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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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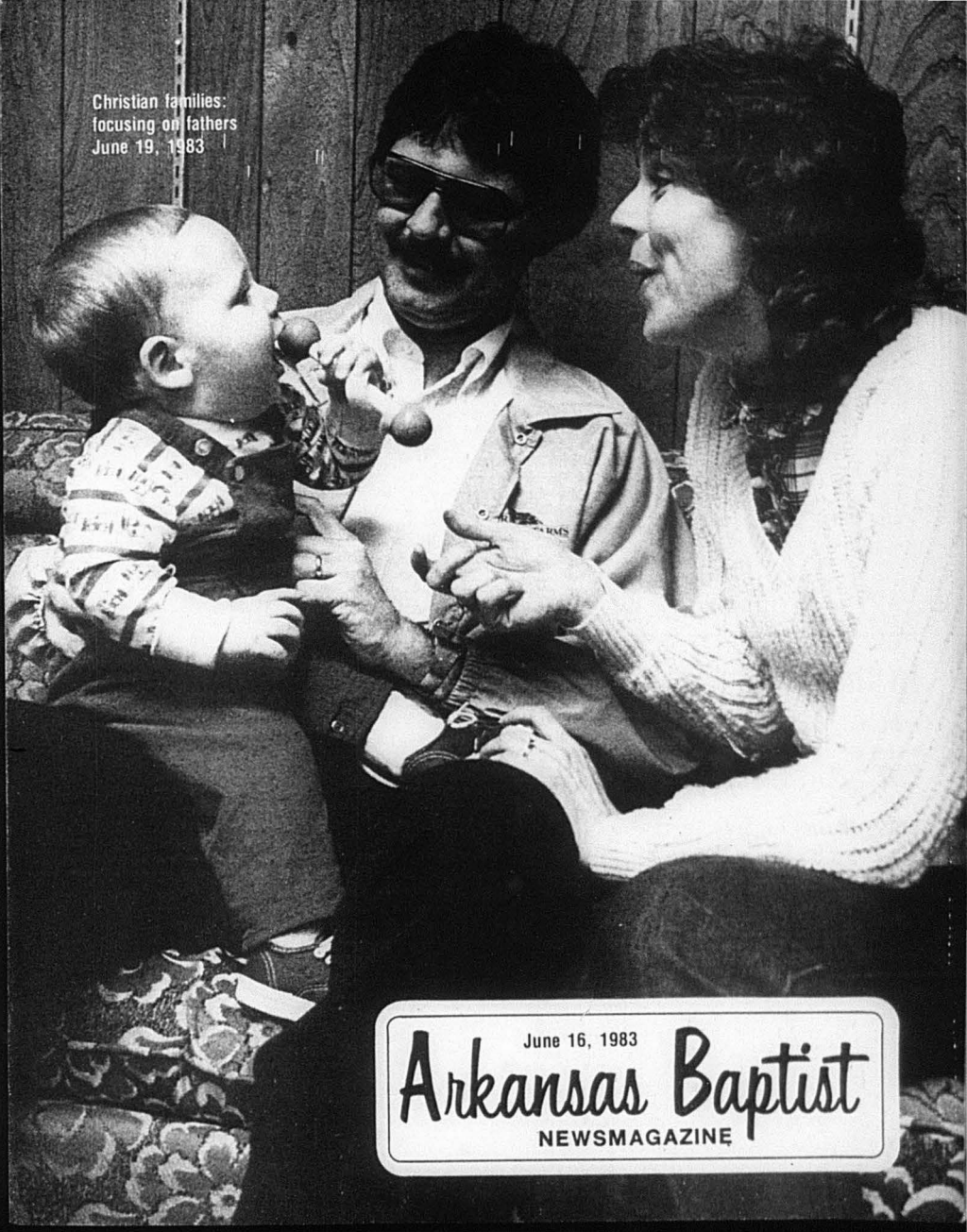
June 16, 1983

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Christian families:
focusing on fathers
June 19, 1983

June 16, 1983

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



BSSB photo/David F. Hayward

Many Baptist churches will focus on the role of the father in building a strong Christian home as Father's Day is observed Sunday, June 19. Strengthening the family is the current year's emphasis as a part of what Southern Baptists hope to accomplish through Bold Mission Thrust.

Diversity necessary for world influence

by Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists, like the mighty Mississippi River and its tributaries, gain strength when they are joined by others who are moving the same direction, according to 1977 SBC President James L. Sullivan.

The secret of the 138-year-old Southern Baptist Convention has been the constant channeling of diverse Baptist opinions toward the common goal of sharing the gospel with the world, said Sullivan.

Sullivan, who served 23 years as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, contends many of the problems faced by the denomination today are caused by a serious misunderstanding of Baptist polity. He added there is an equally serious lack of self-understanding by the leaders in the current conflict.

"Both sides of the present controversy are wrong," he continued, "because one is operating at one end of the Baptist continuum and the other is operating at the other end. One is wrong in position and the other is wrong in attitude. They are carrying on a war that the people in the center don't understand. The people in the center, who are the majority, are disgusted with both sides. The leaders in the conflict do not understand themselves because they think they are at the center of the Southern Baptist religious continuum, when in reality they are not," Sullivan explained. "You cannot administer from a fringe position; it must be in the center of the constantly fluctuating constituency served."

"You destroy the backbone of the denomination when the group on the left and right sides try to greatly enlarge their followings," he said. "If the middle group divides into sides, it will split the convention."

Sullivan warned theological extremism is dangerous to the convention. He said the denomination's greatest challenges are from groups who try to do things legalistically and literally, because Southern Baptists are not that way.

"The truths of the Bible are literally true, but God used history, revelation, analysis, parables and every other available teaching tool to communicate truths which are absolutely profound," he said.

"For a democracy like the Southern Baptist Convention to exist, both sides are necessary," Sullivan said. "We will always have critics, but that is good because we need to hear both viewpoints. It is healthy for both sides to have full freedom of voice."

Sullivan said he believes, based on 57 years of involvement in the denomination, the problems today are not related to doctrine, but to polity. In effect, church members have little or no knowledge of how and why Baptists govern themselves.

"In the Southern Baptist Convention, ev-



James L. Sullivan

ery individual, church, association and state convention is autonomous," Sullivan said. "If each member goes his own way without thought for the other, it creates tensions and misunderstandings."

In a new book published by Broadman Press, *Baptist Polity As I See It*, Sullivan writes, "Our polity takes away all threats and appearances of coercion so that each church and person can participate without question marks or reservations."

He further explained problems in theological positioning in the denomination arise when people take themselves too seriously, feelings become intense, humor is considered out of order and diversity is not allowed.

Sullivan arrived at his present understanding of the denomination through his experience as a local pastor for more than 20 years and his opportunities to serve as a state convention president and on the boards of numerous Baptist colleges, hospitals and agencies. He explained Baptist polity calls for mutual trust for the system and the people in it.

"Because our denomination is built on trust and voluntary cooperation, it is easy for offhand innuendos to reduce confidence," Sullivan said. "There are justifiable complaints, because there is no perfect denomination, but affirmation and cooperation are important."

