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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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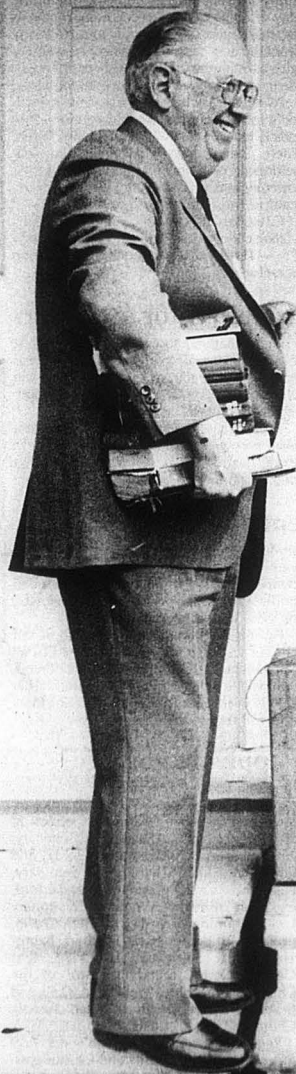


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March 7, 1985

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



Start-A-Church
Commitment Sunday
March 24

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, 500
Nashville, Tennessee

On the cover



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Charles and Pat Cockman, members of Little Rock Otter Creek First Church, are among members of four Little Rock churches helping start a mission in the Mabelvale area of southwest Little Rock. Sunday, March 24, Arkansas Baptist churches are being asked to commit themselves to begin one new congregation in the year ahead.

In this issue

6 forging ahead

Since her 1966 appointment as a circuit court judge—an Arkansas first—U.S. District Judge Elsjane Trimble Roy, an active Baptist laywoman, has been breaking down barriers for women in Arkansas.

8 convention business

The SBC Executive Committee had a full agenda at their February meeting in Nashville, including the 1985-86 budget and business concerning the American Christian Television System and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Meeting moved

The March 7 lecture on "Spirituality and the Psychology of Human Nature" by M. Scott Peck, sponsored by the Ecumenical Lecture Series, has been moved to First Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Start-A-Church Commitment Sunday

William G. Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has said that we must start more new churches if we hope to reach America for Christ. Peter Wagner, the well-known church growth professor of Fuller Seminary said, "The single most effective method of evangelism is planting new churches."

Southern Baptists are recognizing March 24 as a special day of commitment to starting new churches. The theme is "Start Churches! Reach People!"

Nation-wide, churches are being asked to (1) commit themselves to being a sponsoring church; (2) be willing to join with other churches to sponsor a mission; (3) pray for new work.

In addition to these needs, Arkansas churches are being asked to consider (1) sending a church group to assist a mission; (2) sponsoring a mission revival in 1986; (3) providing some financial support for a mission.

One hundred new sponsors are needed to sponsor new work in Arkansas. Other groups, prayer and financial support and sponsors are needed for Indiana and Brazil.

Churches who already are sponsoring missions are encouraged to make March 24 a day of recognition and celebration related to their ministry in their mission. Someone from the new congregation may be asked to give a testimony or the mission pastor might be invited to preach for one of the services.

All Arkansas churches have been provided a form, a copy for the association, state office, Home Mission Board and the church. Each church has also received a self-addressed card on which to represent their commitment. Churches are asked to mail the card to the state office by April 15.

Churches may share their responses by calling collect 376-4791, ext. 5145, on March 25. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

Arkadelphia Second celebrates pastor's 25 years

Second Church, Arkadelphia, recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of their pastor, Carl W. Kluck. A Sunday morning "This is Your Life" program and subsequent church-wide banquet honored Kluck and his wife, Margie, for their long-lived ministry with the congregation.

Kluck, 61, has ministered to the Second Church congregation since February 1960.

Prior to that, he served as pastor of First Church, Atkins, for four years. Kluck, a Texas native, is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Klucks have two grown children, Sharon Townsend, a first-term missionary to Brazil; and Wesley, an Arkadelphia pediatrician.

OBU schedules early orientations

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University will conduct three early academic orientation sessions this summer, giving incoming freshmen and transfer students the opportunity to visit the campus, meet the faculty and arrange a schedule of classes before the university's 1985 fall semester begins.

Orientation sessions are set for June 20, July 13 and August 2. Registration for each will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Evans Student Center. After a 10:30 general meeting for

students and parents, students will consult with representatives in their area of academic interest. A noon luncheon (included in the \$5 registration fee) will be followed by class schedule conferences.

Parents will participate in a question and answer session with OBU President Daniel R. Grant at 1:10 p.m. A Presidential Reception will be held for parents and students at 2:30 in Evans Student Center. Campus tours also will be available.

CLC seminar to focus on applying gospel

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Pastors, Christian ethicists, educators and denominational leaders will address a variety of social and moral issues at a conference on "Applying the Gospel in the Local Church" March 25-27 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The annual seminar, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, will focus on current issues such as world hunger, abortion, peace with justice, alcohol, drug abuse and gambling.

CLC Executive Director Foy Valentine said the three-day seminar is designed to provide practical help for Baptist churches which are "tempted on the one hand to withdraw from the real world or on the other hand to embrace far too narrow an agenda of

theology and social concern."

Among the speakers will be T.B. Maston, former professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Lewis B. Smedes, professor of theology and ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.; Kenneth Chafin, professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Gordon Cosby, founding pastor of the Church of the Savior, Washington, D.C.; and J. Alfred Smith, pastor of Allen Temple Church, Oakland, Calif.

Registration is \$35 per person and \$17.50 for spouses of registrants and for students.

Teach the great truths

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



A thorough knowledge of Bible truths is essential for strength in Christian living. The well-being of a church, too, is dependent upon members who are familiar with and committed to the teachings of the scripture. Yet, all too often our members know very little about the great doctrines of the Bible and what Baptists believe. The doctrinal study slated for April 22-26, is a unique opportunity to provide a comprehensive study of the "Doctrine of Christ."

Sometimes it appears that certain other denominations are more effective in the training of their membership than we are. The people are, seemingly, quite ready and willing to express their views. How can this be when independent evaluations have shown Southern Baptist curriculum materials and methods to be the best?

There are a variety of reasons for our difficulty and for the apparent success of others. The first is that these groups are teaching only a small number of doctrines to their members. Baptists, on the other hand, attempt to communicate all the major teachings of the Bible.

Some of these groups go so far as to insist that one can only be saved by doing or knowing certain things. If one is convinced that his eternal destiny is contingent upon the acquisition of a limited amount of knowledge, he will learn it. Work salvation motivates many of these groups.

Baptists, however, should not take comfort from these comparisons. Our concern must be the development of churches which are pleasing to Christ. If we are to be successful, our members must be convinced of the importance of Bible doctrine (or teaching).

Paul urged Christians, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). The emphasis on the verb "study," means that there must be great commitment to learning the truths of the word of God.

This year's Bible study, "The Doctrine of Christ," by Frank Stagg, provides a unique opportunity for our church members to study in-depth one of the most important doctrines of the New Testament. Most active church members know the story of Jesus. We know the facts surrounding his birth, baptism, ministry, death and resurrection. But if an individual is going to be able to refute many of the contemporary heresies, an in-depth study of just who Christ is must be obtained.

Dr. Stagg is professor emeritus of New Testament Interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has devoted much of his ministry in preparing others for vocational Christian service, having taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and then at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also has taught a year at Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Dr. Stagg has written extensively. Among his publications are *The Book of Acts, New Testament Theology, How to Understand the Bible and The Holy Spirit Today*. He and his wife, Evelyn, reside at Diamond Head on the Gulf Shore.

In this exciting book, Dr. Stagg looks at the meaning, message and ministry of Christ. He emphasizes that because Christ was God he had complete authority over Jewish festivals, the Sabbath, the food laws and the Temple. It was because Jesus was God in the flesh that he could forgive sins.

