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2-28-1985

February 28, 1985

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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February 28, 1985

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Nashville, Tennessee

DiscipleLife...
a personal journey



On the cover



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Kimberly McWhirter, a member of Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock, works through materials related to *DiscipleLife*, a Church Training program geared to developing discipleship skills in youth. Sunday, March 10, will mark the beginning of Youth Week across the convention.

Two African nations get rain; keep praying

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Reports of rain in two African countries offer evidence God is beginning to answer the prayers of Southern Baptists and other Christians. R. Keith Parks told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 13.

Missionaries in Zimbabwe, one of some 30 African countries hard hit by drought, say they've had the best rain in 13 years, the board's president reported. Rain also has increased in South Africa.

"We take that as the beginning of an answer to the prayers being offered," Parks said. He urged board members and all Southern Baptists to continue to pray "that God will pour out his rain on that drought-stricken continent."

State convention executive directors and editors of state Baptist newspapers are leading in the response to Parks' appeal for nationwide prayer both for sufficient rain and harvest in Africa. The theme "Water Is Life—Pray for Rain in Africa" has been shared with denominational leaders and church members in recent weeks.

Last year the board sent more than \$4 million in hunger relief aid to African countries and is gearing up this year for a \$1 million relief program in Ethiopia, in addition to aid to other nations. But board officials say even the combined efforts of all relief programs can't do as much to wipe out starvation as normal rains would in countries hit by three to five years of drought.

In other actions, Parks set forth seven strategic priorities for the board in the next three years and board members pledged personal support for the denomination's Planned Growth in Giving stewardship emphasis.

The board president laid special stress on the No. 1 objective to "implement cooperative approaches to world evangelization with interested Baptist bodies."

Parks and other members of an international Baptist steering committee have invited "sister Baptist bodies" in about 30 countries to send representatives to a June 26-28 meeting in connection with the Foreign Missions Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. International representation will predominate at this meeting, with simultaneous translation planned in four to six languages.

Representatives of Baptist conventions with which Southern Baptists work overseas will pay their own way to attend, Parks emphasized. Many of these come from conventions already sending missionaries to other lands or hoping to start such foreign outreach soon.

By committing itself to a true partnership with overseas Baptist leaders, the board has to be open to "some pretty drastic kinds of things," Parks noted.

"Some of their recommendations will startle, frighten, stimulate and worry us to death," he said. "But I keep saying we must

enter this with a measure of integrity that we will give serious consideration regardless of whether we've ever done it (missions) that way or not."

As other priorities, Parks listed:

—Look at the role of the mission organization and study deployment or redeployment of missionaries for most effective use.

—Consider more effective ways to be involved in lands where normal mission activity is prohibited or restricted.

—Develop a data base from which better management decisions can be made.

—Establish percentage ranges for the board's four major budget divisions: missionary support, overseas operating, overseas capital and home office.

—Integrate the increased involvement of state convention partnerships overseas and other Southern Baptist volunteers to enhance a unified, indigenous mission effort.

—Work with the Home Mission Board and other agencies in identifying matters of mutual concern, such as international student or seaman's ministries, and develop a plan to work together more effectively in such areas.

As part of its plan to involve Baptists in areas where normal missions activity is impossible, the board appointed an eight-member subcommittee to work with staff members in exploring ways this might be accomplished.

In studying the best deployment of its missionary force, Parks emphasized the board must not be "bound by the past." "We will not drift casually into certain kinds of locations or configurations that maybe once were best, but maybe no longer are."

Parks said the way Southern Baptist members and their churches respond to the new Planned Growth in Giving emphasis will determine how far the denomination can go toward reaching its Bold Mission Thrust goal of sharing the gospel with all people by the year 2000.

Forty-seven board members, about 80 percent of those attending the meeting, turned in cards pledging to increase their giving by a certain percentage in each of the next 15 years. Board Chairman Harrell Cushing of Alabama and four other board members gave testimonies of spiritual blessings that had come from giving above the tithe, or 10 percent of their income.

During the meeting the board named 41 new missionaries, reappointed six and heard reports on the commissioning of 43 journeymen Feb. 8.

Two medical consultants also were added to its staff. Van W. Williams III, administrator at Bangalore (India) Baptist Hospital, was named health care consultant responsible for advising staffers and missionaries on health care programs and strategy. Joyce A. De Ridder of Houston (Texas) Baptist University will be consultant for health care recruitment.

In this issue

4 marking time

An analysis of final SBC statistics for 1984 seems to indicate the convention "marched in place" during the last year, says a Baptist Press news report.

8-9 issues and answers

The SBC Executive Committee tackled several difficult questions during its February meeting in Nashville. Among the issues addressed were President Reagan's appointment of a Vatican ambassador, a tax proposal reducing deductions for charitable contributions and controversy surrounding the handling two Baptist Press articles.



One of the most important aspects of the Christian life is prayer. Yet, it is one of the most neglected. The most basic question involved in prayer is, "Does God hear and answer prayer?" It is the testimony of the Bible and the all but unanimous witness of Christians that he does. But other related questions are (1) how does he answer it? and (2) what kind of prayers does he answer?

Any good study of prayer must begin with a definition. There is, perhaps, no fully inclusive definition possible for finite man. Prayer is a many-sided approach of the soul to God. However, a traditional definition is "Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies." Prayer is at least this; it can not be less. This statement has the distinct advantage of stressing Christ-centeredness, our need of confession and the compelling demand for thanksgiving.

Let's begin with the conclusion of the definition. Prayer is "acknowledgement of his (God's) mercies." Prayer that does not include a mood of thanksgiving, admiration, and praise is not Christian prayer. Prayer must include the lifting of self toward God in praise for all that he has done for us.

A second element expressed in the definition is "for things agreeable to his (God's) will." This is one of the most important elements of prayer. The individual's desires must be focused on God and not upon his own ego. One's petitions must become the offering up of God's desires. Apart from faith, there is no prayer. God is the giver of faith. Hence, our prayers must always be in agreement with God's will.

Closely related is the matter of forgiveness of sin. Although God's goodness and loving kindness toward his children is unparalleled, one must be fit to receive God's gifts. This is not a fitness of merit. For, on the basis of merit, all are hopeless. It is an obedient openness to the spirit of God, which desires to remove those things from one's life that are contrary to God's purpose.

Sin always separates from God. His judgment is upon sin, and it is only through confession that an individual can have a right relationship with God. John, the beloved disciple, said, "If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Confession means that by God's help we will no longer engage in that particular sin. When an individual confesses and gives up his sin, God will forgive and cleanse.

Finally, we must note that our definition says we must pray "in the name of Christ." This is far more than simply adding the words "in Christ's name," or "through Christ Jesus our Lord" at the end of the prayer. This is not some magic formula that assures we will get what we ask when we use the right words. To ask in the name of Christ is to ask in the spirit of Christ. It is to endeavor to make our prayers conform to God's love and God's motives and to trust as Jesus did. It is to be in agreement with God, just as Jesus was always in agreement with his heavenly Father.

Petition is a central element in prayer. But for what shall we make petition? In general, one can pray for anything that is in keeping with God's will for his life, his circumstance or the lives or circumstances of others. However, it is helpful to look at some major categories for which petition is made. First, every individual should petition God for inner strength and renewal. Anyone who believes that God hears and answers prayer at all would scarcely doubt the legitimacy and effect of this kind of prayer. The testimony from across the ages indicates that, when one prays for inner strength and renewal, God does hear and respond.

A second area is petition for physical health and healing. Here one finds more disagreement than any other area of prayer. Several observations are (1) All healing is divine; (2) God hears and answers prayers when they are in keeping with his will; and (3) God desires to commune with his children on all matters of their lives. However, devout Christians have so often been deceived and defrauded by "divine healers" that we place our trust in divine healing but not in divine healers.

Finally, prayer should include petition for others. We must remind ourselves that whenever prayer conforms to the will of God, prayer for others is very much in order.