"The current denominational conflict is one Baptist group promoting itself against another, rather than a broad base in which diverse groups cooperate side by side for the propagation of the gospel across the world," he explained.

In comparison, he said, "It's like the river trying to reverse itself back to the stream which makes it so powerful. Only with the diversity can we influence the world."

In this issue

6 Pornography

The final article in a three part series includes comments from a judge on the problem and some suggestions for Christian action to combat the problem.

8 Graduates

Twenty-three Arkansans graduated from Southern Baptist seminaries this spring. Their names, degrees and pictures are included in this issue.



Attitude, as much as any other factor, determines the success or the failure of a person or a church. Those who encourage others to be at their best play an important role. If a person is to be an encourager he must be able to see the potential and motivate others to attain it even in the face of difficulty.

In fiction, right always triumphs, truth always wins, and people live happy ever after. In the real world there are problems, difficulties, defeats and betrayals. So if Christians are to live happily they must have encouragement.

One of the best examples of an encourager is Barnabas. Even his name means "son of consolation or encouragement." We first see him practicing his ministry with Paul (Acts 9:23-30) Paul had been converted on the road to Damascus and had spent three years or more in that city. Upon his return to Jerusalem, many of the Christians feared him and excluded him from their activities. Barnabas took Paul in and acted as his sponsor. A Christian encourager is willing to give a person a fresh start.

Barnabas, the encourager, played a significant role in opening up the doors of the gospel to the Gentiles. When the Jerusalem Church heard that Gentiles were being saved and joining the Antioch Church, Barnabas was sent to investigate (Acts 12:22). It was by the grace and providence of God that Barnabas was on this mission as he was open to the leadership of God. The Bible declares, "...when he...had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and exhorted them all..." (Acts 12:23).

Barnabas, who was born a Jew in a Greek world, led in encouraging the early church to launch out on the bold mission of reaching Gentiles. The first missionary journey was under the leadership of Barnabas. Though Paul later became the leader of the journey, it was Barnabas, initially, who took one of the most important steps in the history of Christianity.

Barnabas was able to see the potential in the lives of others. After Paul's visit to Jerusalem, he went to "the region of Syria and Cilicia" (Gal. 1:21), probably spending much of his time at Tarsus. When Barnabas felt the need for someone to help at Antioch, he enlisted Paul (Acts 11:25). The activation of Paul was one of the most significant events in the early development of Christianity.

Barnabas, also, assisted in developing the potential of John Mark's life. Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey. Mark left them and returned home in the

middle of the trip (Acts 13:13). When the second journey was being planned and Barnabas wanted to include his relative, Mark, Paul steadfastly refused. As a result, Barnabas took Mark and went in another direction. As an encourager Barnabas was willing to take the risk of giving a person a second chance. Later, Paul admitted that Mark was profitable to him. Mark was, also, important to the cause of Christ in that among his other accomplishments he probably wrote the first of the Four Gospels.

There are a number of characteristics which an encourager must have in order to be effective. First, he must be forgiving and willing to take a risk. Barnabas took a risk in helping both Paul and Mark. If Paul had been a spy for the Jews, Barnabas and other Christians could have lost their lives. But the risk paid off by giving opportunity for the development of one of the greatest proclaimers of the gospel of all time.

An encourager must be unselfish. In order to aid in the development of others, a person must be willing to quietly step back and allow another to take the lead when he is ready for greater responsibilities. Barnabas wanted to see others reach their full potential for Christ.

An encourager must be able to see Christ in others. One of the most revealing passages on the relation of simple things to the lives of others is found in Matthew 25:31-46. Here Jesus describes the judgment in terms of individual response to human needs. The kingdom person is sensitive to the hurt of others and always ready to respond.

An encourager must be able to see the possibilities for the future. Yesterday may have been filled with disappointments and sadness, but tomorrow is always brimming full with possibilities for success. When Jesus ascended into heaven, leaving his small band of followers, they could have said, "We are too few. We can do nothing. Jesus is gone." But they literally turned the world upside down.

An encourager must rely upon the Holy Spirit and look beyond himself. The guidance, companionship and strength of the Holy Spirit is invaluable in making a person an encourager.

No one can perform a greater task than that of being a Christian encourager. When a person helps by encouraging others to reach their full potential for Christ, he is multiplying his own effectiveness for the Master. One of our greatest needs today is to have other encouragers like Barnabas.

Arkansas Baptist

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

Learning to live with computers

Colleges must walk a tightrope these days, especially Christian colleges. The Christian college has long prided itself on teaching not only how to make a living, but how to live. This has meant a constant struggle to avoid either extreme of too much or too little emphasis on vocational preparation and training.

The arrival of the computer front-and-center in American higher education adds fuel to the fire as this old battle heats up for college faculties, students, boards of trustees, not to mention college presidents.

The computer science program at Ouachita Baptist University has received a strong boost with the employment of Dr. Alton Crawley, who has outstanding credentials from Texas A & M. Wanting to be able to talk just a little bit of this new professor's language, I have been reading up feverishly in "computer-ese" — that mysterious language that "goes with the turf" in "silicon valley." I have been amazed at what people are saying about computers these days, such as:

1. Programming a computer can be

come a dangerously seductive activity, leading the programmer to ignore the world around him.

2. Computers have a "de-skilling effect" because people no longer learn skills that computers perform.

3. Computers are only as good as the quality and value of the information we put into them. We need to remember GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out)!

4. Computers are merging previously separate technologies, such as satellite communications, television, and telephones.

5. In Alvin Toffler's *The Third Wave*, the computer is said to be constructing a new infosphere for a third wave civilization.

6. The cost of a reasonable computer system at a typical liberal arts college within the next two or three years is estimated to be at least \$1,000 per student, and up to \$6,000 per student at a "high-technology school."

7. One university president warns that the computer revolution has already engulfed our universities. Institutions such as

universities and libraries must either adapt or perish. The knowledge industry — our industry — is being pulled apart by centrifugal force.

8. Some universities now have "super-computers" that can do 200 million calculations per second. It is doubtful if I will need that many calculations in my entire life.

9. Finally, many computer experts are saying that educators have only scratched the surface in using computers as a mere "add-on" to the traditional educational program, instead of rethinking the entire educational process in the light of the computer revolution.

I doubt if I am ready to talk computer-ese with Professor Crawley yet. Trying to learn more about computers is a very humbling experience, but I have heard that humility is a good starting place for the learner. Ouachita's academic computer center will be a success if it produces an abundant supply of both learning and humility.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.



Woman's viewpoint

Kathy Findley

Masks are for Halloween

I have a large wardrobe of lovely masks. Sometimes I wear one to hide my face when it doesn't look happy. But I'm making a rule: wear masks to masquerade parties or on Halloween, but not to church.

Why are we so afraid to let others know who we really are? In John Powell's book, *Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?*, he defines the lowest level of communication as cliché conversation. On this level, persons talk in clichés: "How are you?"; "I am fine."; "I like your dress."; "How is your job?"; "We engage in this type of communication, which is really non-communication, at the market, at school, at work, even at home and at church.

