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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

1-31-1985

January 31, 1985

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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'Be ye kind one to another'



Observe Race Relations Sunday
February 10, 1985

SOUTHSEEN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LITERATURE CENTER
1001 N. GARDNER ST.
FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72701

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February 10, 1985



"Be ye kind one to another," a standard memory verse for children, a standard for all of us to live by. Christian kindness crosses every barrier, including race. Feb. 10, 1985, is Race Relations Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention.

'Be ye kind one to another'

by W. David Lockard

One of the first verses that we learned as children is this simple, yet profound, admonition from Paul. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32). Because the need for kindness is universal and the power of kindness is so great, it is appropriate for us to place this scripture in the very center of all human relations.

True kindness includes genuine respect and will influence how we treat other people. "Be ye kind one to another" in the home, in the community, at work and in every dimension of life. "Be ye kind" to those who are different in terms of race and culture.

Children usually know why they are being kind, and they unmistakably know when they are being treated with kindness. They also know when there is anger and bitterness. Paul urges kindness as a replacement for bitterness, wrath and anger. What a timely word for all of our human relations!

Improved race relation are encouraged and made more likely by just laws and regulations. It is people, however, who create true harmony across racial barriers and other lines which divide and separate.

"Be ye kind" is also translated "become kind." It is never difficult to recognize kindness in action. Kindness prompts me to lift the burden of another person and it may require that I seek to lift other persons. As God seeks to bless and lift others, he invariably does it through his people.

The kindness that Paul urges is like God's kindness. God is the God of the tenderhearted and we badly misrepresent him when we fail to be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving. What a fantastic personal strategy this is to challenge every Christian on this Race Relations Sunday!

W. David Lockard is director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Grant to take presidential sabbatical

ARKADELPHIA—Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University, has been awarded a three-month sabbatical by the university's board of trustees.

The Board approved the sabbatical at a recent meeting, to be taken any time during 1985, and for such purposes as study, travel, planning and relaxation.

In accepting the sabbatical, Grant said, "I am deeply grateful to the Board of Trustees, and I hope to use this time primarily to make preparations for Ouachita's Centennial year, 1985-86, and for launching Ouachita's second century."

Grant said that more specific details would be announced at a later date.

In this issue

4 blessing in disguise

When illness forced Southern Baptist missionary Evelyn Knapp to stick closer to home, the Lord compensated by multiplying her efforts with youth in Kyela, Tanzania.

8-9 the first wave

Arkansas' first team of volunteers in the Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission found their Brazilian brothers and sisters ready for help in reaching their communities for Christ.

Cruse to perform at Southern College

Top-notch entertainment will be offered at Southern Baptist College "Homecoming '85" in February by the well-known recording group "Cruse"

Introduced to the music industry nationwide by performer Larry Gatlin and Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys in 1971, the family-oriented group has been singing its way into popularity ever since through concerts, TV appearances and award-winning albums. Their style of "positive" music, which is both traditional and contemporary, mild and hard-driving, will surely be a blessing to everyone who hears their musical message.

Due to limited seating available, it is advised that the public purchase concert tickets

well in advance. Advance seating is \$5 per person; mail orders should be addressed to Southern Baptist College, Student Development Office, P.O. Box 443, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476. Checks should be payable to Southern Baptist College, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope should be enclosed with your check.

Groups of tickets in blocks of 25 or more will receive a 50 cent discount per ticket. Group discounts are offered only up to four weeks before concert date. Call (501) 886-6741, ext. 115 if more information is needed.

The concert date is set for Friday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. and will be held in the Southerland-Mabee Center.

MK Prayer Calendar Home and foreign missionary kids who attend college on the Margaret Fund

February

- 5 Marti Spiegel (Equatorial Brazil) OBU, Box 4531, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 20 Susan Nichols, (Paraguay) OBU, Box 3611, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 22 Stan Littleford, OBU, Box 4367, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 24 Laura Efurd (Hawaii) OBU, Box 4473, Arkadelphia AR 71923
- 28 Bonnie Pinkston (Ivory Coast) OBU, Box 4501, Arkadelphia AR 71923

Who should teach?

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



On a recent visit to a small church, we had the opportunity to observe a Sunday School teacher who was doing an outstanding job of leading his class. He knew the material, he involved the class members, his presentation was interesting and, above all, he spoke to the needs of those who were attending.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Bible teaching is often done haphazardly. It may be that the teacher simply doesn't take his task seriously.

The Sunday School teacher should recognize the importance of his task. He holds a place of trust. In an informal situation, he may have opportunities that no other person in the church will have for the planting of the truths of God's Word in the minds of his class.

The Sunday School teacher should recognize God's call to the teaching of his Word. God himself is the Master teacher. Not only did he issue a call to Moses, but he assured him that he would instruct him. Key figures of Old Testament history saw God as the teacher and were attentive to his instructions. Isaiah wrote, "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers" (Is. 30:20).

In the New Testament, we find Jesus as the Master Teacher. However else he was known during the days of the flesh, he was always called "Teacher" (Rabbi). Jesus acting as a teacher is the expression of a loving father longing to instruct his children in the ways of righteousness. The Gospels themselves give evidence to the fact that Jesus wanted to be known as Teacher. As he started his Galilaean ministry, the scripture says, "Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues..." (Matt. 4:23).

In selecting Sunday School teachers, a church nominating committee has a great responsibility. Never should members be elected to these important positions just to fill vacancies. Not only do these people assist greatly in forming biblical beliefs, but, also, they further affect the attendance and outreach of the congregation.

We recommend several qualifications that should be considered in the selection of Sunday School teachers.

He or she should be a person who has had an experience with Christ. A personal encounter is basic for every teacher. One can not lead others to know or understand a Master whom he does not know.

He or she should be a person who has an alert mind. The fact that a Sunday School class is small and informal will mean

that the teacher will have many strategic questions with which to deal. Often these issues will develop during the course of a class, with little time for consideration.

A teacher should be one who lives a clean life, and has totally committed himself to the service of Christ. He should give whole-hearted support to the entire program of the church through both tithes and offerings and a strong will to work. He is responsible not only for leading his class, but, also, for working to reach prospects in their age group. Good Sunday School teachers often have more opportunity to reach people for Christ than any other group in the church.

Finally, a teacher should be enthusiastic about his task. Our attitudes are better caught than taught. The teacher who loves and supports the church, will provide great dividends for the cause of Christ.

There are many rewards for the dedicated Sunday School teacher. First, spiritual growth is certain. The commitment required for a teacher assures a deepening knowledge of the scripture. It also means that one must be faithful in his prayer life, if he is doing his job properly.

The Sunday School teacher will, also, learn discipline. In order to be prepared properly, a teacher must faithfully set aside time when he can study the Word of God and visit members and prospects. It requires personal discipline.

Another reward of the teacher is seeing the change that takes place in the life of class members. Often the dedicated teacher will have opportunity to see those to whom he or she has witnessed become Christians. He will also have opportunity to see individuals grow in their knowledge and commitment to the Word of God.

Finally, the greatest reward of a teacher is in knowing that he or she is the instrument of God. Every teacher is aware of his or her own humanity and limitations. There may be times when the only thing a teacher can do is to be available and be a good listener. There is always the task of reaching and training people.

A Sunday School teacher should pattern his work after the Master Teacher, for Christ best demonstrates our objectives. His love, patience, eagerness, insight and kindness will never be matched by mortal man. But it will serve as a worthy objective.

If you have been asked to serve as a Sunday School teacher, you have been entrusted with one of the greatest privileges that ever comes to a Christian. It will provide you with great opportunity for service to God.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 5

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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 (individual), \$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.

Missionary 'slow down' spurs church growth in Tanzania

by Robert O'Brien

(BP) photos / Joanna Pinneo

KYELA, Tanzania (BP)—Evelyn Knapp learned a long time ago that it doesn't take much mobility to make a difference in the lives of people.

Her experience makes a good case study for what can continue in economically depressed Tanzania, even if the current fuel crisis permanently reduces missionary mobility.

Mrs. Knapp's lesson came in 1976 after a potentially fatal amoebic abscess of the liver kept her close to home for six months.