We find Jesus again and again praying for others. The climax to the high priestly prayer at the Last Supper was that his followers would all be one. During his earthly ministry, he prayed for the people about him, for Peter that he would not fall, for the little children and for his enemies. He urged his followers to "pray for those who persecute you" and to pray that the laborers would be sent forth into the harvest.

We are at our highest when we pray for the kinds of things for which Christ prayed and in the manner in which he prayed. Not all can offer large sums of money to support the Lord's work, but all can be great prayer warriors, as we imitate Christ.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 9

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Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (USPS 031-280) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., Little Rock, AR. Subscription rates are \$6.36 per year (individuals), \$5.40 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.00 per year (Group Plan) and \$18.00 per year (to foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.



The Southern accent

Dorothy Jackson

Owning a part of the business

In recent years, we are hearing more and more about businesses allowing their employees to buy stock in the company for which they work. This has proven to be a wise decision, because the results have been very positive with increased pride, interest and also profits, both for the employer and employee.

I've noticed that in the local church this principle works as members get involved in what is going on. When they teach Sunday School classes, serve on committees, attend all services, help at the Christian Life Center, attend workshops, visit and witness in behalf of the church or do any other type of service, they "buy into the business."

When we assume personal responsibility for helping carry out the Great Commission, changes occur. The church becomes "our church" and not "their church," and as we

grow in our love for the Lord it helps us to become more like him.

During the years I have worked in Christian higher education, I've observed that students and colleges are the happiest and most productive when students are involved in what is going on. Students who are "buying into the business" reveal their commitment in a variety of ways: devoting considerable energy to study, usually working at an on-campus rather than off-campus job, participating in student organizations and interacting frequently with faculty members and student peers.

As students serve on faculty committees, serve on peer counselor staff, go on public relations trips, help solicit money for their college, get elected to a variety of other leadership positions, we see them grow. This growth expands their abilities and

knowledge resulting in the students feeling that they are part of the team and own part of the business. This type of student is the one who returns for homecoming, says a good word for the alma mater and financially supports the campus which means so much to him.

The employee, church member and college student have a lot in common when total involvement occurs. They grow as individuals and become much better persons as they become stockholders in their company, church or college. Everyone benefits, most of all the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants us to serve him at the best level possible, and we have a mandate to do so.

Dorothy Jackson is vice-president for student development at Southern Baptist College.

1984 statistics show lackluster year in convention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Although gains outnumbered losses for Southern Baptists in the final statistical report for 1984, it appears the denomination generally marched in place following four years of significant increases.

Gains were recorded by Southern Baptists in the number of churches, total membership, Sunday school enrollment, church music enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment, mission expenditures and total receipts. Losses were in baptisms, church training enrollment and Woman's Missionary Union enrollment.

These figures are based on uniform church letters received by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Projections related to Southern Baptist programs were released in December based on the first 26,000 letters received from churches.

In the five program areas and in the number of churches, losses and gains varied less than one percentage point from the previous year. Baptisms, however, suffering the second consecutive loss, were down by more than 22,000, or 5.7 percent.

Church membership for the denomination reached a new total of 14,349,657 with a gain of 164,203, which is the smallest increase since 1978. Mission expenditures and total receipts increased respectively by 7.3 and 8.8 percent.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive

Committee, expressed regret about the decrease in baptisms, but said he remains optimistic because of the contact he has had with Southern Baptist churches.

"I have discovered a renewed interest in Christ and in the preaching of the Gospel in churches where I have visited," Bennett said. "I believe the launch of Good News America, the denomination's plan for simultaneous revivals in 1986, will give Southern Baptists a new all-time high in baptisms. Good News America will again center our attention on reaching individual persons for Jesus Christ and church membership."

Several of the increases in the programs included in the 10 key reporting areas were the smallest in several years, which could affect the desires of the denomination for dramatic increases in sharing the gospel around the world.

The number of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention increased in 1984 to a new total of 36,740. This increase of 0.6 percent, or 209, is the smallest numerical gain since 1979. The church membership increase of 164,203, or 1.2 percent, is the same percentage gain as was predicted.

In Sunday school, the denomination's largest program, the ongoing enrollment was up by 0.5 percent, or 41,894, to reach another record total enrollment at 7,857,337. The actual total was 0.1 percent higher than the projected gain.

This year's baptism total of 372,028, has fallen from 411,554 baptisms in 1982. The

most baptisms ever recorded in the nation's largest protestant denomination was 445,725 in 1972. The drop in baptisms also is reflected in the number of churches reporting a baptism in 1984, when the total dropped by 0.7 percent to 29,850. This means approximately one-sixth of all SBC churches did not have at least one baptism.

Church training enrollment was down by 0.7 percent, or 14,483, in 1984, making the new total 1,972,907. This loss, which comes on the heels of four consecutive gains, is 0.1 percent more than the projected decrease.

The enrollment in WMU activities in 1984 lost 0.5 percent, or 5,724, making the new total 1,169,630. This was 0.2 percent less than the projected loss.

The church music program increase, the 19th consecutive gain, was the smallest numerical gain since 1977. The 0.6 percent, or 10,621, increase brings the church music enrollment to 1,667,385. The gain is 0.4 percent less than the predicted gain.

Brotherhood enrollment in 1984 increased by 0.5 percent, or 3,034, to a new total of 568,383. This is 0.4 percent less than the projected total.

Mission expenditures in 1984 increased by 7.3 percent over the previous year to \$568,059,173. This total is one-half of a percentage point more than was projected.

Total receipts for the denomination last year rose by 8.8 percent to a total of \$3,665,735,085. The actual gain was about one percent higher than predicted.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Largest January offering ever was received this year. What an encouragement to mission work! Hopefully, we can report the same on the Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions. Our churches need to complete their offering this month. Over the years, this offering has done little more than keep up with inflation. We must do better if there is to be anything bold about our mission thrust.



Moore

Churches excel in missions giving when they know the need and the pastor promotes it. The pastor does his part well when he is informed, excited about the church's potential and convinced he will answer to God for helping or hindering world evangelization.

For the pastor to be informed, he must faithfully read materials that help him know what God is doing through Southern Baptist missions. Numerous papers and magazines can help. Video recordings also are available. Mission study materials are produced to keep our churches informed. Missions weeks at Ridgecrest and Glorieta are fine occasions to improve our awareness. World mission weeks in the association and guest missionaries should not be missed. Annual state and national conventions are vital to being informed. "Keeping up" on mission activity is not only possible, it is fun and right!

Which reminds me, you need to be at the World Missions Rally, March 15. See the ad in the Feb. 7 issue of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine for details. Missions is not just facts, it is a spirit. You can catch the spirit at this rally. You will be inspired by excitement and commitment of laymen! A layman from Fort Smith, a professional photographer, recently called and offered his time, equipment, labor and material to go to Brazil to do a promotional slide and tape presentation on the Brazil partnership. He has just returned, excited about what Arkansas Baptists are going to be able to do there.

...This would be a good time to say Woman's Missionary Union has been about this for many years. I would think a pastor who really cared about reaching the world with the gospel would want to do everything he could to work with them in promoting missions in his church. We also need to encourage our women to attend the annual WMU convention next month.

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

DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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30	31																		31								

Next month in Arkansas

March 1-2, State Handbell Festival, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia. An annual event for church handbell groups, which offers helpful adjudication and a chance to ring in a mass choir. The State Church Music Department sponsors the festival.

March 3 - April 7, "White Unto Harvest" Enrollment/Attendance Campaign. The State Sunday School Department will offer help to all churches to increase enrollment and attendance in Sunday School.

March 4, Area Strengthen Families Conference, First Church, Fayetteville and Central, Jonesboro. The third annual event to interpret this Bold Mission Thrust emphasis for 1985. Pastors, church staff, family ministry committee members and others are the expected conferees. Family Ministry Departments of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Baptist Sunday School Board are sponsors.

March 5, Area Strengthen Families Conferences, Immanuel, Fort Smith and First Church, Searcy. See March 4.

March 6, Area Strengthen Families Conference, Central Church, North Little Rock. See March 4.