We do not share ourselves. We are isolated. We pretend. We don't make ourselves vulnerable or take any risks. We wear masks of self-sufficiency and all-rightness, even when we feel pain, disappointment, panic. Powell's book paints a vivid and tragic portrait in my mind: a whole

church gathering in one place to be lonely together.

While on the mission field in Uganda, I found myself in a deep depression. I felt as if I had fallen into a vast hole, and I couldn't pull myself out. I felt that it was not O.K. to have problems or to be hurting. I got the message, whether real or imagined, that being depressed was unspiritual. So I wore a mask and pretended to be happy, and spiritual. I didn't ask my Christian family to help. I just couldn't be honest with them. Eventually, I returned to the U.S.A.

If we cannot share our sorrows, our joys, our fears in our Christian family, where can we share them? If we cannot hurt at church, cry there, love there, and be loved there, where can we? Where can we bear one another's burdens? I often take hurts to church, and then back home. Often in the midst of all the people at church, I feel lonely. I often wear one of my masks. A happy mask looks better than a sad face, I

reason. But then no one knows who I am. No one comforts me or loves me. And my dishonesty is producing counterfeit relationships.

I'm saving my masks for Halloween. My face looks good enough to wear to church.

Kathy Findley is the wife of Fred Findley, pastor of South Highland Church in Little Rock and a commercial artist with Systematics, Inc. A former missionary to Uganda, she attended the University of Alabama and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

HMB prayer line continued

ATLANTA (BP) — The "Intercessory Prayer Line" at the Home Mission Board will continue for the balance of the year.

From March 1 through May 22, the prayerline has received 5,411 calls for prayer requests. Approximately 9,300 people have called in to accept prayer requests.

You'll be glad to know . . .

... We do not stand alone. Of course, this is true spiritually. But, it is also true denominationally. Consider where you would go for fellowship, materials, literature, ministerial training, encouragement, organizational methods, training and a strategy for reaching the world for Christ, if you were not a part of Southern Baptist life. Some of those areas of need you may quickly say can be met in one way or another. But, you have no alternative that will provide equal assistance to you in your ministry in all of these areas like our relationships and resources in Southern Baptist life.

... Associations and state conventions do not stand alone. They are autonomous in government but dependent in their ministries. Each helps the other. This is why associations in their annual meetings will have representatives from the convention to bring a report. Baptist people who support convention ministries want and need to know what their support is accomplishing. We are grateful for the time given each year for us to report.

We do need some assistance in our preparation for your annual meetings. The coordination of times and places for 42 associations and some 50 people is not easy. Your requests for specific speakers will be honored as far as possible, so let us have your request. Consider the areas of ministry. Our agencies (*Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, Family and Child Care and Foundation) would like to share their story. Our institutions (Ouachita and Southern) would like to share their story. Our departments (13 Executive Board programs) would like to tell their story. It seems like an impossible task. But it isn't. The agency heads will share the Executive Board report as well as our Executive Board employees.

The reports will be consolidated and presented all areas of Executive Board ministry. We would like at least 15 minutes on the program. Please let us know when and where you want us. Let us know at your earliest convenience. We are going to try to do a better job for you with less duplication of expense. We haven't forgotten. We are your servants for Christ's sake. We are thankful we do not stand alone. We stand together.

Don Moore is executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Moore

Letters to the editor

Foul pulpits

I have noticed a trend over the years for preachers to use words in the pulpit that we never heard in church a half century ago. That may be the best way to communicate with our modern generation. But some of the language that we hear from the pulpit is offensive to some older people.

Some sermons seem to be filled with reference to the sex act. We hear sex over and over. How long will it be before we start hearing sex expressed in the four letter word?

I have heard considerable criticism of the way different preachers use what some describe as "uncouth language." Do we have to use barnyard language to make people understand us? — Ben Fried, Mena

The real problem

Practicing what we preach is not always easy to do. The cover of the May 26, 1983, issue of the *Arkansas Baptist*, utilizing a quote from Roger Williams, eloquently portrayed the irrefutable connection between "Faith Freely Exercised" and religious liberty. On page two, T. B. Maston, professor emeritus at Southwestern Seminary, commented, "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." However, it saddened me to see that the adjoining columns reported that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board decided not to send Dale Moody as a volunteer teacher to the Hong Kong Baptist Seminary because of his views on apostasy.

Traditional theology gives people comfort. When challenged, the alternatives are to think, to ignore, or to suppress the challenge. It appears that the Southern Baptist leadership has chosen the latter course of action. Evidently, Professor Maston's call for Baptists to work to insure that faith can always be freely exercised in America doesn't necessarily extend to some inside the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is understandable that Christian organizations want to protect their members from error. It is true that Christians should be careful in what they expose themselves to in the way of teaching. But false teachers and the availability of a broad diversity of teaching is not the real problem.

The real problem is that some in our denomination seem to want to limit the Lord to their own brand of religion. It is apparently all right to have an honest difference of opinion on some subjects, such as Bible inerrancy. However, a loved professor of many years tenure has been dismissed and now denied the opportunity for voluntary service because of a difference of opinion. The Adult Bible Study lesson for May 29,

ABN letters policy

Letters to the editor expressing opinion are invited. Letters should be typed double spaced and must be clearly marked "For publication." All letters must be signed original copies, although the name of the writer may be withheld at writer's request and discretion of the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

1983, stated, "When we tend to be exclusive, when we tend to shut out those 'not like me' (and this sometimes includes other Southern Baptists), we are not practicing the love of God for all people" (page 57).

— Max Tarpley, Blytheville

Take the gospel

I read with interest the issue over going to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1989. Since reading the article, I have heard a testimony and comments that have made a difference in my thinking on this issue. The testimony was given by a former chorus girl at the MGM Hotel. She told of having never heard of Jesus except as a curse word until she was saved. She told of two unsuccessful marriages and three suicide attempts before learning about the Jesus that could help her. The comments were by a missionary to Africa. He made the comment, "Why should we hear the gospel over and over again, when there are those who have never heard it the first time?" I have to agree with him. There are people within a few hundred miles of us that need the gospel. This could be our Nineveh. I wonder what great fish the Lord will prepare to swallow us up should we choose not to go.

Think of the impact we could have on the people there if we go with the intention of taking the gospel to them. I can think of no better way of spending our free time than going with our friends to witness to the people there in Las Vegas. We can leave tracts for the ones who wait on us in restaurants, in hotels and in motels. We can have prayer meetings prior to going out by twos.

Jesus was criticized for eating with the publicans and sinners (Matt. 9:11). Are we any better that we should worry what others may think of us? Bold Mission Thrust will be in full swing by that time. We must take the gospel to all the world. Part of the world is Las Vegas. — Barbara Greene, Alexander

Ending discussion

After this issue (June 16, 1983) the ABN will print no more letters about Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Dale Moody's views on the doctrine of apostasy or the seminary's action on his teaching contract. The newsmagazine has devoted 94 inches of space to the discussion already. — the editor.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Lew T. King

has had a youth musical, "Choices", published by Broadman Press in Nashville, Tenn. King, minister of music/media at East Side Church in Fort Smith, began work on the composition in 1978. His musical will be premiered this summer at both Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Encampment music weeks. It has been presented in Arkansas at the East Side Church and at Arkansas State Music Camp.