She "began to hurt a lot" the few times she tried to disobey doctor's orders and go out on bumpy roads to assist her husband, Doug, in his far-flung ministries in agriculture, church development and evangelism in Tanzania's 1,000-square-mile Kyela District.

"I feel like the Lord really gave me the illness for a reason," said Mrs. Knapp, a 21-year veteran of Southern Baptist missions in Tanzania. "Instead of going to more distant bush churches, I started attending a little church about a half-mile from my house and discovered the youth there had no leadership, no Sunday school and no one who cared about them or did anything for them."

That realization started a ministry which has spread over the entire district and into other parts of Tanzania in the past eight years. It has revolutionized the lives of thousands of young people and become an important factor in laying groundwork for Knapp's work, which has resulted in a five-fold increase in churches since 1975, at least 17,850 baptisms since 1978 and large increases in church membership and Sunday school enrollment.

"I started a Sunday school in that little church," Mrs. Knapp said, "and then realized they had no Bibles. So I started a Bible



Young Tanzanians and Southern Baptist missionary Evelyn Knapp have reason to pause for a smile. Tanzania's Baptist youth movement has made great strides since Mrs. Knapp launched it.

memorization program and gave them a free Bible if they learned a certain number of verses.

"Then, when they got the Bibles, I realized they didn't know where the book of Genesis was or the book of Revelation. They didn't know anything about the Bible at all. So I started what we call at home a Bible sword drill."

The young people, challenged to learn by someone who cared, practiced for hours and thrived on the competition. They grew in their Bible knowledge, and many began to accept Christ as Savior.

African Baptist pastors came from all over the area to see what had happened to the

young people. "They'd never seen young people do things like that and had no idea they were capable of it," Mrs. Knapp said.

Soon the pastors began to beg her to do the same thing in their churches, but she couldn't accept because of her illness.

So, she took one of the young men she had trained, put him on a bicycle with a bunch of bright, yellow bananas to eat and sent him 20 miles away to help start a youth program.

Her decision turned out to be the best thing she could have done: train an African to reach other Africans.

The young man, Dicki Gidioni, bicycled from church to church. Today, most of the 215 churches in the Kyela District have strong youth programs. The district overflows with excited youth actively involved in Bible studies, Bible drill and choir competition and a variety of ministries.

"We now have a large reservoir of young people ready to serve wherever they're needed," Mrs. Knapp reported. "They know their Bible—a basic for a Christian—and they're confident in leadership roles.

Now whenever a pastor needs a new church leader, he looks first among the older young people who have come up through the youth program. At least 15 of the young men have become pastors in their own right.

The young people also have spilled over the borders of Kyela District and begun to have an impact in other areas of Tanzania where they now live. This gives missionaries great hope for the future as the youths move into positions of church and national leadership.

Robert O'Brien is overseas news coordinator for the Foreign Mission Board.



Southern Baptist missionary Evelyn Knapp holds one of the rabbits she and her husband, Doug, use in their agricultural ministry in Kyela, Tanzania.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Our churches still have the confidence of U.S. citizens. This conclusion was reached by the Gallup organization as a result of a poll they did for Newsweek last October.

Of the nine categories, including the military, banks, the Supreme Court, public schools, newspapers, organizations, Congress, big business and television, "the church or organized religion" was trusted more than any of the others mentioned. This list is the same order as found in their poll according to rank.

Careful now, lest we become too proud, we need to see a further fact. Sixty-four percent of these polled expressed confidence in "the church or organized religion." Only 41 percent indicated that they had a "a great deal" of confidence. The other 23 percent checked they had "quite a lot" of confidence. So, this is a good news-bad news note. It is a shame that the credibility and effectiveness of the church is so low that less than 50 percent of the people indicated they had "a lot of confidence" in it.

We can impact all of our nation and world. The poll lets us see we are in a favored position to touch lives and influence the destiny of man and nations. Stewardship of influence is awesome. We can't take this lightly. What will we do with the trust the public has given us? Several things seem vital.

(1) We must not betray that trust by irresponsible living, unchristian conduct or arrogant attitudes.

(2) We must be motivated by God's love and driven to the last person on earth with his Good News. If the public conceives of our churches as exploiters of the public for institutional gain, our credibility will decrease.

(3) We must not turn aside from our reason for being. We are tools of God for his use in making spiritual inroads to a darkened world. We must not be turned from this major on political activity, purely physical-help programs or sociological crusading.

(4) The scriptures have God's blessing and meet human need. God is faithful to the people who are faithful to his word.

Such a people will be respected by man, honored by God and his reality.

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

Letters to the editor

'Directive from the Vatican'

The letter by David Miller (ABN, Jan. 17, 1985) is a perfect but disturbing example of an alarming trend within the Southern Baptist Convention. Because some of us do not agree with his position on certain issues, he claims we do not accept biblical authority. He confuses agreement on issues with belief in the authority of the Bible. Even more disturbing is his attitude that people who disagree with him ought to be excluded from positions of leadership within the convention.

His letter sounds more like a directive from the Vatican than from the pen of a Southern Baptist minister. The Pope is now trying to impose doctrinal views on abortion, ordination and social change on all Roman Catholics. He is threatening to exclude nuns, and bishops from their orders unless they conform.

Baptists have historically rejected such authoritarian dogmatism, making room for disagreement on many complex issues. The Southern Baptist Convention is a beautiful and powerful experiment in Christian cooperation. Unity within that diversity is found around commitments to biblical authority, salvation by grace through faith, believer's baptism, cooperative efforts for foreign and domestic missions, the autonomy of the local church, religious liberty and the priesthood of all believers. They have staunchly opposed creedalism and dogmatism and a centralized authority that tells us all what we must believe.

I believe that those principles that have made Southern Baptists great are still strong and will emerge to keep us focused on central priorities at the heart of our life together. The only "liberalism" among Baptists is

found in that generosity of spirit and attitude of openness towards those with whom we disagree. That is both a historic Baptist principle and it is solidly grounded in the Christian faith.

Southern Baptists will do well to examine every candidate and each proposal at our convention, testing whether or not they represent an attitude of authoritarian dogmatism or the historic commitment that we have made to the fundamental beliefs outlined above. By God's help, we will not compromise our soul and thus destroy a great denomination. — Paul D. Simmons, Louisville, Ky.

'God's Word lives in them'

I spent eight wonderful, exciting years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, first as a student, then as a teacher. I am deeply disturbed by David Miller's caustic attack on the integrity of Southern's faculty. By way of generalization, he questions whether "the professors at Southern Seminary believe in the authority of the Bible."

A few months ago, the faculty of Southern Seminary unanimously adopted a resolution affirming belief "without reservation in the inspiration and authority of the Bible and all that the Bible affirms about itself." These are not empty words!

I am deeply grateful for the dedicated teachers at Southern Seminary who led me to a deeper reverence for the Bible as the inspired, authoritative Word of God, who provided me with resources so that I might be able to understand and interpret it, and who by their Christian example showed me that they not only live by God's Word, but it lives in them. — Jon M. Stubblefield, Magnolia

Home missions teleconference set for Feb. 9

ATLANTA—The 1985 Home Missions Teleconference will be broadcast live via satellite Feb. 9, 1985 to more than 100 associations throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

William G. Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and James Smith, president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, will be among the guests slated to appear during the teleconference.

The event, set for Saturday, Feb. 9, 1985 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST, also will feature live interviews with five home missionaries, as well as phone interviews and taped interviews with eight other home missions personnel.

Broadcast over SPACENET I by Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN), the conference will provide an opportunity for viewers receiving the broadcast to call in and ask questions of home mission personnel.

Live interviews will be conducted with David Palmer, a church extension consultant working in West Palm Beach, Fla.; Caley Nichols, associational director of missions for Western Montana; Freddie Mae Bason, director of weekday ministries for Atlanta Baptist Center in Atlanta, Ga.; Carolyn McClelland, Christian social ministries missionary and director of Friendship House in New Orleans, La.; and Curtis Griffis, area director of evangelism in Chicago, Ill.

The teleconference, the second of its kind, precedes the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the observance of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, slated for March 3-10.

