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September 27, 1973

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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**Russellville centennial
see page 6**

September 27, 1973
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



One layman's opinion

Lasting impressions from the longest tennis match



Dr. Grant

Recently I had one of those extraordinary privileges of being at the right place at the right time and seeing the longest tennis match in the history of Davis Cup competition. I am referring to the contest at Burns Park in North Little Rock between Americans Stan Smith and Eric Van Dillen, and Chileans Jaime Fillol and Pat Cornejo. They played so evenly that one of the sets required 76 games to decide a winner.

Although the determined Chileans won that set by a score of 39-37, the Americans finally came back to win the match, three sets to two.

In sharing some lasting impressions from this historic battle, I run the risk of losing those readers who have never had the good fortune of falling in love with the game of tennis. But since all the world ought to love a tennis lover, I am willing to take the risk and report my impressions of (1) the spectators, (2) the Chilean players, and (3) the American players.

The endurance of the spectators was something amazing to behold. After sitting for six hours on the wooden bleachers, I almost had more concern for the splintered and bruised condition of the spectators than I did for the players. To put it mildly, we were all deeply impressed.

The courage of the two Chilean tennis players as modern "Davids" attacking the American tennis "Goliaths" was also most impressive. They played as if they did not know they were underdogs and showed no fear of the Colossus to the North. Incidentally, the handful of Chilean spectators showed the same courage in chanting in the stands, "Chee-lay! Chee-lay! Chee-lay!" even in the face of the overwhelming noise of 3,000 hog-calling Razorback fans.

Finally, I was impressed by the refusal of the Americans to become discouraged and give up when they lost the longest set in Davis Cup history. Since they had already lost the first set, this put them behind 2-0, but they seemed never to doubt that they could pull out a victory, and this is what they did.

It was nice to read in the newspapers the next day that Stan Smith gave the crowd the credit for turning the tide for the Americans by their enthusiastic "hog-calling." There certainly must have been more than this, though, and I suspect it was a dogged determination never even to think about giving up. I am reminded of Abraham Lincoln's persistence in the face of repeated failure to win election to public office, finally rewarded in his election to our nation's highest office.

Sir Winston Churchill once gave what must have been the shortest commencement address in the history of the world. He rose to speak to the graduates and, as they were settling down for the expected long address, he spoke five words and sat down. The words were simply, "Never, never, never give up!"

As historians in future years tell the story of the longest set in Davis Cup history, I hope they will focus on the dramatic turnaround by the losers of that set. I would like to be able to handle my defeats that way.
— Daniel R. Grant, President, Ouachita Baptist University

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Relations between black and white Baptist have made progress according to speakers at a recent conference held in Mississippi.

Arkansas Baptist

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The importance of good Sunday School teachers



Editor Sneed

Recently we had opportunity to visit a Sunday School class in a small church where the teacher did an outstanding job 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 attended.

This, however, is not always the case. Sometimes Bible teaching is done haphazardly. The teacher may be one who 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 he has the privilege of imparting the truths of God's Word to those in his class.

In selecting Sunday School teachers a church nominating committee has a great responsibility. A church should never elect people to these important positions just to fill vacancies. It should be remembered that not only do these people assist greatly in forming Biblical beliefs; but, also, they will affect greatly the attendance and outreach of a congregation.

It is self-evident that the church-related education differs from all other educational procedures in that everyone who attends is a volunteer. Further, its importance is underscored by the fact the teacher is dealing with eternal matters. The following are some qualifications which should be sought for a Sunday School teacher:

- A teacher 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 to understand a Master whom he does know.

The communication explosion and the church

One of the greatest gifts to man is the right of communication with his fellowman. In recent years there has been a literal explosion of new avenues of communication. It is, indeed, tragic that all too often we, as Baptists, have left many of these avenues open only to secular endeavors.

God must have felt that communications were important. In John 1:1 we read "In the beginning was the Word. . ." Thus, the fourth Gospel introduces Jesus as "the Word." This passage goes on to tell us that the Word became flesh that we might know his glory. God was seeking to make himself known or to communicate with man.

The first and most important ingredient in communication is to have something to share or communicate. We, as Christians, have the message of eter-

- A teacher should be a person who has an alert mind. The very fact that a good 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 a person who lives a clean life. On some rare occasions a teacher may have charisma and rapport with the class who conducts himself in such a way that he will cancel all that is said in the classroom.

- A teacher should be a person who has dedicated talents. Dedication means that he will totally commit himself to serve Christ. Sometimes a teacher can injure the life of his church greatly by failing to support his church. A teacher should attend all the regular services of his church. He should wholeheartedly support the church program with word and action.

- A teacher should be willing to work. He has the responsibility not only for leading his class; but, also, for working to reach the prospects in his class age group. Good Sunday School teachers often have more opportunity to reach people for Christ than any other group in a church.

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

In short, a Sunday School teacher should pattern his work after the Master Teacher for Christ best demonstrated 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 in teaching a Sunday School class you are having entrusted to you one of the greatest privileges that ever comes to a Christian. It will provide you with great opportunity to serve God.

nal salvation. When we expose lost people to the greatness of what God has done for us through his Son, the Holy Spirit will do his work.

When we realize that the only way that we have to reach other people is by utilization of communication we can see its importance. Each of us who know Christ as our personal Saviour received him because someone cared enough to preach to us, to speak to us, or to write to us.

We live in an exciting age when we can share God's message in person, by the written page, by radio, TV, telephone, motion picture, etc. Let's avail ourselves of these opportunities. In our time we can and should share the message of salvation with everyone in the entire world.

I must say it!

The credibility gap?



Dr. Ashcraft

It is fashionable to distrust the establishment and all who are connected with it. Without an establishment there could exist no form, kind, or sort of security or well being for any person living upon this earth. It is not unusual however for those who have enjoyed the greatest security afforded by the establishment to attack it most unjustly, and degrade the people whom they employ to operate it.

One can hardly insult another more than to distrust his honesty as well as his motive. The credibility gap begins at this point. There are some things both leader and others can do to avoid or narrow this credibility matter. Leaders can give conscientious attention to records and expenditures, integrity in business transactions, circumspect personal behaviour, prompt answers to all inquiries, fulfillment of all promises, family purity, and the faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

Those who question the establishment should in turn assume some effort toward amiability. They should read their mail. They should process the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, the official organ of the denomination on issues, answers and explanations. They should apply to the proper office for satisfaction of any grievances.

They should give the man in the front office the same considerations of ethics and courtesy as they wish to receive. They should learn the fine distinction between a conviction and a conspiracy.

They should confront the responsible person in a manner they would reserve for themselves. They should never make any statement they cannot sustain in a court of law. They should present their complaints with documented firmness as this may be the only basis for which reform can be made. Nobody trusts a "yes man."

There are some other general matters which all of us could well attend. We should never repeat any story until we have first heard it. We should not drink too much coffee with those who have enough time to drink too much coffee.

We should reserve some time to cut the weeds in our own shaggy garden as it may break into the news as the controversy rages. We should never burn the barn just to destroy the rats.

A public relations responsibility of every one of us is not to allow our good to be evil spoken of (Rom. 4:16.)

There is no substitute for doing the right thing, (1 Peter 2:15), "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

I must say it! — Charles H. Ashcraft, Executive Secretary.

Letters to the editor

Thanks Arkansans

I am always eager to get the *Arkansas Baptist* each week to keep up with happenings in my home state. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Arkansas Baptist for their mission involvement. For the past three years First Church of Heber Springs, has been paying the salary of a pastor for a mission church here in Michigan. Our church has helped with the other needs. Together we have been able to see a new church and a new building built in DeWitt, Mich. To Dana Whitfield and the fine people at the Heber Springs church we express praise to God and thanks to them.

This past week we were privileged to have the youth choir from First Church of Fordyce, to present "Celebrate Life" to our church. We were not only blessed by the presentation but also by the christian witness these youth left with our people.

I am sure there are other churches involved in mission work, but I would like to express our gratitude to these churches, pastors, and staff members

for their commitment and vision in missions. —Richard Rogers, Pastor, Bethany Church, Lansing, Mich.

Great happenings

I'm writing to let you know of some happenings that the Lord has blessed us with here at Piney Grove Church, Lewisville.

We have started a building program and are in the process of building an educational unit with six new classrooms.

The people have shown their love for their Lord and his church by their individual giving and the building will be done without having to have any church debt.

At our monthly business meeting on Sept. 5 we had a special service, recognizing Tilman Jones who served as the adult men teacher for over 30 years in Sunday School. He is now in a rest home because of illness, and missed very much. Also recognized was his wife, Mrs. Idell Jones, who has been church clerk for over 30 years, and

Mrs. Elby Sewell who has been beginner and primary teacher for over 30 years.

We praise the Lord that we have had such dedicated workers within our congregation.

As pastor I can say it is a wonderful blessing to be serving such a dedicated and loving congregation. —Marshall D. Boggs, pastor

Church is being blessed

It is my desire to share through a letter to the editor some of the exciting things which have taken place in Runyan Church, North Little Rock, during the past five years under the excellent leadership of our pastor, Eugene F. Irby. Of greatest importance, we have baptized 92 people and have had 111 by letter, making a total of 203 additions.

On April 28, 1968, we were organized into a church about five months after our pastor came to serve with us. In 1971, we added a much needed auditorium to our church building.

Other events include the organiza-

Open forum — equal space

In-service preparation for Christian ministers: some new alternatives?

Historically, formal educational preparation for ministry has been offered by Southern Baptists primarily for those who were at the beginning of their ministry. Although some have entered the colleges and seminaries after some years of experience in the ministry, most of the more than 4,000 in the colleges are making initial preparation for a present and subsequent ministry.

Recent denominational surveys, however, indicate that something more over 50 percent of Southern Baptist pastors have had no seminary preparation for ministry and 20 percent have had only high school education or less.

One of the unique features of the planned Boyce School of Christian Ministry is a curriculum plan and schedule that will provide in-service preparation for ministry for those who are already serving as pastors, church staff members and denominational leaders.

Flexible Schedule — Most college and seminary schedules are designed for the full-time student who can be on campus for classes that continue throughout the week. The Boyce School proposes to offer classes that meet for two hours one time per week. A number of such classes will be offered in sequence so that an active pastor can

come to the campus for one or more days for as many of these classes as his work load will permit him to take, up to a full-time load. For example, a student who could spend Tuesday on the Boyce School campus could take one class from 8 to 10 a.m., another from 10:30 to 4, and yet another from 7 to 9 p.m. These one semester hour classes would meet for eight successive weeks for a total of 16 hours of class time.

Another experimental feature is the offering of weekend classes that begin on Friday night and continue through Saturday. Some such classes will meet Friday night from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday morning from 10:30 to 12:30. Yet others will begin Saturday morning at 8:10 and will have a second session from 2 to 4 p.m. Thus, those who can come only for the weekends would be able to take two separate classes beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday night and continuing through 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Such classes would continue for four weeks.

For students who are able to attend classes only in the evenings, courses will be available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights of each week. The philosophy underlying the planning of the school's schedule is

to ask, "When can the people who ought to attend be free to come?", and to plan the schedule to suit the convenience of the prospective students rather than the convenience of the faculty and administration.

Practical Courses — The major distinction between courses to be offered in the proposed Boyce School and those in seminary programs would be the greater emphasis on practical courses that would be immediately useful to students, particularly those already engaged in the practice of ministry. Bible study would be accompanied with specific help in the preparation of sermons based on the biblical text under study. A study of the principles of pastoral care and counseling would be coupled with guidance in the practice of pastoral care. Principles of church and educational administration would be accompanied with practical help in working with deacons, church committees, and educational leaders and very practical applications in the life and work of the local church.

It is expected that the Southern Baptist Convention in its 1974 session in Dallas, Tex., will take action with respect to the proposed Boyce School. Seminary leaders are continuing with preparations so as to be ready to launch the school in the fall of 1974 if Convention approval is given. — Allen W. Graves, President-elect, Boyce School of Christian Ministry, Southern Seminary.