King

Mrs. Elsie Trimble

was recently recognized by the Lonoke Chamber of Commerce as "Woman of the Year." A member of the Lonoke Church, she was honored for her community service and 42 years of service as teacher of an adult Bible class. Mrs. Trimble, now 91 years of age, is the mother of five children. She attended college in Conway and taught

school in Pleasant Hill, Tomberlin and England.

Larry Bradley

has joined the staff of Hot Springs First Church as minister of music, coming there from the South Wayside Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Toni, have three teenage children.

Michael C. Shy

has resigned as pastor of the Shiloh Church at Texarkana to become pastor of the Temple Church in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Ray Taffar

has been called to serve as pastor of the North Side Church at Batesville. He served for three years as pastor of the Mount Zion Church at Huff.

Vernon "Tex" Henderson

has been called to serve as pastor of the Sulphur Rock Church. He has served as pastor of other Arkansas churches, including those at Tipperary and Knobel.

Woodrow W. Dishongh

has resigned as pastor of the Immanuel Church at Vimy Ridge to serve as chaplain of the Pulaski County Jail in cooperation

with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department and the Home Mission Board.

Tony Berry

has completed 11 years of service as pastor of the Dardanelle First Church.

James Burleson

celebrated his fifth anniversary June 12 as minister of music at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

Wayne Bandy

recently observed his fifth anniversary as music/youth director at the Northvale Church in Harrison.

Mark Coppenger

was 1983 winner of the Broadman Award at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Awards Day. A native of Arkadelphia, he was honored as the outstanding student in the division of biblical studies.

Joseph Allen Dennis

of Greenwood, as outstanding student in educational evangelism, received the R. Othal Feather Award in Evangelism at the 1983 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Awards Day.

buildings

Elmwood Church

at Harrison recently held a noteburning service to celebrate payment of its sanctuary. Observance of the 28th anniversary of pastor Arthur Anderson in the ministry was a part of the celebration.

Pilgrim's Rest Church

at Batesville recently dedicated a library. David Baxter spoke to the more than 100 attending.

Dardanelle First Church

dedicated its remodeled educational building May 15 according to pastor Tony Berry. Men of the church were credited for renovation.

DeWitt church dedicates

The Faith Church, DeWitt, dedicated its land and facilities on June 5. Although the work was begun as a mission on June 2, 1961, by First Church, DeWitt, the facilities had never been dedicated. The mission was organized into a church on June 1, 1980.

The present facilities that the church is worshipping in were given to them by First Church, DeWitt, along with land that was purchased on Aug. 9, 1961. The second piece of land was purchased in April of 1982 for \$10,000. The church has a total of four and one-half acres of land.

Those participating in the day of dedication included former pastor C. R. Cooper, who read the scripture and brought brief comments; church member Allen Peebles, an ordained minister who brought the morning message; Raymond McMaster, a church member who presented the history and progress report of the church; Tom Black, a member of First Church, DeWitt, who provided special music for the afternoon service; and J. Everett Sneed, editor

of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, who brought the afternoon dedicatory message.

Peebles spoke from Genesis 4:1-16 on "The Greatest Tragedy in the World Today." He said that the greatest tragedy is "church members failing to attend church and to reach out to a lost and dying world."

Pastor R. G. Merritt has served the church for nine months. During this period, the Sunday school enrollment has doubled and finances are up. The church currently has a balance of over \$2,000. The church has had 23 additions, with 12 of these being for baptism, in the last nine months.

The church plans to erect a new facility in the near future but has not yet set a date for construction to begin. Currently, the church has over \$6,200 in the building fund.

Pastor Merritt said, "We are encouraged by the spirit and optimism of our congregation. We are growing steadily and our people are excited over what the Lord is doing in our midst."

briefly

Fayetteville First Church

sanctuary choir and orchestra will present "God's People" June 19 at 7 p.m.

focus on youth

West Memphis First Church

youth will be represented in summer mission work in Japan, Indiana, Ohio, New York and Mexico. Jean Fitts will coordinate the two-week Mexico project of ministry and mission service.



Members of Faith Church gather on the future site.

23 graduate from Baptist seminaries

A total of 23 persons with Arkansas connections have been reported as graduates of the various Southern Baptist Theological Seminaries.

Southwestern

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was first, recording degrees given to 11 of the 23. Among those graduating were Darrell Grant Bridges, son of Mrs. Elsie Bridges of Monette, with a master of divinity; Ronald Leslie Burks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Burks of Greenwood, with a master of divinity; Mark Thomas Coppenger, son of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Arthur Coppenger of Arkadelphia, with a master of divinity; James Clifford Ingram, son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. George Wadley of Searcy, with a master of divinity and James W. Lagrone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lagrone of Trumann, with a master of divinity.

Others with Arkansas connections re-

ceiving degrees at Southwestern included Kathryn Reed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed of Hot Springs, with a master of divinity; David Franklin Uth, son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Berry Moore of El Dorado, with a master of divinity; David Ray Vosburg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vosburg of Danville, with a master of divinity; Ross Samuel Woodbury, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross S. Woodbury of Little Rock, with a master of divinity; James Francis Browne, son-in-law of Mrs. Gladys Norton of Lonoke, with a master of religious education, and Clyde Albert Self, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Albert Self Jr. of West Memphis, with a master of religious education.

Midwestern

Six persons with Arkansas ties were graduated from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Among them are Thomas Farris, a Ft. Smith native, and

pastor of 47th Street Church in Kansas City who received the master of divinity. Ann and Dan Hickey received the master of divinity degree and have been appointed as US-2ers to do student work in Buffalo, N.Y. Hickey is from Little Rock. John McCallum II, pastor of First Church of Greenwood, Mo., who also received a master of divinity, has served at First Church, Fayetteville.

Other Midwestern graduates are Patrick Kennan of Barber, who received the master of religious education and Geneva Carpenter Weiler of Elkins, who received the master of divinity. She is a language missions worker at Northland Chinese Church in Kansas City.

Southern

Three students from Arkansas received degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They are Charles Ross Brummett of Benton and William Scott Willis of Little



Uth



Jent



Browne



Burks



Hickey



Hickey



Carter



Willis



Gunn



Farris



McCallum



Vosburg



Coppenger



Reed



Lagrone



Self



Keenan



Weiler

Rock, both with the master of divinity, and Priscilla L. Freeman of Heber Springs, who earned a masters in religious education.

New Orleans

Two persons with Arkansas ties earned degrees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Wayne Carter of Benton, received a master of church music. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Carter of Benton and the husband of Joy Heflin of Arkadelphia. Glen Jent received a doctor of education degree from New Orleans. He is married to the former Mary Jane Simmons of Lincoln.

Southeastern

One Arkansan earned a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; James Earl Gunn of Fort Smith, pastor of Shiloh Church in Gurnes, N.C.