The 1984 Home Missions pilot project teleconference succeeded in reaching several thousand Baptists gathered in ten locations. This year's teleconference will be jointly sponsored by the SBC Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



David Manner has joined the staff of Berryville First Church as minister of youth and music, coming from Otter Creek First Church in Little Rock. Manner has a bachelor of music degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and a master of

church music degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Karen Bennett of Guymon, Okla.

Bill Cypert resigned Jan. 27 as music director at Martindale Church in Little Rock following three years of service.

Terry Morris has re-joined the staff of Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff as youth pastor.

Edmond Ramsey resigned Jan. 13 as pastor of Clarksville Second Church following four years of service. He will begin serving Feb. 3 as pastor of the Grace Church in Camden.

Keith Sandefur is serving as pastor of Saltillo Heights Church in Conway. He and his wife, Theresa, have a son, Jerrod.

David Spraggins is serving as pastor of Pisgah Church at Fouke.

Billy Green of Jonesboro, **Ernestine Robichaud** of Little Rock and **Lana Rodery** of West Memphis, all senior students, have been named to the director's list of Memphis Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing for the 1984 fall semester. The scholastic honor recognizes students who have a 3.0 or higher grade point average in classroom study and satisfactory grade in clinical work.

David Brown joined the staff of Concord Church at Van Buren Jan. 20 as minister of music and youth, coming there from Rosedale Church in Little Rock. He has also served on the staff of Clarksville First Church. Brown and his wife, Joan, are both graduates of Ouachita Baptist University.

Richard Brown has joined the staff of Mulberry First Church as youth and education director. Brown and his wife, Debbie, moved there from Central, Ark., where he served on the staff of First Southern Church.

briefly

Bloomer Church ordained John Neilhouse to the ministry Jan. 20.

Blytheville First Church ordained Terry Mullins as a deacon Jan. 13.

Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock held services Jan. 6 to ordain David Bauman, Joe Higginbotham, Greg Kern, Jim Northum and Phil Wilson as deacons. James Bureson, music director, was ordained to the ministry and Everette Davis was licensed to the ministry.

Little Rock Calvary Church ordained Dwayne Fischer and Herman Voegle as deacons Jan. 6.

Mount Olive Church at Crossett ordained Philip Bowles to the ministry Jan. 27.

Grand Avenue Church at Fort Smith recently ordained Jim Lee and Ken Beal as deacons.

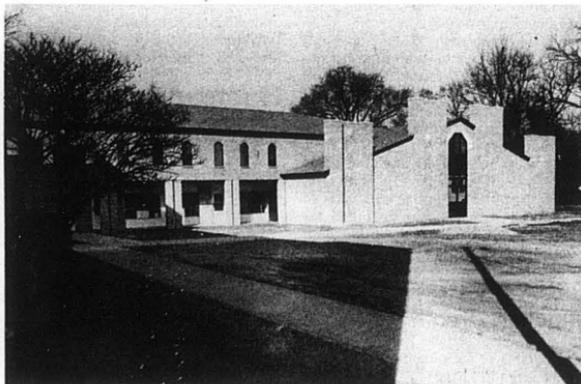
Beech Street First Church in Texarkana will hold a seminar on prayer and spiritual awakening Feb. 24-27. Glendon Grober, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Evangelism Department associate, will be leader.

Central Church at Magnolia held a parent/youth conference Jan. 12-13 with Bob and Beth Taylor of Nashville, Tenn., as leaders.

Spadra Church at Clarksville recently enlarged its missions education program through the organization of both Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action.

Fayetteville First Church held a prayer and spiritual awakening seminar Jan. 27-30. Lewis Drummond, professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was leader.

buildings



Lake Village Church dedicated a 9,000 square foot building Jan. 20. Valued at \$272,000, it houses a fellowship hall, kitchen and educational space. H. W. Roper of Little Rock was builder and James W. Farar of Little Rock was architect. An appreciation service, honoring pastor Harold Elmore, closed the dedication. Elmore, who has served the church for eight years, was presented with \$1,000 and an additional week of vacation by the congregation.

Baptists respond to famine with record relief gifts

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Television brought starving Ethiopians to American dinner tables and Southern Baptists responded by giving a record \$7.2 million for overseas hunger and relief during 1984.

Almost half a million of that was designated for hunger relief in Ethiopia. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated \$220,873 for that drought-stricken country during 1984 and expects to use more, including gifts still coming in, during 1985.

The board, drawing partially on unspent funds from 1983, sent to Africa almost half of the \$8.5 million it allocated for worldwide hunger and relief in 1984. But it also continued relief and development in other countries where overall conditions are better but where pockets of people also suffer malnutrition and sometimes starvation, said John Cheyne, the board's senior human needs consultant.

Southern Baptist giving for hunger and relief was up about four percent during the first 10 months of the year, but giving in November and December, after Baptists became aware of the Ethiopian crisis, pushed gifts for the entire year 18 percent ahead of 1983, said Cheyne. More than \$2.4 million came in during December alone.

Long before television footage of dying children in Ethiopia made the world reach for their pocketbooks, Baptist missionaries in other parts of Africa had been allocated more than \$3 million to help prevent similar conditions from developing in drought-stricken countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) and Zimbabwe.

"We have done some extraordinary things because of the special need," said R. Keith Parks, board president, noting especially a \$1 million grain distribution program in Mali, another African country particularly hard-hit by drought. Missionaries Norman and Beverly Coad had been in the country only a few months when they set up a distribution program that took 5,000 tons of grain to needy parts of the country.

The representative for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Mali called their program the most effective distribution program of that size he'd ever seen, said Cheyne. The Coads mobilized evangelical churches in the country to distribute the grain with less than one-tenth of one percent loss, an unusually low figure for relief programs, said Cheyne.

"Foreign missionaries as long ago as Lottie Moon have been doing things about world hunger," said Parks, but only in recent years have Southern Baptists given missionaries the resources to carry out major relief and development programs. (Lottie Moon, a pioneer missionary to China, shared her own food with the needy Chinese with whom she worked.)

Southern Baptists have developed a missionary system supported by the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program which enabled the Foreign Mission Board to spend "100 cents of every dollar" given for relief for just that, Parks said. Missionaries, in place, familiar with the community and area churches, are able to move aid quickly when needed.

Parks said because the Foreign Mission Board is a mission agency, not a relief agency, its first priority must be evangelism that results in churches. "But at the same time, the Christian compassion that causes us to want to evangelize, causes us also to want to minister to people," he said.

Like many other Christians, he has been torn by the appalling need in Africa and has had to ask whether the Foreign Mission Board needs hunger funds more than it needs Lottie Moon or Cooperative Program funds, he said.

"We feel that we must have the support through the Lottie Moon offering to keep the missionaries in place and enable them to minister, but we really believe that the crucial nature of the situation challenges Southern Baptists to give above and beyond their other giving," he said.

He compared the Foreign Mission Board to a church with a crisis in its community. That church can choose to use its staff salaries to respond to the crisis, endangering its whole program, or it can ask members to give over and above regular offerings, helping the needy while preserving the system to help again.

Parks recalls how he and other missionaries in Indonesia tried to help the needy around them from their own pockets in the 1950s and says he is glad Southern Baptists have begun giving so generously for hunger and relief.

Southern Baptists today have more money than they did in the 1950s, enabling them to give more, he said. Television and increased travel and volunteer activity also have made Southern Baptists more aware of world needs. But, he added, the Foreign Mission Board has personnel and plans in place to more than absorb the \$7.2 million given in 1984 and much more.

Cheyne said Baptists can be proud of their response to the African famine but the board must continue to put a priority on development programs that deal with the root causes of hunger. "Better to hear that the starvation never came than that we were able to rush after it happened to see what we could do about it," he said.

He pointed out as an example to the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) feeding program in Woleta, Ethiopia, to which Southern Baptists contributed \$50,000. Seeing conditions in northern Ethiopia, the SIM mission anticipated the same thing in the south. Instead of waiting for it to happen, they immediately set up a feeding program. "Now the little children and women who would be just like the ones we see on TV are well on the road to recovery," he said.

The philosophy of the Foreign Mission Board's human needs program has been to provide a holistic ministry meeting both physical and spiritual needs, he said, and the board has tried to provide it before it is desperately needed. "Sending food in relief is only a band-aid ministry," he said.