Letters to the editor

tion of a WMU, establishment of a church library, ordaining of three deacons, and the organizing of a Brotherhood. The men of the Brotherhood purchased a new bus and the WMU ladies bought a new stove and refrigerator for the church kitchen.

On Aug. 15, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of our pastor, we held an appreciation dinner and a "This is Your Life" program for our pastor. We are thrilled with the work he is doing and the wonderful way God is blessing our church. —Mrs. Kenneth Hamby, Church Clerk

Recommends minister

The ministry of Lloyd Sparkman has made a great impact on my life. He was the instrument that introduced me to my Saviour 27 years ago in the South Side Church, Pine Bluff. In the atmosphere of his Bible-centered ministry, I received the call to the Gospel Ministry. The counsel and wisdom of this man of God is beyond description.

I am excited about the fact that Sparkman has returned to Arkansas.

He is very active and able to preach in any situation, supply, interim, revivals, or conferences. Here is a wealth of experience made available to Arkansas Baptists through the providence of God.

You will be interested to know he was pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff, 17 years and First Church, Kosciusko, Miss., for 11 years. Since his retirement he has held seven interims.

Sparkman may be reached at #5 Fairmont Drive, Little Rock, 72204. His phone number is 565-3775. —Jim E. Tillman, Director, Christian Higher Education Development, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

S.O.S. from pioneer area

I write this letter as a cry out of the wilderness, in a desperate plea for help. I have just recently moved to Washington (May 1973) to take the pastorate of the Queensgate Baptist Church. We have eight strong families that are struggling to keep us on the church field full time with the aid of C.P.A.

from the SBC.

Our problem is this — because of the financial strain of keeping us in a full-time capacity and paying for a new church building, we have no funds for badly needed evangelistic facilities, such as a bus. There are several churches busing people out of a major housing development of 2,000 homes — we are situated in the middle of these homes. As a Southern Baptist church, we are missing a great opportunity to grow unless we reach out into this neighborhood.

We have begun an extensive outreach program with every member using all of his free time to keep it going. The program includes mailouts to the area, a people search or survey, an evangelistic thrust aimed at each 250-home area in our area, and departmental follow up on prospects. Our program for the first 250 homes climaxed with a Vacation Bible School of over 100 and a revival with nearly 100 attending each night. This was our

(Continued on page 8)

First Church, Russellville, celebrates centennial

First Church, Russellville celebrated its founding 100 years ago with a series of special services beginning Sept. 9. The special celebration featured Ken Medema. Medema, a professional musician and singer, has appeared in concert throughout the United States and has been featured on the Billy Graham crusades on national television. He was featured in each of the special centennial events Sunday through Wednesday.

Other special guests included Erwin L. McDonald, former editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*; Charles H. Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; H. E. Williams, president emeritus, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge; and Tom Logue, director of the Baptist Student work in Arkansas.

The featured speaker for the occasion was Brooks Hays, former Congressman from Arkansas. Hays, also, is a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. His subject was "A Look at the Past and Future." He said "I have many wonderful memories connected with this church. I glory in the progress that my boyhood church has made. The church today is at least 10 times as large as it was in my childhood. People all over the world have heard of the quadrangle of my childhood. This quad-

rangle ran from our house to the school to the church and back home. I am glad that my parents were active in the church. This had a great impact on my entire life."

The former Congressman went on to tell those in attendance about the impact that Miss Lucy Hill, a grade school teacher had on his thinking. "Miss Hill had her class to memorize many of the Psalms," he said, "these have given great comfort to me.

"There can be no doubt about the ideal of the Christian life. It is only as this ideal is followed that we can hope to build a better world. I remember clearly the church life of 1903 with its democracy and its interest in everyone. This is the same ideal that Christians should strive for today."

Hays said that when he was president of the Convention it was his desire to discover the mind of Christ and to do the will of God. "To discover his mind," Hays emphasized, "is to do the will of the Father."

Pastor Jack Clack told his people "God has abundantly blessed us with a sweet, warm fellowship. We must not, however, take these blessings for granted. The Holy Spirit empowers and delivers us as we yield ourselves in prayer, visitation, witnessing, and work. As we continue to expect great things we will have an even greater future."

Centennial coins have been struck for the occasion. The engraving includes a picture of the present building; the date 1873-1973; Russellville; a motto, "Bound by a Century of Love"; a cross; a bundle of wheat to show that the church possesses the bread of life which is to be spread out through the world; and clasped hands to remind the congregation that they are to always extend the hand of friendship to everyone.

Long a missionary-minded group, the church has provided leadership and financial support for seven missions and numerous preaching stations. Twenty men have been licensed and ordained to the ministry by the church. For many years the church has had missionaries serving on foreign fields throughout the world.

First Church traces its beginning to Sept. 10, 1873, when 13 Baptists organized themselves into a local church. It is not known just where this group met during its first year of existence, but records do reflect that the young congregation was eager to erect a suitable house of worship. W. W. Crawford was the first pastor.

Miss Mary Allen gave to the church some property located at the corner of the present streets of El Paso and West Second for the purpose of erecting a church building. The building began sometime in 1874, and was very modest by present standards, but was a very fine edifice for the late 1800's. The building consisted of one room with a vestibule. By 1888 this building was valued at \$3,000.

Sometime between 1874 and 1901 a parsonage was built just west of the church building. This parsonage was used until 1917 when it was sold and moved.

As early as 1891, records reflect that First Church was engaged in mission work with support of a mission at Dover. By 1924, under the leadership of Pastor C. V. Hickerson, a Baptist witness was established in the Sunny Point community south of the city. The pastor conducted preaching services in the community, and soon a building was erected. Within a year after the building was completed, a church known as Second Church was organized. First Church continued to support this church both financially and through the provision of leadership for a number of years.

When the Bernice Mines closed, the membership of the church declined as the members moved away. Eventually, the building was moved to 300 West 13th Street, where some of the

The cover



Members of First Church, Russellville, have worshipped in this building since 1961.

members continued to worship. Later, the name of the church was changed to Kelley Heights Church.

Other mission efforts for the church included the organization of the present Second Church, Russellville, Bernice Mines Mission, and the re-establishing of Pottsville Church.

By 1917 plans for a new church building had been completed and construction began on the site formerly occupied by the parsonage. Pastor A. F. Cagle led the congregation in the raising of funds and construction of the new \$25,000 place of worship. Financing of the building was made possible by generous contributions from members of the congregation. A gift and loan from the Home Mission Board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention was also received. This building, seating 400 in the sanctuary and had classrooms for 12 classes. It was used until 1962 when the present sanctuary was occupied.

Pastor Fritz Goodbar, always a special friend to young people, saw the need for a Baptist Student Union at Arkansas Tech, and during the 1940's arranged for a meeting place on the campus where devotionals and some student work could be conducted. In 1947, First Church contributed \$500 and the Tech students raised \$300 for the purchase of a lot just east of the campus. First Church built, at a cost of \$5,000, the first BSU building and Miss Bobbie Holland began work on a part-time basis. Miss Maxine Wood was the first full-time director, assuming that post in 1953. First Church continues to support the BSU work through its budget and its leadership role.

On Oct. 16, 1960, the church voted to construct a new church building and authorized the issuance of bonds and the securing of a bank loan for financing of the new facility. The bonds were secured by mortgaging all church properties and the bank loan was secured by personal notes signed by members of the church. The new building was erected and furnished at a cost exceeding \$230,000. By 1961, under the leadership of Pastor Emil Williams, the new building was completed and occupied by the congregation.

Thirty-one pastors have served First Church during the first century of its existence. During the first 35 years after the church was organized, the pastor served on a half-time basis. It was not until Dec. 6, 1908, that the first full-time pastor, B. R. Womack was called. The pastor with the longest tenure was C. V. Hickerson who served from 1923 to 1934. Fritz Goodbar had a 10-year pastorate. The shortest term of service was that of E. L. Craig, who was pastor for only one month.



A large congregation attended centennial services.



Brooks Hays



Pastor Jack Clack



Special guests and speakers were (front) Brooks Hays, Fritz Goodbar, Tom Logue, Alan Jackson, H. E. Williams; (center row) Charles H. Ashcraft, Kathryn Young; (back) Harry Casner, Pastor Jack Clack, Sue LaVasque, Erwin L. McDonald, Dalton Robins, Joe Faulkner, and Jack Price.

Letter to the editor

(From page 5)

church's first VBS and our first week-long revival.

It is readily apparent to us that, with the aid of a bus, we could reach farther into the community and influence more people to come to the Lord's house and find the Saviour.

Feeling confident that Southern Baptist churches in the South would realize the potential of such a mission program, I wrote 200 letters to churches in the South asking for help and support — only one church replied. If several churches could take us "under their wing" and help us to begin our bus ministry, I believe this area could have the greatest potential of any church in the Northwest. The people in this area, on the whole, neither attend church nor do they know the Lord. It is estimated that at least 85 percent of the people in this area are unchurched, and we represent the only Gospel-preaching church in the area.

I pray that you will print this letter in your state paper, and I pray God will use it to answer our plea for help. We still have great faith in our Southern Baptist churches. Please help us. — Robert F. Bratt

Southern Baptist College plans 26 TV programs

"Chimes from the Tower," a new program of out-reach for Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, will be telecast for the first time on Sunday morning, Oct. 7, at 9 over KAIT-TV, Channel 8, Jonesboro. A friend of the college has contributed funds to provide 26 of the 30-minute informative programs.

"Chimes from the Tower" will feature the 35 voice College Chorale and selected speakers and groups. Music will be under the direction of Professor Carl Martin Sewald. D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern, will introduce the series as speaker. Dr. Nicholas can be heard on Oct. 7 and Oct. 14.

"Chimes from the Tower" will also use forum and discussion techniques to present consideration of areas of student involvement in life choices, Christian service and perplexing social problems.

"Chimes from the Tower" is produced by the Office of Public Relations at Southern and is under the direction of Larry Tucker, Assistant to the President for Public Relations and Development.

Arkansas native, OBU graduate is picked to lead Texas Baptists



Landes

about 4,400 Southern Baptist churches and missions, with two million members, in the largest state Southern Baptist convention.

The name of Landes, a former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was presented to the 192-member board by Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, and chairman of a 14-member nominating committee.

Landes is expected to succeed T. A. Patterson, who retires Dec. 31 after 13 years service, the longest continuous term in the office since a Baptist convention was organized in Texas in 1848.

As executive secretary for Texas Bap-

DALLAS (BP) — James H. Landes, pastor of First Church, Richardson, Tex., since 1968, has been elected executive secretary by the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The executive board represents

tists Landes will serve as administrative head of widespread missionary, benevolent and educational ministries coordinated by the executive board.

In an advisory capacity, he will work with the administrators and presidents of nine schools, four children's homes and eight hospitals owned and operated by Texas Baptists and undergirded by the annual Cooperative Program budget.

Landes, a native of Lewisville, Ark., was president of Hardin-Simmons University, a Baptist school in Abilene, Tex., 1963-66, and he has served as pastor of three other churches in Texas and one in Birmingham, Ala.

He was graduated from Ouachita Baptist College (now University) in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth. He holds honorary doctorates from three schools.

Landes has served as Texas Baptist Convention president and as a member and chairman of the Texas Baptist executive board.

He and his wife, the former Irene Pearson of Fayetteville, Ark., have one daughter, Ruth Pitts, a teacher in Richardson.

Woman's viewpoint

With Little things

By Iris O'Neal Bowen

I think of Jesus as he turned his eyes
Toward Heaven while he blessed the loaves of bread
And fishes that the little boy had brought.
It was not much — this lunch he took and fed
A multitude that day outside the town.
... Then once he took into his hands some clay
And dampened it and placed it on the eyes
Of that man who was blinded from the day
That he was born.