Charles Johnson, a Little Rock Baptist chaplain formerly of Brinkley, brought the scriptural charge when Brinkley First Church dedicated a new \$550,000 educational building Sunday, June 5. Don Moore, state executive secretary, (seated left) delivered the dedicatory address while pastor Jim McDaniel (seated center) presided. The church has paid for the first \$450,000 of the facility on a cash basis and plans to take out a loan for the remainder.



A noteburning was held June 5 at the Salado Church in token of the payment of a \$10,000 interest free loan from the state missions department for building an educational building, refurbishing the sanctuary and upgrading the church grounds. During the two years since they took out the loan, the church has also had 24 additions.



Woodbury



Bridges



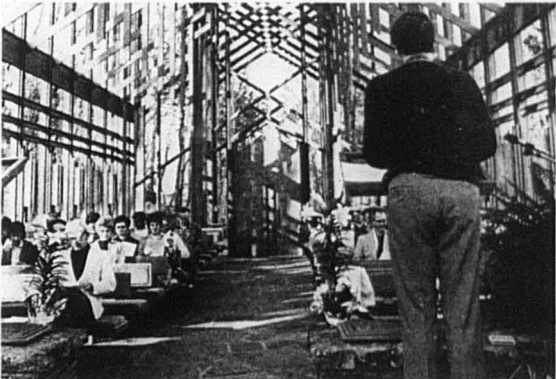
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Ingram



Freeman



A special worship service was held on Sunday morning of the Ouachita Baptist University annual faculty retreat at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs. The faculty talked about the most effective ways to teach religion in college and the place of religion in the education process.

Arkansans appointed as foreign missionaries

Six Arkansas couples were among 81 people appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board May 24 at First Church in Richmond, Va. They are Mr. and Mrs. Truett W. King, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Burris, Mr. and Mrs. Billy W. Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Langston.

The Langstons will work in Zimbabwe, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is pastor of Bowman Church in Lake City.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., Langston is the son of Mrs. Dorothy Langston of Hardy and the late H. O. Langston. While growing up he lived in Etowah, Keiser and Osceola, and attended First Church in Keiser. He considers Bowman Church his home church.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Park College, Parkville, Mo., and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He also attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

He served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in the United States and Guan. He has worked as a salesman for a lumber company in New Orleans and building supply company in Summit, Miss. He has also served as a summer missionary in Mississippi, sponsored by the Pike and Franklin Baptist Associations; pastor of Hopewell Church in Bude, Miss.; and associate pastor of Central Church in McComb, Miss.

Born in Jonesboro, Mrs. Langston, the former Janice Wilmoth, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Wilmoth Jr. of Etowah. She grew up in Etowah and considers that city her hometown. She also considers Bowman Church her home church.

She attended Arkansas State University. The Langstons have two children: Aaron Neil, born in 1974; and James Micah, 1977. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Fords will work in Upper Volta, where he will be a communications specialist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he attends New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. They are members of Gentilly Church, New Orleans.

Born and reared in Magnolia, Ford is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melroy Ford of that city. He considers Central Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia. He has worked as managing editor and commercial department manager of the *Banner-News* in Magnolia, and as account executive for KVMA Radio there.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., Mrs. Ford, the former Sharon Curtis, is the daughter of

Martha Curtis of Magnolia and the late Carl B. Curtis. She also considers Central Church her home church. While growing up she also lived in Los Angeles, Calif.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Southern Arkansas University.

The Fords have two children: Natalie Anne, born in 1978; and John Stephen Jr., 1980. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Kings will work in South Korea, where he will be a religious education consultant and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is minister of education at First Church in Rogers.

Born in Little Rock, King is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David J. King Sr. of El Dorado. While growing up he also lived in Hot Springs and Hope. He considers Hope his hometown and First Church in Rogers and Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock his home churches.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He has worked as a railroad switchman and real estate agent in Fort Worth, and a railroad conductor and cardiovascular electron microscopist (at the University of Arkansas Medical Center) in Little Rock. He has also served as associate pastor in education at First Southern Church in Topeka, Kan.

Born in Ardmore, Okla., Mrs. King, the former Nancy Lee, is the daughter of Helen C. Lee of Little Rock and the late Samuel J. Lee. While growing up she also lived in Little Rock, which she considers her hometown. She considers First Church, Rogers, and Geyer Springs First Church her home churches.

She received the bachelor of science in education degree from Ouachita Baptist University. She has worked as a teacher in Crowley, Texas, and Rogers.

The Kings have two children: Shannon Lee, born in 1969; and Rebecca Rose, 1972. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Suttons will work in the Philippines, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is pastor of Elk City (Idaho) Church.

Born in McGehee, Sutton is the son of Ruth Sutton of Baton Rouge, La., and the late Troy L. Sutton. While growing up he lived in Baton Rouge and he considers that city his hometown and Zoar Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University, Baton

Rouge, and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served in the U.S. Air Force as a security policeman and was stationed in the United States and South Korea. He has worked as a computer operator in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. He has also served as pastor of Springville Church, Livingston, La.

Born and reared in Baton Rouge, Mrs. Sutton, the former Judith Blackburn, is the daughter of Evelyn Blackburn of Walker, La., and the late Morris Blackburn. She also considers Zoar Church her home church.

She received the bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University. She has worked as a medical technologist in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Baton Rouge.

The Suttons have four children: Michael Evan, born in 1971; Laura Lynne, 1972; Elaine Michelle, 1977; and Jennifer Leigh, 1978. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Burris will work in Taiwan, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is pastor of First Church of Hoover in Birmingham, Ala.

Born and reared in Dallas, Texas, Burris is the son of Mrs. George B. Burris of that city and the late George B. Burris. He considers Cliff Temple Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and the master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

He has served as a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Florida; pastor of King Church in Gatesville, Texas, First Church, Sonoma, Calif., Union Church in El Dorado, and Plainfield (Ind.) Church; co-director of a coffeehouse sponsored by Columbus Avenue Church in Waco; and minister of music and youth at First Southern Church in Petaluma, Calif.

Born in Newton, Miss., Mrs. Burris, the former Donna Cope, is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Padgett C. Cope of Birmingham. Her father is a Southern Baptist minister and former Home Mission Board missionary in Pennsylvania. She considers Birmingham her hometown and Ruhama Church there her home church. She has also lived in Little Rock, Levittown, N.J., and Baltimore, Md.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University. She has served with her husband as a summer missionary in Florida; writer at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; and Church Training consultant for the Birmingham Baptist

Association and the Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery.

The Burris have three children: Lisa Michelle, born in 1972; Jonathan Lee, 1974; and Lori Noelle, 1979. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Smiths will work in Portugal, where he will be a mission business manager and she will be a church and home worker. He has been attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. They are members of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth.

Born and reared in Camden, Smith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Smith of that city. He considers First Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of science in education degree from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia. He has worked as an office manager for a poultry company and building supply company, both in Pine Bluff. The Smiths were members of First Church in Pine Bluff.

Born in Oakland, Calif., Mrs. Smith, the former Tommie Shaddox, is the daughter of Alta D. Shaddox of North Little Rock and the late T. N. Shaddox Jr. She considers North Little Rock her hometown and Park Hill Church there her home church. While growing up she also lived in Nebraska, Kansas, Japan, England and Guam.