Another helpful emphasis of the book is the lordship of Christ. Dr. Stagg concludes this section of the book with a question: "Can one know Jesus as savior but not as lord? Of course not. It is only as one comes under Christ as Lord that he knows the relationship and power in the salvation he offers. The church does not build or advance the kingdom of God. Rather, it is under the kingdom of God that the church is created, sustained and directed. It is truly the church only under the Lordship of Christ."

It was our privilege to attend the doctrinal study led by Dr. Stagg during the evangelism conference. The workbook on "The Doctrine of Christ" is exceedingly helpful. The book, which was compiled by the Arkansas Church Training Department, is a compilation of materials furnished by the SBC Sunday School Board. Many of these materials are suitable for use with an overhead projector and will be invaluable to teaching the study.

One of the revivals which is needed right now is a return to a major emphasis on basic Bible doctrines. The Doctrinal Study Week provides a unique opportunity for this emphasis.

As Baptists, we have every right to rejoice in the stand which we take concerning the Bible and its teaching and the doctrines which make us a distinctive people. Let us unashamedly proclaim these doctrines. Above all, let us use every opportunity to teach our people the great truths of the Word of God.

Arkansas Baptist

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

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Who's to blame, society or the individual?

Rugged individualism and the responsibility of society are two ideas that are not always comfortable with each other. The spirit of individualism has been especially strong in American history. But the emphasis has been on individual responsibility and not merely on individual freedom.

More recently, we have come through an equally strong period of emphasis on the responsibility of society to help weak individuals, protecting them from the perils of a cold and brutal jungle existence. Too much individualism, it is said, results in poverty, disease, hunger and illiteracy, which only the very strong can avoid. It is said to be the heart of Christian ethics to be sensitive to one's social responsibility for "one of the least of these."

We may have done too good a job teach-

ing the world about the responsibilities of society and the government. Not long ago, the newspapers carried the story of a young man, age 21, who hijacked an airplane and then told the reporters he should not be held responsible for his action. He said he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol and blamed the government for not helping him kick the drug habit.

This skyjacker reported from his jail cell that he had taken cocaine the night before the incident and Valium the morning of the flight, and said he had been drinking on the plane. He then recounted his personal history of beginning to use drugs in the sixth grade, about the time his parents were divorced.

He said, "I cannot be held responsible for this incident due to our county, state and

federal governments' lack of concern for individuals with drugs problems." He quit high school to join the Marines and complained that he got no help there for his drug addiction, and was given a "less than honorable" discharge when he failed to "kick the habit." He twice underwent drug treatment in government hospitals but left each time with the allegation that he was not getting help.

Preposterous stories like this one make it difficult for society to help individuals who have genuine needs. His flagrant attempt to "blame everybody but me" undermines the effort of groups and organizations to respond with compassion. It doesn't take many such stories to allow us to pass by on the other side of the road when a injured and helpless person is lying in the ditch.

In point of fact, individual responsibility and social responsibility should go hand in hand. It's just that I have trouble accepting responsibility for the buck-passing skyjacker.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Maynard Sneed

The true sophisticate

Not every day does one make the acquaintance of a true sophisticate. In fact, I thought the experience so extraordinary that I would like to share it with you.

We were treating our family to hamburgers in one of America's favorite restaurants when we chanced to meet her. She was shamelessly flaunting her slim cigarette, brandishing it menacingly in every direction. Several times, she waved it precariously over our daughter's head, tapping it occasionally with the tip of the finger to release the live ashes that fluttered slowly to the floor.

A hot ash settled in the cuff of Cathy's jeans, burned a dark hole through her sock and raised a large blister on her ankle. Of course, Cathy's whimpers were overheard by other customers who were waiting in long lines for their orders.

A woman on our right quipped, "We're so sorry about your accident, but my friend is not to be blamed. You see, she has cancer."

Thinking I must have misunderstood her apology, I said, "I beg your pardon, but I think I missed that."

"She has cancer."

I was struck dumb by her strange reasoning, but my husband promptly replied, "Smoking will do that for you, I hear."

"Well, surely she doesn't have to wear her 'cancer stick' over the rest of us," Cathy complained. "I hope she doesn't mean to take

us all with her."

"Come, Winifred!" the women exclaimed, rushing her friend to the door. "We know that all truly sophisticated persons smoke."

Certainly, cigarette manufacturers have made that idea the basis of many an advertising campaign, but I wonder how many would-be sophisticates are acquainted with the definition of the term. *The World Book Dictionary* defines sophistication as "1. a lessening or loss of naturalness, simplicity or frankness; worldly experience or ideas; artificial ways. 2. sophistry; clever but misleading argument based on false or unsound reasoning."

On one hand, the term connotes an artificiality of manner, over-refinement and lack of enthusiasm as the price of worldliness. On the other hand, it may imply a cultivation that allows a person to rise above the ordinary or usual.

It would be difficult to argue that smoking is not artificial or worldly or that any defense of the practice is not misleading or unsound. We can be sure, however, that smoking has never allowed a person to rise above the ordinary or usual, unless of course, we except those who have made their fortunes from the sale of the product.

Not only is smoking an unattractive and costly habit, but it can lead to serious health

problems for both the smoker and those who are exposed to his pollution. There is evidence that it can even cause birth defects in unborn babies. Millions of dollars worth of public and private property and many innocent lives are lost annually because of the carelessness of smokers. These persons are smelly and unpleasant to be near and generally tend to be less respectful of the rights and comforts of others than Christian charity demands.

Sophistication is not an attribute of Christianity. Our Lord Jesus was born in a lowly stable. His disciples, men and women of simple ways, gathered to hear him preach his most famous sermon from a mountainside. He died on a common cross and was interred in a borrowed sepulcher. Though he certainly rose above the ordinary or usual, by no stretch of the imagination could he ever have been called sophisticated.

The apostle Paul instructed the Christians at Rome, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2). This is still God's word for Christians today.

Mary Maynard Sneed, a North Little Rock homemaker and mother of two, is a member of Park Hill Church.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... "It's working!" These are the words of a former foreign missionary who was commenting on his concern over the division in the SBC. He was referring to the Cooperative Program when he exclaimed, "It's working. I've been out there. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt, it's working."

This is the witness of missionary after missionary. Within the last year, four missionaries from other



Moore

independent Baptist groups have left their sponsoring groups to become Southern Baptists. They have attributed their change to the fact that Southern Baptist missionaries are able to work with more efficiency, freedom and effectiveness because of the way they are supported.

... **It's working in home missions, too!** In visiting with other executive directors and studying the budgets of the state conventions, it becomes apparent. The newer pioneer conventions receive as much as 60 to 80 percent of their support from the Home Mission Board. In many, many areas, there would be no churches, no associations and no state convention were it not for the Home Mission Board's support.

In the more developed states, you can hardly find a ministry in the area of missions not assisted by home mission funds. You may not realize it, but 40 percent of the funds for most of the ministries of our Missions Department come from the Home Mission Board. This is the reason we boldly and forthrightly encourage every church to have home missions studies and receive a Home Missions offering (Annie Armstrong) this spring. The gospel is being preached every Sunday in 85 different languages by Southern Baptists supported by the Home Mission Board. Folks, "it's working!" Let's continue and even increase our support.

... **It's working in Arkansas, too!** You can't find a stratum or element of life in Arkansas that is not affected to some degree by the presence and witness of Arkansas Baptists. From the legislative halls, to university halls, to prison halls, you have people there bearing witness, ministering and standing for the high and noble calling of God in Christ Jesus. They are there because of the Cooperative Program. "It's working!" brother missionary, "It's working!"