How often one small word
Was all he spoke to give a child new breath,
To heal a withered limb, or cleanse the spot
Of lepers, or call Lazarus from death.
What deeds this man of miracles could do
With little things ignored by me or you!

How often we Christians refuse to do something because we feel we have so little to work with. Perhaps you have been guilty of saying, "I just don't have any talent!"

Talents are wonderful — yes — but we do not have to be greatly gifted to give of our Christian service. A visit to someone ill or lonely, a listening ear at the phone, a prepared dish to some-

one who works, an offer to take an elderly neighbor to do her shopping, these and many other thoughtful acts are more appreciated than our bestowing of talent upon them!

I doubt that we will ever feed a multitude, give sight to the blind or raise the dead, but we might be surprised at what God can do through our small deeds, if we will let him use us.



Mrs. Bowen

Staff changes

A. W. Upchurch Jr. has resigned First Church, Kensett, to accept the pastorate of Walnut Valley Church, Hot Springs. He served the Kensett Church for more than six years. During this time, the church retired its indebtedness, plus adding to the building a steeple, additional air conditioning, and a parking lot/playground. The church received 172 new members during this time. Pastor Upchurch served six years as clerk for Calvary Association, and was on the state executive board for a three-year term.

David D. Crouch is the new pastor of First Church, Searcy. He comes to the church from Immanuel Church, Warren.

Ministerial students hear Dr. Ashcraft

ARKADELPHIA, ARK. — Charles Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, spoke to the student Ministerial Alliance at Ouachita University recently. Dr. Ashcraft addressed the 78 students present on the personal commitment of the minister to his task.

Before the meeting Dr. Ashcraft, members of the faculty of the OBU Religion Department, and members of the Ministerial Alliance were treated to a picnic supper at the home of Daniel R. Grant, president of the university.

Wilson C. Deese, director of chaplaincy ministries for the state convention accompanied Dr. Ashcraft on his visit.

The Southern accent All came except June

There is no sensation like it anywhere. Answered prayer! From my first student pastorate comes a challenging memory. Young, untrained, but eager we planned an eight-day youth revival. A seminary classmate, Torrey Johnson, later to establish Youth for Christ International, was to preach. Vincent Joy, with his wife Becky commissioned for mission service in Alaska, was to lead the music. How our youth prepared! Plans were perfected, visits made, personal lives were straightened out. But, mostly we prayed. Our prayer list was not general. It was specific. One by one names of young people were added until there were 18. As a group we claimed the promise "that if two of you shall agree . . . as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." One by one we claimed these youth in prayer for Christ. Each morning the prayer circle held watch, and followed with personal testimony and involvement.

When the last day of the special services came, every person named had met the Master in open profession of faith — except June. Her mother was a non-practicing Catholic, her father the town agnostic, her sweetheart the wildest swinger in the area. So much was going against her. Just this was going for her: the effectual, fervent prayers of friends who coveted her, her talent, her beauty for Christ. That last night of the services she was present — and surrendered."

Those of us who shared the vividness of that climatic week still tingle from the Lord's touch in answered prayer! We sought 18 — no more, no less. God gave the exact fruit of our seeking.

With us on the campus of Southern Baptist College now are several hundred fine young people, a competent and distinguished, hard-working faculty, a devoted and capable administrative staff.

Would you dare the risks of prayer for this academic community? How wonderful if in the dormitories, along the walkways, through recreation areas, in the laboratories and classrooms all of us who are involved in the tasks and interactions of Christian higher education could feel ourselves surrounded by, guided by, upheld by, supported by people who are prepared to pray

God's blessings into this year's school life at Southern.

Prayer changes things, empowers people! — Lawrence Tucker, Walnut Ridge

Arkansan joins Seminary faculty

Jon M. Stubblefield of Fayetteville recently joined the faculty of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He received his bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas.

A graduate of the seminary, Stubblefield will serve as an instructor of New Testament Greek in the school of theology. He joined the language faculty along with two other men, G. Roger Greene of Louisiana and Roger L. Omanson of Illinois.

Five other men were added to the faculty this fall. Four of the adjunct professors will serve in the school as instructors of psychology of religion. A Louisville pastor will also serve as a visiting professor of preaching.

OBU BSU has retreat

One-hundred forty-five members of Ouachita University's Baptist Student Union participated in the annual BSU retreat held Sept. 7-8 at Camp Tanako between Hot Springs and Malvern.

According to Marsha Ellis, BSU president at Ouachita, the major function of the retreat was "to plan the year and get more students involved."

Among the special guests at the retreat were Nathan Porter, pastor of Arkadelphia First Church; Don Norrington, associate state director of the Baptist Student Department; and Daniel R. Grant, president of OBU.

Revivals

First, Des Arc, Aug. 26-Sept. 2; Paul Jackson, evangelist, Paul Heisner, music; four for baptism, two by statement, 57 rededications. Billy West is pastor.

Harlan Park, Conway, Sept. 9-16; Allen McCurry, evangelist; six professions of faith for baptism, five by letter. Gerald Jackson is pastor.

Reynolds Memorial, Little Rock, Sept. 10-16; Paul Jackson, evangelist, Melvin Atwood, music; three professions of faith, five for baptism, 32 rededications.

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Your state convention at work

Brotherhood meetings scheduled around state during October

"Sharing the Word through Brotherhood" will be the theme for the eight district Brotherhood meetings scheduled for October.

Brotherhood — Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors — provides many avenues and challenges for sharing the word through mission activities.

Missions basically is sharing Christ and his message with those who have not heard.

The "Word" can be shared through many mission activities. The major part of Jesus' teaching were conducted through rendering service to those who had a special need.

In John 5:1-5, Jesus took notice of the man who had been sick for 38 years. Jesus talked with the man, ministered to him and he was healed. By this example Jesus was showing by example our responsibility and opportunity of service to the sick and af-

flicted. He also shared the message that he wants us to share with the world, that he is the "Great Physician" who can heal the spiritually sick as well as the physically sick.

Ministering to the sick is but one example of mission activities that Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors may use to "Share the Word."

The program at each meeting will include a brief training session. The meetings will begin at 7:15 and close no later than 9 p.m.

Every associational and church Brotherhood officer should attend. All Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador age boys will be blessed by the messages. Some of the finest speakers in the state have been secured to challenge and inspire us to "Share the Word through Brotherhood."

Plan now to attend the meeting in your district. —C. H. Seaton

Child Care

Children need help to develop potential

"Children are our most valuable resource." —Hubert Hoover. "The potential possibilities of any child are the most intriguing and stimulating in all of creation." —Ray Wilbur. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. He placed his hand on them and left" (Matt. 19:14-15.)

Potential is a dynamic word. It refers "to that which is possible." It refers to something we cannot see or touch, but rather it is something that we feel.

Society calls many of the children with whom we work emotionally disturbed. Emotions are feelings. Our children have feeling needs. Due to their experiences in their developmental years they are upset, disturbed, and hurt a lot — inside. So often these hurt feelings express themselves in striking out, delinquent behavior, and lack of trust in others and themselves. Whatever you call it, until they can be guided to feel better about themselves, receive consistent love and acceptance, and face things as they actually are, they are disturbed. They are less of a boy or a girl than they can be. Faced with these needs, we must recognize the potential possibilities of every young life.

We work at helping them feel that they are worthy as persons so that they can get over their feeling disturbances. We work hard at meeting the "feeling needs" of children. Knowing how essential the quality of trust is to happiness and personal well-being, our staff is constantly working to help our young people re-establish their faith in people and in themselves. Everyone needs to trust someone, and to believe in his own worth as an individual. To make this trust complete and abundant, one needs to place their trust in God.

With God, all things are possible. He understands our feelings and is the author of our potential possibilities. —Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

Mission service brings commitment



Miss Cathey

Dear Arkansas BSUs:

The time here at the Mescalero Baptist Mission has really flown by. There are eight summer missionaries working at the mission this summer, four boys and four girls. I am staying with the James Huse family. They are the missionaries here.

We have been busy all summer with Vacation Bible Schools. We held one Vacation Bible School for the Apaches on their reservation and another at Boles Acres Baptist Church. Not long ago the Lord gave me two great opportunities to talk with an Apache girl 15 years old. She is the only Christian in her family of six. Everyone in her family drinks excessively except her mother and herself. It is hard for her to cope with this situation at home. The times I talked with her were great

experiences for me.

The four of us girls on the team have been having Bible study almost every night. There is a missionary who works with the Wycliffe Bible Translators who is leading it. The Lord has really opened my eyes and has given me much strength from these studies. For the past four weeks I have felt the Lord pulling at me, asking me to yield totally to him and give up everything to follow him in service. Finally, I asked the Lord to take me and use me.

The Lord has really blessed me these last two weeks by giving me ample time and opportunity to read my Bible and pray. He has also taught me to wait upon him because I know he has something in store for me later. Again I talked with the Apache girl and at Bible School Commencement she rededicated her life. I have become very close to her and pray that she will continue to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Pray for the work at the Mescalero Mission and for the building of the new mission building.

Sincerely,
Judy Cathey

(Judy is a student at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and is serving as one of the Arkansas BSU Summer Missionaries. She is working at the Mescalero Baptist Mission at Mescalero, New Mexico.)



MISSIONARIES
depend on you

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Fox to represent Annuity Board ABSC

Baynard F. Fox, vice president, director of research and training, development, will represent the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Little Rock, Nov. 6-8.

He will present the Board's ministry in providing retirement and insurance plans to ministers, church staff members, and employees of denominational agencies.

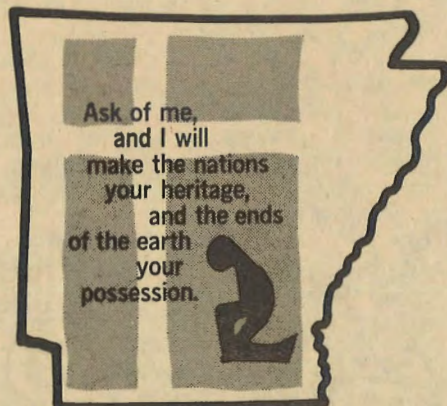
He will be available also, as schedule permits, to discuss various matters of Annuity Board business. Or he will explain retirement and insurance plans available to suit the individual's needs and finances, as requested.

Also available for personal contacts will be T. K. Rucker, Annuity Board representative for Arkansas.

News about missionaries

Miss Martha Hairston, missionary to Brazil, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 1940, 50000 Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil). A native of Warren, Ark., she taught in the Women's Missionary Union Training School (now part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky., and was a social worker in Arkansas before her appointment by the Foreign Mission Board in 1951.

Rev. and Mrs. James A. Lunsford, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 07-0558, 70000 Brasilia, Federal District, Brazil). He was born in Paducah, Ky., and lived in Jonesboro, Ark. Mrs. Lunsford, the former Jewell Conway, was born in Jackson County, Okla., and also lived in Lawton, Okla., and Jonesboro. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1940.



Observe the Season of Prayer and the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions during September.

September 27, 1973

Sunday School

January Bible study clinic planned

All of us agree we need more and better Bible study. January Bible study offers to every church and community additional opportunity for concentrated Bible study.

Preparation is an essential. A time of preparation is being planned by the Sunday School Department with the assistance of Baptist Sunday School Board.

On Nov. 15, there will be a January Bible Study Clinic at Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. It will be a concentrated session on the biblical material with some attention given on how to promote JBS.

Foundation

Ways to give through life insurance

In a recent column we discussed the reasons and advantages for using life insurance as a method of making charitable contributions. In this column some specific ways will be suggested for utilizing life insurance.

A new policy may be purchased for the benefit of a charitable organization. The premiums can then be deducted as a charitable contribution.

It is not always necessary to purchase a new policy. An existing policy which may no longer be needed for the original purpose can be given to the charitable organization by changing the beneficiary. If the donor continues paying premiums, they can be deducted as charitable contributions. In some cases the policy may be of such value that the charitable organization receiving the gift may agree to pay the remaining premiums due.