"One of the things we have to recognize is the enormity of the problem. We cannot solve the whole world's problems by ourselves," said Cheyne. Instead, the Foreign Mission Board has to choose the things it can do best and those that can be copied by nationals even if the Baptists are no longer there.

Although Africa's situation is the world's worst, Cheyne stressed there are pockets of starvation in places like Bangladesh and Brazil, and the Foreign Mission Board continues to aid them also. During 1984, Brazil had farmers devastated by long-term drought in the north and others devastated by flooding in the south. Southern Baptists helped with a number of hunger and relief projects, such as the massive Living Water project which benefited much of a state in northern Brazil.

And the board has acted in other African countries to prevent the situation from worsening to Ethiopian conditions. "Many people don't know we put \$290,000 worth of relief in Kenya this year," he said. Although Kenya is prosperous by African standards, many sections suffered devastating drought during 1984.

As much as the world has done to help Africa during 1984, Foreign Mission Board missionaries and staffers acknowledge relief aid cannot do as much to wipe out starvation as normal rains would. In January, Parks, joined by Rheubin L. South, chairman-elect of the Southern Baptist Association of State Executive Directors, and J. Everett Sneed, president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, issued a call for Southern Baptists to make 1984 a year of prayer for rain in Africa.

Hunger giving up for seventh year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists in 1984 contributed \$7,166,772 to their denomination's program of worldwide hunger relief, shattering the 1983 record by more than a million dollars.

It marked the seventh consecutive year gifts to hunger funds administered by the

Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Boards surpassed the previous year's total.

The hunger contributions represent an overall increase of 19.5 percent above the previous record set in 1983. FMB gifts increased \$1,142,865 or 21 percent; HMB giving was up \$27,196 or five percent.

First AMAR volunteers find Brazilians eager, determined

by Mark Kelly

The first wave of volunteers in the Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission returned from their two-week South American adventure impressed with the eagerness and determination they found among Brazilian Baptists.

"They really want us to come. They need the help," declared C. Michael Anders, pastor of First Church, Sherwood. "This is not just a project dreamed up by someone in the Baptist Building. Brazilian Baptists are eager for us to get started."

Anders was one of seven Arkansians who spent two weeks last December on a construction project at a Baptist encampment in Brazil's Maranhao Convention.

The team, supervised by Dan Grounds of First Church, Ashdown, worked with 15 Brazilians to build a new dormitory for the camp, which is located on the Atlantic coast at Sao Luis. Building on a foundation already laid for them, the team poured a 40 by 90 foot concrete slab and erected the clay tile building.

The encampment, similar to the one at Siloam Springs operated by Arkansas Baptists, is used almost constantly by the Maranhao Baptist Convention, said Glendon Grober, coordinator of the Brazil-Arkansas Partnership and associate in the ABCS Evangelism Department. The new dorm, which is identical to an existing building, will double the camp's capacity to near 200.

"We were told before we left that the key word would be 'flexibility,'" said Tim McMinn, pastor of Remount Church, North Little Rock. He and Anders recited a litany of challenges to their mission spirit:

—Work assignment. Though they took a



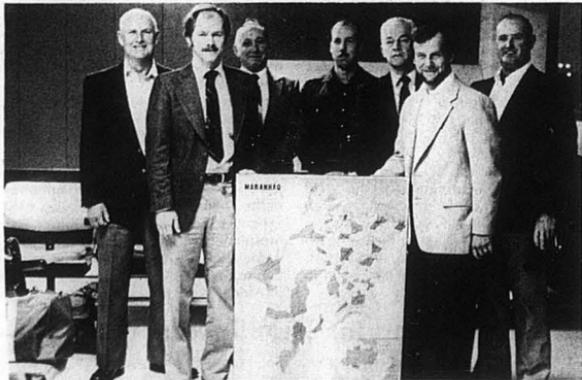
Arkansas Baptists are joining hands with their Brazilian brothers and sisters in Christ to further the kingdom of God in two Brazilian Baptist conventions through Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission Projects. (Left) The first partnership project added a 100-bed dormitory to a Baptist encampment at Sao Luis in the Maranhao Convention.

few tools with them, the team worked mostly with the tools available, many of them hand-made. At first, they mixed concrete by hand. In addition, most of them found themselves tackling tasks in which they had little or no experience.

—Culture. They were surprised to realize how many comforts they took for granted. The camp had running water, but none of it hot. They slept in hammocks rather than beds. They did say they found the food excellent, however.

—Communication. Team members were struck with the difficulty of communicating with co-workers who spoke little or no English. Often, they resorted to charades to convey their message. Only the missionaries could interpret for them. Several of the volunteers preached through an interpreter for the first time.

Yet, despite the difficulties, team members worked side-by-side with each other and the Brazilians and raised a building which will dramatically increase the Baptist camp's



Members of the first Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission Team pose for a photograph just before their departure for Brazil's Maranhao Convention, shown on the map. Team members were (l to r) Dan Grounds, First Church, Ashdown; C. Michael Anders, First Church, Sherwood; Reed Lewis, Three Creeks Church, Johnson City; John Howard and Thomas E. Westbrook, both of First Church, Blytheville; Tim McMinn, Remount Church, North Little Rock; and C. Robert Jackson, also of First Church, Blytheville.

Partnership Missions Is:

- Becoming aware of the expressed needs of Brazilian Baptists.
- Praying for Baptist work and Arkansas mission opportunities in the Amazon region.
- Responding to specific project requests from Brazil.
- Planning Arkansas participation in these projects.
- Preparing Arkansas Baptists for effective mission ministry in Brazil.
- Traveling to Brazil and participating in meaningful mission activities.
- Evaluating Arkansas involvement in missions, to improve our effectiveness in overseas mission ministry.
- Fulfilling 1 John 4:10 "Herein is love . . ."

Missionaries, students find mutual awareness

by Beth Harris

ability to minister to Brazilian Baptists.

In the process, they formed friendships with the Brazilians they met. Preaching in area churches and in a mini-crusade, team members were able to lead some individuals to Christ. Among the new believers was an 18-year-old man named Reuben, one of their construction site co-workers.

Anders was impressed by the fact that their seven team members, most strangers to one another at the outset, had grown close through the experience. "Even on the construction site, you never heard an angry or cross word," he recalled. "The group jelled as if you had hand-picked them."

The Southern Baptist missionaries the team worked with also impressed Anders. Don and Wanda McNeill and Louise Donaldson, Southern Baptist representatives assigned to the area, struck McMinn as taking Bold Mission Thrust very seriously. He found the work at Sao Luis reflected that dedication.

But, most of all, the commitment of Brazilian Baptists in the face of tremendous challenges left a deep impression on the Arkansans. McMinn reported being overwhelmed by the sight of bustling communities of 50,000 persons which had no Baptist witness. He recalled the churches he visited were all laying foundations for new buildings and busy starting new congregations all around them.

Both Anders and McMinn reported that, when they returned to share their experiences with their congregations, the excitement they felt spilled over onto theirs. McMinn said 20 persons at Remout Church have declared their willingness to participate in a Brazilian mission project. Anders reported members of First, Sherwood, are telling him, "We almost have our money saved up for the trip. When are we going to go?"

And when McMinn and Anders try to capture their experience for someone else, you hear the words mission volunteers always seem to fall back on:

"I've never seen anything like it before."

"It opened my eyes to tremendous needs and opportunities."

"I'll never be the same again."

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

For more information about how you and your congregation can participate in Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission projects, contact:

Glendon Grober
Amar Project Coordinator
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

(501)376-4791

NASHVILLE — They were stuck. Should they build a chapel at the exclusive ski resort? How could they minister to employees and residents? Would other religious groups in the area work with them?

For 30 minutes, the six members of the family group had been debating strategies for Beaver Creek, Colo. Now they and nine other "families" were to give ministry ideas to resort missionary Steve Hoekstra.

In all, 35 "community encounter groups" at Mission 85 helped plan for real-life home and foreign missions situations.

The groups had three purposes, according to coordinator Milt Hughes. First, "they give students a chance to share in small groups on a personal level, rather than just sitting in sessions. They also let participants meet students from other religions."

"Most important," Hughes added, "they allow students to hear actual missions situations and give input."

