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June 24, 1976

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Associations contribute
to Baptist life
page 6

June 24, 1976
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE





I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

Feeling is not enough

Convictions are born in the context of emotions as well as the hard facts. Feeling is a part of any conviction which offers hope of ever "doing something about it." Hard facts will not drive people to sacrifice, struggle and confrontation. Facts plus feeling seem to be essential to motivation. There is a slow burn (Psalms 39:3) involved in this. This slow burn is part of the birth of conviction but if nothing is done about the problem, the fire will continue to burn. One is only released from the slow burn when he implements his conviction into action. The slow burn is necessary to formulate the conviction, but if unattended will simply consume the person. For a person to feel deeply is hardly enough. He must feel deeply enough to act. If he does not act he has a raging furnace within himself. This furnace cannot be put out until one either gives his best or gets out of the ministry of problem solving. Getting out may not put it out.

Many people feel deeply and strongly about drugs, obscenity, gambling, violence, inflation, and the poor medical system of the nation. The depth and strength of these feelings will determine the degree of action to correct the situation.

It has been said that any 13-year-old child in America has already witnessed 3,000 murders on TV. As a result we are growing a large crop of murderers. These young criminals kill, rape, mug and injure good citizens every day. America is fast becoming an outlaw society. When feelings are transposed into redemptive action, the health and longevity of us all will be improved. Conviction without action is a consuming fire destroying any person. Conviction, plus decisive action, brings health, healing, peace and progress.

Drinking, promiscuity, defiance of authority and endless murders are presented on TV as the customary way of life in America. This is not exactly so. People who feel deeply can combat this just as effectively as meat prices can be curbed at the market place. When you come to that point of the burning furnace inside of you, I suggest you put action in the place of that furnace. Some of us have committed the remaining days of our lives to "doing something about it." Many may get singed or burned but that is a welcome development compared to the stinging curse which says, "To him that knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17) Righteous indignation will ever burn and shall never be extinguished until redemptive action replaces it. The slow burn then becomes redemptive and burns away the dross, foreign matter, and chaff in our lives. (Psalms 39:3) Only at that point will there be peace.

I must say it!

In this issue

Associations 6

Arkansas Baptists will emphasize associational missions next month as they observe Sunday, July 11, as a day of prayer for this work. On the cover is an example of associations helping in church growth.

Rally parking 8

Wondering where to park for the July 3 Bicentennial rally in Little Rock? Plans have been made for parking at area churches to avoid congestion at the stadium, and areas are designated for buses at War Memorial Stadium. A map prepared by rally planners will aid Baptists in parking there.

SBC reports 14

Reports of meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk, Va., last week begin on page 14. Also included are photos of the events. Other reports will be presented next week.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 75

NUMBER 26

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The SBC at Norfolk

A record number of messengers attended the 1976 convention under sometimes difficult conditions. The problem was produced primarily by convention facilities which were too small to accommodate the messengers. Security protection for President Ford, who spoke Tuesday to the convention, produced additional difficulties. And housing for some of the messengers was inadequate or too far removed from the convention area.

The convention space problem should be solved for sometime to come as a motion was passed to convene the annual session of the SBC only in areas in which the main auditorium would seat 16,000 people. Other accommodations must also be suitable to meet our growing needs.

The people of Norfolk went all-out to properly host the Southern Baptist Convention. The police deserve special commendation for their helpfulness. The local press provided excellent accurate coverage of the convention. The convention space and housing difficulty could in no way be considered the fault of the local people.

The messengers of the SBC seemed to be growing in maturity. The physical difficulties of this year's convention would have been more upsetting to less mature people. We, however, were greatly pleased with the conduct of our people. Although those attending were located in three different buildings much of the time the business proceeded in a very orderly fashion.

The highlight of the convention was the address presented by President Ford. Although some felt that his appearance was out of order during an election year, most saw it as honoring the office of President rather than a political appearance.

Ford's address was truly a fine non-political message. After characterizing Baptists as "an early champion of religious freedom," he enumerated some of our great leaders past and present.

After condemning situation ethics, Ford said, "Forgiving hearts and tolerant attitudes are among the

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



greatest lessons of Christian teachings, but at some point we must take our stand and say 'that is right, and that is wrong; there is a difference.'"

Ford received applause 17 times during his address. The messengers conducted themselves in a very courteous way, although many do not agree with the President politically.

Convention President Jaroy Weber deserves the highest praise for his two years of outstanding leadership. His convention message not only highlighted the bicentennial year, but pointed our people to qualities which have made our denomination great.