A Christian cause or agency can be named as co-beneficiary on an existing policy. In this way the organization shares in the policy proceeds; along with the other beneficiary, who may be a relative or loved one.

The organization or agency can be named as a secondary beneficiary on an existing policy. This permits the charitable organization to receive the proceeds after the death of the first beneficiary.

The charitable organization can be named as remainder beneficiary. This permits the organization to receive the proceeds of the policy after the deaths of the primary and secondary beneficiaries.

The charitable organization can be named as the residual beneficiary on life insurance policies. When you elect a supplementary contract as settlement

There will be two conferences. One for those who will be leading adult JBS and one for leaders of youth JBS. The book for adults is *Colossians: Christ Above All*. The book for youth is *Book Alive!*

Charles Russell and Rhea McKinney, Sunday School Department, BSSB, will be leading the two conferences.

Pastors, staff members, and all others who will be leading in JBS are urged to come for preparation. Lunch will be available at the church. The address of the Forest Highlands Church is 1717 North Mississippi. — Don Cooper, Sunday School Dept.

of your live insurance policies at retirement, a charitable organization can be named as residual beneficiary. Then, if you do not live to use the cash available in your policies, the organization receives the guaranteed payments or gets the residue upon your death.

Some insurance policies are called "participating policies," which means that annual dividends are paid to the owner. These dividends can be assigned to a charitable organization, and the amount of the dividends can then be deducted as charitable gifts on the donor's income tax return.

Some donors, after making a large pledge to their church or Christian institution, buy a life insurance policy to protect that commitment. Then, if the donor does not live long enough to complete payment of his pledge through regular income sources, the charitable organization receives through his life insurance the total amount originally committed. This plan can also be used for much smaller pledges and commitments.

If an individual is no longer insurable, he can purchase a life insurance policy on the life of another person and then assign it to a charitable organization. If you do not qualify for life insurance yourself, you might purchase a policy on your wife, or husband, or brother, or sister. Premiums are still tax deductible just as with other policies, provided the policy is irrevocably assigned to a qualified charitable organization.

If you wish assistance in using life insurance to increase your charitable gifts, contact either your local insurance agent or the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. — Roy F. Lewis, Acting Executive Director

Chaplaincy

Girls Training School provides fertile field for Gospel witness



Lumpkin

one was expressing the feelings and emotions that others have expressed at the Girls' Training School.

Certainly not all of the girls' problems can be met and solved during the time they are assigned to the Training School, even with the combined efforts of counselors, teachers, chaplain, and others. However, we all work toward giving hope, encouragement, help and guidance to each of them.

As Chaplain I seek to convey to every girl the fact that God loves them, and even though they may have felt rejection, distrust, loneliness, and a lack of love in the world, God can meet their needs here as well as in the free world.

An attractive, teenage girl said "when I get back into the free world I am going to . . ." and her voice trailed off into silence. Her next words were "You know, chaplain, I am scared because I don't know if I can make it or not on the outside." This

We seek to help them to know that they can have a better life, by God's help. We have three religious services each week, plus a Sunday School time for the girls. Any time a girl makes a decision at our worship services, she is counseled after the service and then a personal counseling time is provided during the week for further explanation and help. Many are telling us that they have renewal and re-assurance as they have realized their backslidden condition. Some have experienced salvation through "the grace of God." Arkansas Baptists, through their chaplaincy program, are reaching into fertile areas of evangelism and proclamation of God's love and grace.

As chaplain at the Girls Training School I am grateful for the many opportunities it gives me. Every day brings its opportunity to give a personal witness and also the chance to explain God's plan of salvation. Through counseling I have the chance to encourage and help the individual and at the same time convey God's love, compassion, and concern. How rewarding it is to be able to present to the girls principles and ideals that will help them and can change their whole future. Every day

brings new challenges and opportunity. I am grateful to God and Arkansas Baptists for this place of service. — Doyle L. Lumpkin, Chaplain, Girls Training School, Alexander (Chaplain Lumpkin is one of the five fulltime chaplains employed and directed by the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.)



The Ouachita-Southern Advancement Campaign

The Arkansas Baptist Campaign for Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College

Giving

By Jim E. Tillman, Director

The path of the Christian always leads to "giving." We began the Christian pilgrimage by giving ourselves to the Lord, and this process is repeated in many ways throughout life.

It is difficult to separate giving from receiving. When we give we always are blessed by receiving the joy of giving. Jesus said that a real part of the Christian mission was giving, "freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8. There is something wonderful about giving, and it can be explained with a Bible promise "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

These truths are meaningful to every Christian. If space were available this *Newsmagazine* could be filled year after year with stirring testimonies of the blessings received as a result of giving; this is true of individuals, and it can also be true of congregations.

As a pastor, I have seen the entire church program "catch fire" in proportion to the stewardship of money by the congregation. The gauge of giving is of real importance to the Kingdom's work.

The cause of Christian Higher Education in Arkansas does not need funds as much as every church in this state needs to experience the added joy of giving to this cause in the name of Jesus. The testimonies of churches all across our state verify this statement.

Look at this Campaign as a wonderful opportunity to claim the Bible promise already mentioned from Acts 20:35. I cannot help getting excited about the OBU-SBC Advancement Campaign in the light of the words of Nehemiah as he began his building program, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build." Nehemiah 2:20.

Student witnesses in Atlanta



Miss Clinehens

Dear Arkansas BSUers:

I'm trying to think how to tell ya'll what's really going on here without writing you a flowery report about how everything is perfect and wonderful. I know I'm learning a lot, but I don't think I'll know how much until I get home and look back on this summer. So much is happening to teach me about the power of prayer, how it can do more for somebody's salvation than anything else I can do. I mean real prayer with a lot of heart in it and a lot of caring and hurting and needing. I can talk my heart out to somebody and it won't amount to a "hill of beans" unless it's the Holy Spirit talking through me. And, I'm learning more about accepting people and learning to love people the way they are even if they are not the same

as I am. I'm seeing the Holy Spirit moving through Underground, Atlanta, a tourist attraction of Atlanta, Ga. He's not guiding us to glamorously convert the whole of Underground into a Christian center, but he keeps taking us to a few people. That doesn't sound like much, but each one is a whole life.

The work isn't even frustrating. It's exciting — to let him have it, let him guide me, and to let him talk to hearts and then to see people change. I'm bouncing off the walls I'm so excited sometimes that the Lord is using me. He has made it very clear to me why I'm not in Fayetteville this summer, not in the Orient this summer; but in Atlanta. If the Lord can use me to change just one life this summer I know it will all be worthwhile. I know it is now. I thank the Lord for letting ya'll send me.

Love,

Connie Clinehens

(Connie is serving as one of the Arkansas BSU Summer Missionaries. She is working in Atlanta, Ga., and is a student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.)



Share the Word, Now — personal Bible reading

Last in a series of nine articles



When we started this series, 1000 new reader families had been added to the *Newsmagazine*, with a specific purpose of receiving nine issues of special materials for church leaders and members.

The special materials described Sunday School projects supporting the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Program Plan Emphasis "Share the Word Now."

Reactions to the materials has been good, actually beyond expectations.

Another three hundred new subscriptions have been added according to Dr. J. Everett Sneed, editor, bringing the all-time subscription record of the *Newsmagazine* to 64,000.

Reviewing the special materials in the nine issues, church leaders have been introduced to rich program ideas related to Sunday School training, organization, enlargement, enrollment, higher average attendance, state Sunday School Convention, a literature distribution plan, and Great Day in the Morning High Attendance Day.

This last article is to encourage churches to conduct an Adult Rally on Oct. 28, plus suggesting a plan to lead church members to read the Bible through during the next 12 months.

Adult rally information will be found in the October issue of *Adult Leadership* magazine. Last year, many churches called together all adult departments for an hour-long Sunday School rally in which classes set goals for a year in enrollment, attendance, visitation, and evangelism. The rally meets during the regular Sunday School time on Sunday morning.

Pastors brought motivational messages. Many adult classes have grown. Many persons have been brought to Christ.

Perhaps two or more rallies could be conducted each year. One to set goals and other rallies to motivate action and to report results.

The final suggested action we discuss is related to daily Bible readings.

Read the Bible through

A church can experience an exciting and fresh experience with God when members read the Bible daily. Many Christians have never read the Bible through. Wouldn't it be a good experience for them to read the Bible through in a year? An even greater experience would be to lead your teachers and officers and members to read certain portions daily until they have read it through.

Three chapters a day and five on Sundays is a basic and simple formula. Why not start a "Bible Readers" column in your church bulletin and post each week where your people ought to be in their reading journey through the Bible? As members finish the Bible their names could be printed in the bulletin. This would encourage more persons to participate.

An aid and guide for reading the Bible through is a booklet "Guide for Personal Bible Study." Order from Materials Services Department, Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234. They are 13 cents each.

An incentive to greater participation would be to supply each reader with this booklet, or you could use a bookmark listing every chapter in the Bible encouraging readers to keep a record of their reading pace throughout the year.

One bookmark source is item U-19, "My Reading Record," from the American Bible Society, Bible House, New York, N.Y. 10022. Another source is "Bible Reading Calendar," form 414, from the Gideons International, 2900 Lebanon Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37234. These two items are inexpensive ways of promoting "Read the Bible Through in a Year."

Well, good readers, we conclude this series with an encouragement to "stay hitched" to your subscription of the *Newsmagazine* and read weekly good news about the Good News of Christ in Arkansas and around the world. — Lawson Hatfield, Sunday School department

Arkansas giving compares well with other state conventions

Comparing one's self to another for the purpose of egotistical pride is both destructive and un-Christian. However, such comparisons, when properly motivated, can be an inspiration and encouragement.

In that spirit we compared the record of Arkansas Baptist State Convention to our other 32 sister state conventions. The result may be surprising to many, but should also serve as an encouragement to us.

The comparison was based on figures supplied by the SBC Executive Committee covering records for the first nine months of 1972 and included proposed budgets for 1973.

Of the 33 Southern Baptist state conventions, Arkansas is fourteenth in

total church membership. Its 1973 budget is also the fourteenth in size, and total Cooperative Program gifts in 1972 were fourteenth. All of this seems to be consistent.

However, when the total per capita gifts of SBC causes were compared, Arkansas jumped to tenth place. This is particularly significant when it is remembered that Arkansas, as a state, is economically near the bottom of most lists. In other words, only nine state conventions gave more to convention causes on a per capita basis than did Arkansas Baptists, while the income of our people was less than most of those in the other states.

Again, remembering that Arkansas Baptists are fourteenth in size, it is

highly significant that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, in giving 38.82 percent of its receipts to SBC causes, ranks fifth among the 33 state conventions. Only four other conventions give a larger percentage to denominational causes, and two of those are older, larger, and stronger state conventions than ours.

For two consecutive years, Arkansas Baptists have also increased the percentage going from the state to SBC causes, which is in direct contrast to the trend of several years ago when a number of state conventions decreased their percentages. In 1973 budgets Arkansas was among 16 state conventions that increased their percentages. Only two decreased their percentages, while the other 15 remained the same.

These statistics provide no cause for boasting, but they should be an inspiration to Arkansas Baptists to accelerate our role as leaders in mission giving among Southern Baptists. — Roy F. Lewis, Secretary of Stewardship-Cooperative Program Department

SBC president speaks

Dear Friends:

With inflation at home and deflation abroad there is a sharp increase in the cost of mission support throughout the world.

Your church will face this problem in next year's budget. Don't forget the problem exists in our world mission work also.

On a recent trip to Europe and Africa we paid New York rates for modest hotel accommodations. A No. 2 can of tomatoes in Ivory Coast cost \$1.24. One missionary reported his family food bill was \$15 more than his monthly income for that month. A devaluated dollar and foreign inflation are costly to missions abroad.

Our Home Mission program is on a plateau. Over 130 trained volunteers await appointment and assignment for work in the United States where 78 million people are unchurched. Their appointment awaits more money.