March 7, Area Strengthen Families Conferences, First Church, Benton, and Second Church, Monticello. See March 4.

March 11-14, National Continuing Witness Training Seminar, Elm Dale Church at Springdale. One of several seminars this year around Arkansas to train individuals to begin CWT witnessing process in the local church. Pastors, church staff and laity will attend, but pre-registration is required through the State Evangelism Department.

March 11-15, Youth Ministry Wide-Area Conferences, DeGray State Park. Training for church youth ministers, under sponsorship of state Church Administration Dept., Sunday School, Church Training, Family Ministry, Church Recreation Depts., and SBC Brotherhood Commission, WMU and Home Mission Board.

March 15-16, Volunteer / Part-time Music Leader Workshop, Camp Paron. The State Church Music Department will train part-time music leaders in churches who are volunteers. Their pastors will be included in Bible study and worship during the workshop, and some sessions

will be joint. This year's SBC music emphasis, "A Year of Congregational Singing," will be explained. Registration must be complete by March 4 and a small materials fee will be charged.

March 18, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, First Church, Huntsville (Northwest), and First Church, Hope (Southwest). The annual events are preliminary to the state tournaments in which children and youth demonstrate scripture and memory skills. Church Training sponsors the events.

March 19, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournament, First Church, Paris (West Central), and First Church, Warren (Southeast). See March 18.

March 21, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, First Church, Mountain View (North Central), and Central Church, Jonesboro (Northeast). See March 18.

March 22, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, Olivet, Little Rock (Central), and Wynne Church (East Central). See March 18.

March 25, Regional Growth Spiral Workshop, Conway First Church. Pastors, staff, Sunday School Directors and other general officers will learn to help churches establish a year-long growth plan for their Sunday School, working toward the SBC goal of 8.5 million by '85.

March 26, Regional Growth Spiral Workshop, Magnolia, Central Church. See March 25.

March 28, Regional Growth Spiral Workshop, Harrison, First Church. See March 25.

March 29-31, BSU Leadership Training Conference, Camp Paron. Annual event to train Baptist Student Union officers and commissioning of BSU summer missionaries. Also, awards for BSU Man of the Year and Alumni of the Year.

March 29 & 30, Church Media Library Clinic, DeGray State Park. Conferences for church media library staff and church staff interested in Baptist Telecommunications Network. (Baptists' satellite transmission of training programs).

March 31, "Hosanna...A Day of Singing": Congregational Easter Sing. The first of three days of singing to carry out the 1985 emphasis, "A Year of Congregational Singing," suggested for local churches.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Steve Thompson resigned Feb. 17 as minister of music at DeWitt First Church to move to Kountze, Texas, to serve a church as minister of music/education.

Floyd Vineyard of Hackett began serving Jan. 27 as pastor of Dyer Church in Clear Creek Association. He has served, in recent years, at Shibley and Altus First Churches.

John Atchison is serving as pastor of Pine Grove Church at Pocahontas.

Bill Craig has joined the staff of West Helena Church as minister of education, music and youth. He is a graduate of the University of Miami in Miami, Fla., and of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Florida, Kentucky and Indiana. Craig and his wife, Sarah, and their daughter, Nancy Anne, moved to Helena from Columbus, Ind., where he served on the staff of Parkside Church.

Glen Jackson has joined the staff of North Main Church in Sheridan as music director.

briefly

Park Place Church in Hot Springs held an ordination service Feb. 17 to ordain Harold Elder as minister of education and youth; Tim Blann as minister of music; and J. L. Horner, Steve Davidson and David Rynders, as deacons. Pastor Tom Harris was in charge.

New lesson writer begins

Jerry Wilcox, pastor of Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock, begins this week writing commentaries for the International series Sunday school lesson in "Lessons for living."

Wilcox, a native of Black Oak, Ark., is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A former member of the ABCS Executive Board, he has served the Lakeshore Drive Church since 1971. Prior to that, he was pastor of churches in Jacksonport and Roland.

Wilcox is married to the former Linda Rollins. They have two children, Leslie, 9, and Alison, 8.



Wilcox

Pulaski Association is sponsoring an evangelism conference and rally March 4 beginning at 7 p. m. at Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock. The program will include conferences for pastors, Sunday school directors and women.

Sheridan First Church has begun a ministry to homebound members that includes both Sunday afternoon and week-day visitation to these members.

Watson Chapel Church at Pine Bluff will observe "Dedication Day" March 3 with Ed Hinkson, a former pastor and associate in the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Don Moore, ABCS executive director, as guest speakers. A 4:30 p.m. open house will conclude the observance.

Lee Memorial Church at Pine Bluff has adopted and launched a long range, three phase remodeling and building program. Phase one, now in progress, is a

complete renovation of the present auditorium including new pews and carpet. Phases two and three, which include a new 800 seat auditorium, are scheduled for completion in 1989. Pastor Jack L. Ramsey report that financing will come through member contributions.

Brinkley First Church recently had a 16-member mission team to return from Belize where they assisted the Belize church with Bible schools and construction of an educational building. The Brinkley church, is not only providing mission team assistance there, but is also providing financial assistance for the construction program.

Hot Springs First Church recently ordained as deacons, Eric Bremer, Paul Thompson, Jerry Pogue, John Robbins, John Sanders and Joe Eggers.

Reyno Church dedicated a debt-free educational building Jan. 13.

Arkansans named missionary associates



Robert and Faye Geiger

Two Arkansans were among 41 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board during its February meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Geiger were re-employed as missionary associates for Ghana, where he will be a hospital administrator and she will be a church and home worker.

The Geigers previously were missionaries in Jordan and served as mission volunteers in Alaska. He is a California native and graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. She



Howard and Marilyn Kitchens

is the former Faye McClendon of Springdale. **Drs. Howard H. Jr. and Marilyn Kitchens** were appointed as missionary associates for Korea, where he will be a physician and she will be a part-time physician.

A Memphis, Tenn., native, Kitchens lived in Waldo while growing up. Mrs. Kitchens is a Georgia native.

A missionary associate is a person between 35 and 60 employed for a renewable four-year term to do a job for which he or she is prepared by education and experience.

Partnership missions: Arkansas Baptists have what it takes

by Mark Kelly

Has your heart been burdened lately for the Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission? When you pray for the projects about to be undertaken, do you wish you could help?

You can help and in more ways than you might imagine, says Glendon Grober, Arkansas' statewide coordinator for the Amazon-Arkansas project, dubbed AMAR after the Portuguese word for "love."

A tremendous outpouring of volunteers will be needed to meet all the needs Brazilian Baptists have shared with their new Arkansas partners, and their is a place where almost anyone can plug in.

The purpose of the AMAR partnership is to strengthen existing Baptist churches in Brazil, plant new congregations, evangelize the people of the Amazon region and increase awareness of and strengthen denominational mission structures, according to Grober, himself a former Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil.

Arkansians interested in lending a hand with Baptist work in Brazil may be involved in at least three areas, Grober observes. First, Arkansians will be involved in leadership training in Brazil. Persons with experience in Sunday school, vacation Bible school, personal witnessing, Brotherhood or Woman's Missionary Union can make a substantial contribution by sharing their knowledge with Brazilian brothers and sisters in Christ.

Second, Arkansas partnership projects will concentrate on direct evangelism. Simultaneous revivals, mission revivals, major city evangelism projects, puppet ministries, media evangelism projects and student ministries will all require the commitment of eager Arkansians.

Arkansas Baptist volunteers also will have opportunities to contribute to various support ministries, Grober says. Weekday ministries, doctrinal studies, church growth clinics, agriculture projects and building and camp construction are among the ministries undergirding Baptist work in Brazil which Arkansians will be able to strengthen.

Grober sees five projects of particular concern for the success of the partnership. The first two are simultaneous revival efforts in the cities of Altamira and Belem on July 18-29 and Sept. 2-13 respectively.

These two "most urgent" efforts will require several teams of eight to 10 persons each: a preacher, a vocalist-musician and four to eight persons to visit and witness, Grober says. The teams will usually divide their time between crusades in an established church and a mission point.