Weber also has done a remarkable job in serving all Southern Baptists regardless of their theological perspective. Weber said in a press conference at the time of his election in 1974, that he was not and had never been a member of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, but that he had friends within our convention of various theological persuasion. His actions have proven the accuracy of his statement. He has distinguished himself as one of our greatest presidents.

The election of James L. Sullivan as president of the Southern Baptist Convention on the first ballot, with four others having been nominated, is a great tribute to one of our finest servants. Dr. Sullivan, who for more than 20 years, was president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, is one of the most knowledgeable men in Southern Baptist life. His knowledge, experience, moral and spiritual integrity, equip him well for this important position. He will prove to be one of our greatest presidents.

The 119th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention ended with an excellent spirit. We agree with Dr. Weber who said that the convention has returned to its historic stance of "theological conservatism." While there are various opinions on certain matters, we believe that our denomination will remain healthy so long as missions and evangelism remain as our priorities.

Pastors' Conference

The Pastors' Conference, under the able leadership of Adrian Rogers, had as its theme "Faith of our Fathers." The dominant emphases were God and country, doctrine and evangelism.

This editor's fear that the Pastors' Conference would prove an opportunity for a special interest group to influence the convention proved to be without foundation. It is our opinion that Dr. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., did his utmost to provide a spiritual atmosphere to prepare for the convention. We rate the Pastors' Conference "excellent."

Arkansas was well represented by Russell J. Clearman, pastor, Olivet Church, Little Rock. Dr. Clearman

spoke on "Which Way' America?" Clearman said, "It is sheer folly to suppose that the strength and security of America lies in its vast economic resources, industrial process, scientific ingenuity, diplomatic skill or military might."

In conclusion Clearman said our nation's hope is in the cross. "We must," he said, "return to the faith of our fathers. We must go to our knees in humility and prayer, in contrition and confession, in repentance and the forsaking of sin." Clearman received a standing ovation for his outstanding address.

The Pastors' Conference was a helpful and rewarding experience. Those in attendance received strength and encouragement for the future.

The minister and his ministry

Maintain professional growth

by Larry Baker
(10th in a series)

The three of us had been classmates — first in college, then in seminary. We found ourselves together, around a table, during mealtime at a convention. Part of our conversation remains vivid.

Said one, "I feel like I'm a better minister today than I was 10 years ago." The other, "I don't. I feel dried up and



Dr. Baker

less effective than I did when I finished seminary." They point to the struggle we face — growth versus stagnation, development versus stuntedness.

Paul's word to Timothy was, "fulfill your ministry." One part of our growth is vitally related to that — the growth and development of our skills, our professional growth. We need to enhance, support and increase our resources so we may be productive throughout our lives.

But we face several temptations. One is the "Boy, I'm glad that's over" feeling when we complete seminary. Some see

graduation as the end rather than the beginning of their learning. Another is the "union-card" mentality. Some see a seminary degree as a credential that qualifies one to serve a church and feel they don't need anything else. A third temptation entices one to think that all a good minister really needs is a knowledge of the content and message of the Bible; skills, techniques and methods are either unimportant or undeserving of the minister's energy. A fourth is the temptation to re-use and repeat programs and approaches from church-to-church.

The need for professional growth is evident. None of us develops all of his skills during formal education; we gain insights, tools, and some ability to use them, but not all of the skills we need. Also, the shape of our world continues to change. Besides, congregations differ — sometimes radically — and require different approaches to minister effectively.

Ministers today have countless opportunities for professional growth. Southern Baptist seminaries, the Church Program Training Center, Glorieta and Ridgecrest programs each summer, and state conventions — all provide opportunities for the minister to develop his skills. And resource materials are available from many sources.

Here are some hints I've found helpful. (1) Be committed to a process of continuing education. The education one receives in seminary is neither the beginning nor the end of learning about God and man and ministry. (2) Design a long range program of continuing education that will help you fulfill your many-sided ministry. (3) Practice a process of continuing evaluation — not morbidly, but with a desire to be the most effective minister possible. Ask questions like: what are my strengths and weaknesses? What can I do better? What skills do I need to sharpen? (4) Discover the learning events and resources that are available to help you. (5) Participate in one or more continuing education opportunities each year. Also, include in your reading some resource materials related to an area of felt need. (6) Communicate to your church the importance of continuing education — both for the minister and the church. Lead them to provide financial resources and time for your participation.

How shall we evaluate our ministries — after 10 years, 20 years, 30 years? One thing is certain: we ought to have 10-20-30 years of experience rather than one year of experience multiplied 10-20-30 times. Growth and development of our skills will help us fill full the ministries to which God has called us.