The convention in Portland adopted a budget which, for the first time since 1967, provides an advance section. All of the funds received over and above the \$35 million goal will be divided among the various Southern Baptist ministries and causes according to the same percentage provided in the regular operating budget.

Now is the time when we can do more for missions. But only

YOU can make it happen. Challenge your church to increase Cooperative Program gifts at least 1 percent of the church budget. Remember, the church that reaches out for Christ will grow and the members will be blessed. One church made a commitment to increased giving through the Cooperative Program and called it a "faith promise." They promised the increased mission support and had faith that God would supply their local needs.

You can help make this happen in your church. You can lead your church to make a "faith promise." Your church can have a greater part in sharing Christ with the world. Pray about it — then do something about it!

The Cooperative Program, which will be 50 years old in 1975, has proved to be an effective lifeline for supporting the churches, the associations, the state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention. In these troubled times the lifeline needs strengthening.

The decision is with the local church. May God lead you as you determine the future of the mission program of our denomination.

Sincerely,
Owen Cooper, President
Southern Baptist Convention

Deaths

Autumn Lynn Boehning, 10-day-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Boehning, died Sept. 7 in Ft. Worth. Boehning is a student at Southwestern Seminary and is a former youth director at Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock.

Mrs. Abbie Schleiff Storey, 74, a member of Northside Church, Charleston, died Sept. 11. She was the mother of Gerald Schleiff, missionary to Rhodesia.

Simon Carlson, 78, a member of Park Place Church, Hot Springs, died Sept. 16.

Mrs. Renie Lott, 68, Blytheville, died Sept. 1. She was a member of Gosnell Church.

Georgia Foundation given \$442,716 Gift

ATLANTA (BP) — Georgia Baptist Children's Homes will benefit from proceeds of a \$442,716 estate, the largest single gift in the 30-year history of the Georgia Baptist Foundation.

The gift came from the estate of the late Edward Seitzinger, a Conley, Ga., metals dealer, who died in 1970. His wife died this spring.

The foundation receives funds in trust for the benefit of all Georgia Baptist Convention or Southern Baptist Convention causes.

HAM reports indicate missionaries safe in Chile

RICHMOND (BP) — An incomplete early report that Southern Baptist missionaries in Chile are safe following that country's military coup of Sept. 11 was presented at the September meeting here of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

In other actions, the board heard its executive secretary comment on the

proposed 1974 budget, to be adopted at the October board meeting, and received an optimistic report on the missionary personnel outlook.

Frank K. Means, the board's area secretary for South America, reported that he talked with a HAM radio operator in Miami who had contacted some of the Baptist missionaries in

Chile. They indicated that so far "everything is OK" following the military takeover.

The Miami radio operator talked with missionaries Gerald Riddell in Punta Arenas in extreme southern Chile, and John H. McTyre in the capital, Santiago, through the "Halo Network" of HAM radio operators. The network is made up of missionary HAM radio operators in South America who have agreed to make daily contact with each other and with persons in the States.

President Salvador Allende allegedly committed suicide after the armed forces, siding with civilian opponents of Allende's regime, moved planes, tanks and ground troops in to seize the presidential palace.

According to wire reports, a military junta took control of the government and declared a state of seige.

Last July the Baptist missionaries in Chile declared themselves in a crisis period due to the country's political unrest. They advised the board to encourage new missionary appointees to Chile to consider reassignment to other countries until the political situation is more stable.

As soon as communication channels reopen, further contact will be made with the missionaries to determine in detail the effect of the coup on Baptist work in Chile.

At present, 43 Southern Baptist missionaries live in Chile, and six additional new missionaries have been appointed to serve there.

In his report, Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, said the 1974 budget will be the largest ever considered by the board, but there will still be millions of dollars requested by the missions which can't be provided due to the normal growth of the work and to dollar devaluation and inflation.

"We are grateful to Southern Baptists for sustained increase in missionary giving so that we can meet these circumstances as well as possible," he said.

Louis Cobbs, secretary of the board's department of missionary personnel, said 1973 missionary appointments, already ahead of the 1972 total, may exceed 200 before the end of the year.

He reported commissioning of a record 75 missionary journeymen for two-year periods of service overseas and awarding of six medical receptorships to volunteer third-year medical students for some 10 weeks service overseas.

CHURCH:

the Sunday Night Place Celebration

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Oct. 25, 1973

Visit the Church Training Fair in Recreation Hall between 9 and 10 a.m. Coffee and donuts available. Fair prepared and directed by Margaret Sharp from the Sunday School Board.

MORNING

- 10:00 Men's Quartet — Ervin Keathley
- 10:15 Multi-Media Visual Presentation
- 10:30 Introductions
- 10:35 "I Like This Emphasis" —Dr. Charles Ashcraft
- 10:45 Department Conferences & Church Library Conference led by Sunday School Board Workers
- 12:15 Adjourn for Lunch

AFTERNOON

- 1:15 Visit the Church Training Fair
- 2:00 Men's Quartet
- 2:10 "This Is How We Did It" —Holley Interviews Holston
- 2:20 "What Is The Future for Sunday Night" —Dr. Philip Harris
- 2:40 Department Conferences
- 4:30 Adjourn for Afternoon Visit the Church Training Fair

BANQUET: 5 p.m.

Banquet for associational missionaries, associational directors, approved workers, members of the Executive Board, and program personnel. Robert Holley, presiding. Dr. Philip Harris, speaker. Subject: "Hitherto — Henceforth"

NIGHT

- 7:00 100 Voice Choir —Erwin Keathley
- 7:15 Congregational Singing
- 7:25 Message: "Long Ago, on a Sunday Night" —Dr. Nolan P. Howington
- 8:00 Drama: "The Sunday Night Place" — written especially for this meeting by Sarah Walton Miller and presented by Mrs. Leslie Wilfong and group from Immanuel Church, Little Rock
- 8:30 Adjourn

Great strides have been made in closer relations between Southern Baptists and the Progressive National (black) Baptist Convention, L. Venchael Booth, PNBC president said in an interview in Jackson, Miss., following the black body's annual meeting there.

The 12th annual meeting of the 550,000-member PNBC, which has been described as a convention of "firsts," met at the same time two other nationwide black bodies held annual conventions — the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., in Los Angeles, and the National Baptist Convention of America in Chicago.

Booth told Jay Thrasher, religion editor of the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, that the Southern Baptist Convention has long had a department for work with black Baptist groups at the SBC Home Mission Board but that there had been very little contact between Progressive National Baptists and that department so far.

"Our philosophy is we help ourselves first, then go to others for help," said Booth in explaining the PNBC's policy of "not running to anyone with our hand out."

Progressive National Baptists have become significant in number in Southern Baptist areas only recently, he said, noting that the early membership was concentrated in the Northwest and Midwest.

Resolutions and speeches at all three conventions, each of which has a few churches dually aligned with Southern Baptists, touched on the Watergate controversy, according to reports from Dan Thrapp of the *Los Angeles Times* and Clarence Page of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Joseph H. Jackson, president of the 6.4-million-member NBC, U.S.A., Inc., largest black denomination in America, said in Los Angeles that Watergate reflects America's sins upon other countries through such procedures as spy networks, now being turned by certain officials against the American public.

Watergate, he said, has spawned a "civil struggle" and "this struggle, if not checked, can impeach more than the President — it can impeach our American legacy."

But James C. Sams, president of the 2.5-million-member NBC of America advised some 2,500 messengers in Chicago to pay less attention to the Watergate scandal.

"We hear more about Watergate than we do about Jesus," he said. "Don't spend your time worrying about what's going on in Washington. Are all thieves in Washington? I admonish you all, advising you to go back and clean up your own homes, town and churches.

Watergate is a small part of God's judgement which we all must face."

Among the firsts occurring during the four-day PNBC gathering in Jackson, was the first luncheon meeting for black Baptist leaders hosted by a president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

SBC President Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., told black leaders at the luncheon that he has personally witnessed significant progress in relations between black and white Baptists in recent years, including a strengthened sense of brotherhood on his own part.

Other firsts recorded at the PNBC convention included the passage of the first retirement plan for full-time employes of the denomination's churches, the first national convention of blacks ever held in the capital city of Mississippi, the largest convention

Black, white Baptists make "great strides"

By the Baptist Press

(some 3,500 registered messengers) in the denomination's brief history and the largest convention in Jackson history.

Aaron Henry, president of the Mississippi chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told PNBC messengers that tremendous progress has been made in recent years in the area of race relations and predicted little or no trouble during the PNBC visit to Jackson.

Booth, a native of rural Covington County, Miss., said, "Many of the people now feel uplifted because of the hospitality shown in Jackson and, as a consequence, many people will now be returning for other activities.

"We made great strides not only in achieving some of our convention objectives, but we made great strides in having come to Jackson and introducing many people to an area of the country that they had only read and heard about and had many false impressions of," Booth said.

Booth, now pastor of Zion Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, was honored by

Mississippi Governor William Waller at a pre-convention session with the Governor's Outstanding Mississippian Award in recognition of his "international leadership" in the field of religion.

In Los Angeles, another NAACP leader, the body's executive director, Roy Wilkins, said a sinister movement exists to label black children genetically inferior to white children.

"A very present danger is the mobilizing of the idea that black children . . . will never be equal to whites," Wilkins said at an NBC U.S.A., Inc., banquet for youth.

"In the prestigious universities of this country and in England and in forbidding tones in scholarly journals on the printing presses, this poisonous and wholly untrue thesis is being readied for use in more popular journals, in boards of education and in legislation," he said.

Jackson said "there are many of us (blacks) today who still believe in the superiority of whatever is white, and we often display this negative attitude by worshipping what is black.

"This is an aspect of an inferiority complex," he continued. "It is reflected by American citizens who now believe they can best serve as first class citizens of the United States by holding citizenship in another country."

Jackson later explained he was referring to "those among us who advocate adding to American citizenship, that of say, Uganda or Liberia."

"In the category of responsibilities, one cannot be loyal and trusted citizen of two countries," he said.

By projection he added that black Baptists, many of whom hold "dual memberships" in the National Baptist and some other Baptist denomination, may be mistaken in doing so.

"Negro Baptists with dual membership want two sets of privileges without bearing two sets of corresponding responsibilities," he said.

"The church must do more than serve as a protest unit of society," Jackson noted. "It must help people create units and movements and structures that can be used and used well in the cause of production."

He added that "an anti-white philosophy does not render any people pro-black . . . If Negro Americans are to meet together in the cause of freedom, they must find a constructive, dynamic and creative common denominator that will restore unity.

Both Wilkins and Los Angeles' black mayor, Tom Bradley, talked about responsibility of the church.

Bradley credited the church with placing him in office in a city with less

than 20 percent blacks in its population. He said his election "happened because the church has laid the stepping stones for where we are today."

Wilkins said the church and the NAACP have been "partners" for more than 60 years.

"The church and the NAACP have a mission," said Wilkins.

He defined the mission as raising the median family income for blacks from the present \$6,854 closer to the white median of \$11,549, pointing out that the gap between the two is widening rather than narrowing.

He asked too for help "in equalizing access to the best education" for blacks, in obtaining decent housing, unrestricted as to location, and in fighting crime.

"Every statistic shows that Negro Americans suffer more at the hands of criminals than any other segment of the population," Wilkins said.

"We will be helping ourselves, as well as society generally, if we not only condemn crime, but turn our faces against it and actively work to cut crime to the minimum."

Wilkins said that the current figure of 2,600 elected black officials in this country "should be doubled," and urged the church to help in voter registration and in marshalling "the full power of our electorate, not only to elect qualified black men to office, but to elevate good government for the whole community."

Conceding that America is "in trouble, bad trouble," and that "we are sick and uneasy as a nation," Wilkins said that the trouble may stem from too much trust in the system and in public officials.

Jackson called for renewed faith in America and for Negroes to develop programs of fresh creativity and responsibility.

"God wills to save America," he assured his audience.