She received the bachelor of science in education degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the master of science in education degree from Henderson State University, Arkadelphia. She has served as a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Arkansas and teacher at First Church in Pine Bluff.

The Smiths have two children: Stephen Shaddox, born in 1975; and Krista Michelle, 1979. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burris



Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ford



Mr. and Mrs. Ron Langston



Mr. and Mrs. Billy Sutton



Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith



Mr. and Mrs. Truett King

Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, how can a person rise above circumstances and be happy? I would like to "be content in whatever state I am in" but I need help!

Your letter surely expresses a sincere and inquiring spirit. Your question is perhaps an expression of many Christian friends.

It may not be possible for a person to "rise above circumstances." The scriptures indicate that those who believe in Christ are "given" a new position. Ephesians 1:3, 2:6 and 3:10 speak of this new position. The language indicates a new way of thinking, a new kind of experience, and a new kind of knowledge.

The change that comes is not the result of one's focus upon the circumstances. It is more the result of appropriating the given position. Romans 6:11 admonishes the believer to "reckon" himself/herself "dead" to the old life of sin, and "alive" to a new life through Christ.

Many believers seem to feel that it is enough to be delivered from the torments of future hell. They seem to feel that they must pull themselves out of the hellish circumstances of the present misery. Salvation addresses both. The saved are free from the penalty of sin as one who is "dead" is free from the demands made upon the living. The saved are also to appropriate their new life in Christ.

Happiness might also be considered as an absence from problems demanding a solution. This is an error in thinking. There is no life without problems. The joy of triumph can only come from conflict.

A few suggestions might be helpful. 1) Contemplate on the purpose of glorifying Christ and less on present circumstances. 2) Think upon God's word and consider how you might apply it to your own life. 3) Avoid being controlled by other people's problems. 4) Seek opportunity for really getting to know the people who are close to you. 5) Stay involved in meaningful and productive activity.

Glen D. McGriff is Director of the Ministry of Crisis Support, Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Inquiries, comments or questions to be used anonymously in this column should be sent to Questions, Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Towers Building, Suite 660, 9601 Lile Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.



McGriff

Your state convention at work

Evangelism

The soul winner called

Many years ago, R. A. Torrey was preaching a revival meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. One day he was walking down the street and met a man who looked familiar to him. Torrey stopped and talked with him. In the course of the conversation, he asked the man, "Sir, do I know you?" The man replied, "I have been coming to your revival night after night." Torrey then asked, "Sir, are you a Christian?" This man happily agreed that he was a child of God. The next question from Torrey shocked this man. He said, "Sir, are you bringing people to Jesus?" The smile left the man's face. He turned to the preacher and said, "Preacher, that's your job!" Torrey was a very wise man of God. He asked the man, "Sir, have you read in Acts 8 where the Bible says, 'They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word!'" The man said, "Yes, I am familiar with that." Torrey then plunged home a great truth. He said, "Sir, read in verse one of that chapter where it said, 'they were scattered all except the apostles.'" Herein is found one of the great truths of the New Testament evangelism.

Who were these people who were scattered abroad sharing the Gospel? They were men and women and young people just like you. Everywhere they went, they were telling people about Jesus. This word in the Greek for preaching is not the formal proclamation from the pulpit but it's the burning speech of evangelists. It comes from the root word, gossip, but this is good gossip. They were sharing the gospel of the Lord Jesus with souls on fire wherever they went. — Clarence Shell, director



Shell

Christian Life Council

Price of current sexual revolution

Dr. Billy Graham indicated recently he felt the current epidemic diseases of Herpes Simplex II and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) result from man's refusal to live according to God's will. The former disease is an incurable venereal disease which now affects more than 20 million Americans. The latter, a blood disease, apparently had its beginning in the male homosexual community. It doesn't pay to stray from God's will and purpose in any area of life.

Clearly, the sexual revolution of recent years has created new and different problems. Christian youth need to be increasingly aware that God has never wavered in wanting young and old alike to keep free of adulterous relationships. Sex is one of God's wonderful gifts which, if kept in the confines of Judeo-Christian principles, brings joy and contentment. Otherwise, the end result is often suspicion, disease, divorce, and in some cases, serious physical and mental problems for newly born children.

In our day, Christians especially should be constantly reminded of the seventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14). This covers many sexual sins. Some are listed by the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 6:9 and Gal. 5:19). Finally, the Lord reminds us that there are other type sins lest we have false pride. In the account of Jesus and the woman taken in adultery, we are reminded there are other sins. "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7) — Bob Parker, director



Parker

Church Administration

Church Vocations Conference at Siloam

My four year old son is just beginning to discover the wide variety of vocational options that are available today. He is currently going through the typical "policeman, fireman" fascinations. I was surprised, however, when he recently announced his intentions to become a "wrecker driver." Obviously, a four year old has some time yet before those fantasies have to take on more real dimensions.

Many youth in our churches have begun to search and struggle for that sense of direction that is so vital to the important decisions which they face. One area of decision deals with living out a Christian commitment through a church related vocation.

The State Church Training Department will provide a Church Vocations Conference during four of the seven weeks of the Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs. The conference, entitled "Discovery: God's Call," is designed for youth committed to or interested in church vocations. It will be provided during the third through sixth weeks of the assembly (the weeks of June 27, July 4, 11 and 18). State Church Training Department personnel will lead the conferences. Sessions will deal with understanding God's call along with exploring the many options available in church vocations.

If you have youth in your church who are interested in learning more about church vocations, encourage them to sign up for this conference at Siloam. These will be exciting weeks as many youth find God's direction for their lives. — Bill Falkner, associate



Falkner

Family and Child Care

Giving to children

Jerry Clower has said, "Haw! Help a child; God will bless you!" How true!

In a recent conversation, a lady from North Little Rock shared with me, "We read an article 13 or 14 years ago about Education Sponsors needed for the children at the Baptist Home for Children. My husband and I prayed about it and decided that \$12.00 per month to meet this need was something we could and should do. You know how important school pictures are to the children and part of the money was to be used for that purpose. We are still involved in giving to that fund and have been blessed through this involvement."

She went on to say, "Our daughter was in junior high when we began this involvement with the child care ministry. She graduated from high school and received a substantial college scholarship." She added, "You can't out-give God. He blesses our obedience."

God will bless our obedience as we share with those in need. Thousands of Arkansas Baptists are involved in sharing with our agency to meet the needs of troubled and needy children in our state. Thank you. God bless you.

By the way, the young girl whom this family sponsored is now married and has a child of her own. She has in her possession a book of her school pictures - an important link to her childhood. — Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.



Biggs

Sunday School

Doing right things for growth

Any pastor who has ever been to a growth conference or attended a Sunday School clinic has been told that Sunday School growth begins with him. While this is true it can also be frustrating to the pastor who honestly does everything he knows to do yet his Sunday School still does not grow. The truth is that being busy is not as important as being busy at the right things. Right things done with the right motives are honored by God and produce growth. It is God that gives the increase. It is the task of the pastor and members to plan, organize, implement (plant and water if you will.)

There are seven key laws of growth that must be observed to create a proper climate for growth. These laws constitute the "right things" that a pastor and church should be doing consistently.