A third need of an urgent nature is for an experienced sound electrician to make major repairs in a sound studio in Belem. A detailed list of needed repairs is available through his office, Grober indicates.

A fourth concern is a Continual Witness Training (CWT) National Seminar planned for Dec. 12-23 in Belem, Grober explains.

Twenty persons, men or women, who have been trained in CWT will be needed to serve as equippers for that project.

A fifth urgent need involves a rural Sunday school clinic scheduled for late July or late September at Sao Miguel de Guamapare. Two or three persons will be needed to teach and demonstrate Sunday school as a tool for reaching people.

Grober also lists several points of information of importance for those considering their involvement in AMAR.

To facilitate participation, most projects will be designed to fit in a two-week vacation period, Grober explains. Costs for the trip will include \$1,370 basic travel, \$35 a day room and board and incidentals. Passports and visas will be required, but the travel agent with whom Grober is working will acquire visas for all persons booking passage through his agency.

No vaccinations are required for travel to and from Brazil. A malaria medication is recommended, however, as well as "something for an upset stomach," he says. Prospective volunteers would do well to consult their family physicians.

Participants must be members of a Baptist church, Grober notes. They need to understand cultural influences such as the fact that Brazilian Baptists neither smoke nor drink. Although mustaches are very common, Brazilian Baptist men generally do not approve of beards or long hair. Volunteers would do well to avoid offending these customs, Grober says.

He also notes that persons planning to take musical instruments along with them should be aware that customs officials have the right to confiscate anything being brought into the country. As a result, Grober counsels volunteers to bring guitars and small instruments at most. Tape players and

background music tapes may be the ideal accompaniment, he says.

Because the partnership areas are in equatorial Brazil, daytime temperatures will never be below 70 degrees, Grober adds. He does recommend a light wrap for cool evenings and the Rio de Janeiro airport in southern Brazil, however.

Persons interested in planning a partnership mission trip should contact him at Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, Grober says. An application form will be forwarded for completion.

An orientation session will be held for every group traveling to Brazil, in order to acquaint them with the country's climate and culture and approaches to Southern Baptist mission work there. In addition, personal testimonies will be written out for translation into Portuguese. Each volunteer will carry that written testimony and translation to share the gospel when interpreters are not available.

No one should convince themselves they cannot or should not go. Brazil, however, Grober says.

Quoting Southern Baptists Morris and Winona Cobb, who have written a book on partnership missions, Grober explains:

"If you have as much time as two weeks' vacation, you have the time. If you have ever borrowed money for a TV or a car, you can get the money. If you know as much scripture as John 3.16, you have the message to take. What is lacking is the conviction you ought to do it."

"I'm praying God will speak to many Arkansas Baptists about going overseas to serve as real, live foreign missionaries for a short period of time," he concludes.

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



Executive Committee opposes Vatican envoy, tax penalty

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In separate actions, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee endorsed a legal brief opposing President Reagan's appointment last year of an ambassador to the Vatican and voiced opposition to a feature in Reagan's tax reform package which would reduce tax deductions for charitable contributions.

In objecting to Reagan's proposal to eliminate income tax deductions for contributions to charity below two percent of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income, the Executive Committee declared its rejection of what it called "the characterization of tax deductibility of gifts to churches as the equivalent of government subsidy."

"Acknowledging what it described as 'the fiscal urgency which the national deficit creates for the United States Congress,' the committee nevertheless asked lawmakers to follow 'the wisdom of the years' in considering changes in tax policy 'which will hinder churches from doing their work.'"

The Executive Committee approved without discussion endorsement of a friend-of-the-court brief at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania filed by the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

That brief, filed in support of a lawsuit brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State and several major religious denominations, challenged Reagan's appointment of William A. Wilson

as ambassador to the Vatican. The move followed congressional action sought by the White House removing an 1867 ban on diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Debate over U.S. Vatican diplomatic ties dates to 1939 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to send Myron Taylor as his personal representative to the Holy See with the rank of ambassador. In 1951, President Harry S. Truman sought to upgrade the relationship by naming Gen. Mark Clark ambassador but, after an enormous public outcry by fellow Baptists and others, the retired general withdrew his name and Truman let the matter rest.

Although Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson had no official diplomatic ties with the Vatican, President Richard M. Nixon resumed the practice of sending a personal representative, a device subsequently used by Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

The Baptist Joint Committee brief, written and filed by its late general counsel John W. Baker, objected to the new arrangement as a violation of the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. Exchanging ambassadors with a church, the brief argued further, shows preference for one religion over all others. In a novel argument, Baker told the district court the practice poses potential danger to overseas missionaries of all denominations by clouding their identi-

ty as religious representatives, especially in Third World countries.

Although the Executive Committee endorsed the Baptist Joint Committee brief and urged the agency to fight the matter through the federal appellate process, it stopped short of entering the case as a co-plaintiff, the other option available. Last September, the body declined any involvement in the case in spite of a Southern Baptist Convention resolution last June condemning U.S. Vatican relations and a separate motion asking the Executive Committee to join any legal effort challenging the new arrangement.

After a handful of members voiced concern that such action might be interpreted as an effort to embarrass President Reagan during his bid for re-election, the matter died last September. The decision not to act resulted, however, in resolutions by several Baptist state conventions in November urging SBC involvement.

Executive Committee General Counsel James P. Guenther of Nashville, told Baptist Press the new action reflects the Southern Baptist Convention's "historic support for the First Amendment's separation of church and state." He said Southern Baptists "stand united" in opposition to U.S. Vatican relations, not as "a matter of being anti-Catholic," but because "we believe the Vatican appointment is bad public policy and a dangerous and unwarranted entanglement of government and one church body."

The President speaks

Last week, I attended the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. Thomas A. Hinson, pastor of First Church, West Memphis, and Frank Lady, layman from Jonesboro, represent Arkansas Baptists on this important committee.



Stubblefield

Two highlights of the meeting stand out in my mind. One was an excellent sermon by President Charles Stanley, in which he challenged Southern Baptists to pay the price in preparation for our simultaneous revivals in 1986. Dr. Stanley closed his message with a call for members of the Executive Committee and visitors in the gallery to kneel in a prayer of commitment. This was a memorable moment!

The other highlight came at the close of the final session, was not on the planned agenda and happened spontaneously. Several members of the Executive Committee addressed the gathering and expressed deep concern over the disharmony and division which is evident in our denomination. They called for a season of reconciliation and

healing to take place prior to the Dallas convention in June.

This must involve a moratorium on open verbal attacks and a meeting of leaders on both sides to discuss the differences which separate us as Baptists. I applaud this positive approach put forth by the Executive Committee to help us find a solution to our dangerous dilemma as a denomination.

How does this relate to Arkansas Baptists? How can we become involved in bringing about reconciliation and healing in our Convention?

For one thing, we can avoid meeting in partisan groups called for the purpose of airing the problems that plague us or affirming a particular person or point of view. Such meetings are wrong for two reasons: first, they have no historical basis in Arkansas Baptist life. We have always worked together within the structures of the local church, the association and the convention. We elect messengers to represent us and organize boards and committees to serve us. Special interest groups which sometimes meet by invitation only and at other times include a larger constituency are unprecedented in Arkansas Baptist life as I know it. No pastor would favor a meeting composed of a few deacons to discuss what is wrong with the rest of the deacons or the church. The

analogy is clear.

Second, called meetings by self-appointed groups can result in deep division and polarization among Arkansas Baptists. Once one group meets, then others of different persuasions follow. Soon the larger body is hopelessly fragmented. Is this what we want to happen to Arkansas Baptists?

What else can we do to promote reconciliation and healing? We can pray. Let us pray that the Lord will break down the barriers which divide us and that an attitude of love and acceptance will prevail among Southern Baptists. We must strive to find unity in the midst of our diversity. —Jon Stubblefield, ABCS president

Next week:

More reports from the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, including an address by SBC President Charles Stanley

SBC Executive Committee approves statement on Baptist Press

by Jim Newton

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—After almost three hours of testimony and discussion, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee concluded two Baptist Press news stories last September "taken together" gave a balanced presentation of the news.