Dr. Baker is pastor of First Church, Fayetteville.

One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU



Maintaining the old versus building the new

Few things are more exciting than building or creating something new. Pastors undoubtedly have some of their greatest thrills in leading a congregation to construct a beautiful new church building. Ministers of education find tremendous satisfaction in establishing a Sunday School department or class. I can testify that college presidents thoroughly enjoy being involved in designing, building, and dedicating a beautiful new building. Even so, it is possibly to enjoy new construction and new projects so much that we badly neglect the support and maintenance of old things that need to be continued. We may have gotten our scale of values badly out of kilter.

Recently I was in Nashville, Tenn., and noticed a lot of new construction work in the downtown area just east of the beautiful new "Legislative Plaza" completed some months ago. It was a strange paradox. What seemed like hundreds of workmen were all over the two buildings under construction with the kind of feverish activity one would have expected for the building of the Egyptian pyramids. I could almost hear a Fourth of July oration describing this as a part of the puritan work ethic that made America great.

My eyes then turned to the beautiful block-long plaza with elaborate indirect lighting, marble walkways and stairs, two built-in fountain areas, and grounds where more than 100 good-sized trees had been planted in immaculate designs. The beauty stopped at this point, however. One of the fountains was out-of-order and the dry floor of the foun-

tain was covered with crusty scum. The beautiful new trees were being choked out with a heavy growth of tall weeds that had taken over the grounds. Generously scattered among the weeds was the litter of thoughtless pedestrians who had used the beautiful plaza to get rid of their bottles, cans, and paper. I could not find a single maintenance person in the entire area who seemed responsible for maintaining the beauty of the plaza. It was then that my eyes turned back to the teeming humanity working at the two nearby building projects. I wondered uneasily if my own values had contributed this paradox of strong zeal for launching the new but lethargy in maintaining the old.

Some years ago I noticed a similar scene in Bangkok, Thailand. A beautiful new Buddhist temple was being constructed almost side by side with an old temple that was falling into disrepair. All over Bangkok there were beautiful temples literally falling down from poor maintenance. When I asked a Buddhist friend why it would not be better to restore an old temple than to build a new one, he explained that the rewards under the Buddhist system of "making merit" are far greater for building a new temple than for maintaining an old one. I told him we have some Baptist church members who feel the same way about starting new programs rather than supporting and breathing new life in old programs.

I am all for the new, but I found myself remembering Jesus' words: "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

Roland Church held a ground breaking service on June 13. The new church facilities will house a fellowship hall and kitchen, which can be divided into classrooms.

Baptists urged to give blood July 3

Because the summer brings a shortage in the supply of blood for the American Red Cross, Baptists who attend the July 3 Bicentennial rally are being urged by the organization to donate blood. The Red Cross blood center is located at 401 South Monroe, which is in War Memorial Park, next to Ray Winder baseball field.



On April 11, the Pickles Gap Church of Conway observed open house in the church's new parsonage. The church has enjoyed a steady growth of new members over the past two years, and there have been more than 200 additions. The old parsonage has been converted into a preschool and staff offices building. Ken Jordan is the pastor.

Arkansas all over

people



Holland



Rose



Adkins



Mrs. Merritt

Withrow T. Holland, Director of Boyce Bible School in Little Rock, is serving as interim pastor of Hebron Church, Little Rock. Dr. and Mrs. Holland live in Little Rock and are the parents of three children.

Don Rose has assumed the pastorate of Midway Church, Midway. Rose has

also pastored churches in Deer and Clinton. He is a graduate of Arkansas Tech at Russellville and has attended Boyce Bible School in Little Rock. Rose is married to the former Patricia Shelton of Deer, and they are the parents of two children, Melanie, 5, and Matthew, 3.

Jim Adkins has been called as Minister

of Music and Youth at First Church, Mount Ida. He comes to the Mount Ida Church from University Church, Lubbock, Tex. He and his wife are the parents of one son.

Velma Merritt has been named editor of *Highlights*, the monthly periodical of the European Baptist Convention. She began her duties as editor this month. She is a former columnist for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Mrs. Merritt is a graduate of Ouachita University and Southwestern Seminary. She is the wife of Dale Merritt, pastor of Temple Church, Stuttgart, West Germany. The Merritts have served in Germany for one year. They are the parents of two children.

Carroll Pierce, Jeff Scott and Robert E. Sivils were recently ordained as deacons of First Church, Mount Ida.