The first of these laws deals with leadership. Your ability to work is affected by the ratio of workers to enrollment and the degree of commitment the workers show toward their task. To be in a position for growth, your ration of workers to enrollment for the Sunday school as a whole should be about one to eight. If the ratio is one to 10 or greater, then saturation has occurred and growth stops. One of the keys in reaching people is to put more persons to work. When you look at worker-pupil ratios by age groups, the following figures are close guidelines: preschool, one to four; children, one to seven; youth, one to 10-15; adults, one teacher to a maximum of 25 pupils. This is a maximum — so start new classes smaller to leave room for growth.

Next time, I will discuss the idea of commitment in relationship to growth. — **Freddie Pike**



Pike

Church Training

Mandate to discipleship

"Developing Believers" is a major Bold Mission Thrust emphasis. But it is more than an emphasis or a theme. Developing Believers is an inescapable mandate from the New Testament. The church finds its mandate to develop believers in Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; and in other passages that speak to the task of growing disciples and equipping them for the ministry of the church. Developing believers is not an option for the church that takes seriously its New Testament task of making disciples.

The "Developing Believers" emphasis is to be launched in churches across the Convention this fall. The plan begins on September 25 with the adoption of the Believers Ministry Covenant, a covenant of commitment by pastor and congregation, committing themselves to discover, develop and use their God-given gifts in ministry.

Dynamic Doctrines in the fall quarter offers a three-month study of basic Christian doctrine for children, youth and adults. Bringing Together Belief and Behavior will be the general theme of the dated curriculum for the remainder of the year (Jan-Sept.), a study of the ethical demands of discipleship. The Pastor's Seminar will offer special studies led by the pastor using equipping center modules during February, May and July. And, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit will be the study offered during Baptist Doctrine Study Week in April.

These five strategies provide churches with the best possible opportunities to "Develop Believers" during 1983-84. Now is the time to begin preparing. For information or assistance, call 376-4791, ext. 160. — **Robert Holley, director**



Holley

Stewardship Department

The church budget — a biblical basis

Is it biblical for a church to formulate and promote a budget? While there isn't an eleventh commandment that reads, "Thou shalt have a church budget;" the scriptures do contain references to believers planning and managing their resources.

Jesus and the disciples had a treasurer. Judas protested when Mary used expensive perfume to anoint Jesus. "He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would help himself from it" (John 12:6, GNB). They kept record of receipts and disbursements.

The church at Jerusalem had a system of receiving and disbursing gifts. People sold their property and turned the money over to the apostles who distributed it to the poor. Ananias and Sapphira met disaster because they lied about their gifts. Acts, chapters four and five, encourage good management.

Paul commended the Macedonians and chided the Corinthians about their giving. He encouraged the Corinthians to minister to Jerusalem's needs. The reluctant believers were given every assurance of proper management of their gifts. Paul said, "We are being careful not to stir up any complaints about the way we handle this generous gift" (2 Cor. 8:20, GNB).

The church budget is a tool for planning and administering the church's ministries. Budget planning for next year should start soon. — **James A. Walker, director**



Walker



HONORARY DEGREE AWARDED - After 23 years of awarding diplomas to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary graduates, V. Lavell Seats (right), dean of students, took his turn at receiving a degree for outstanding service to all 23 graduating classes in the seminary's history. Seats is a native of Tuckerman, Ark. Shown awarding the honorary degree during May 14 commencement exercise is 1983 graduating class president Rich Murrell. Since Seats will retire from his administrative duties at the end of 1983, the 23rd annual commencement was his last time to confer degrees upon Midwestern graduates. A former missionary to Nigeria, Seats will remain at Midwestern as senior professor of missions following a six month sabbatical.

International

Caleb. A man of undaunted faith

by D. C. McAttee, member, First Church, Forest City

Basic passage: Numbers 13:30-33; 14:24; Joshua 14:8-12

Focal passage: Numbers 13:30-33

Central truth: We should listen to the minority as well as the majority.

1. Caleb's background: We note that Caleb is the son of Jephunneh, the Kennezeite. Even though he was not a full-blooded Israelite, he was an "Israelite indeed." As Israel marched through the countryside toward the promised land, other people joined them from the surrounding areas, and through intermarriage they were accepted into the group and in time and in God's way accepted of Israel's God. Caleb was chosen as one of the twelve spies to go and search out the promised land.

2. Caleb's courage: Numbers 13:30-33. The others are giving a negative report about the possibility of taking the promised land, and Caleb speaks up with a different view. He "stilled the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it'" (v. 30). They all agreed that it was a land flowing with milk and honey, that there were giants in the land, and they were as grasshoppers in their sight. However, in Numbers 14:6, Joshua, the son of Nun, joins in with Caleb to try to prevail upon the people to attack at once and the Lord would help them, but they refused. Fear gripped them.

3. Caleb's worth: Numbers 14:24. God took note that Caleb had a different spirit with him, and had followed the Lord fully; therefore, he decrees that Caleb and his seed shall possess the land. In verse 30, he includes Joshua, and in verse 31, he includes the little ones under 20 years of age.

4. Caleb's claim: Joshua 14:8-12. When Caleb was 85 years old, he went to Joshua, and reminded him of the promise that God had made him long ago. In verses 8-12, he goes into detail about the promise. In verse 13, Joshua blesses Caleb and gives him Hebron for an inheritance.

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Life and Work

A man obeying God

by Clyde Glazener, Calvary Church of Little Rock

Basic passage: Jonah 3:1-10

Focal passage: Jonah 3:1-10

Central truth: When we are obedient to God's will for us, the Lord will accomplish what he wants to do through us.

The background of the focal passage is Jonah's experience in the belly of the fish. Inside the fish, he thanks God (2:1-9) for deliverance even as the creature conveys him to dry land and spews him out. The picture is simply that of God's intercepting the fleeing prophet and returning him in the direction of his assignment.

1. "The word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time" repeats Jonah's assignment. One is reminded of the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea refusing to enter Canaan and forty years later, across the Jordan from Jericho, ready to enter the flooding waters at God's direction. The wilderness wanderings had taught them the lesson Jonah's fish experience taught him, God's will is always best for his people.

Whether we reject the Lord's leadership because of fear (as did the Israelites) or because of prejudice and vested interests (as in the case of Jonah) we do so to our own hurt. God's man is in God's world to do God's will. Jonah learned this lesson and went to Ninevah to deliver God's message.

2. The response to Jonah's preaching is remarkable. The scene is that of a preacher, whose heart isn't in his task and who doesn't care for his hearers, pronouncing their impending doom. God has so orchestrated these circumstances as to make clear to the Ninevites that Jonah knows God's message is true.

The Ninevites are so moved by the certainty with which Jonah proclaims God's word that they repent. Their repentance is obviously genuine. When God's message is proclaimed, even in the most unlikely circumstances, he will take care of making it fruitful.

3. The most striking message has to do with God's grace. The Lord's primary purpose in the Jonah event seems to be that of snatching the Ninevites from immediate destruction. They are already a people under judgment. Jonah simply comes to pronounce the sentence. That God stays his hand of judgment at their repentance is a function of the abounding grace of God.