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

March 7, 1985

I'm proud to be a Southern Baptist!

by James Shults

Never have I been so proud of being a Southern Baptist as I was in Shocco Springs, Ala., attending a seminar on Planned Growth in Giving. The meeting was designed for information, but it also was one of the greatest spiritual blessings I've enjoyed in quite some time.

The program includes every facet of our convention, the individual, church, association, state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies in Planned Growth in Giving. It is a plan that asks each individual to look at and plan his giving over a 15 year period.



Shults

I was very impressed with the seriousness of the Southern Baptist Convention department heads as to their giving in regard to this program. When leaders tell publicly their plans to increase their giving for 15 years, that's total dedication from the hip pocket.

It was interesting to have a program presented where you see and feel the beginning, the growing and the great success of our Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. It is a program that will help finance Bold Mission Thrust and to tell every person in the world about Jesus by the year 2000.

I'm sold on this program and know that you will be blessed when you have it presented to you.

Remember Going is Giving but Giving also is Going.

James Shults, a Pine Bluff businessman, is the ABCS Operating Committee chairman.

Letter to the editor

Flimsy excuses

I am responding to an article in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* on page 2 of the January 3, 1985, issue. The article on Annie Armstrong and the Home Mission Board specifically concerning the approval of Debra Griffis-Woodberry of Raleigh, N.C., as pastor of Broadneck Mission in Annapolis, Md.

In light of what Paul wrote to Timothy in Timothy 3:2 where the bishop (pastor) must be blameless, the husband of one wife, I would like to know the reasoning used in approving a woman as pastor. The only thing that I could forsee as a basis for this heretical ungodly act of approval of a woman pastor is that the committee who approved her as

well as Debra Griffis-Woodberry, herself, for accepting the position is that they do not believe the Bible to be true and that it does not mean what it says.

They would do well to read and heed Revelation 22:18-19 because they will stand before God someday and I do not believe they will make out too good with their flimsy excuses as to how this situation was handled. If Debra Griffis-Woodberry qualifies as the husband of one wife I would certainly like to meet her. I believe such liberal parities as this will hurt and hinder giving to the Cooperative Program, because doctrinally sound people do not want to support such liberal administering of funds. — Dendin Guinn, Mena



Teleconference—Katsy McAllister, WMU director at First Church, El Dorado, was a recent guest of the 1985 Home Missions Teleconference in Birmingham. McAllister, who also serves as Arkansas WMU president, emphasized WMU literature and how it enables her church to promote missions. Cecil Medders of Alabama (center) and Jay Durham, Home Mission Board, also participated in the session.

Breaking the barriers: a precedent-setting career for a Baptist

When things get tough for Judge Elsjane Trimble Roy a quick glance across the courtroom lets her know she's not alone. On the wall opposite her bench hangs a photograph of her father, the late Judge Thomas C. Trimble, who occupied the same room more than 28 years ago.

Perhaps columnist Ernest Dumas, of the *Arkansas Gazette*, described her background best when he wrote "she came from a family steeped in jurisprudence."

Judge Roy's father served on the bench from 1937 to 1956, as a district judge and later chief judge for the Eastern District. Her grandfather was active in the Trimble, Robinson & Trimble firm in Lonoke until his late 80's and her mother's father, though not an attorney, was active in law enforcement as a United States marshal. Her uncle is the late Senator Joe T. Robinson of the Trimble, Robinson & Trimble law firm.

"When I was a little girl, up until I was in the fourth grade, I wanted to be an aviatrix. Then, after that, I decided that I wanted to be a lawyer and I never changed my mind from the fourth grade," Judge Roy, a Lonoke native said. "I just wanted to be a lawyer."

In 1939, Judge Roy, now U.S. District judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, achieved her goal and was admitted to the Arkansas bar. She was the only woman in her graduating class.

"My first year, there were three women in my class. The other two dropped out after the first year, but no professor, no individual ever told me I couldn't be a lawyer," she said. "If you've got a father, a grandfather and even further back a great-grandfather in law, then you're going to think that way."

She recently sat at her desk in her chambers, dressed in red jacket, tie and brown slacks, surrounded by mementos of the accomplishments of her life. Family photographs abound, as do plaques commemorating the many barriers she has broken for women in Arkansas.

The items behind her desk include a plaque marking her 1966 appointment as circuit court judge, of the sixth judicial district, by Governor Orval E. Faubus when she became, at age 50, the state's first woman circuit judge. Across the room, another first for women is Governor David Pryor's commission naming her to the Arkansas Supreme Court in 1975. In 1977, she became the first woman federal judge in Arkansas when President Jimmy Carter named her to the bench for the Eastern and Western Districts. At that time, she was the sixth woman sitting as a federal district judge and was strongly backed by Senators Dale Bumpers and John L. McClellan.

Judge Roy was born and reared in Lonoke, where she still attends Lonoke Church. After

receiving her degree, she practiced law there a short time. In 1940, she became associated with the firm of Rose, Loughborough, Dobyns & House in Little Rock. After the War, she associated with the firm of Reid, Evrad and Roy in Blytheville and went into practice with her husband in the firm of Roy & Roy in 1954. She was serving as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice J. Frank Holt when named a circuit court judge by Gov. Faubus.

"When Gov. Faubus called me to come to his office, I said, 'Well, aren't you sort of brave? You don't even know me.' I'd never even met Gov. Faubus. I had campaigned against him in the Hardin campaign (Joe C. Hardin, of Grady opposed Faubus in the 1960 Democratic primary). No one could have been more shocked when Gov. Faubus called me," she said.

Judge Roy points out that her appointments are from various political spectrums. "On the one side, I have an appointment from Orval Faubus and on the other, one from Win Rockefeller and who could have two more divergent governors appoint you to positions," she said (Rockefeller named Judge Roy in 1967 to the Constitutional Revision Study Commission).

It took faith, luck, good friends and professional loyalty and dedication for her to succeed, she said, adding that she had never asked for any of her appointments and in each case had been called "out of the clear blue sky."

She has never run for public office and has a reputation for "meticulous research and crisp opinions" and according to Dumas of the *Gazette* her appointment to the Supreme Court was "the most uniformly praised in the

legal fraternity, where Mrs. Roy is esteemed for her intellect and her singular background for the job."

Prior to being appointed to the Arkansas Supreme Court, she was an assistant state attorney general and later was senior law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Paul X. Williams. She said she thought she had reached her last plateau as Judge Williams' law clerk.

I took two senior law school students to lunch and told them, 'Well, now, you girls, the world's open to you. You're following along 20 to 30 years after my time in law school and you can just do anything you want. Now, I'm satisfied with my job and Judge Williams wants me to stay with him as long as he's judge and I am going to stay and don't expect to do any great things. But, I'm expecting you two girls to do great things,' she said. The next week she was appointed to the Supreme Court.

"It may be more difficult for a woman to succeed," she said, "but the same requisites apply for both men and women." She named enthusiasm, enjoyment of your job, hard work and luck. "I think I was lucky," she said.

Judge Roy considers herself neither a "booster nor detractor" of the women's liberation movement. She is "certainly for equal opportunity" and thought the Equal Rights Amendment would pass in Arkansas.

"I attributed that loss to the women of Arkansas and not to the men. It was defeated by Phyllis Schlafly and the women that lobbied against it and I think that they are misguided. It means exactly what it says—no more, no less. And all it says is that all citizens shall have equal rights and ap-

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Since her 1966 appointment as a circuit court judge—an Arkansas first—U.S. District Judge Elsjane Trimble Roy has been breaking barriers for women in Arkansas.

appropriate laws will be enacted to see that they do," she said.

Of her success, Judge Roy said, "The Lord has blessed me richly. I just think that I've had the most wonderful opportunities."

Roy recalled her confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate on being appointed to the federal bench.