The group had begun on Friday, meeting facilitator Suzanne Matheny of Nashville's Belmont College and getting to know new "family" members. Saturday, the work began as Hoekstra presented the Beaver Creek situation and the group brainstormed ideas for the Colorado resort. Linda Rucker of Egypt used a slide presentation to take the families to Alexandria on Sunday to plan for the children's Sunday school work.

The overall impression of the planning sessions has seemed to be a new awareness of the many dimensions of missions.

"It's a lot harder than I thought it was," said Elise Bell of Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, Va.

"A lot of study and awareness of the peo-

ple you're ministering to is necessary," agreed Scott Ramsay of Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Tex. "The group has given us an opportunity to try to think about the kinds of problems missionaries really face."

Donna Watts of Belmont College added, "I'm more aware of different aspects of missions. It has become more personal to me."

Methods that are accepted in one culture don't always work in another, Rucker pointed out. "For example, the group suggested that we reach kids through Backyard Bible Clubs. The people in Egypt don't even have backyards. You have to work with the culture, not against it."

Hoekstra said the ski resorts, too, are almost a foreign mission field. Colorado is a very different situation than many people in the group are used to, he added. He said the session was "an eye-opener. It showed the group there are places in the U.S. that are very different from what they're used to."

"But it wasn't just a game," he continued. "Most took it seriously enough to pray about it, and, as one girl put it, some of the students really 'bought into the project.'"

Rucker said, "I gained an awareness of what a great interest these students have in missions. They are sincerely concerned about the needs."

"I didn't realize what missionaries sometimes work with until we actually put ourselves in their situations," said Margie Whitehead of Campbellsville (Ky.) College. "We really learned how missions operates."

Beth Harris is a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

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Your state convention at work

Sunday School

White Unto Harvest

"White Unto Harvest" is the name of an enrollment and enlargement campaign scheduled for use in our Sunday Schools



Pike

in the spring of 1985. Although the material is undated and may be used anytime, the suggested dates of use are March 3-April 7 (Easter Sunday). The name of the campaign is taken from the idea expressed in John 4:35.

The material is similar in design to the successful Way of the Cross materials used by over 600 of our churches the past two years.

The materials are available from the State Sunday School Department and will be sold in packets to serve 100 persons. Each packet will contain general promotion posters, class charts, personal commitment cards, attendance stickers, clip art pages and instruction sheet. The material will cost \$7.50 per packet plus postage. Perfect attendance awards will also be available.

The campaign is part of the total effort to reach 8.5 million persons in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools by this September. It can give encouragement to Sunday School workers in their efforts to enroll five persons in Sunday School by the end of the church year. Sample material with an order blank will be mailed to every pastor in the state. Order early to avoid delays in receiving your material. — **Freddie Pike, director**

Woman's Missionary Union

Prayer for missions rally

Would you join us in prayer for the World Missions Rally, March 15? The rally, to be held at First Church, Little Rock, beginning at 7:00

p.m., is to serve as a launching pad for the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission. It is not likely our churches will be aroused to action until a vision of need and opportunity is

caught by Arkansas Baptists. It is because of such a concern that a group of laymen are joining in calling together the largest group of Arkansas Baptists ever gathered for such a purpose.

The meeting will feature Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission; and the Music Men of Arkansas. A reception will begin at 6:15 to honor

program personnel:

Some of the concerns you are urged to pray about are that (1) church members will have a greater vision of world missions; (2) Arkansas Baptists will have a commitment to be involved in AMAR (Amazon-Arkansas Partnership); (3) the laity will be involved in AMAR; (4) there will be a greater increase and involvement in ongoing missions education through Brotherhood and WMU organizations.

With concerted prayer support the World Missions Rally and the AMAR Partnership can know the blessing of God in a miraculous way. — **Betty Jo Lacy, Acteens director**

Church Administration

Area growth workshops

"Leading Growth in the Small Church" will be the subject of the Area Church Administration Workshops the week of



Holley

Feb. 18-21. The workshops are planned especially for pastors of churches with 300 or fewer members and pastors of single-staff churches. These pastors will help in developing leadership and administrative skills that are necessary to lead a church to experience growth. These workshops will equip the small church pastor to be effective in leading growth through church programs and organizations.

The workshops are scheduled for Monday, Feb. 18 at Elmdale Church, Springdale; Northvale Church, Harrison; and Central Church, Jonesboro. On Tuesday, Feb. 19, they will be held at South Side Church, Ft. Smith; Calvary Church, Batesville; and First Church, Forrest City. On Thursday, Feb. 21, they will meet at First Church, Hope, and at First Church, Monticello. Each workshop will meet 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Pastors should attend both the afternoon and evening sessions if possible.

Workshop leaders will be Thurman Allred, James Barry and Dwayne Conner, consultants in the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board. For additional information, write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**

Annuity/Stewardship

Planned Growth in Giving

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh adopted Planned Growth in Giving in 1983. Messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Fort Smith adopted Planned Growth in Giv-

ing last fall. How did Planned Growth in Giving start?

A study committee on the Cooperative Program started its work in 1980. Jim Pletzt chaired the committee. Twenty-one committee members from across the Southern Baptist Convention studied ways to increase mission support.

In the study process, survey forms were printed in state Baptist papers and Southern Baptists were encouraged to express their opinions. A few were negative, with one letter saying the Cooperative Program fed a hen that didn't lay eggs. A majority of the responses were positive, encouraging Baptists to share their resources.

The special study committee presented its recommendations in 1983. The report contained four major sections. Statements on the principles of cooperation, patterns for cooperation and challenge to cooperation were adopted.

Messengers also adopted Planned Growth in Giving at the Pittsburgh convention. Planned Growth in Giving is a call to commitment. Church members are challenged to set vision goals and increase the level of giving through their churches. Planned Growth in Giving is a vehicle to encourage individual Christian growth.

Future articles will outline other features of Planned Growth in Giving. — **James A. Walker, director**

Evangelism

Directors' commitment

Recently the evangelism directors across the nation met in conference at Vancouver, Canada. God's Spirit anointed this meeting

in a very beautiful way. A deep concern was expressed for the lost souls of our nation.



Shell

The following is a consensus statement that we adopted under the leadership of Robert Hamblin, vice-president of the Home Mission Board: "Southern Baptist

evangelism leaders have met for four days in Vancouver to pray for God's leadership in evangelizing America.

"We have grave concern because there has been for three consecutive years a marked decline in the numbers of people who have been won to Christ and baptized in our churches.

"Therefore, the evangelism leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention pledge to pray daily for revival for ourselves, our convention leaders and our pastors and churches. We dedicate ourselves to take time every day to ask God to anoint us with his spirit in our effort to evangelize.



"In every way possible we call on all Southern Baptists to join us in commitment to pray for revival. We call on all Southern Baptists to make evangelism the top priority of service in their lives. We ask all believers to love one another and pray for one another..." — **Clarence Shell, director**

Christian Life Council Hell is

When the Arkansas auto license tag with the bold letters HELLIS was first seen, my first thought was that maybe the owner's first name begins with H, like Henry, Herman or Harry. Perhaps he was letting all know the vehicle belonged to H. Ellis.



Parker

I reflected also that maybe his last name is Hellis. Finally, I wondered if the owner was a Bible believer, witnessing Christian who simply wanted folks to know that Hell is.

That's not too likely, but the fact is that too many in our day think that Hell was, not is!

In a sense, some are experiencing "hell on earth", but that does not take away the fact of hell after this life for those who reject Jesus Christ in contrast to heaven for those who accept him as personal savior and lord.

Drug pushers, whoremongers, sexual deviants, unbelievers, the fearful and others need to be reminded with all humility and compassion that Hell is.

Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, but it is also the eternal destiny of those who refuse God's love in Jesus Christ.

The Christian life should include letting folks know Hell is! Jesus didn't "beat around the bush" in declaring Hell's reality. Neither should we!

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalm 9:17 — **Bob Parker, director**

Family and child care

Expression of gratitude

There are not words deep enough nor broad enough to adequately express the love of God. Wouldn't you agree? The same goes for gratitude when I reflect on how wonderful Arkansas Baptist support to our child care ministry has been over the years. I want to express our gratitude.