Woman's viewpoint

Iris O'Neal Bowen

Purses, purses, purses

Going to the doctor for a check-up, I found myself back in the lab before I had time to put my car keys in my purse. The technician sat me down and began the blood pressure, pulse and temperature routine as I opened my purse to drop my keys in.

"My, how neat your purse is!" she remarked.

"Maybe it stays that way because I change it three times a day," I told her.

And the three times a day bit is close

to the truth. My old store purse goes to work and back home, with a few side trips to the mall, the bank and the post office. It is so ballpoint-pen-marked, I'd be ashamed of it anywhere but work, where I kick it under the check-out stand or the office desk.

So I have other purses — red, tan, black and white — for my other scoutings about. Of course, purses must match my other "decor," so I am always dragging two or three down off the shelf

before I can make my decision.

It seems every time I leave the house, I change purses. The bad thing is that in the switching, I invariably leave something I should have taken, or over-load, just in case I might need something I think I didn't need!

One day I got somewhere, only to find I had left that vital necessity, my pen. So when I returned home, I dumped my old faithful store purse and found 17 pens in various pockets and even down under the lining!

If I knew someone influential in the legislature, I would pressure him to get a law passed limiting purses to only one per lady.

The only thing is, that poor representative must be prepared to face the fact that he would get none of the ladies' votes, come next election!

Day of Prayer for Associational Missions July 11



ADAMS
Buckner



BUNCH
Mt. Zion



BURNETT
Calvary



BYRUM
Caroline



CALDWELL
Conway-Perry
Van Buren



CONNER
Red River



DARTER
Delta



DEAN
Little River



ESCOTT
Ouachita



FAWCETT
Arkansas
Valley



FINN
North Arkansas



GARNER
Trinity



GEARING
Mississippi
County



GIBSON
Greene
County



GUTHRIE
Black River



HACKER
Independence



HUGHES
Hope



JACKSON
Benton
County



KUEHN
Faulkner



LINDLEY
Dardanelle-
Russellville



McCLUNG
Pulaski
County



MELTON
White River



MILLER
Little Red
River



MONTGOMERY
Rocky Bayou



OVERTON
Central



PASSMORE
Current-
Gains



PERKINS
Concord



PETTY
Washington-
Madison



REED
Bartholomew



SAWYERS
Liberty



TUCKER
Tri-County



WHITE
Harmony



WILHELM
Clear Creek



WILLIAMS
Carey

The Baptist Association

In this bicentennial year of our nation's history it is fitting to evaluate the contributions made by the associations to American life in general and to Baptist life in particular:

- They were vitally involved in winning religious liberty.
- They proved that the principle of democracy in church and denominational life were both feasible and practical.
- They recorded, published and preserved the history of Baptist growth and achievement.
- They hammered out the doctrinal stance of Baptists and clarified disciplinary confusion.
- They vigorously defended Baptist principles and leaders.
- They helped unify the Baptist people.
- They pioneered in the establishment of Baptist schools and colleges.
- They initiated and promoted cooperation among Baptist churches for great mission and benevolent endeavors.