"But if he cannot save us with plenty, he will visit us with famine, floods and other privations that will bring us to our knees, and show us we cannot make it without him."

SBC president hosts dinner for black Baptist leaders

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — It's not usually newsworthy when one Mississippian hosts a dinner for another native Mississippian — except when one is black and the other white and both serve as presidents of nationwide Baptist conventions.

"Twenty years ago, I wouldn't have had a part in this," Southern Baptist Convention President Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., said at a dinner he hosted for L. Venchael Booth, a native Mississippian and president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, during the PNBC's annual convention here.

"If I can change anybody can change," Cooper told 30 PNBC officials and leaders of the Mississippi (Southern) Baptist Convention at the dinner. He credited "the grace of God, the changes of time and my family" with influencing his change.

It was the first time an SBC president ever hosted a dinner for the leadership of a national (black) Baptist convention, said Emmanuel McCall, of the Home Mission Board's department of

cooperative ministries with National Baptists.

Booth, who also serves alongside Cooper as a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, told the group that through Cooper, "We have been brought closer together than perhaps ever before."

"In your concern for giving us the tools to carry on the Lord's work, you have been too timid in the past," Booth told the Southern Baptists.

"You must continue to use your peculiar endowment of money and faith to do good," said Booth, who is listed by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 most influential blacks in the United States.

Cooper told the leaders and later told the assembled PNBC messengers in an address of "greetings" that "We (the SBC) can't get any new missionaries into Nigeria, but I think you can. And if a door is closed to one Christian group and open to another Christian group, the mantle of responsibility falls on your shoulders."

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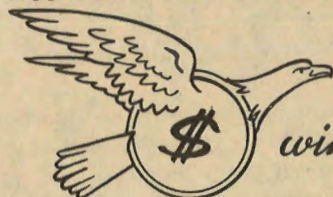
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Next year, get the big one

Singles retreat overfills facilities

By Bill Stephens

She was short, pretty, beautifully tanned, with close-cropped black hair.

"I'm an Army nurse," she told me, "and I am being sent to the Philippines in just a few days now. I want you to know that this weekend has climaxed a beautiful 18 months for me."

She explained. God directed her to First Church of Wichita Falls, Tex., where for a year and a half she learned about God, herself, and her faith "like it was a crash course."

"This weekend," the 30-or-so-year-old nurse explained, "has been the icing on the cake. I don't know what will face me in the Philippines, but I know God has prepared me for something. And I know I'm ready." She smiled. "You know, one of the most beautiful experiences in life is to look back over a definite period and be able to measure your spiritual growth."

It really was quite a weekend. Nine hundred twenty-five singles, from 18 to 78, met at Glorieta for the Single Adults' Weekend, '73, sponsored by the Sunday School Board. It was a record number, up a whopping 64 percent from the last year. A twin singles' retreat at Ridgecrest, with an enrollment limited to 687 because of another conference scheduled at the same time, brought the total to some 1600.

One bus after another poured into the big parking area. The lucky singles arrived Friday afternoon; those who had to work Friday had to drive all night to arrive Saturday morning.

One guy from California told me, "Man, I never heard of this before. Then just last week I saw the advertisement on the inside cover of my Sunday School quarterly. I grabbed the phone and called the manager at Glorieta. He told me all he had left was 12 beds in the dormitory. I could have one of them. So here I am, and it's great."

It really was great.

Friday night started with a hilarious singfest. Ralph Gibson, with wife Judy, at the piano, had 400 or so people bobbing like Halloween apples, young and old locked arm in arm and laughing until the eight-thousand-foot altitude had us gasping for breath. Then he finished by taking our breath away with a solo.

Dan Yeary picked up at that point. For an hour or so, we got to know one another better. In Christ. Then a short visit to the Chuck Wagon was followed with a campfire.

Scrambled eggs and bacon, rolls (a little hard), orange juice, coffee, and cereal brought us around the next morning.

The little auditorium was packed to capacity, plus. We took a look at "A World Like Ours," led by Alvis Strickland and five various-colored wig heads. Then Dan roused our souls again with "Perspective: Me — Affecting My World."

The Bible study conferences that followed were divided into 13 age groups. There were three of them in all. The one that Saturday morning studied the text, Philippians 1:20-26, "Checking Out the Real Me — In Relation to Christ." Sixty-five singles, aged 30-32, crowded into my conference. I thought we really rang the bell that hour, but when I got into the lunch line and heard the comments, it was pretty apparent, with 925 people exploring what God is doing in their lives, that bells of heaven rang all over the mountain that morning.

Saturday afternoon saw a change of pace. Britton Wood stood us in front of a mirror, then we divided into groups for an hour of dialogue. This time we were divided by age, but also into groups of never-marrieds, divorced, and widowed. Never-marrieds were divided into five age groups, divorced persons into six, and widowed persons into three. The subject was "Approaches to Self-Acceptance." Those who had experienced the recent tragedies of losing their mates through death or divorce were given some pretty tremendous help by those whose wounds God had cared for a little longer.

The late afternoon was reserved for sight-seeing, and droves of singles headed for Santa Fe, where the annual Santa Fe Fiesta was in full swing and the Mexican food was authentic. A fellowship period that night in the large lobby of New Mexico Hall capped off the day. But later I woke up in the hotel-like Texas Hall to guitar strumming. I don't know how late the impromptu songfest continued, but the singers sounded mighty happy.

There's something about Sunday morning that's special, wherever you are. But high in the Sangre de Christe mountains, with the incredibly blue sky meeting the evergreen peaks — well, thank you, God.

Dan called us to "One in the Spirit" with a solid biblical message. Our Sun-

day School consisted of the same Bible study groups as the previous morning. This time the text was Ephesians 4:7-16, "Checking Out the Real Me — In Relation to Fellow Church Members." The crescendo of the week was building.

Reassembled back in the auditorium, the lights were dimmed for a short service that proved to be the highlight of the week. When the "typical church members" in the skit opened up their hearts to the outsiders crying for help, I gritted my teeth hard to fight back the tears. I was only barely successful. The singles group from Tulsa's First Church was mobbed by people thanking them for the experience.

After lunch, our Bible study groups sat on the grass in the beautiful Glorieta Gardens to study Philippians 3:4-14, "Checking Out the Real Me — In Relation to Life Values." By that time I began to think that, just maybe, singles are the greatest viable force for Christ in this decade.

Sunday night was a little different. Nine hundred twenty-five singles took notes while Britton spoke on "Perspective on Persons." Then we went to our never-married, divorced, and widowed groups to evaluate what he said. When we reassembled, a spokesman for each group challenged Britton with reaction questions. That was a right interesting experience.

A short meditation by the singles of Plymouth Park Church in Irving, Tex., was followed by a talent show and, late that evening, a fellowship period.

Monday morning was highlighted by a new musical, "Reaching People," led by Ralph and Judy with a choir made up of hard-working singles from all over the country who put it all together in two days. The musical was interspersed with individual testimonies.

Britton brought it all together then with his message, "My World — I Can Make a Difference."

Late that morning, I saw Claudia, the girl I met in the Albuquerque airport and rode to Glorieta with. She had come alone from California and had no idea what to expect. "What do you think, Claudia," I asked her. "Are you glad you came?"

She smiled broadly. "Yes," she said.

Ann McCoy, who planned the retreat, and Alvis Strickland, co-director, will direct the Ridgecrest retreat on Labor Day weekend, '74. Mancil Ezell and Joe Haynes, of the Young Adult

Section of the Sunday School Department, will swap out and direct the Glorieta retreat.

I'm telling you guys. You better get that big auditorium.

Bill Stephens is a free-lance writer from Nashville, Tenn.

Foreign mission briefs

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — The Gospel of Luke was the subject of the second annual Hoke Smith Jr. Biblical Lectures presented here recently. Named for a Southern Baptist missionary to Latin America who served 18 years prior to his death in 1970, the lectures are sponsored by the Costa Rica Baptist Theological Institute. The five-day evening lectures were delivered for the second year by Charles A. Allen Jr., missionary teacher at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Cali, Colombia. The lectures are becoming one of the highlights of Baptist work in Costa Rica. Those attending the lectures autographed a recently released book by the late Dr. Smith and sent it to Mrs. Smith, who teaches at the seminary in Cali, as a remembrance of "Brother Hoke."

SANYATI, Rhodesia — Mrs. John W. Monroe, a missionary in Gatooma, Rhodesia, was injured when the car she was driving skidded into a tree a few miles from here. After being flown to Salisbury, Rhodesia, for treatment of a cracked vertebra and head injuries, she was returned here for a month of rest. Mrs. Moore was enroute to a Young Woman's Auxiliary convention at Gwelo when the accident occurred. A Rhodesian pastor's wife riding with Mrs. Monroe suffered a broken leg in the accident.

PENANG, Malaysia — A scholarship fund in the memory of Marion Moore, former missionary associate to Malaysia, has been established at the Malaysia-Singapore Baptist Theological Seminary here. She and her husband, Vernon Lee Moore, returned to their home state of Florida three months before her death in July. The fund was established because of Mrs. Moore's wish that friends help needy students in Penang.

Brotherhood Commission adopts budget, urges hotels for SBC

MEMPHIS (BP) — The Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in annual session here, adopted a record \$1.3 million budget, elected a new slate of officers and approved a resolution urging the City of Memphis to encourage adequate hotel facilities for the 1977 session of the Southern Baptist Convention scheduled in Memphis.

The resolution said the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention might re-evaluate its decision to hold the 1977 convention in Memphis if adequate hotel facilities are not constructed "within a reasonable distance from the downtown auditorium."

The resolution pointed out that the convention's decision to meet in Memphis is contingent on a pledge from the Memphis Convention and Housing Bureau indicating the availability of 5,000 hotel and motel rooms in Memphis to house an anticipated 15,000 Baptists from throughout the nation.

The action by the commission, the only national agency of the Southern Baptist Convention located in Memphis, came only a few days after the Memphis City Council had voted to release an entire block of city-county owned property adjacent to the Everett R. Cook Convention Center for possible development into hotel-motel accommodations for conventions.

In another action, the 36-member board of directors adopted unanimously, a 1973-74 budget of \$1.3 million, an increase of \$117,598 over the 1972-73 budget.

Only debate on the budget came over a \$10,500 allocation to aid work with Baptist laymen and boys in states where Southern Baptist work is weak. Some commissioners made an appeal to increase the allocation.

Elected as new chairman of the agency, which coordinates Southern Baptist efforts at involving three million laymen and two-and-a-half million boys in missions, was H. D. Revis Jr., pastor of Laurel Church, Greenville, S.C. He succeeds John Smarge, a construction contractor from Silver Spring, Md.

Named new vice chairman was P. A. Stevens, an automatic sprinkler contractor from Louisville, Ky., and elected recording secretary was William E. Hardy Jr., minister of education for First Church, Kosciusko, Miss.

During the two-day meeting here, Ken Taylor, the man who paraphrased the best-selling *Living Bible*, which has sold 10 million copies in two years, presented to commission members complementary first copies of a pocket sized paperback edition of the Living New Testament, with marked scripture passages, for use by Baptist laymen in personal witnessing.

Taylor, president of Tyndale House Publishing Co., Wheaton, Ill., told the commission members he worked for 17 years in paraphrasing the Bible into readable language because neither he nor his 10 children could understand what the Bible really meant in the old King James Version.

In two other major addresses, Brotherhood Commission Executive Director Glendon McCullough and outgoing chairman Smarge issued challenges for laymen to take a more aggressive role in missions, witnessing and working in their churches.

Smarge urged Baptist laymen to utilize in sharing their faith the same degree of experience and aggressiveness they develop in their business and profession.

McCullough summed up the last 12 months of Brotherhood work as being "up hill all the way, and the grades have been steep . . . But we intend to move aggressively" in implementing a program to three million laymen and several million boys in the denomination.

In brief remarks to the commission members, Elmer West of Nashville said he was excited about the role of the agency as "a catalyst for a laymen's liberation movement" in the Southern Baptist Convention.