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Bible Book Series

Elijah's encounter with God

by Allen D. Thrasher, First Church of Booneville

Focal passage: I Kings 19:2-4, 9-12, 15-16, 18

Central truth: Depression often follows great service rendered to God.

Have you observed that those who render outstanding service to God sometimes experience deep depression immediately afterwards? This appears to be a rather common occurrence. This was the case with the prophet Elijah, who had just climaxed his long prophetic career with the drought and Mount Carmel prophecies. It is sometimes the experience of present day men and women of God. Perhaps this lesson can help us determine why this happens and how God helps his depressed servants.

Elijah was physically, emotionally and mentally tired. For sure, God had protected him during the prolonged period of famine (I Kings 18), but the stress of the period had taken its toll on the man of God. God's prophets often must experience the very periods of trial which they predict. Such was the case with Elijah, and he was weary in body and soul, especially after the Mount Carmel incident which was climaxed by a marathon run (I Kings 18:46).

Elijah had also experienced a faith level change. God had performed mighty miracles through his servant (drought and fire from heaven). Elijah had operated at a peak level of faith. Once the mountaintop experience was over, however, the prophet found himself in the valley of Jezreel facing perhaps the most wicked woman who ever lived (v. 2). Would God have rescued his servant from the wrath of Jezebel had he not run for his life? One thing is certain, when men and women of God take a strong stand of faith, they will be countered by the prince of this world and his servants. These who take a stand of faith should be prepared (with faith) for the inevitable satanic counter assault upon themselves and their cause. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood" alone (Eph. 6:12)

The Lord is very patient and gentle with his distressed servants; he is the learned physician, the wise counselor, and is able to lead men out of the quagmires of depression and despair. He listened to Elijah's complaint and distorted perception of reality (v. 10), and then very gently spoke to him (still small voice, v. 12), recommissioned him (vv. 15-16) and corrected him (v. 18).

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ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — Board and staff members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board laid a cornerstone May 24 at the site of the missionary training center they hope will boost the skills of new missionaries going overseas.

The Rockville location will be used year-round, and easy access to board offices in Richmond will make missionary training more efficient. New missionaries and journeymen currently train at rented, overcrowded facilities in Georgia and North Carolina which are available only certain weeks of the year.

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Church rates set for Baptist TelNet

by Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Baptist TelNet church subscription rates — ranging from a minimum monthly fee of \$33 to a maximum of \$175, based on resident church membership — have been announced by Grady Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The satellite telecommunications network to churches will become operational in the spring of 1984. While the actual start-up date has not been set, Cothen said it would be no later than June 11-13, the date of the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

Earlier, prices for Broadman receiving earth stations were announced. A 10-dish, which will receive the BTN signal in most

locations, costs \$2,795 installed or \$2,295 not installed.

A 500-member church can buy necessary equipment — an earth station, video cassette player/recorder, television set and one-year subscription to Baptist TelNet for less than \$5,000. Costs for succeeding years would be limited to the subscription fee and video supplies.

"By careful management, many thousands of churches can afford to purchase the equipment and receive the top-quality programs on Baptist TelNet," said Cothen. "The prices are much less than we originally thought they would be."

Church subscription rates include a monthly base rate of \$33 plus a fee of eight cents per resident member per month for each member above 149. Payments can be made monthly, quarterly or yearly, with a five percent discount given for an annual payment in advance.

For example, a church of 300 resident members would pay a monthly subscription rate of \$45.08 (\$33 base fee plus \$12.08 for 151 members above 149). The quarterly charge would be \$135.24 or annual, \$540.96.

All churches with more than 1,920 resident members would pay the maximum monthly rate of \$175-\$524 quarterly or \$2,906, annually.

With a BTN subscription, a church will receive more than 400 hours of new programs to be broadcast the first year, program schedules, user's guides for each program and a board-owned decoder to unscramble the signal.

Cothen said the seven to eight hours of new programs to be broadcast each week will be the heart of Baptist TelNet. "The variety of programs designed to help various facets of church life will be endless," he noted.

Plans call for programs to be broadcast at least twice to accommodate time zone differences and to allow churches more than one opportunity to tape a program for later use.

For 1984, weekly programs in the planning or production stages include preparation helps for Sunday school workers, a training magazine, a conference for pastors and a series on ministering to families.

Limited-duration series will address topics such as biblical discipleship, chorale concepts for the minister of music and church drama. Church growth, reaching and baptizing college students, the small church and witnessing will also be the subjects of BTN programs.

"We expect the best training activities in Baptist life will be available through Baptist TelNet," said Cothen. He added programs regularly will be videotaped from Ridgecrest and Glorietta conference centers, meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist World Alliance and

from foreign and home mission fields.

He said response from other SBC agencies desiring to broadcast programs via Baptist TelNet has been excellent. "We anticipate most agencies will use the network and it will have widespread use among state conventions," said Cothen.

"Missions Update," a quarterly news program produced since 1980 by the Foreign Mission Board and distributed through the SBC Video Tape Service and directors of missions will be broadcast over BTN.

The Video Tape Service, a cooperative venture of state conventions and Southern Baptist agencies to provide educational and informational videotapes to churches is expected to be gradually incorporated into Baptist TelNet.

Cothen said one important decision yet to be made is the subscription rate for associations, which will be able to make tapes of programs available to churches not subscribing to Baptist TelNet.

Should any problems develop with the launch of Spacenet 1 satellite in early 1984, Cothen said transponder time will be leased on another satellite to enable BTN broadcasts to begin on schedule. A book to assist church leaders, Making Baptist TelNet Work in Your Church, is being written by Morton Rose and Lue Bishop and will be released June 1, 1984.

Internally, Cothen said as the network has moved from planning to implementation stages, responsibility has been transferred from the office of planning to executive vice president James Clark, who has been named chairman of the Teletext which coordinates BTN.

Programs are being developed within departments, according to their program assignments. Program production has been assigned to the Broadman division.

Cothen said he envisions many additional uses for Baptist TelNet "as we become fully aware of its potential." These include two-way communication, data communication, electronic mail, remote printing and computer conferencing.

With Baptist TelNet to churches and the American Christian Television System network into homes, "Southern Baptists are in an unparalleled position in communicating the gospel and its implications to both the secular and religious worlds," said Cothen.

Korean servicemen find Christ

TAEJON, South Korea — Some 5,200 servicemen declared their faith in Christ in 1982 through the ministry of the Korea Baptist Convention. Southern Baptist missionary Rolla Bradley, supervisor of military evangelism, reported that 448 servicemen were baptized and an additional 1,170 joined Baptist churches after receiving counseling.

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Call to prayer

Ten Baptist bodies, including the Women's Missionary Union and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will be sponsoring a Baptist Prayer Conference on the theme "Turn to Me and Live" next year.

They are asking people to send in sermons, poems, hymns, prayers and personal experiences of prayer, each of which should touch on God either as Lord of all, of the nations, of the people, of the church or of creation. Submissions for the April 30-May 3, 1984 conference should be sent to P.O. Box 580, Fremont, Calif. 94537 no later than June 30 of this year.