The final vote was taken with almost no discussion, although the stories had stirred heated debate in two preliminary meetings.

The stories were released Sept. 17 and 18, 1984. The first article reported that a seminary student, J. Stafford Durham, had filed a "formal complaint" with the Federal Communications Commission alleging Houston judge Paul Pressler had secretly tape recorded a telephone conversation "in violation of his civil rights." The second story gave Pressler's response to the charges.

The Executive Committee said it was "untimely" and "unfortunate" the first story appeared separately without an appropriate rebuttal from Pressler.

[Only the Tennessee *Baptist and Reflector* went to press with the first article before the second was released. It followed with the second article in the next issue. All others ran the articles in the same issue, except the *Indiana Baptist*, which printed only the second article containing Pressler's response.]

The Executive Committee also expressed support for the Baptist Press staff for "their strong commitment to timely, accurate, and well-balanced news reporting;" reaffirmed "its longstanding policy of openness in its deliberations and actions;" and "its support for a responsible and free press as an essential element for an informed Southern Baptist constituency."

While the recommendations were adopted by the 69-member committee virtually without comment, two preliminary meetings saw heated debate. Both meetings took place under "background rules" which prevent direct quotations.

The chairman of the public relations workgroup, Jimmy Jackson of Huntsville, Ala., ruled discussion on the matter would be limited only to the procedure in handling the two stories, not whether anyone was right or wrong; and that only workgroup members would participate in discussion.

Pressler, who carried a suitcase full of printed materials, objected strongly to the ruling, which prevented him from presenting four hours of testimony he said he prepared.

In interviews after the meeting, Pressler complained the ruling was grossly unfair. "I don't know why these people are suppressing the truth. I had 35 grievances against Baptist Press I wanted to present, but they wouldn't let me speak."

Instead of hearing testimony by Pressler and Baptist Press Director Wilmer C. Fields, the public relations workgroup discussed wording of the recommendation which finally was adopted by the full committee.

On the second day of the meeting, the ad-

ministrative and conventions arrangements subcommittee voted 15-6 to allow a full and complete discussion of the issue, including testimony by any who wanted to speak. Pressler, a leader in a movement some claim is trying to gain control of the SBC, is a member of the subcommittee.

Frank Ingraham, a Nashville attorney and chairman of the subcommittee, ruled the committee would allow Pressler and Fields 45 minutes each to present their arguments.

Pressler passed out a seven-page, 65-page stack of documents detailing his complaints against Baptist Press.

In the material, Pressler admitted tape recording the telephone conversation with Durham on Sept. 1 but denied he had done anything unethical or illegal. "I took the precaution of taping the conversation for several reasons," he said. He claimed "certain individuals on the liberal side in the convention have completely and totally misrepresented conversations I had with them..."

He added he recorded the conversation "for self-protection... to have a record of the telephone conversation..."

Pressler listed 35 objections to the story, including a charge Durham, in his complaint, had given "a bogus citation to the FCC code which has no relevance to the matters involved." He suggested someone advised and manipulated Durham.

Pressler also charged Baptist Press gives "liberals" in the convention "full and ample opportunity to respond" to accusations, but "conservatives are not always afforded that privilege." He further complained about use of writers "with fixed prejudices."

"The question is whether the present employees of the Baptist Press are so firmly directed in their mind set that they are unwilling or unable to look at what is occurring in the SBC from an alternate viewpoint from their own, or whether they are incapable of separating their personal prejudices from their reporting of the events that are occurring within the convention," Pressler concluded.

In response to Pressler's charges, Fields made a brief statement and passed out copies of the related Baptist Press articles. He said Baptist Press carried 1,118 stories last year, of which 22 (1.9 percent) could be considered "negative stories" about controversial issues to which someone might object. Of the 1,118, Baptist Press received complaints only about three articles, including the Pressler complaint, according to Fields.

Fields said he regretted very much that time and space limitations caused the mailing of the second story to be delayed one day. He said that if things could be done over again, the two stories would have been mailed the same day.

Much of Baptist Press' response to Pressler's charges was devoted to a presentation by Southern Baptist Press Association

President Bobby S. Terry, editor of *Word and Way*, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, who summarized a six-page "Report of Special Inquiry" commissioned and paid for by the press association.

The six-page report was prepared by journalism professors John Merrill of Louisiana State University, Clifford Christians of the University of Illinois and John DeMott of Memphis State University. All three are members of the ethics subcommittee of the Association for Education in Journalism's committee on professional freedom and responsibility.

The journalism professors said they found no "evidence of ill will toward Pressler" and no evidence the BP staff was "motivated by unprofessional intentions to damage the reputations of the principals involved."

"Release of the report of Sept. 17, without the response of Pressler, was not unfair under the peculiar circumstances existing and therefore did not constitute poor journalism," the professors said. They described BP's dilemma this way: "Should a reporter report the news immediately, even though the response to some accusation contained in it cannot be included in the first report... or should he suppress the news temporarily while getting the response?"

"... It is difficult to fault BP for the decision it made, and few news editors would do so," the professors said. "The decision made by BP is one made every day by many news organizations practicing the highest standards in our profession."

The professors said the BP stories in question "show exemplary restraint and discretion in what is admittedly a potentially sensational event. They are both news accounts which refrain from editorializing. They do not speculate regarding motives, editorialize about the ethics involved, or entertain reflections from unattributed sources."

"The news releases," they added, "appear to us to show the commendable vigor of effective journalism combined with the restraint demonstrated among the most responsible in the news profession today."

Pressler was not satisfied with their study, however, saying in an interview afterward that it was done by "hired guns" who were "paid" to say what they did.

After the hearing, Pressler said he was pleased the committee had heard his complaint and that his story had been told.

Fields observed the Executive Committee members and staff had "talked themselves together" on the proper role of Baptist Press. "It is highly significant that the committee voted to reaffirm its support for a responsible and free press as an essential element for an informed Southern Baptist constituency," he said.

Jim Newton is chief of the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Your state convention at work

Media Library

1985 Regional Clinics

One of 10 Media Library Regional Clinics for 1985 will be held in Arkansas March 29-30, 1985. DeGray State Park Lodge will be the site of the clinic which will provide three in-depth workshops for media library staff and other interested church leaders.



Jackson

The three conferences are: "How to Administer and Promote a Church Media Library," "How To Process Media," and "How to Administer BTN in Your Church."

Glynn Hill, Jack Lewis and James Rose will be conference leaders. Glynn, Jack and James are consultants for the Sunday School Board's Church Media Library Department. The two-day clinic will begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, with registration. The conference will begin at 2:00 p.m., March 28 and conclude at 12 noon Saturday, March 29.

Pre-registration is required and there is a registration fee for materials and refreshments. Information about registration, procedures and costs are in promotional material distributed by the BSSB and a recent flyer mailed to churches by the Church Training Department. Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, for additional information. — **Gerald Jackson, associate**

Christian Life Council

Not where it's not

One long familiar with the Kennebec River in Maine describes it as "deep where it is deep and not where it's not."



Parker

Many students of the Bible can be so described. Some dig deeper into the Word than most, with results often astounding to those less scholarly. The Lord is not impressed with either the deep or "not where it's not" scholar. He is much more concerned with how one applies basic Bible truths in everyday life. Such truths are found in the following passages: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as

yourself'" (Mark 12:30-31a NKJV). "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them" (Matt. 7:12a NKJV).

Positive, living, applied response to such teachings are tremendously more important than how deep or shallow our theological rivers might be. Come to think of it, the same is true regarding denominational, local church and domestic streams. — **Bob Parker, director**

Missions

Missions committees

One pastor said "Why do we need a missions committee? We don't even have a mission." I replied that his church situation was one of the best of reasons for electing a new missions committee.



Tidworth

It is very important to have a missions committee before a mission is started. The committee can work with the pastor in determining if a new church is needed in their association. If so, where, how much would it cost to sponsor, how many workers would be needed and what kind of church could it become?