West, director of program development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, attended as one of six advisory representatives from SBC agencies.

Besides the commission's board of directors, about 50 staff members of Brotherhood departments for state Baptist conventions attended sessions in an advisory capacity.

The commission's 1974 annual session is scheduled in Memphis, Aug. 22-23.

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The Baptist association

By Loyd Corder

The Baptist association has often changed its emphasis in response to the circumstances of times and places in which it has worked, but its basic nature and function have not changed since it began in England in the 17th century. At all times and everywhere the association essentially has been and now is "churches in fellowship on mission in their setting."

Let us examine each of the words in this statement.

What is a church? A church is a group of people who, having come to God through Christ, join together to worship and serve him.

What is fellowship? Associations vote churches "into fellowship" and occasionally they "withdraw fellowship" from one, but this only recognizes formally what hopefully exists or regrettably does not exist. Here we refer to the real fellowship which exists between churches only as it is experienced by their members. In this context fellowship is more than a good feeling toward one another. It is acceptance of oneness in Christ. It is a commitment to one another. It is mutual concern and care. It is the understanding that all churches benefit when one prospers and all suffer when one is hurt. One may dislike his brethren of another congregation because of defects in them, but if he fails in Christ to love them it is his own defect.

Fellowship grows from a common experience of salvation, common understandings of essential Christian doctrine, a common commitment to Christ as Lord, and from sharing in common tasks. Fellowship finds its strongest expression in our commitment to one another in the accomplishment of our mission.

What is a church's mission? Jesus said, "As the Father hath sent me, so send I you." (John 20:21) His mission was to glorify God (make him known as he is) by his own redeeming life, death and resurrection. As Christians, our mission is to glorify God by bringing men to him through Christ. This is the mission of each congregation singly and all congregations collectively in an association, a state convention of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We are on mission to all men in the entire world, but being on mission in the whole world is very different from being on mission in our setting. We learn about, pray for and send missionaries to other parts of the world, but in the setting of our association we are the missionaries. No amount of study,

prayer, giving or sending will do the job here. If it is done, we must do it.

Our mission is to glorify God to the people of our setting. This includes all the people of the setting.

What is a church's setting? The association is a group of churches in a geographic area. But the area of the association is only the locus of its setting. The setting is the milieu of factors within and beyond the area that affect its people.

The effects of these factors on the people of the area affect Baptist churches in two ways. First, they determine what the churches must do to accomplish their mission in their setting and how they will do it. And, they affect the ability and disposition of the church members (and the churches) to meet the needs found in the setting.

In the past, Southern Baptists have been rather oblivious to the implications of the setting for our work. We have assumed that the methods we use will work in any setting with any people at any time. We have come upon a day when there must be adaptations of methods in respect to the setting in which they are to be used. It is not enough to assume that, if a way of doing things is successful in one kind of setting, it will, therefore, be successful in another kind.

The association is the best entity that Southern Baptists have for understanding the implications of the setting for the churches and helping them to work constructively in relation to these factors. The state convention cannot adequately do this. Neither can Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Too, one church singly cannot cope with the overwhelming number and variety of tasks required for the accomplishment of God's purpose in the present pluralistic American community setting. It is in the context of the association, when people from the various churches look at the entire area, that they are able to help one another to see the implications of and to accomplish their mission in their setting.

The nature of today's society and the function of the association make the association more important to Baptist work than ever before. The association draws us together in the bonds of fellowship; it commits us to our mission where we are; it enables us to understand and adjust to distinctive circumstances of time and place; and it facilitates concerted planning and action for here and now.

Religious bestsellers

Clothbound books

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2. THE BECOMERS, Miller (Word)
3. THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY, Christianson (Bethany)
4. THE FAT IS IN YOUR HEAD, Shedd (Word)
5. IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES, Ruthledge (Revell)
6. HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK, Halley (Zondervan)
7. A NEW JOY, Evans (Revell)
8. THEY CALL ME COACH, Wooden (Word)
9. THE HIDING PLACE, ten Boom (Chosen)
10. DAKTAR, Olsen (Moody)

Paperback books

1. SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL ON PLANET EARTH, Lindsey (Zondervan)
2. THE HIDING PLACE, ten Boom (Chosen)
3. THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, Lindsey (Zondervan)
4. THE WAY, Taylor (Tyndale)
5. PRISON TO PRAISE, Carothers (Logos)
6. I'M O.K., YOU'RE O.K., Harris (Spire/Avon)
7. POWER IN PRAISE, Carothers (Logos)
8. HOPE FOR THE FLOWERS, Paulus (Paulist)
9. A TASTE OF NEW WINE, Miller (Word)
10. SAY IT WITH LOVE, Hendricks (Victor)

Recordings

1. LOVE SONG, Love Song (United Artists)
2. LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL, Andre Crouch (Light)
3. MARANATHA II, Maranatha Music
4. COME TOGETHER, Jimmy Owens (Light)
5. BILL GAITHER TRIO LIVE (Heartwarming)
6. KEEP ON SINGING, Andre Crouch (Light)
7. MARANATHA III, Maranatha Music
8. THE KING IS COMING, Doug Oldham (Impact)
9. LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD, Gaither Trio (Heartwarming)
10. SOULFULLY, Andre Crouch (Light)

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Dr. Loyd Corder is director, Division of Associational Services, Home Mission Board, SBC.

Good news for sinners

By Paul W. Dodd
West Helena Church

International
Sept. 30, 1973
Romans 1:16-25



Dodd

Sunday's lesson is a unit all in itself, "God's Word for the Sinner." However it begins a series of units and studies on the triumphant Christian life. What better place could we begin a study of salvation and Christian living than with the

sinner in need of a Saviour! It's best, then, not to think of this week's Sunday School lesson merely as the final lesson of a quarter, but rather as a stepping stone to the lessons which are to follow. We begin Sunday with "God's Word for the Sinner," continue next week with a new unit entitled "God's Word About Salvation," and complete the series taken from "the Gospel according to Paul" with a unit entitled "God's Word about the Victorious Life."

The Gospel is good news! Recently I attended an off-broadway production of "Godspell" in New York City. As the title would imply, this contemporary rendition of the Gospel of Matthew might be expected to present the good tidings of God, the good news of Jesus Christ. You can imagine my disappointment when the musical ended with the dead body of Christ being carried limp off the stage, never to rise again. Defeated by death? My Lord, captured by the grave? Never! That is not good news, and it is a perversion of the blessed Gospel. The good news for sinners is that Jesus lives, and that He's ready to come alive in their hearts.

Paul was so full of the good news, and so anxious to share his faith in a living Christ that he wastes no words. Early in his letter to the Romans, he glories in...

The revelation of the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17)

Paul declares boldly that he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. It has no shortcomings. It can in no way be discredited. It never disappoints! Beginning with this great declaration, Paul mentions three marvelous truths revealed in the Gospel.

First, it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. That is, it has sufficient and effective force to bring men to Jesus Christ. We should never underestimate the strength and

power of God's Word. God's promise is that "it shall not return unto me void" (Isa. 55:11.) It is effective in drawing anyone and everyone who believes to salvation. It is open, available, and advantageous to the Jews and to the Greeks, the wise and the unwise, the rich and the poor, just everyone who believes. It fails no one.

Second, the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God. It reveals God's righteousness as made available to sinners. This is the real basis for the power and effectiveness of the Gospel. The Gospel reveals God's initiative in making the costly provisions for sinners to be counted righteous. It tells how man can be counted right with God.

Third, the Gospel reveals the way of faith. Sinners are saved and counted righteous through faith alone. Paul says it is "from faith to faith." There is no place for works, merits, feelings, rituals, or any other man-made device. Salvation is all of faith and nothing more.

Having declared the revelation of the Gospel, Paul is now compelled to disclose...

The realization of divine wrath (Rom. 1:18-20)

The wrath of God is a necessary counterpart to the righteousness of God. One cannot rightly accept the fact of God's righteousness in Romans 1:17 unless he also acknowledges the fact of God's wrath in Romans 1:18. Notice that both are God "Revealed," divine self-disclosures of God. His very "Godness" must hate sin, and yet the good news is that he loves the sinner.

God's wrath is directed toward all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. Nothing gets by. Sin is whatever form, impiety and immorality, stirs the fearful wrath of God. C. H. Lenski rightly says that God's displeasure with sin covers "all transgressions of both tables of the law."

Paul continues his train of thought in verses 19-20, and fully justifies God's wrath over man's sinfulness. He points out that while all men may not have equal knowledge of God, all do have sufficient knowledge to be spiritually responsible at the point of their un-

godliness and unrighteousness. Both the internal evidence of man's conscience, and the external evidence of God's creation speak loudly and clearly of the "Godness" of God. However, the sad truth is that sinful men continue "to push away the truth from them (Rom. 1:18, LB.) For this, they are without excuse.

Many rightly wonder how much may be known of God from the "inner" evidence of Romans 1:19, and the "outer" evidence of Romans 1:20. Two things should be noted. Paul says "that which may be known of God is manifest in them." Surely this would imply that there is a great deal which may not be known, save through God's supreme disclosure of himself in Jesus Christ. Again, the "outer" evidences of God in creation do not reveal the high truth of the Trinity, as the authorized translation "Godhead" might lead some to suppose. More correctly, Paul is saying that creation reveals the divine nature of God. It speaks of the "Godness" of God. Such knowledge, Paul insists, is sufficient light as to make all men responsible, at least at the point of their ungodliness and unrighteousness.

Having revealed himself through the Gospel, the internal voice of conscience, and the external voice of nature, God is still rejected by many. By their own deliberate choice, Paul says, they themselves bring about...

The repudiation of ungodly men (Rom. 1:21-25)

Paul lists eight wicked responses hardened sinners have made to the good news (1) They glorified him not: (2) They were unthankful: (3) They became vain in their imaginations: (4) Their foolish hearts were darkened: (5) Thinking themselves wise, they became fools: (6) They became idolatrous: (7) They changed the truth of God into a lie: (8) They served the created more than the Creator.

A solemn note is sounded in verse 24. The Bible says that "God gave them up" to their own uncleanness and dishonour. God's Word is wonderful. The good news of salvation should be music in the sinner's ear. But God under no circumstances will be an unwelcome guest in the hearts of men. He patiently waits for a positive response. This is the question sinners face once more — "What will you do with Jesus?"

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Malachi: when religion goes stale

By Andrew B. Setliffe
Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock



Setliffe

The title of this lesson should provoke a great deal of thought on the part of Christians today and especially church leadership. When is religion stale? Is there a possibility that modern day Christianity could go stale? or in some churches already gone stale? More specifically, what about your own religion, your brand of Christianity?

In our study for this week, Malachi places before his people the evidences of stale religion. As we apply his message to our lives today, we will be able to determine to some degree if our religion is going stale.

The name "Malachi" means "My Messenger" or "Messenger of the Lord." It is generally accepted that he was associated with Ezra and Nehemiah in their reforms. He condemned the same evils as they did. He believed in a spiritual worship as the one essential of true religion; but a spirit of worldliness had crept in and the people were guilty of many vices such as we see today in professedly Christian communities. During the captivity the Jews had been cured of their idolatry but they had become prone to neglect the house of God. The priests had become lax and anything was good enough for Jehovah. Sacrifices were inferior; tithes were neglected; divorce was common; and the people had reverted to their old practices of intermarrying with idolatrous neighbors. Does any of this sound like a commentary of our day?

Stale religion produces loss of faith

Read Malachi 2:17 from *The Amplified Bible*. There are those among the people who have lost faith in God. Malachi charges that the people "have wearied the Lord with your words." The people respond with the question "how have we wearied him?" This is an effort to justify themselves and in turn to place the blame on God. Malachi points to their cynical unbelief. They were saying that God blesses the wicked instead of the righteous.

Then the people in bitterness raise the question "Where is the God of Justice?" This implies that the moral government of the world has gone awry.