From the Hot Springs First Church Messenger, I was blessed by the following story: How we need to cultivate the spirit of gratitude. One writer said, "I was just a kid, when one spring day Father called me

to go with him to old man Trussel's blacksmith shop. He had left a rake and hoe to be repaired. And there they were, ready and fixed like new. Father handed over a silver dollar for the repairing. But Mr. Trussel refused to take it. 'No,' he said, 'there's no charge for a little job like that.' But father insisted that he take the pay, still extending the dollar. 'Ed,' the blacksmith said, 'Can't you let a man do something now and then just to stretch his soul?'

That's what a grateful spirit does for us, it stretches our souls.

As I reflect on this past year and the financial and prayerful support that you have given, I want to say, "Hallelujah!" I want to stretch my soul and express our gratitude to you who have cared, prayed and given to enable us to help children. Because of you, we have had the resources, people and financial, to respond immediately to the hurts of children who have turned to us for help.

It feels good to stretch my soul as I try to find words to adequately express our gratitude to you. We have found your support to be encouraging and reliable. We feel good about entering 1986 as partners in ministry. — **Johnny G. Biggs, executive director**

Missions

Little struggling churches

A pastor friend and I were talking about starting new churches. He raised the question of why start new churches when we



Tidsworth

have some small struggling churches that might die in a few months or years. To start more new churches almost seems to be a contradiction.

The question certainly deserves a considered answer. One part of the answer is why are some existing churches struggling?

Were they started in a place with insufficient population to develop a church? Have the people moved away? Did the church split? Has the church experienced internal strife or not had adequate leadership? Certainly we want to do what we can to help existing churches.

But whether a new church is started or not may not help or hurt the struggling church. Experience shows that if it does affect the older church, it will help it.

In fact, because some churches are not growing is a good reason for starting new churches in places and circumstances that can and will grow.

Religious groups that put their resources toward just trying to keep dying churches

out of the grave find themselves declining. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

Student Department

A visit with Blanche Mays

On my way to Nashville for Mission '85, I sat in a restaurant in Wynne with Blanche Mays. Although BSU was not a department in the 1930's and 1940's, Blanche was the state director of BSU from 1939-1944, working under Edgar Williamson, head of the Religious Education Department.



Logue

Earlier she had been one of 24 Arkansans to attend the first national meeting of Southern Baptist college students in Birmingham in 1926. The Philathea Sunday School class of First Church in Jonesboro had sent Blanche, a student at Jonesboro Baptist College.

Blanche told me that during the Birmingham conference 7 different people quoted from memory the Sermon on the Mount: a college president, a faculty member, a pastor, a student, etc. All attending the conference were challenged to memorize the passage before Thanksgiving, and each was challenged to quote the memorized passage between 8:00 and 8:30 on Thanksgiving day. My only response was "Wow!"

As I drove from Wynne to Nashville I could only thank God for the firm foundation that others had built for BSU. — **Tom J. Logue, director**

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Conservatives have no plans to lose SBC vote: Pressler

by Norman Jameson

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Leaders of an effort to steer the Southern Baptist Convention on a more conservative course have no contingency plan for losing the SBC presidential election in Dallas in June, according to Paul Pressler, a Houston layman.

"God hasn't brought us this far to lose," said Pressler, who has laid wide tracks across the country to rally Southern Baptists around battle flags of inerrancy and conservatism.

He addressed 75 Oklahoma pastors, directors of mission and evangelists Jan. 11 at an Oklahoma City luncheon.

Conservatives in sympathy with Pressler who have controlled the SBC presidential elections since 1979, are rumored to be considering forming a separate convention should their candidate, as yet unnamed, lose to a moderate candidate, as yet unnamed. Current SBC President Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, has not said whether he will seek re-election.

If, however, "liberals are able to manipulate a momentary majority, a lot of people will be disappointed," Pressler said of the annual SBC meeting, scheduled June 11-13. "If that happens, I won't be responsible for what follows."

[Pressler later said, "I know of no conservative who is entertaining any idea of

creating a split from the SBC. I have never advocated leaving the convention. I have always advocated working within the system."]

Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, said he was "in the area" to preach a weekend revival at Faithway Church, Rufe, 190 miles to the southeast.

Pressler currently is a member of the SBC Executive Committee, having been elected at the 1984 annual SBC.

Some of his friends wanted him to tell them the progress the group is making in its battle to excise "liberalism" from Southern Baptist seminaries and agencies.

Participants met in a room reserved by Eldridge Miller, pastor of First Church, Sallisaw. Pressler said he updated participants on "how the liberals are organizing to wage Roy Honeycutt's holy war on Southern Baptists with Cooperative Program funds." Honeycutt is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Honeycutt has become a primary target because he likened the current conflict among Southern Baptists to a "war against unholy forces."

Leaders in the effort to turn the convention to a more conservative stance have been very critical of recent efforts by college

and seminary presidents to defend their institutions from allegations they are "liberal" and no longer adhere to Baptist theology.

At the same time, conservatives have been criticized for their coordinated efforts to control convention elections and resolutions, all the time denying they have any organization beyond "friends talking to friends" and "Christmas card mailing lists."

When asked if the Jan. 11 luncheon might be just such an organizational meeting, Pressler denied the two-hour luncheon was anything more than a "friendly, informative get-together."

Pressler said he would do the same for any group of Baptists. He especially covets invitations to speak on the campuses of Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries where he feels especially maligned.

He needs to speak on campuses, the target of most of his criticisms, because his side is not presented in Baptist media, he feels.

The meeting Jan. 11 and others like it are by invitation only, with no media invited, because "I want to be able to speak with my friends in candor," Pressler said. "We are misconstrued by those trying to attack us."

Norman Jameson is associate editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger.

First quarter CP figures encouraging, up \$2.4 million over last year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists greeted the first quarter of the 1984-85 fiscal year with record levels of giving to their worldwide mission and education programs.

October-December gifts to the national Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's voluntary, unified budget, were \$27,949,117. That was 9.58 percent more than the first quarter contributions in 1983-84—an increase of more than \$2.4 million.

The receipts are distributed on a percentage basis approved by messengers to the annual meeting of the SBC to 20 SBC agencies. One-half of all CP contributions go to the Foreign Mission Board, and 17.9 percent goes to the Home Mission Board and another 20.6 percent is shared by the six SBC seminaries.

"The on-going—and deepening—faith Southern Baptists evidence in the ministries funded through the Cooperative Program is gratifying," Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said. "Their gifts bridge the emotional response to the physical needs of our world and the physical acts to meet those needs."

"Missionaries in more than 100 countries and thousands of students in our seminaries are serving or preparing to serve because these Christians called Southern Baptists put financial feet to their prayers."

The basic operating budget for the national SBC agencies for 1984-85 through the Cooperative Program is \$118 million. Over

the past five years, first quarter CP receipts have been 22 to 23 percent of the yearly total. The October-December 1984 figure is 23.7 percent of the \$118 million goal.

"By themselves the figures—when you see that they aren't just cold statistics but rather the means to share the message of Jesus Christ with the world—are encouraging," Bennett said. "But the possibilities for growth in the next few years are even more exciting."

The main reason for the excitement, he explained, is Planned Growth In Giving, an ambitious effort to: (1) increase the percentage of giving by individual Southern Baptists to their local church; (2) increase the percentage of giving by local SBC churches to their associations and state conventions, and (3) increase the percentage of giving by state conventions to the national Cooperative Program.

If goals, which have been termed "conservative" by Planned Growth In Giving Director Cecil Ray, are met, by the year 2000 Southern Baptists will be giving \$20 billion a year to support mission and educational work at their church, their association, and their state and national conventions.

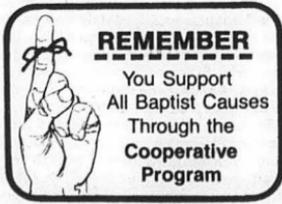
Not coincidentally, 2000 AD is the target year for Southern Baptists to complete Bold Mission Thrust—an effort to make sure every living human being on earth has heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and had an opportunity to respond to it.

"The goals of Planned Growth In Giving,

and the financial needs of our agencies loom so large as to be intimidating," Bennett said. "But compared to the needs of the billions of people on earth who don't know the saving grace of Jesus Christ, they pale into insignificance."

