues.

In another personnel move, the Baptist Joint Committee named its director of information services, Stan Hastey, as associate executive director. He will assist Dunn with administrative duties and be a spokesman for the agency.

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