"You know in the campaign, Ed Bethune (Republican senatorial candidate in the 1984 general election) made an issue of the fact that judges should be asked questions and so forth and stated that was the method which Sen. McClellan followed. I was talking to one of the other judges who was named when Sen. McClellan was in the Senate, and we both agreed that Sen. McClellan never asked either one of us a question. However, when I was in his office prior to appearing before the Senate Committee, he said, 'Elsijane, they're going to ask you some questions and I know one they're going to ask. You want me to tell you what it is?'

"I said, 'Yes, sir, I'll think of a good answer.'"

"Well, they're going to ask you if you're a born again Baptist," and I replied, 'Well Senator, I have the perfect answer to that. I'll say, 'Yes, indeed. I'm a born again, deep water, loud-shouting Baptist,'" she said.

She added, "I think that these doors have opened because this is what the Lord wants me to be."

On the judicial selection issue, Judge Roy said, "I'm not concerned about any major changes in the manner in which they (federal judges) are selected."

This appointment is her "last plateau," she said. "I hope to do as well as I can right where I am. It's a lifetime appointment, unless Judy Petty and Tommy Robinson get it changed."

Her free time is spent collecting music boxes, rooting for the Arkansas Razorbacks, swimming and playing kick ball and t-ball with her grandson, Tommy. "He thinks I'm his age and it's just a little difficult at 68 to

keep up with a seven year old," she said. She describes her granddaughter, Allyson, as a "beautiful, lovely, sweet, intelligent lady" of nine years, and her son Jimmy as an "outstanding" Springdale attorney.

"About two years ago, they were at my house and Tommy picked up my father's gavel which he used on the bench for 20 years and started waving it around. Jimmy went over and explained to him what it was. By that time Allyson was holding the gavel and looking at it and I said, 'Maybe Allyson will want to be a judge some day.' She said, 'No way, I'm going to be a nurse or a teacher.' Tommy immediately grabbed the gavel and said, 'I'll be the judge.'"

"I think one of them will go into law," Judge Roy said.

Ruth Williams is director of communications for the Arkansas Bar Association. Reprinted by permission from the January 1985 issue of The Arkansas Lawyer

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

update

people



Sullivan

Russ Sullivan is serving Otter Creek First Church, Little Rock as interim youth minister. He is a certified public accountant, associated with Peat Marwick Mitchell and Company in Little Rock. Sullivan is a graduate of Baylor University, where he

served as president of the student body his senior year. He was also president of the National Association of Student Councils in 1978-79.

Dale Wooten is serving as pastor of the Oak Grove Church near Ashdown, going there from the South Texarkana Church.

Joel Olive has joined the staff of Dardanelle First Church as minister of youth and music. He came there from Jonesboro First Church.

Curtis Miller has resigned as minister of youth at Springdale First Church to move to Texas. He will join the staff of the Fielder Road Church in Arlington as minister to students.

Thomas D. Kinder recently observed his 31st anniversary in the ministry. In his years of service, he has pastored churches in both Arkansas and Missouri. He now serves as pastor of Weiner First Church and is involved in the ministry to the deaf in northeast Arkansas.

Doug Applegate has joined the staff of Central Church, Bald Knob, as youth director.

R. G. Merritt is serving as pastor of First Southern Church, Redfield. He has previously served churches in Harmony Association and came to Redfield from Faith Church in DeWitt.

Bill Bastain is serving as pastor of the Rudd Church at Rule.

Tommy Wright has resigned as pastor of Osceola Friendship Church.

Mike Welch is serving as pastor of Brown's Chapel near Manila.

briefly

Wynne Church held an awareness/prevention conference on drugs, gambling and pornography Feb. 17. Bob Parker, director of the Christian

Life Council, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was leader.

Dardanelle First Church has purchased two lots and two houses, located next to the present educational building, for growth expansion. Tony Berry is pastor.

Trinity Church in Fort Smith honored pastor Bruce Morris March 3, recognizing his seven years of service.

Weiner First Church honored its oldest member, Missouri Wilhelm, Feb. 11 on her 96th birthday. She was recognized for her continued involvement in Sunday school and other church programs by Rommie Ashcraft, Sunday school director, and pastor Thomas D. Kinder.

Camden First Church ordained Larry Grayson to the ministry Feb. 24.

Lonoke Church held deacon ordination services recently for Jim Davis and James Fisher.

Temple Church at Benton ordained Cephas Moore Jr. as a deacon. Pastor Elvis Smith led the examination of the candidate and Hugh Owen, retired director of missions of Central Association, preached the ordination message.

BJCPA affirmed; new SBC Washington office nixed

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The establishment of a Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Office in Washington "does not appear practicable," according to a study conducted by the SBC Executive Committee.

During its February meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation affirming the SBC's "historic relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs" and report to the SBC annual meeting in June that establishment of an office "exclusively related to the SBC does not appear practicable."

The study was sparked by a motion presented at the 1984 annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., to "move to establish a Southern Baptist presence in Washington to address public and governmental affairs. . . ." The motion was referred to the Executive Committee, which is required to study the matter and report to the 1985 annual meeting.

In presenting the recommendation to affirm the continuation of SBC involvement with the BJCPA, Malcolm Jones of Baltimore, said establishment of a SBC office in Washington "would be very costly, both in startup and operation."

Jones, chairman of the commissions workgroup of the Executive Committee, said the SBC was instrumental in founding BJCPA, adding the "combined efforts of the SBC and the BJCPA has been very effective in matters of separation of church and state and religious liberty."

The action to affirm BJCPA and to report establishment of an SBC office was "not practicable," was opposed by Ed Drake, an attorney from Dallas. Drake, although a member of the Executive Committee, proposed defunding BJCPA during the 1984 annual meeting.

While affirming BJCPA in its First Amendment efforts, Drake said there are a "great host" of other issues "such as homosexuality and abortion" not covered by the BJCPA purpose. He said the SBC is the only major religious group not to have its own presence in the nation's capitol.

Drake complained "most" of the other eight Baptist groups affiliated with the joint committee "are members of the National Council of Churches. . . which marches to a different beat from Southern Baptists." Representatives of BJCPA, however, report only two of the eight member bodies—the American Baptist Churches and the Progressive National Baptist Convention—are NCC members. The other six are not.

Drake also criticized James M. Dunn, executive director of BJCPA, claiming Dunn "is no longer effective" in representing Southern Baptists.

After Drake's opposition, the Executive Committee adopted the recommendation on a voice vote. Some observers said it carried by at least a 3-to-1 margin.

[At the close of the final session of the Executive Committee, several members spontaneously discussed their deep concern over

the disharmony and division in the Southern Baptist Convention.

[Among those calling for a season of reconciliation and healing prior to the Dallas convention in June was Alan E. Sears, a layman from Louisville, Ky. Sears read a passage of scripture and called attention to an editorial written by Presnell Wood, editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*, in which a call was made for individuals from both groups within the convention to meet and list items of disagreement. That list would then be presented to the convention with possible compromises which would enable the convention to move forward and carry out its commission in missions and evangelism, Wood proposed.

[Also making calls for reconciliation were G. Nelson Duke, a pastor from Jefferson City, Mo.; Francis L. Wilson, a pastor from Alamogordo, N.M.; Jere Allan Wilson, a pastor from Bartlesville, Okla.; and John T. Tippet Jr., a pastor from Savannah, Ga. Each of these individuals read scripture and made strong pleas on the basis of the Word of God for Southern Baptists to call a halt to the present political activities.

[Executive Board President W. Dewey Presley, a Dallas, Texas, attorney, closed the meeting saying he felt a consensus to curtail the present activities and pray for the Dallas convention.]

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

Stanley willing to serve as SBC president again, calls for 'right spirit'

by Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley said he is willing to serve a second term at the helm of the 14.3-million member denomination.

Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, said: "I have been praying about the matter for some time. God has given me perfect freedom in my heart to serve again if someone feels led to nominate me and I am reelected."

The announcement ended several weeks of speculation as to whether Stanley would serve another term as president of the SBC. He was elected on the first ballot against two opponents during the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

Under SBC rules, a president is elected to a one-year term, but is eligible to serve a second term, if he chooses. Until recent times, an incumbent president was usually reelected without challenge if he wished to serve. However, in the politicized climate of the convention during the past five years, two incumbent presidents have been challenged for election to a second term. Both, however, were reelected.

Stanley did not decide to allow his name to be placed in nomination in Kansas City,

Mo., until hours before nominations were to begin. He said earlier the decision to allow the nomination came only after a powerful experience with God.

Since being elected, Stanley says he has "not spent one minute of my time talking politics. I did not do one thing last time (to be elected) and I will not do one single thing this time. Any politicking will have to be done by others on both sides."

He said while he is "willing" to serve as president again, he has "plenty to do. But if I am honest with God and with myself, I have to be willing to serve. If I am elected again, that will be fine; if I am not elected, that is still fine."

The announcement was made only a few days after Stanley exhorted Southern Baptists to measure their performance in comparison to the potential rather than past achievements. He said that while the denomination baptizes about 400,000 persons per year, that figure should be "in the millions if we live up to our potential."

In the sermon, preached at the SBC Executive Committee meeting, he urged Southern Baptists to "do what we are capable of doing," and pointed to a

simultaneous revival crusade planned for 1986, Good News America—God Loves You, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"What a great opportunity to shout to the nation, 'You are loved, just as you are!' I do not believe we could have come up with a theme more fitting than that for the day in which we live," he said, adding, in his opinion, no other denomination has ever had the opportunity facing Southern Baptists "if we obey God."

[Stanley said the potential of these revivals is almost unlimited. "These revivals should impact every area of life in America, because everyone wants to be loved. What an unparalleled opportunity for Christians to love!" he exclaimed.

[Stanley stressed these revivals could change the morals of the country. "We should ask, What will these revivals do for other denominations who at one time preached the word of God? What will these revivals do for young people experimenting with drugs and sex? These revivals can change the lives of people and the fabric of America," he said.

[Stanley also emphasized goals should not

Executive Committee backs revisions in SBC budget

by Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist agency heads have stressed the "cooperative" in the Cooperative Program while adjusting the convention's national unified budget to current economic realities.

What one observer described as "possibly the best spirit of teamwork we have ever had in the budget planning process" was evident in the 1985-86 budget goal of \$130 million which was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at its February meeting.

Also approved was a plan to extend previously approved capital expenditures for 1984-88 through the 1989-90 fiscal year.

The proposals will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas next June for final approval.

The 1985-86 figure is the same as the 1984-85 budget goal, an attempt to bring budget expectations and receipts into harmony.

National Cooperative Program income has continued to post healthy increases in terms of "real dollars" over the past several years but the rapid drop in inflation put the long term budget planning process used by the SBC in a bind.

Budgets are approved two years in advance by messengers to the annual meeting. The 1983-84 budget goal assumed inflation of eight percent but the actual rate was about three percent and contributions—though up approximately \$10 million compared to

1982-83—totalled just over \$108.8 million. Projections for 1984-85 indicate income should be around \$118 million.

Capital needs are not funded until the basic operating budget (\$114.5 million in 1983-84 and \$118 million in 1984-85) is met. Therefore \$3.4 million in capital needs from 1983-84 and \$6.87 million in 1984-85 were carried over into the 1985-86 planning process.

The 1985-86 provides \$120.6 million for the basic operating budget. Funding priority for income above that will go to the 1983-84 capital needs and 1984-85 capital needs will be funded next. The remaining \$1.56 million of the \$130 million is last on the priority list and will be distributed on the same percentage basis as the basic operating budget.

Each of the 19 SBC agencies which receive funding through the national Cooperative Program (which is based on voluntary contributions from the 36 state conventions affiliated with the SBC) present budget requests to the Executive Committee which has the responsibility of recommending the budget to messengers to the convention.

"Each of the agencies are well aware of the changing economic climate and exhibited Christian spirit of cooperation and understanding in the whole process," Reginald McDonough, associate executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, explained.

"Obviously each agency heads feels

strongly about the tasks they have been called to do to help share the message of Jesus Christ to the world and each has financial needs to finance their evangelistic and educational programs.

"Yet the pervading sense in the entire process was 'Let's face financial reality, be fair to everyone involved and trust God to continue to bless our efforts...Things get much more competitive when there are more discretionary funds available,'" McDonough said.

Normally the SBC budget parameters are set during the September meeting of the Executive Committee but the belt-tightening process was extended five months this time until February.

In the 1985-86 basic operating budget the Foreign Mission Board will receive 50 percent; the Home Mission Board will receive 19.72 percent and the six SBC seminaries will share 20.56 percent, divided according to a complex formula based partially on enrollment.

The other agencies included in the disbursement are: Annuity Board, Southern Baptist Foundation, Commission on American Baptist Seminary, Brotherhood Commission, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Executive Committee, Historical Commission, Radio-Television Commission, Stewardship Commission and the Public Affairs Committee.

Craig Bird is feature editor for Baptist Press.

be set on the basis of past performance. "Our potential for reaching people should be based on our potential as we examine the Book of Books," he declared.]

In the interview with Baptist Press, Stanley said he would like to use a second term to help "Southern Baptists mobilize to make an impact on this nation in Good News America. That is my primary concern, where I would spend my time, energies and efforts. I believe if we carry out that, there should be a healing. We cannot do that if there is ill will, resentment and bitterness.

"(To do that) we must be right with God, and we are going to get right somehow."

Stanley said "healing" has started in the SBC, which has been rocked by controversy during the past six years. "It is like healing of the body; it starts on the inside before it manifests itself on the outside. I am very encouraged by what I see. I have not let the supposed opposition to me concern my mind because my goal is not to win something, but to do something I believe God has called us to do."

"In spite of all of the conflict we have seen, we have agreed there are some problems. We have denied that before. We have to face

those problems and I see some evidence of people who are now able to sit down and talk through the disagreements," he said.

Stanley added "in some areas there must be give and take. I think there will be issues on which we cannot give and we must learn to live with each other in diversity. Some people will probably decide they can't live with that and have to do something else."

The pastor said he "still believes our view of the Scripture is the basic issue... the vital issue. I believe our attitude toward the Scripture will determine how God blesses us. When other denominations have departed from the authentic word of God, there has been a diminishing of God's blessings on them."

"I cannot compromise my faith in the authenticity of the word of God under any conditions," he said, adding the leaders of the SBC agencies he has met do not appear to differ significantly from his view. "I have not met all of them, though," he said.

He added he "knows there is not going to be wholehearted agreement" on issues within the convention, but reiterated the "authenticity of the Scriptures is something we cannot give on. If someone is totally

committed to a liberal viewpoint, he may be happier somewhere else."

Stanley commented that in the midst of the controversy "the angrier some people get the more intense the verbiage becomes. That is part of it (the controversy)."

He noted he "is the same (theologically) as when I graduated from Southwestern (Baptist Theological) Seminary. But (since the SBC controversy has intensified) I have moved from being (being described as) 'conservative' to 'ultraconservative' to 'fundamentalist' to 'independent'. Yet I haven't changed a bit."

"When diverse issues rise to the surface, men of real character will be able to respond in the spirit of love and honest discussion. But when there is bitterness and anger and resentment, ill will and jealousy, that says something about the character of the men involved. When that happens, they lose their usefulness before God. God can use a man who may be in error, but whose spirit is right, but a man who is right in his theology but wrong in his spirit is a hindrance to God," he said.