"If God intends to use Southern Baptists to help reach the world for him—and I am convinced he does—then he intends for us to honor him in our tithes and stewardship and pay the price financially as well as prayerfully, spiritually and physically to witness 'Unto the uttermost parts of the earth.'"

Of the 35 state conventions affiliated with the SBC, 32 gave more through the national Cooperative Program in 1984-85 than in the same period last year and 17 are more than 10 percent ahead of their 1983-84 pace. Also, 14 state conventions already have given more than \$1 million, three are above the \$2 million mark and one—Texas—gave more than \$4.8 million.



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- Elmdale, Springdale
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- Central, Jonesboro

Tuesday Feb. 19

- Southside, Fort Smith
- Calvary, Batesville
- First, Forrest City

Thursday Feb. 21

- First, Hope
- First, Monticello

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Conference leaders:

Thurman Allred / James Barry / Dwayne Conner
Consultants, Church Administration Department, BSSB

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in leading growth through church programs and organizations"*



FCCS officers elected—The Board of Trustees of Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services has elected its officers for 1985. They are (l to r) Sue Hatcher of Pine Bluff, secretary-treasurer; Robert Hettinga of Dardanelle, president; and Arthur Melson of DeQueen, vice-president. Hettinga is executive director of West Arkansas Health System Agency; Melson is a banker; and Hatcher is a teacher.

'Musicians on Mission' is 1985 music theme

NASHVILLE—"Musicians on Mission... That All May Hear" is the theme for Church Music Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

Worship leaders will be Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., June 13-19 at Ridgecrest; Carl Bates, retired pastor from Horse Shoe, N.C., June 19-25 at Ridgecrest; Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, July 1-7, at Glorieta; and Frank Pollard, president of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., July 7-13 at Glorieta.

Among invited choirs at Ridgecrest are the Alabama Jubal Singers, the Georgia Sons of Judab and Singalheirs and the Illinois All-State Youth Choir.

At Glorieta, concert artists Stephen Neilson and Ovid Young will present a piano and organ recital. Invited choirs are the Oklahoma Singing Churchmen, the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary Choir and "Living Song," a music group selected from the Texas All-State Youth Choir.

Performances by children's choirs, chorales, bands, handbell choirs and oratorio choruses will be featured weekly.

Reservations request may be mailed Feb. 1 or later to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770 or to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535.

'Single Adults Are Family, Too'

Arkansas Baptist

Single Adult Conference

February 8-9, 1985

Pete Knight, speaker



Single Adult Minister
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Abilene, TX

Calvary Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

Friday, February 8, 1985

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 9, 1985

8:30 - 12:00 noon

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Contact Church Training Department
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registration information

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

Gambling industry eyes prospect of Southern states

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—As state legislatures have begun to convene, Southern Baptists are once again in the thick of the battle over legalized gambling.

Five states with heavy Southern Baptist populations have been cited by prominent gambling industry publications as prime targets for new legalized gambling.

Texas, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee, along with Kansas, were identified by *The Blood Horse* magazine as prime prospects for pari-mutuel racing legislation in 1985. Virginia and South Carolina were noted as states where gambling prospects for 1985 did not look promising.

Texas, long coveted as a key to expansion by the thoroughbred industry, looks more promising than ever because of pro-racing sentiments of Speaker of the House Gib Lewis. Gambling lobbyists are counting on Lewis to wield his influence in support of pari-mutuel legislation.

In the last session of the 1983 Texas legislature, racing legislation passed in the Senate

and failed by only two votes in the House.

Georgia racing enthusiasts feel legalization of horse racing in neighboring Alabama last year will encourage legislators to legalize pari-mutuel racing in order to keep Georgia money at home. In Mississippi, racing supporters already have presented their case before a legislative committee, while activity in Kansas and Tennessee is expected to carry over from previous sessions.

On another gambling front, Florida was singled out by *Public Gaming* magazine as the state most likely to fall into the lottery camp in 1985. A petition drive collected 280,000 signatures last year, lacking only 20,000 signatures for certification for a vote. Lottery supporters claim the signatures should be valid in calling for a 1986 referendum vote, meaning an additional 20,000 signatures would gain the issue a place on the ballot regardless of any legislative action.

Proponents also claim public support in Florida runs 2-1 ahead of opposition.

In Arkansas, lottery supporters will con-

tinue efforts to collect 79,000 signatures calling for a state-wide referendum. They claim the 20,000 collected in 1984 will continue to be valid, leaving them with another 59,000 signatures to acquire.

In Oklahoma, Gov. George Nigh, a Baptist, has announced his support of a state lottery. And lottery advocates in Texas are expected to sell a lottery as the cure for a projected budget deficit of \$800 million.

Larry Braidfoot, an anti-gambling expert with the SBC's Christian Life Commission, believes the gambling industry's success in the 1984 elections will "encourage even more aggressiveness" in 1985. Last year four states approved lotteries, and Missouri also legalized pari-mutuel wagering.

"The time to organize opposition and to begin to contact legislators and other elected officials is now," Braidfoot urged. "We must derail the gambling industry before it gets up a full head of steam. Legislators need to hear our message before the pro-gambling propaganda puts stars in their eyes."

Second convocation of the laity planned

NEW ORLEANS—What is the role of the laity in the Southern Baptist Convention? Who should minister? What must precede one's entry into ministry? What can the people of God learn from Jesus' servant role?

These will be among the many questions addressed when Baptists from varied vocations join for the Second Convocation of the Laos, March 7-9, 1985, at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Entitled "Diakonos: Ministry for the Laos," the meeting follows up on questions raised in the first convocation in December 1983.

Participants in the program include Herschel Hobbs, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Fred Roach, Dallas, Texas businessman; Malcolm Tolbert, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Grady Cothen, president emeritus of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., the last layman to serve as SBC president.

Four members of the New Orleans faculty will lead Bible studies on models, scope, dynamics and rewards of ministry. Special reports of individual pilgrimages in ministry will be presented by Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union; Russell Bush Jr. of Columbia, Miss.; William Hamm Jr. of Shreveport, La.; and Pat Baughman of Hilton Head, S.C.

The convocation opens Thursday evening, March 7, and concludes Saturday morning, March 9. The conference fee is \$25.

Additional information and registration forms can be obtained from Thomas A. Kinchen, Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA, 70126.

Lay evangelism is March congress theme

LOUISVILLE, Ky. —"The Layperson in Evangelism" is the theme of the third annual Congress on Evangelism to be held March 28-30 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This year's program is aimed at lay church leaders as well as pastors and church staff, according to congress organizer Lewis Drummond, the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Seminary. Along with teaching "how-to's" of lay evangelism, the conference will offer help in teaching lay evangelism in the local church.

"There is no more urgent need in our churches than mobilizing the equipping our membership for evangelism," Drummond urges. "This congress offers the pastor a place to bring his key church leadership and start that process of renewal in his own church, or for a layperson to some and start

that in his or her own life."

Program personalities include former SBC president Owen Cooper; Ann Graham Lotz, leader of one of the largest women's Bible study groups in the nation; and Ira Craft, director of the Day Foundation.

Congress registration is \$15 per person or \$25 for a couple, with a \$7.50 student registration available. The program begins Thursday, March 28, at 3:00 p.m., and concludes at noon on Saturday, March 30. The Friday evening banquet will feature a mini-concert by vocalist Russell Newport.

For additional information or to register, contact Ross Brummett, director of continuing education, at Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, or call 1-800-626-5525 (toll free); in Kentucky, call 502-897-4814.

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The Light of Life

by William Piercy, First Church, Manila

Basic passage: John 9:1-41

Focal passage: John 9:24-41

Central truth: Spiritual blindness is the worst kind.

Have you ever gone to the store for some item and looked in the area where it is supposed to be and looked all over it and still not seen it? We all have done this. People can make this same mistake in spiritual matters. It can be right there, yet we never see it.

This Sunday's lesson is about people who have become so blind spiritually they never come to the truth. Indeed, they refuse to look truly upon what they should see.

A man who had been blind from the day of his birth had his sight given by the miraculous working of Christ. The man now could rejoice in the things around him as never before. Even the disciples were amazed. The Pharisees and local people must have been mystified. They had never seen such done to a person. Yet the proof was positive that it was so.