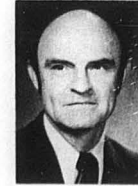
The church can become prepared and involved by prayer and awareness. The mission will have a much better chance of success if good preparation is made.

Or it may be that no new congregation is needed. The church should not feel guilty for not sponsoring a mission if the missions committee discovers the area is well-cherished. However, the committee may find needs for ministries with homebound, jails, language groups or migrants. — **Floyd Tidworth Jr., church extension director**

Student Department

First-century Christianity

Stopping by Wynne to visit with Blanche Mays on my way to Mission 85, I learned several facts about Arkansas BSU that I had not know.



Logue

The BSU at Arkansas State was organized in the home of D.T. Rogers. Blanche and Mary Nance Daniels from the Sunday School Board helped organize the BSU at Arkansas State. Mary Nance received an extra blessing. In Jonesboro, she met T.M. Ray, whom she later married. 'First-century Christianity' is what

Blanche Mays called the work of summer field workers whom she supervised when she served as state BSU director from 1939-1944.

Approximately 30 students were chosen each summer. These were trained and then sent out in pairs to 15 churches in 6 associations. One summer none were sent out because of the war.

The students visited, taught the Training Union Manual and often helped bring revival to the churches. On Sunday afternoon there would be a rally at one of the churches, and the summer field workers and members of the other churches would gather at the host church for a tremendous hour of worship and fellowship.

Blanche spoke of several workers in the state. Some went on to the foreign mission field.

Blanche would like to have a reunion of summer field workers. Write her at 1616 Dodd Drive, Wynne, AR 72396. — **Tom J. Logue, director**

Evangelism

CWT participants

The pastor is the key leader in initiating the CWT process. He attends a National CWT Seminar to be certified. He then comes back to his local church to give overall direction and leadership. He is responsible to teach the Pastor/Leader Time to all local participants and also serves as an equipper.

The certified witnesses have either attended a National CWT Seminar or completed the 13-week training process in the local church. They also have memorized and used the Model Presentation. They are now certified to begin the training process as equippers.

The equippers are certified witnesses who have willingly involved two others in the training process. Upon completing the equipping cycle, they are certified as equippers.

The apprentices are lay persons committed to becoming certified witnesses. They are involved in the 13-week training cycle. They study each week from the Apprentice Manual and give an account to their equippers. They also go out once a week to witness to lost people under the leadership of the equipper.

Recently I was visiting with a friend who is a medical doctor. He asked, "Are you familiar with CWT?" "Yes, I am." He stated, "CWT is wonderful. I have been looking for this all my life". — **Clarence Shell, director**

Your state convention at work

Annuity/Stewardship

Twelve PGG seminars set

Planned Growth in Giving is not an isolated activity. Every state convention has scheduled Planned Growth in Giving. This involvement could touch thousands of our churches and has the potential of touching millions of our people.



Walker

Five national training seminars will equip over 800 Southern Baptists. These people will lead the state seminars.

Twelve seminars are scheduled for Arkansas Baptists. Participants may attend one of the following seminars: March 25-26, Fayetteville FBC; March 29-30, Hope FBC; April 12-13, Van Buren FBC; April 15-16, Hot Springs FBC; May 6-7, Jonesboro, Central Baptist; May 17-18, El Dorado FBC; May 31-June 1, Pine Bluff FBC; June 3-4, Russellville FBC; June 17-18, Little Rock, Markham Street Baptist; July 12-13, Mountain Home FBC; July 29-30, Heber Springs FBC; August 9-10, Forrest City FBC.

Who should attend? The pastor and one lay person from each church is invited. Training received at the state seminars will equip pastors and lay leaders to lead their churches in PGG.

The state convention will cover expenses up to \$35 for a room for two people, up to \$20 for meals for each participant and 10 cents a mile for gas for each church. Participants are encouraged to make their own room reservations. Expenses will be paid from completed expense forms received at the seminars. — James A. Walker, director

Woman's Missionary Union

WMU Annual Meeting

Anticipation mounts as the time for the Annual Meeting of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union approaches. Scheduled for March 19-20 at First Church Jonesboro, the program will feature many outstanding and inspirational people. Carolyn Weatherford, Executive Director of Woman's Missionary Union for the Southern Baptist Convention, will be speaking. Dr. Weatherford has traveled in all 50 states and 60 countries of the world observing the work of our missionaries. Bud and Jane Fray from Southern Africa will be sharing information about that field of service. Dr. Fray is assistant to the area director for Southern Africa.

Sylvia Fletcher, missionary to Peru is well known by many Arkansas women, by having participated in Baptist Women's retreats during her last furlough. Sylvia will be directing the music for the event and

Carolyn McClendon, director of Friendship House in New Orleans, will tell of her work.

Clyde and Archie will present a Cooperative Program emphasis on Tuesday evening followed by Dr. Don Moore, Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, who will bring the closing message of the day.

Sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday. — Betty Jo Lacy, Actoens director

Sunday School

Growth Spiral Workshops

Pastor, please do not read this article! On March 25 at First Church in Conway and on March 26 at Central Church in Magnolia and on March 28 at First Church in Harrison, Dr. Eugene Skelton, national growth consultant, will be leading a Growth Spiral Workshop. The workshop will deal with the mechanics of the Growth Spiral and the principles of Sunday School



Hinkson

Growth. Oh, well, if you read the article anyway, why not tell your Sunday School director about the Growth Spiral Workshop and the two of you, along with two or three other key leaders in your church, make plans to attend the workshop in your area. You will be glad you did!

The Growth Spiral Workshop will give you valuable information needed in setting a growth goal. Most churches that do not grow have no plans to grow. The Growth Spiral gives you a goal and systematic plans to achieve your goal. Make your plans now to make plans for growth in your church by attending the growth spiral workshop. — Ed Hinkson, assistant director

Family and child care

"An arm of the church..."

"An Arm of the Church Reaching Out" is the ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. Many church groups have viewed and responded positively to our slide-cassette presentation bearing this title. It is our desire to share this program with every church in the convention in an effort to be informative and accountable to Arkansas Baptists for the funds received which make possible our outreach ministry to families and children.

Someone from our staff will be happy to come to your church and present this program. It has been used effectively for Sunday evening services, Wednesday evening services, W.M.U. meetings (church and

associational), Brotherhood meetings (even early breakfasts), associational meetings and pastor's conferences.

"Our church is so small, we are reluctant to ask someone to come just for our group." This is a comment I have heard often and I want to emphasize that the size of the church does not matter to us. We are grateful for the support and interest of all our churches and want to visit the small churches as well as the large ones. There will not be any expense to the church to have this program presented. We would appreciate an invitation so that we could share with you the story of this exciting life-giving ministry.

A pastor of one of the small churches has suggested that two or three churches might want to join together on a Sunday evening for a time of fellowship and presentation of the program.

Please contact our office so that we can schedule this program for your church. — Johnny G. Biggs, executive director

Church Training

District Bible Drills

Children and youth all over Arkansas are busy memorizing scriptures and fine tuning Bible and speaking skills in preparation for the District Bible Drills and Youth Speakers' Tournaments during the week of March 18.



Falkner

Bible Drill includes older children (4th-6th grades) and younger youth (7th-9th grades). Participants will have been involved in church and associational level events before coming to the district events.

Each district drill will begin at 7:00 p.m. Participants are asked to arrive by 6:30 for registration. The dates and locations of the district drills and tournaments are as follows:

Northwest: March 18, First Church, Huntsville; Southwest, March 18, First Church, Hope; West Central, March 19, First Church, Paris; Southeast, March 19, First Church, Warren; No. Central, March 21, First Church, Mtn. View; Northeast, March 21, Central Church, Jonesboro; Central, March 22, Olivet Church, Little Rock; and East Central, March 22, Wynne Church, Wynne.

We in the Church Training Department appreciate the commitment demonstrated by Bible drillers and youth speakers throughout the state. Support them with your prayers and attendance during the district drills and tournaments. — Bill Falkner, associate

Overseas baptisms top 150,000 mark in 1984, up seven percent

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Overseas Baptists related to Southern Baptist missions baptized 156,326 people in 1984, a seven percent gain over 1983 figures.