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

Your state convention at work

Church Training discipleLife... a personal journey

The heading for this column is the theme for this year's State Youth Convention on Friday, April 5, 1985. Thousands of junior and senior high youth will be invading the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock for a day of fun, worship and information. As the theme indicates, we will be emphasizing the personal aspects of discipleship for youth. The sessions will begin at 10 a.m.,



Tipps

2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Our program includes Doug Tipps, pastor of River Oaks Church, Houston, Texas. Doug is a gifted young pastor and a very exciting youth speaker. Rosemary Hoover from Independence, Mo., and Dr. Phil Briggs from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, will be featured musicians. Don Mattingly, from the Church Recreation Department, BSSB, will also be with us. In addition to the State Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speakers' Tournament and choirs from our Baptist schools, we will have several features interpreting our theme of personal discipleship.

Plan now to join us for a great day. Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 (telephone: 376-4791) for more information. — **Bill Falkner, associate**

Christian Life Council Priority firmness

"...I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it." I Peter 5:12b (NASB). We are admonished elsewhere in God's word to stand firm in the faith and to stand firm while engaged in spiritual warfare. Why not stand firm in grace?

Grace has been defined as God's unmerited favor. It is something he gives us even though not deserved. It is comparatively easy for a Christian to stand firm in the faith, never wavering theologically. It is also comparatively easy for a zealous Christian to stand firm while waging warfare against wickedness. It is much more difficult however to stand firm in God's grace, especially in our relationships with



Parker

others.

Eagerness to be firm doctrinally and combatively must take a back seat to being firm in God's grace. It is by grace through faith that we are saved! We absolutely must also live by grace through faith! We must pray to daily practice more of God's grace.

Satan really trembles when he knows that we persistently are beseeching God for more willingness to exercise grace in domestic, business, church and denominational affairs. — **Bob Parker, director**

Missions Missions Committee

The church missions committee coordinates with WMU and Brotherhood in meeting mission needs outside the church.



Tidsworth

I think it accurate and scriptural to say that every church can and should be involved in local missions. The missions committee may be only one person or as large as seven members depending on the size of the church. It should be a standing committee. Training is available for church missions committees through the association. Two items of material are vital. One is the "Church Missions Committee Planning Guide." The other is the "Church Missions Committee Manual." Both can be ordered from the Baptist Book Store. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

Evangelism CWT national consultant

The National CWT Seminar is a cooperative effort between the Home Mission Board, state Evangelism Department and the local church.



Shell

Your state evangelism staff members teach in each of the seminars. We keep the seminar very close to the local church. Therefore, the pastor is always involved in leading and teaching in the seminar. David Grant of Jackson, Miss. will be our national leader in each seminar in 1985. Dr. Grant is pastor emeritus of the Broadmor Church in Jackson. He is now working with the Home Mission Board as a national consultant in CWT. His qualifications come from leading in a very successful CWT program in his local church before retirement.

The seminar will help pastors set up the encourager process in the local church. These are Sunday school members who are committed to assisting new Christians in growth. They make a commitment for eleven weeks to work with a new Christian. They walk through the "Survival Kit" and help involve the new Christian in Sunday School, Church Training and mission organizations.

All participants in the CWT process are encouraged to link up with a prayer partner. These are church members who are committed to pray regularly with the CWT equippers and apprentices. Several different people make a contribution to the salvation of each lost person. — **Clarence Shell, director**

Church Administration Youth ministry conferences

In the midst of all the recent snow and ice, my five-year-old son inquired forlornly, "Daddy, have we had summer yet?" It seems almost impossible that many churches are already well into planning for the summer, but that time will be here before we know it.



Falkner

The Area Summer Youth Ministry Conferences April 22-24, provide an excellent opportunity for planning related to the summer of '85. These conferences will be held at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, on Monday, April 22; Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, on Tuesday, April 23; and the Baptist Building, Little Rock, on Wednesday, April 24. Each conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The conferences are designed especially for the preference, volunteer and summer youth ministers, along with other staff and youth leaders. Content will cover planning, resources, philosophy, and ideas for summer youth ministry in the local church.

If you are a college student planning to serve as a youth minister this summer or as a summer missionary, these conferences will be very helpful as you "get it together" for the summer. For more information, contact the Church Training Dept., ABSC, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 (telephone: 376-4791). — **Bill Falkner, associate**

Family and Child Care Summer camp

Our rapid changing society has relaxed moral and ethical standards and consequently placed more burdens on children. There is a great need today for wholesome Christian care of dependent, neglected

and abused children.

All of the children who come into our care are special. Ours is a Christ-honoring ministry that teaches young people that the good life can be found only in a relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

All of us need to withdraw from our daily activities to seek God's will. We become so involved in dealing with matters of daily routine, we may not have the proper perspective of God's will for our lives.

In a few weeks, our children will be making plans for summer activities. Among those plans will be Siloam Springs. Last year, we had two professions of faith and several rededications.

Christian friends from churches and church groups throughout our state have provided the necessary funds to send our young people to camp for many years. We are indeed grateful for your support in providing this religious training, fun and fellowship at Siloam Springs. You may sponsor a young person for \$35.

If you are interested in sending a boy or girl to camp, please indicate on your gift that it is for "camp". Where can you better invest \$35? —John A. Ross, director of development

Woman's Missionary Union WMU Annual Meeting

The publicity has gone out to the churches, program people have been enlisted, and the program has gone to the printers. Everything seems ready for the ninety-sixth annual session of Arkansas Woman's Mis-

sionary Union to be held March 19-20, 1985, at First Church, Jonesboro.

One question still lingers in my mind: Who is going to come? If you are trying to make up your mind, perhaps some little known facts will help you decide.

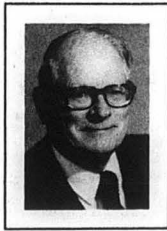
Children are always a consideration when planning a trip. A nursery is provided during each session for preschool age children. Qualified nursery workers will take excellent care of your children.

Shopping is always a high priority on the list of things to do. The Baptist Book Store will have an exhibit for your shopping pleasure.

"The main speakers sound great but what are the little extras women can expect?" A Come and Go Fellowship on Monday evening, 8-9 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, will enable women to get "up close and personal" with program guests, state WMU staff and other women from around the state. WMU is well-known for praying for missionaries and their families. Some "real live" answers to prayer (the Rex Holt family) will share what our prayers have meant in their family. WMU events for 1985 will be promoted as well as VISION 88. An offering will be taken to help provide magazine subscriptions to over 100 missionary families with Arkansas ties.

Are you ready to pack up the car and head for Jonesboro? If you have more questions, please feel free to contact the state WMU office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. See you at Annual Meeting! —Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director.

Growth Spiral Workshop



Dr. Eugene Shelton

March 25,
First, Conway
March 26,
Central, Magnolia
March 28,
First, Harrison
7 - 9 p.m.

Led by Dr. Eugene Skelton, National Growth Consultant

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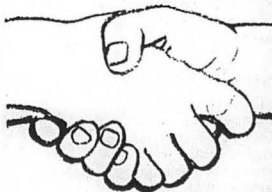
Resident manager needed

Looking for mature Christian couple with no children living at home for **Emergency Receiving Home for Children in Camden**. Work 10 days and off 4. For details about our ministry call 777-1896, or write to **Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services**, P.O. Box 912, Hope, Ark. 71801.

the Amazon Challenge

World Missions Rally March 15

First Baptist Church, Little Rock
62 Pleasant Valley



Reception 6:15 p.m.
Program 7:00 p.m.
Reply by March 11



Hollis urges ban on alcohol ads

WASHINGTON (BP)—Congress should let common sense prevail in the current debate over radio and television advertising of alcoholic beverages, a Southern Baptist ethicist has urged.