How terrible it is to be blind. An acquaintance of mine had the good fortune one time, after years of cataracts and other problems, that through a successful operation his sight was restored. He commented about the new pleasure in the vivid colors he could see.

It is regrettable that a person will be physically blind, but how much more that they are spiritually so. It would be correct to say that the Pharisees were in worse condition than the man when he was blind.

The questioners tried to discredit what they had seen. They suggested that the man may not have really been blind. They made the suggestion he was probably not the man they thought was the blind one. They further cast doubt by suggesting it was done on the Sabbath and therefore by a sinner. He said "A man named Jesus came and anointed my eyes, and now I see."

The miracle further verifies that Christ is able to meet all needs of those who will believe in him. Just as he was capable of taking a sightless person and giving him perfect vision, he can take others who are spiritually blind, hopelessly lost or whatever and make them new. He is sight for the blind, hope for the hopeless and life to the dying.

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Life and Work

Help for the frustrated

by Sandy Hinkson, Markham Street Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 5:1-6

Focal passages: John 5:2-3; 5-15

Central truth: Christ is ready to help with our frustrations. We must first desire help.

Frustrations can be caused by little things as well as big. Sometimes, we let little things pile up until our frustrations with them are even greater than with the bigger things.

In our Bible study this week, we find a man lame for 38 years. Jesus singled him out and healed him. Because the healing he performed was done on the Sabbath, the anger of the Jews was kindled against him.

In looking at this lame man, there are some lessons we can learn. First, we can see we should never lose hope. For 38 years, this man had his infirmity. In an instant, Jesus was able to remove his frustrations.

A word may be said regarding some people to whom you, your class or your church have been trying to witness without apparent results. Don't lose hope.

There was a family our church witnessed to that hadn't been in church in years. It appeared we weren't making any progress in reaching them. It could have been so frustrating for some that they would have quit calling on them. Our bus captain and pastor continued going by week after week. Finally, this whole family was led to a personal saving experience with Jesus. Our church had the privilege of seeing father, mother, son and daughter go through the baptismal waters together. What rejoicing! From frustrations to joys!

Second, we must desire to overcome frustrations. Have you ever wondered why Jesus asked the lame man if he wanted to be healed? Sometimes we find those who glory in the attention their infirmities bring. They thrive on sympathy and attention, and they really don't want to give that up. Also, we see those that have totally given in to their frustrations and have given up all hope. They've become content to live life like it is.

Third, we see here again the power of the Word of God. God spoke, and the man was healed. All the lame man had to do was act on what Jesus had said. Today, Jesus has spoken to us about our frustrations. All we have to do is act on his word. Perhaps we have never met Jesus as Savior. Through his word, he offers life. Through his word, he also offers us, as believers, resources to face those frustrating situations in life.

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Bible Book

Controversy with the Pharisees

by George W. Domerese, DOM Clear Creek Association

Basic passage: Luke 5:17-6:11

Focal passage: Luke 5:17-26; 6:1-11

Central truth: Jesus places human needs above the religious traditions of the Pharisees.

Religious traditions are not bad. But Jesus came at a time when the Jewish religion was so bound up by laws governing the sabbath and tradition that human need was all but forgotten. The teachings and practices of Jesus could not be carried out in the framework demanded by the Pharisees. The controversy was immediate and severe.

The vast majority of the crowd that day was unaware that there was a man being brought to Jesus to be healed and have his sins forgiven. The crowd was a hindrance but not nearly so much as their attitude. The Pharisees had not accepted Jesus, came with a critical attitude and challenged his method of success. You can almost hear them saying, "We never did it that way before."

Why did the scribes and Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemies? We may never be able to fully answer that, but Jesus was meeting the needs of the people. They were restored to health, and their sins were forgiven. The crowds were turning to Jesus and away from a legalistic religion. They were amazed and glorified God. Rejoicing and not criticism should be the order of the day when people are being brought to Jesus.

As we see the controversy between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees concerning the sabbath, there is quite a contrast in what we see today. Their laws were so strict that there was no room to do good on that day. For many in America, there is a lack in the lives of many so-called Christians of even a desire to do good.

We find Jesus between these two extremes, meeting the needs of people of every walk of life. The Lord's day, properly observed, is always instrumental in meeting the needs of people. All people are a needy people. The Lord is always close enough and sufficient enough to touch lives and meet needs.

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BJCPA's John W. Baker succumbs to heart attack

WASHINGTON (BP)—John W. Baker, general counsel and director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, died Jan. 12 at his home in Bethesda, Md.

Baker, 64, considered one of the nation's foremost specialists in church-state law, had suffered a heart attack Christmas Day. He died of congestive heart failure.

Baker, born in Austin, Texas, Aug. 6, 1920, was graduated from the University of Texas, (BA), the University of California, Berkeley (Ph.D.) and The American University, Washington (JD). He was a college political science professor 22 years. His teaching posts included the University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard University.

During 1967-68, when he was a visiting scholar at The Brookings Institution, he was asked by the late C. Emanuel Carlson to join the staff of the Washington-based BJCPA, a post he assumed in 1969. He earned his law degree at American University's Washington College of Law in 1977.

During the 15 years he was with the BJCPA, Baker wrote or filed 21 friend-of-the-court briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal panels. The latest was on Jan. 7 in a challenge to the Reagan administration's decision last year to establish full diplomatic relation with the Vatican.

Baker, a member of First Church, Silver Spring, Md., was an active lay leader both in his own church and in the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

He acted on several occasions as an unofficial consultant to the resolutions committee at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, and at the time of his death was a trustee of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

He is survived by his wife, Mary E. Posey Baker; four sons, Robert S. of Beckley, W. Va., Frederick D. of San Francisco, Brian Lee and John P., both of Washington, and six grandchildren. Other survivors include his mother, Mrs. William Lloyd Baker of Fort Worth, Texas, a brother and four sisters.

Sharp to be recommended as Colorado executive

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (BP)—After being interim for nearly seven months, Charles E. Sharp will be recommended to Colorado Baptists Jan. 29 as executive director-treasurer elect.

If elected, Sharp will succeed Glen E. Braswell, who held the post for 22 years before retiring June 30. Sharp, director of church training and church music for the Colorado convention, has been interim director since Braswell's retirement.

The special session of the state convention will follow immediately the last session of the Jan. 28-29 state evangelism conference at Circle Drive Church, Colorado Springs.

Sharp's election would bring one of the more varied ministry backgrounds in the Southern Baptist Convention to the top administrative post in the state missions effort.

He holds an earned Ph.D. from East Texas State University, Commerce, in music and

educational administration. Prior to 1978 he taught or administered almost 20 years in public schools and at the former Decatur Baptist College (now Dallas Baptist University), East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, and Mobile College in Mobile, Ala.

Concurrent with his teaching ministry, he held part-time staff positions as minister of music, youth and education in churches in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Alabama. During four summers between semesters, Sharp worked in resort missions through the Home Mission Board in New Jersey, Montana and South Dakota.

He also worked with the Home Mission Board as mission pastor in 1973-76, constituting Bellewood Church in Syracuse, N.Y. While there, he was a member of the administrative committee chairing the education committee of the executive board of the Baptist Convention of New York.

ACTS adds Long Island cable systems

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Virtually all of the half-million cable TV subscribers on Long Island, N.Y., can see the American Christian Television System as a result of a recent affiliate agreement.

Telicare, a non-profit group which provides programming to six cable TV systems on the island adjacent to New York City, will use ACTS' family and Christian entertainment programs an average of 10 hours a day. This will add 417,000 to the number of homes which can receive ACTS, which now totals about 2.5 million households nationwide or more than 6.5 million potential viewers.

Not only does the Telicare agreement

represent more ACTS viewers, it also reinforces the network's commitment to reach people outside the Bible Belt, said Lloyd Hart, ACTS' national cable affiliate manager. "We are now in 25 states, and some of the more important recent gains have been in areas like the Northeast," Hart said.

The largest of the six Long Island cable systems, in Woodbury, N.Y., is the second largest cable system in the country, with 233,000 subscribers. Other systems involved in the agreement are in Brookhaven (44,000 subscribers), Central Islip (94,000), Islip (12,000), Lynbrook (5,000) and Riverhead (29,000).