The total represents about one baptism for every 11 members, compared with a U.S. ratio of one for every 39 Southern Baptists.

Nearly a third of the baptisms, some 49,200, were reported in Brazil, along with approximately 18,500 in Nigeria, 12,600 in the Philippines, 8,700 in Tanzania (one for every five members), 8,700 in South Korea (one per six members) and 6,700 in Mexico (one per seven members).

Overseas church membership rose to 1,910,483, almost a 12 percent gain. Almost half the 200,000-member gain came from Nigeria, where Baptists updated their membership figures to correct previous membership totals. Nigerian Baptists now number almost half a million, second only to Brazil among the 105 countries where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

The number of churches increased to 14,791, up almost nine percent over 1983, and self-supporting congregations increased to 12,076, up more than 23 percent. Mission

points increased by 784 to 17,779.

For the second year, one of the brightest spots in the overseas report was in seminary enrollment. More than 8,900 were studying in overseas seminaries, a gain of 22.4 percent over 1983. An 18 percent gain had been reported in 1983. Another 7,800 were enrolled in extension theological training.

The number of pastors leading churches increased to nearly 12,900, up 18.6 percent.

In the midst of global economic instability, overseas Baptists gave the equivalent of \$76.7 million in church offerings, \$4.2 million more than 1983.

The number of missionaries, including 343 new appointees, increased to 3,432 at the end of 1984, and the two-year period since 1983 reflected the lowest resignation rate since 1965-1966.

Missionaries were assigned to three new countries: Finland, Pakistan and Sierra Leone. One country, Mozambique, was re-entered. Okinawa is now listed under Japan.

But, Bryan stressed, "We need more preachers, more evangelists." There are 505 unfulfilled overseas requests for new missionaries to do evangelistic and church plan-

ting and development work.

The year saw a significant increase in volunteers, with a total of 6,213 long- and short-term workers, compared to 4,735 in 1983 and 5,749 in 1982. Baptists participating in Partnership Evangelism between overseas and U.S. state conventions totaled 1,354, up fully 40 percent over 1983.

In missionary medical work, 63 physicians, nine dentists and 72 nurses in 26 hospitals and 104 clinics worked alongside 5,559 nationals in treating nearly 163,000 inpatients and more than 1,363,000 outpatients.

Sixty-five missionaries and 212 nationals specializing in media outreach produced 43,570 broadcasts aired on 435 radio stations and 773 programs seen on 39 TV stations, leading to more than 4,000 professions of faith in Christ, many in areas without missionaries or well-developed Baptist work.

In publications work, nearly 6.5 million periodicals (under 466 titles), 2.4 million books (2,400 titles) and 11.9 million tracts (332 titles) were produced.

More than 350,000 people were assisted in community centers and 3,029 residents in children's homes.

Seminar on Productive Follow-up Strategy



led by Rev. Stu Tully

Associate pastor of Evangelism and Prayer,
First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

at Baring Cross Baptist Church

13th & Franklin Streets, North Little Rock, AR 72114, (501) 375-2349

The seminar is designed to assist churches active in the CWT or EE ministries in following up on new believers by helping them to grow in Christlikeness and to become responsible, reproducing members of the church.

March 22, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and March 23, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$10, includes dinner and continental breakfast

Please call or write Baring Cross Church to preregister



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GOOD NEWS AMERICA



GOD LOVES YOU.

March 16 - April 6, 1986

Youth problems universal, extend even to church youth

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)—Churches will not be able to meet the needs of their youth until they change the traditional mindset that young people who attend church don't have problems, Jim Gibson is convinced.

"Youth who come to church have the same types of problems as those who don't attend church," said Gibson, minister to youth, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., during Rec Lab at Glorieta Baptist

Center.

"We should never take lightly any youth who comes to us with a situation that is frustrating to him," said Gibson. "A crisis to a young person may not be a crisis to an adult, but it is real to the youth, so we must try to help."

For example, "Four out of every five youth suffer from loneliness and a poor self image. Most of the youth I deal with say they would like to change themselves," he said.

Because the gospel is a message of acceptance, the church should be a natural place for youth to turn for help when they have problems, he noted.

When dealing with youth in crisis, Gibson suggested the first step is to determine the problem. "Look for the root problem. Often we only see the symptoms, such as bad grades, loneliness or rebellion," he said.

"We must be able to talk one-to-one with youth and make sure they feel free to share with us," Gibson said. "In counseling, be a friend, not a judge or a parent. Be honest

and make sure youth know you can disagree with their actions and still love them."

He feels it is imperative parents become involved, especially if laws are being broken. He said this should be done very carefully and with the full knowledge of the young person.

The next step in helping youth deal with crisis is to discuss with them alternatives for action. "Do not dictate your solution to the problem, lead to it," Gibson warned. "Lead the parents and young person to understand love is not going to be withdrawn no matter what the outcome or decision."

Finally, Gibson said all involvement must agree on some form of action. "Young people have problems and until we understand that the youth in church are no different, we are not going to be very effective in helping them deal with their problems," he said.

Rec Lab is sponsored by the church recreation department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Make a note to attend

the
State Youth Convention

Friday, April 5

Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

Sessions begin at 10:00, 2:00 & 6:00

Sponsored by
Church Training Department
ASBC

Bold Mission Thrust: 'Building a Christian Home'

Strengthen Families Leadership Conferences

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

- For:
- Pastors
 - Church staff
 - Family ministry committees (church & assoc.)
 - Directors of missions
 - Other interested leaders

Conference leaders

Dr. Bill Johnson

Pastor
Dixie Baptist Church
Hattiesburg, Miss.



Gerald Jackson

Associate
C.T. Department
ABSC



Presenting resources for

- Christian Home Week
- Marriage enrichment
- Parenting
- Single and senior adult ministry

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7
Jonesboro	Ft. Smith	North Little Rock	Monticello
Central	Immanuel	Central	Second

Family Ministry Department, Baptist Sunday School Board
Church Training Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

House members hear pleas for hunger aid to Africa

WASHINGTON (BP)—Private voluntary organizations in America have channeled about \$60 million in food aid to Africa within the last three months. But the magnitude of the African famine is so great that without additional food aid an estimated 150 million people will face hunger and starvation, according to testimony given before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Legislation co-sponsored by 113 U.S. representatives from both parties seeks quick delivery of about 1.4 million metric tons of food to the 27 nations most adversely affected by Africa's drought. The prolonged drought, resulting in severe food shortages compounded by problems with food distribution, already has claimed about 300,000 lives.

In hearings marked by unusual bipartisan support of the pending legislation (H.R. 100), speaker after speaker pleaded for immediate action to help meet a crisis which has captured worldwide attention.

Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.) opened the hearings by reminding his colleagues "a hungry child knows no politics."

Rep. Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.) added hundreds of thousands of persons already have starved to death "because we did not act on the facts two years ago and compromised on what we said was really needed."

While committee members repeatedly commended the Reagan administration for quick action in allocating aid already authorized, several congressmen challenged administration representatives for underestimating the amount of food needed to meet the emergency.

"By the end of February, the U.S. food

pipeline to Africa will dry up," said Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "H.R. 100 will keep the pipeline flowing with desperately needed food and recovery aid. This proposed legislation is a responsible, reasonable approach to the African crisis, based on real need.

"The response of Southern Baptists and other voluntary organizations has been substantial," Parham added. "But we must go the extra mile if we hope to deal with a crisis that confronts a third of all Africans."

Fellowship of Arkansas Baptist Men



March 16

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
 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



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Dr. Calvin Miller

noted Baptist Author/Speaker

Tuesday, March 5

1:30 p.m.

Baptist Student Center
 at
 Arkansas State University
 Jonesboro

International

New life relationships

by Jerry Wilcox, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 13

Focal passage: John 13:1-8, 12-17, 34-35

Central truth: Love for one another confirms the born again experience.