In written testimony submitted to a Senate subcommittee on alcoholism and drug abuse, Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Christian Life Commission claimed "common sense can lead to only one conclusion: If advertisers pay millions of dollars to buy ads, they must do so because they know the ads will shape attitudes about alcoholic beverages and motivate many people to buy alcoholic beverages."

The subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.), is sponsoring a series of hearings on broadcast advertising for beer and wine.

Hollis and other staff members of the Southern Baptist Convention agency have publicly supported Project SMART (Stop Marketing Alcohol on Radio and Television), a national petition campaign which calls for either an end to broadcast alcohol ads or equal time for health messages about alcohol. More than 700,000 people have signed the petition.

The nation's beer and wine industries spend \$750 million annually on radio and television commercials. Project SMART supporters claim the heavy advertising contributes to the nation's growing drinking problem by painting a false picture of drinking.

One of the tragedies, said Hollis, "is that many of those whose attitudes are being shaped (by the advertising) are children and young people." While "there is much damage that cannot be undone, a ban on broadcast advertising of beer and wine can help to prevent further alcohol abuse.

Hollis also gave the subcommittee a copy of a resolution passed by messengers to the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention which called for a ban on alcohol ads in the broadcast media.

New lesson writer begins

J. Lowell Ponder, a member of First Church, Fayetteville, begins this week writing commentaries on the Bible Book series of lessons in "Lessons for Living."

Ponder, a Texas native, has been in "active" retirement in Arkansas since 1975. He has served as pastor of churches and for more than 10 years served as director of missions for two districts in Texas. He also served as administrator of a Dallas-based home for senior adults for more than seven years.



Ponder

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Baptist Young Women Retreat

April 13, 1985

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Camp Paron



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Wilma Giddings

Marjorie Grober

Julia Ketner

Anne Leavell Collingsworth

Features:

Small group conferences

Bible study

"Like A Mighty River"

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the urban opportunities in Arkansas?

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Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock
April 1-2

Monday 1:15 - 4:45 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.

Tuesday 9:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Speakers include:



Joel C. Gregory

Assistant Professor of Preaching

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Model for Urban Ministry

Larry Lee McSwain

Professor of Church and Community

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Urban Ministry



Conference leaders:

Urban Evangelism - Dale Wesley Cross, Home Mission Board

Multi-family housing - J. David Beal, Home Mission Board

Starting new urban churches - Floyd Tidsworth, ABSB

Contact the Missions Dept., ASBC, 376-4791 or
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 for further information.

Former members of First Baptist Church, Heber Springs are urged to contact the church prior to the 100th anniversary celebration to be held October 6, 1985, for a special invitation to the event.

First Baptist Church
201 North Fourth Street
Heber Springs, AR 72543
Dr. Jerry A. Kirkpatrick, pastor



Fellowship of Arkansas Baptist Men



March 16

First Baptist Church, Little Rock

62 Pleasant Valley

Begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts

Time for meetings of fellowship groups

Agri-Missions Fellowship, Lehman Fowler, president

- Attorney's Fellowship, James Gardner
- Aviators' Fellowship
- Baptist Men Plus, Ozzie Berryhill
- Builders / Construction Fellowship
- Business Men's Fellowship, Jim Gattis
- Communications Fellowship, Don Gephardt
- Disaster Relief Fellowship, Wayne Ferguson
- Lay Renewal Fellowship, Buck Wood
- Medical / Dental Fellowship, Dr. Harold Hudson
- Pastors' Fellowship, Jim McDaniel

Message by Ioan Moldovan

Lunch

Baptist Men officers:

Neal Guthrie, Executive Director
Russell Miller, President
Emmett Chapman, Vice President
Don Gephardt, Secretary-Treasurer



Grain imports vital to African nations

NEW YORK (BP)—The 21 countries of Africa most dramatically affected by the current famine can afford to import only half of the grain required to meet their food shortage crisis, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The FAO reported those nations need to import approximately 10.2 million tons of grain, the main staple in their diet, between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1985. Since only half that amount can be imported through regular purchases, the rest must come in the form of aid from developed countries if millions of people are to avoid starvation.

While global grain production has increased significantly over the last three years, grain production in Africa during that time has declined by more than 10 million tons as a result of widespread drought. In Kenya, for example, the main 1984 harvest was 40 percent below that of the previous year. In hardest-hit Ethiopia, some seven million people—about one-fifth of the population—are affected by current food shortages.

The FAO estimated the 21 most severely affected countries need approximately 1.8 million tons more in food aid than the 3.4 million tons they received last year.

Prospects for 1985 grain production are not optimistic. While rains in some portions have given hope of breaking the cycle of drought that has plagued the continent, availability of water remains uncertain. In some places, promising conditions of even a few months ago have already deteriorated, resulting in downward projections of food production.

Ladies' Seminar First Southern Baptist Church Bryant, Ark. March 15-16

'Heritage Home'

Speaker: Mary Oates
Corinth Miss.

March 15, 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration Fee - \$5.

Deadline for reservations - March 13

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Attend the 1985 National Conference on Broadcast Ministries

Bold Methods for Bold Missions

April 22-24
 Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel
 Atlanta

Make plans now to attend this exciting event filled with workshops and seminars designed specifically to answer all your questions about the field of telecommunications.

Baptist Sunday School Board program leaders and Broadman Consumer Sales personnel representing BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network) will be conducting workshops. Here are a few of the workshops being offered:

- Getting Your Church Involved in BTN
- Using BTN for Sunday School Lesson Preparation
- BTN, Ministering to Families
- BTN, Supporting Pastor, Church Staff, and Deacons
- Using Video as a Teaching/Training Tool
- Selecting Broadman Equipment for BTN
- And a Lot More!

ACTS (American Christian Television System) and the Good News, America emphasis, sponsored by the Home Mission Board, will also be conducting workshops.

Registration Information
 To register for the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries and the workshops, please see the ACTS/BTN Registration Form inserted in the February issue of the *Baptist Program* or write or call the National Conference on Broadcast Ministries, 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76150; (817) 737-4011.

Special Discounts
 Broadman Consumer Sales is offering special discounts on TVRO equipment, BTN subscriptions and video equipment.

Orders must be received no later than April 24, 1985.
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International

Support for the New Life

Jerry Wilcox, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 14:18-27; 16:32-33

Focal passage: John 14:18-24

Central truth: Christ enables us to live the Christian life.

In these passages, we find the presence of God in the form of Holy Spirit. The "Helper" is our support in the New Life.

To receive the Holy Spirit is to be truly spiritual. These verses reveal that there is a procedure to follow to receive the support of the "Helper."

The pre-requisite to being acceptable to God is love. Here there is only one test of love, and that is obedience. It was by his obedience that Jesus showed his love of God; and it is by our obedience that we must show our love to Jesus. C.K. Barrett says: "Scripture never allows love to devolve into a sentiment or emotion. Its expression is always moral and is revealed in obedience."

To love Christ is to be obedient to his mind, to reproduce his ways, to live our life after the pattern of his. And whoever does so "will be loved by the Father."

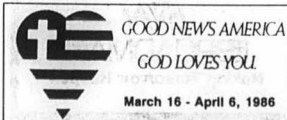
Love which issues in obedience is not an easy thing, but Jesus does not leave us to struggle alone. He said he would send us another Helper, Comforter and Counselor.

The Greek word is *parakletos*, translated variously "comforter" and "helper." Today the term comforter has come to mean a person who deals solely with sorrow. Though the Holy Spirit does that, we know there is far more to his work.

Literally, *parakletos* means "someone who is called in," but it is the reason why the person is called in which gives the word its distinction. A person may be called in to give witness in a court of law in someone's favor. He might be called in to plead someone's cause who had been charged with a serious crime. Always a *parakletos* is someone called in to help.