It is not difficult for today's Christian to look around and see seemingly evil men prosper. The man who has no scruples as to the way he gains his wealth seems to be blessed materially. The big business corporation operates without any Christian principles and controls great volumes of wealth. The man who operates by Christian principles so often struggles long hours every day just to make ends meet or he fails. The observant Christian has his faith severely tested.

Stale stewardship

Another evidence of Israel's religion going stale was the failure to pay the tithe. God, through the prophet, spoke some rather plain or harsh words concerning the failure. God charged "you are robbing me" (v. 8.) The matter of importance here is obedience to God. This lack of faith and love grieved God and deprived the people of God's blessings and graciousness.

Most of us forget that this same scripture which says one robs God by withholding tithes also says that the one who withholds offerings also robs God. We cannot bring an offering to God until we first pay that which we owe God, the tithe. Love offerings ought to come from a willing heart. However, we sin against God if we do not have that willing heart. We sin greatly if our heart does not have such love and we rob God when we do not frequently give more than the bare minimum of the tithe.

Verse 9 points out that a curse rests on the whole nation because all have been robbing God. The solution to the removal of the curse follows in verse 10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." The moral principles involved in tithing are much the same in both the Old and New Testaments. Christians today are morally obligated to God concerning giving just as much as the Jew was under ceremonial law. Would you believe that there are those who believe this and turn right around and deny storehouse tithing? How can you accept part of the instruction from God's Word and reject the other part? Storehouse tithing is Scriptural. The church is God's storehouse, as the temple was in Malachi's day.

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Life and Work

Sept. 30, 1973
Malachi 2:17; 3:8-18

If the people repent and bring the full tithe into the storehouse, God promises to "open the windows of heaven" and pour down a blessing so great that they cannot receive it all. Here, Malachi speaks primarily of a material blessing as the reward for proper presentation of tithes. Today many tithers testify that material blessings have followed the serious and careful setting apart of at least the tithe for the Lord. However, the Christian's blessing is not necessarily material when he obeys God's instruction to tithe.

God is calling his people to be faithful to his command so that the blessings they receive will attract the attention of the pagans. Here is an opportunity for Christian witnessing largely overlooked by God's people in every generation.

The attitudes of stale religion

The conditions of the times had brought about a spirit of skepticism among the people. They were charged with speaking strong words against God (v. 13.)

They say "it is vain to serve God" and there is no profit in it. In disillusionment, even the pious are tempted to give up the effort to obey God's commandments, feeling that he is indifferent. At the same time they complain "they that work wickedness are set up." The arrogant and evildoers prosper and go unpunished. They envy the prosperity of the wicked.

Faith alive

Malachi changes to the third person as he begins to speak about the devout persons rather than to them (v. 16.) He determines to dispel all their doubts.

The devout who "feared the Lord," though discouraged and bewildered, came together and talked with one another. Coming together created a climate of faith and trust. It is always profitable in this way for Christian people to come together. God was pleased as he listened and he would neither overlook nor forget those who trusted and feared him. "A book of remembrance" was written containing their names and experiences. The faithful will be separated from the wicked and spared when God acts in judgment.

God knows his believing people and gladly owns them. The faithful are to him a precious treasure ("jewels"). A just God cannot spare an unrepentant sinner. He will spare and bless the faith-

(Continued on page 23)

VBS Reports

Aug. 27 - Sept. 17

Name of Church	Enrollment	Average attendance	Professions Of faith
Alma, Kibler	81	69	0
Antioch	31	28	0
Bald Knob, Central	100	20	0
Barling, First	148	111	5
Benton, Highland Heights	188	151	0
Caddo Gap	83	68	0
Clarksville, First	110	91	0
Columbus		29	5
Conway, Pickles Gap	110	94	15
Dumas, Rankin Chapel	27	27	0
Fayetteville, Immanuel	94	76	0
Fayetteville, Southside	65	53	0
Foreman, First	116	87	0
Grannis	78	52	0
Hamburg, Shiloh	28	26	1
Hartford, West Hartford	31	27	0
Hermitage	89	78	4
Jacksonville, Bayou Meto	140	107	2
Jacksonville, Chapel Hill	55	41	0
Jonesboro, Fisher Street	148	116	2
Lambrook, First	121		
Lepanto, First	173	138	19
Little Rock, Hilldale Chapel	56	43	2
Little Rock, Wakefield First	76	56	0
Little Rock, Sunset Lane	215	201	0
Marianna, First	113	105	0
NLR, Morrison Chapel	55	50	1
Mountainburg, First	60	43	0
Mountain Home, First	178	153	0
Norman, First	97	73	0
Ogden	47	40	0
Pine Bluff, Greenlee	86	76	0
Pine Bluff, Immanuel	346	250	3
Pine Bluff, Sulphur Springs	150	136	0
Pine Bluff, Watson Chapel	201		1
Searcy, First	202	137	0
Searcy, Temple	141	110	0
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	91	85	0
Texarkana, Trinity	403	326	37
Walnut Ridge, White Oak	53	45	0
Warren, Macedonia	37	33	0
Winslow, First	77	66	1
Wynne	204	174	0
Yorktown	34	30	0
Mission Schools:			
Boys Training School, Pine Bluff	40	37	0
Christian Service Center, sponsored by Sunset Lane, L.R.	68	48	0
First Missionary, sponsored by Walnut Ridge, First	107	76	6

Life and Work lesson

(From page 22)

ful because they are his sons and they served him like obedient children. You are precious to him if he is precious to you! You shall be his "in that day," if he is yours in this day!

God will distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between those who served God and those who did not. The cynical will be compelled by the truth to forsake the view that God is indifferent or hostile to righteousness. Even the skeptical will see the vast difference. There is great difference in this life and in the next. The righteous are designed for salvation in the day of God's wrath. Divine justice will be cleared of criticism.

Someone has said, "A religion that makes no difference in the way one lives makes no difference." The two sides of true religion are belief and behavior. A weak religious faith permits the morals of any nation to drop to a low level. The way to higher moral standards is to deepen our convictions and vitalize our faith.

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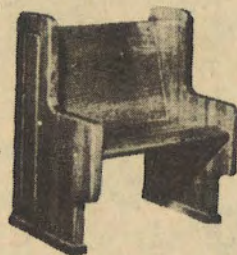
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Attendance report

Sept. 16, 1973

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Ch. adms.
Alexander, First	86	60	4
Alicia	43	32	
Alma, First	308	109	
Alpena	82	29	
Belrne, First	57	31	
Bentonville			
First	223		2
Mason Valley	83	47	
Berryville			
First	167	63	2
Freeman Heights	107	33	
Rock Springs	111	49	
Blytheville, Gosnell	184	79	
Booneville, First	232	209	2
Cabot, Mt. Carmel	201	96	
Camden, First	443	182	5
Cherokee Village Mission	77		1
Conway, Second	347	94	4
Crossett			
First	463	118	
Magnolia	177	112	
Dardanelle, First	153	59	5
Des Arc, First	190	72	
El Dorado, Caledonia	36	24	
Forrest City, First	644	130	2
Ft. Smith			
First	1261	282	13
Grand Avenue	777	340	6
Temple	144	62	1
Trinity	167	58	
Windsor Park	729	307	12
Gentry, First	171	71	
Grandview	75	57	
Greenwood, First	256	112	
Greers Ferry, Westside	103	35	
Hampton, First	141	78	1
Hardy, First	62	37	8
Harrison, Eagle Heights	268	112	
Helena, First	259	91	
Hot Springs			
Grand Avenue	280	168	5
Leonard Street	102	80	6
Park Place	400	119	2
Hope			
Calvary	164	96	
First	423	90	9
Hughes, First	198	54	2
Jacksonville			
First	351	65	
Marshall Road	302	116	1
Jonesboro			
Central	495	177	1
Nettleton	229	91	
Lake City, Dixie	42	46	
Lambrook, First	117	86	
Lavaca, First	300	123	1
Lexa	144	83	
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	127	55	
Geyer Springs	684	176	
Life Line	705	164	
Martindale	98	68	5
Sunset Lane	192	88	
Magnolia, Central	601	218	1
Melbourne, Belview	163	96	
North Little Rock			
Calvary	416	128	1
Gravel Ridge	201	81	2
Levy	564	120	
Park Hill	728	105	
Paragould, East Side	208	93	
Paris, First	385	88	
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	155	53	
East Side	199	134	
First	622	118	2
Second	161	66	
Prairie Grove, First	152	78	2
Rogers, First	560	137	
Roland, Natural Steps	83	54	4
Russellville			
First	483		5
Second	168	62	1
Sheridan, First	248	104	
Springdale			
Berry Street	108	65	1
Caudle Avenue	143	59	5
Elmdale	326	102	
First	979		15
Oak Grove	72	27	
Van Buren, First	486	209	1
Mission	35		
Vandervoort, First	52	26	
Vimy Ridge, Immanuel	53	36	2
Uniontown	106	61	
Warren			
Immanuel	238	75	
Westside	59	45	
West Helena Church	241	63	2
W. Memphis, Vanderbilt Ave.	118	65	1
Wooster, First	93	85	

Christian Life Commission honors Rutledge and Knight

NASHVILLE (BP) — Arthur B. Rutledge and Walker L. Knight have been named joint recipients of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 1973 Distinguished Service Award for their team effort in leading Baptists to apply Christianity.

Rutledge, a native Texan, is executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, and Knight, a native Kentuckian, edits *Home Missions* magazine and serves as secretary of the Home Mission Board's editorial service department.

The Christian Life Commission award, presented at the commission's annual meeting here, went to two recipients for the first time in its history. Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, Tex., won the 1972 award.

"This award recognizes two of the most significant influences for applied Christianity in Southern Baptist life," said Foy Valentine, commission executive secretary. "The Home Mission Board and these two men have been powerful forces for Christian morality, integrity and righteousness."

Valentine added, "We pray God that this kind of teamwork, with denominational administrator as the enabler and

the professional staff person as the doer may more and more come to characterize the Southern Baptist Convention's organizational life."

Rutledge, 62, has been the Home Mission Board's top executive since 1965. Before that he directed the board's missions division for six years, served as secretary of stewardship and direct missions for the Baptist General Convention of Texas for three years and held nine pastorates in Texas and Indiana for 25 years.

Knight, 49, also chief of the Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press, joined the Home Mission Board staff in 1959. Formerly he was associate editor of the *Baptist Standard*, news publication of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, for 10 years.

He has also edited a weekly newspaper in Martin, Tex. served as pastor of First Church, Dale, Tex., and reported for the Henderson (Ky.) *Gleaner-Journal*.

Both men are graduates of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Rutledge also holds a Th. M. degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, and a Th. D. from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE — Foy Valentine, center, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, presents the commission's 1973 Distinguished Service Award to Arthur B. Rutledge, left, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Walker L. Knight, right, editor of "Home Missions" magazine. The award went to the two Home Mission Board staffers at the Christian Life Commission's annual meeting in Nashville for their team effort in leading Baptists to apply Christian principles. (BP photo by Floyd A. Craig)

Home missions offering goal is \$7,200,000

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — Southern Baptists have set a goal of \$7,200,000 for their special offering for home missions in 1974.

The goal was set by Woman's Missionary Union, the Southern Baptist auxiliary which sponsors the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, in consultation with leaders of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Miss Alma Hunt, WMU executive secretary, said the 1973 offering, which closes Dec. 31, has reached \$6,515,000. "We hope funds will continue to come in so the 1973 goal of \$6,600,000 will be reached," Miss Hunt said.

The current total is an 11.5 percent increase over total offerings at this date a year ago. A comparable percentage of increase for 1974 would exceed the goal of \$7,200,000.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will be launched by a week of prayer for home missions, March 3-10, 1974. The theme for the observance will be "In Him is Life."

The home missions emphasis is promoted in churches by WMU and the SBC Brotherhood Commission, the missions organization for men and boys.

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