This new unit of study addresses the new life in Jesus. The first lesson speaks to the new life in relationships.

A traveler in a third world country came upon a colony of lepers. The conditions were appalling. The severity of the disease was particularly repugnant, and medical help was minimal. The traveler noticed a person buying himself with tending the sores of the sick. The missionary introduced himself to the traveler and invited him to join in assisting the helpless. The traveler said, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." The missionary looked up at him and said, "Neither would I."

Christian love is like that. When, for example, someone falls ill, the person who loves him will perform the most menial services and will delight to do them, because love is like that.

Ordinarily, a slave or servant would be present to wash feet as they entered the room where the disciples were meeting. However, one was not provided. Not one disciple volunteered to fulfill the function of washing feet. Jesus prepared to wash feet.

The Son of God was setting an "example" for all believers. He shatters the hierarchical view of God and believer. Peter was rebuked but changed his mind when Jesus explained it to him.

The upper room necessarily precedes Pentecost. The love, commitment and attitude of the disciples to one another allowed the pentecostal preaching of Peter to expand the Kingdom.

Believers are to be recognized not only by power, prayer or preaching but by the example of Jesus, washing feet, serving each other.

From genuine concern for the welfare of the people of the "household of faith" comes real evangelism. Believers march to the beat of a different drummer.

The thrust of the passage is that we are to serve one another. We delight to serve one another because of our new life relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

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Life and Work

Grateful response

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

Basic passage: John 12

Focal passage: John 12:1-8

Central truth: After the response of faith, the most appropriate response to Christ is that of constant gratitude.

The most revealing quality of a spiritually mature person is that of gratitude. As the gospel story approaches the climactic hour of Jesus' death upon the cross, feelings, responses and attitudes towards him intensify. The hatred of the religious leaders intensifies to the point that they now actively plot his death. The self-interest of Judas intensifies, revealing itself in his insensitive remark.

In the heart of Mary, a sense of deep love and gratitude intensifies to the point that she must give expression to her feelings. She cannot contain them any longer. She expresses her feelings in a most extravagant, unselfish and symbolic way.

Gratitude depends a great deal upon attitude. The selfish heart of Judas had no room for any thought of gratitude. A few days before, when Simon Peter was told of his Master's impending death, his response was one of rebuke for a life about to be taken: "God forbid it, Lord!" He seemed to resent the idea that a life so meaningful to him would be taken away. Mary's response was the opposite: gratitude for a life given. Attitude made the difference.

A young, recently widowed mother stood at the graveside of her son, killed in a tragic accident. "I could be resentful for the life taken from me, so soon, so tragically. I must not be resentful for that which was taken. I must be grateful for the 22 years he was given to me."

"How can we live a life of constant gratitude and thankfulness to God? One way is to become the recipient of a gift so rich, so undeserved, so overwhelming in its greatness that the only adequate response to the gift is one of constant gratitude to the Giver. Mary had obviously been the receiver before she became the giver.

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Bible Book

Preparing the disciples

by George W. Domerese, D.O.M. Clear Creek Association

Basic passage: Luke 9:1-50

Focal passage: Luke 9:18-26; 46-48

Central truth: Genuine confession of Jesus determines life commitments.

Jesus begins preparing his disciples for the time after his crucifixion when he would no longer be with them. He caused them to evaluate their confession in verses 18-20. His first question was, "Who do people say that I am?" (v. 18). Their answers to this question were not nearly as important as the question, "But who say ye that I am?" (v. 20).

Time was coming when they were to be as confident of him when he no longer walked with them as they were when he did. Disciples today are to be as confident of who Jesus is as Peter was in his day. What you believe about Jesus will regulate all that you think, say and do.

Jesus foretells his death, that he must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes, literally all of the recognized religious community. They would be ashamed of him, but he would be raised the third day. Those who were ashamed of Jesus in that day and are ashamed of him today will be cast away. Jesus said he would be ashamed of them in the day he comes in his glory. He was not ashamed to die for us. We must not be ashamed to live for him.

In verse 46, something very common and very tragic took place: "There arose a reasoning among them." They got into an argument among themselves as to which should be the greatest. It is still happening among disciples today. Jesus used a child to illustrate humility and the secret of greatness.

For their lack of faith, the disciples were unable to help a man's epileptic son (9:37-42). Yet, here their pride is reflected in their quarrel about greatness. They had missed the point about "the son of man who must suffer." Pride and prejudice and ambition rob mankind of true greatness through serving our Lord by simply serving those around us. "Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:4).

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Youth Choir Festival draws 480

Nearly 500 youth from across the state participated in the State Youth Choir Festival Feb. 9 at First and Calvary Churches in Benton, according to Glen Ennes, ABSC Music Department associate.

Twenty-two youth choirs with a combined membership of 480 performed for ad-

judication and rehearsed together under the direction of guest clinicians Don Blackley, First Church, Norman, Okla., and John Dresbach, First Church, Osceola.

The youth choirs concluded the day with a worship experience led by Blackley and Dresbach.

Colorado Baptists elect new executive director

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Messengers from Colorado's Southern Baptist churches have elected their interim executive director to the post full-time.

Charles E. Sharp, a 48-year-old Roswell, N.M., native, was elected in a special called session of the Colorado Baptist General Convention at Circle Drive Church, Colorado Springs.

The election of Sharp fills a vacancy created June 30, 1984, when Glen E. Braswell resigned after 22 years of service.

A doctoral graduate of East Texas State University, Sharp served 20 years as a

teacher and administrator in public schools and Southern Baptist colleges in Texas and Alabama. During that time, he held associate ministerial staff positions in churches "which otherwise might not have been able to afford the trained help they needed," Sharp said.

Sharp was director of music and church training for the multi-state Northern Plains Convention from 1978 until 1982, when he took a similar position in the Colorado convention.

The Colorado convention consists of 63,000 members in 217 congregations.

Former SBC president, Jaroy Weber, dies

DALLAS (BP)—Jaroy Weber, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a pastor for more than 40 years, died Feb. 6. He was 64. Weber, who surrendered to the ministry at the age of 12, was pastor of Little Cypress Church, Orange, Texas; North Orange Church in Orange, Texas; First Church, West Monroe, La.; First Church, Beaumont, Texas; Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., and First Church, Lubbock, Texas.

Before he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1974, Weber was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He also received the doctor of divinity degree from Louisiana College.

Memorial services were at Prestonwood Church, Dallas, where Weber's son, Bill, is pastor. Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Church, Tulsa, Okla., officiated.

Weber is survived by his widow, Nettie, and three children: Jaroy Weber Jr., a plastic surgeon in Palo Alto, Calif.; Bill, pastor of the Prestonwood Church, and Nettie Beth of Palo Alto.

Youth ministry lab planned for Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas—Church youth workers facing hindrances in their ministry will receive help to break through those barriers during a Youth Ministry Lab at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary April 12-14.

"Youth Ministry Breakin' Thru..." is the theme of the three-day conference for church staff members, students and others interested in youth ministry.

Keynote speakers will include Esther Burroughs of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, Richard Ross of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Wynona Elder of Southwestern Seminary and Lamar Slay of Castle Hills First Church, San Antonio, Texas.

Topics of the more than 15 sessions range from "Ministry on the High School Campus" to "Ministry with Parents."

The Youth Ministry Lab was begun in 1968 to train summer youth workers but has

grown to encompass all aspects of youth ministry. More than 400 attended last year's lab.

Phil Briggs and Wesley Black of Southwestern Seminary's youth faculty are directing the event.

The lab "covers a wide range of skills and concepts needed for effective youth ministry," Black said. "It provides fellowship, inspiration and equipping for youth ministry in the '80s.'"

Cost for the lab is \$25 per person or \$35 per couple. That price includes a notebook containing notes from every conference. After March 22, the price is \$30 per person or \$40 per couple.

Participants are responsible for their own housing and meals.

For more information or registration, write Briggs or Black at Youth Ministry Lab, Southwestern Seminary, P.O. Box 22328, Fort Worth, TX 76122 or call (817) 923-1921.