Today, we use the term "cope." We have heard people say they are "just trying to cope with things." That is precisely the work of the Holy Spirit.

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Life and Work

Humble service

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

Basic passage: John 13

Focal passage: John 13:1-5; 12-17

Central truth: Jesus has shown us the way of humble service as the way to effective evangelism and church leadership.

Some years ago a young, agnostic university professor was walking down a street in Oxford, England, when he glanced into a bookstore window and saw an 18th century painting of the scene in John 13 of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. He had never taken Christianity seriously, but when he looked upon the painting he was strangely moved by it. The result was his conversion to Christianity. Describing the experience later, he said: "I decided that if that was the kind of God there was and if God could act toward man in that way, then such a God as that would have my allegiance."

The story gives us a clue as to how this text applies to our life today. It also relates to what Jesus was trying to say to his disciples in this acted-out parable on the meaning of the cross. Jesus had already accepted the ordeal of the cross as God's way for him. His great concern in chapters 13-17 is for the fate of his followers, and yet it is he who is about to die!

He wanted his disciples to see the cross as also God's way for them. The dullness of Simon Peter in perceiving the lesson behind the footwashing is emphasized by John for a purpose. Jesus' concern for his disciples and John's concern as he writes is that the cross principle of humble service to others become the regulating principle in the life of every follower of Christ.

The agnostic professor saw it through a picture in a store window, a most unusual occurrence. Most, if they ever see it at all, must see it in a life. There are those who are still unsaved today because they have never yet seen the picture painted in authentic colors in your life or mine: the picture of a life lived in the pattern of Jesus, a life totally given to serving others in his name.

This is Jesus' model for authentic, lifestyle evangelism. It is also his model for effective leadership in the church today. He leads, not by taking the scepter of an autocratic king nor the whip of a cruel tyrant. He leads by taking up the instruments of servanthood: a towel and a basin of water.

That kind of servant leadership is needed in the churches of today.

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Bible Book

The disciples' mission

by J. Lowell Ponder, First Church, Fayetteville

Basic passage: Luke 9:51-10:24

Central truth: Jesus sends his disciples into the world with a Kingdom message, the power and authority to deliver it and the assurance of his presence in every circumstance of its proclamation.

Luke 9:1,2 clearly defines that the disciples' specific mission was to preach the gospel, with the promise of power to do it and a special authority granted to them to cast out demons and to cure diseases.

Jesus led the way in what he expected of them. Luke 8:1 says, "he went throughout every city and village preaching." Regardless of the cost, he determined to perform his part of the redemption plan, for "he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51). He also taught there were situations where God does not fault us if we walk away from them (9:5, 10:11). They went to another village where they would be heard.

Luke 9:57-62 deals with different kinds of followers. One writer calls this section "would-be followers." The scribe who said he would follow anywhere may represent the zeal in kingdom work that is not disciplined. It must be more than emotion of a moment and excitement.

The next two are the reluctant followers. They want to follow, but they will write the job description. "Yes, Lord, I hear you, but..." "What he wants to hear is, 'Thy will, Lord, today,' without any excuses.

Luke 9:62 is an excellent summary of discipleship requisites. The TEV says, "Anyone who starts to plow and then keeps looking back is of no use for the Kingdom of God." Any time you hear glowing reports of the work of any church, rest assured that a lot of plow work is being done. It is hard work, on the farm or in the Kingdom, Jesus did a lot of it.

When Jesus sent out the 70 (10:1), he said, "Go, I am sending you out." He was the only one who could. Before his ascension, he gave the commission, coupled with the promise of support all the way through. The 70 were given a work order, but they also had the organization for doing it, the blueprints and the specifications. And when they had followed through on the divine command, Luke 10:17 tells us that they returned with joy—joy for the results and, I think, joy for the knowledge that the Spirit had been with them all the way.

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ACTS fund campaign okayed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A three-year, \$6-million fund raising campaign to finance the ACTS television network has been approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, but approval to borrow up to \$10 million has been delayed.

The action was taken during the February meeting of the Executive Committee, which is required by the SBC Business and Financial Plan to approve fund raising campaigns by national agencies, and to give consent for "incumbrances which cannot be repaid out of anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three years."

The Radio and Television Commission, which operates the American Christian Television System network, had asked to be allowed to conduct a special solicitation drive to raise \$12.5 million to fund ACTS through fiscal 1986, and for authority to borrow up to \$10 million with a 10-year maturity.

The recommendation to delay approval of the total solicitation and the loan while approving the shorter term fund raising effort was made by the Business and Finance subcommittee after an all-day session with Jimmy R. Allen, RTVC president, and other representatives of the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency.

"We have looked long and hard at these two requests," said Harmon Born of Atlanta, chairman of the subcommittee. "We believe we have come up with best possible solution."

Born added the Executive Committee "is not trying to substitute our judgement for that of the trustees of the Radio and Television Commission. But we are required by the (business and) financial plan to study this. We must have all of the data we can gather."

Born said representatives of the subcommittee will go to Fort Worth to study the matter as soon as the financial audit for fiscal 1984 is completed. The audit, reportedly will be completed within 30 days.

Allen told Baptist Press he is "pleased" with the action of the Executive Committee in approving the solicitation campaign. "They did not turn down anything we asked," he said. "The key for us is the privilege to conduct a public campaign."

He said the only question to be resolved about the campaign is "whether it will be three or five years. We wanted it to be five years because it gives us more latitude to negotiate with groups. We can function with three years."

Allen added the committee "did not turn down" the request to borrow up to \$10 million, but postponed it "because they need more information. We have invited them to come here to Fort Worth to study it and they will report back (to the Executive Committee) in June."

John Roberts of Greenville, S.C., chairman of trustees and editor of the Baptist Courier, said the loan and the campaign are linked. "We are after the loan and the collateral. We

are going to launch a fund campaign and then borrow against that. We need money faster than we can raise it. We need to go to the bank right away (to borrow the money) and then have a campaign to pay it back."

Roberts added: "Time is both our enemy and our friend right now. We think that in 24 to 30 months we will have sufficient revenues coming in to meet most of our obligations. But from now until then, we are going to be operating at a loss. . . ."

Allen said the RTVC "has to raise something like \$7 million above the Cooperative Program" budget allocation to fund the operation of ACTS, a Christian television network operating 24 hours a day through cable television outlets and low and full power TV stations.

For 1984-85, the RTVC will receive \$4.9 million through the Cooperative Program (the denomination's unified plan of collecting and distributing funds). According to the commission's financial statement, the 1984-85 budget is \$13.1 million, of which nearly \$6 million will be used to fund ACTS.

Allen said the commission "has a cash flow problem now. We need \$1.1 million and that is part of the bridge the \$10 million loan would take care of."

RTVC trustees, during their January meeting, gave approval for a \$1.4 million short term line of credit to pay current operating expenses of the network. Agency executives have authority to borrow that amount without approval.

Allen described the situation as being like "starting a new business. When you begin you need money right then. We need the money up front. The capital campaign is the solution, but we need a line of interim financing available. In 30 months, we will have sufficient revenue, but we need to get through the startup phase until the money flow starts."

He added the \$10 million loan request also would retire about \$4 million previously borrowed to fund the ACTS operation, leaving \$5 or \$6 million to fund the network through fiscal 1986, at which time ACTS hopes to be generating enough income to pay its way.

Representatives of both the RTVC and the Executive Committee say the financial situation is complicated because a national TV network is a new area for Southern Baptists.

Tim A. Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Executive Committee, said part of the five hour meeting was spent trying to "understand new terminology and technology. The RTVC is talking in new terms. This is ground we have never plowed before."

Hedquist added if the \$10 million had been requested "to build a new dormitory at one of the seminaries, we probably would have completed the discussion in 15 or 20 minutes. But this (funding of ACTS) is something we have never done before."

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