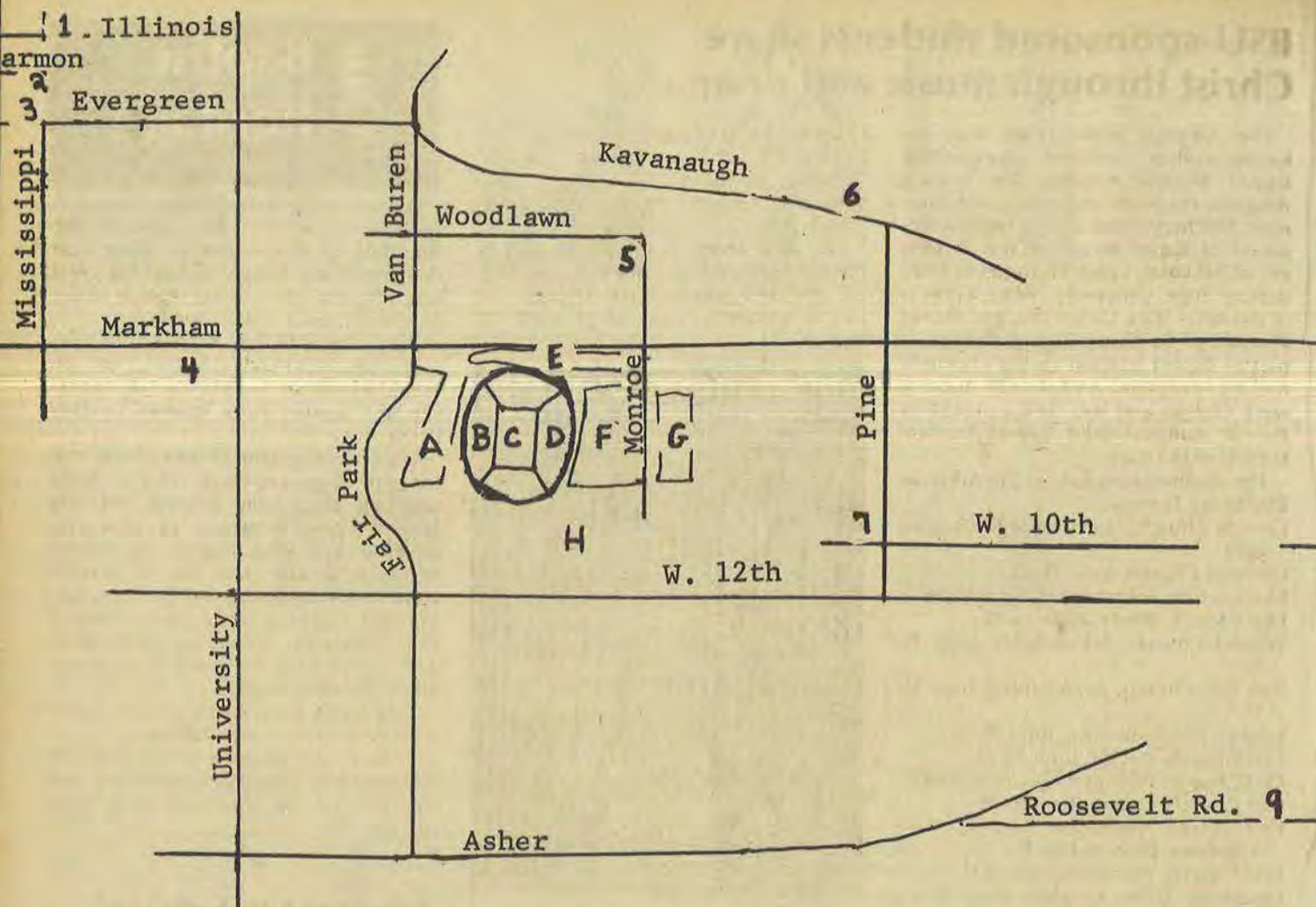
These contributions clearly reflect the continuing importance of this level of denominational life. The association merits the full support of every church.



ON THE COVER: Establishing missions which grow into churches is one goal of associational missions work. Delta Association aided in the growth of Parkway Church near Lake Village. A mission was established when Noel Barlow was director of missions. Now the church has a building and has paid the debt on it. Burning the note last year were (left) Paul Neblett and Thomas Darter, now director of missions.

June 24, 1976





Parking legend (by number)

Shuttle buses will run from the following churches to the stadium from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. and will return people to the church parking lots after the service is over at 1 p.m.

1. Forest Highlands Baptist Church, 1717 N. Mississippi
2. First Christian Church, 1500 N. Mississippi
3. First Nazarene Church, Mississippi at Evergreen Streets
4. Olivet Baptist Church, 6711 West Markham
5. Pulaski Heights Methodist Church, Woodlawn and Monroe Streets
6. Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, 2200 Kavanaugh
7. Baptist Tabernacle, 10th & Pine Streets
8. Immanuel Baptist, 1000 Bishop
9. Barton Coliseum Parking on the north side of Roosevelt Road (armed security will be maintained at Lot 9 on Roosevelt Road during the entire service. Parking capacity there is 1,000 cars).

We encourage people in the greater Little Rock area to use these parking lots and shuttle bus service to allow as much parking as possible closer to the stadium for out of town people.

Stadium legend (by letter)

- A. Parking lot on west side of stadium for platform guests and stadium personnel. Entrance by parking card *only*.
- B. Choir and band seating area in west stands behind platform.
- C. Platform at 50 yard line on west side facing east stands.
- D. East stands. People are urged to fill this entire section *first*, then the two end zone sections, and finally the re-

- mainder of the west stands. West stands will not be open to public until east stands and end zones are filled.
- E. Scholarship parking lot for 200 cars. Entrance is from Monroe Street. This lot will be reserved for band and choir members only until 10 a.m. Then it will be open to public parking. There is a parking fee of \$1 per car here.
- F. Main parking lot on east side. This lot will be reserved for buses and vans until 11 a.m. Parking fee here is \$2. All buses are urged to come here for parking instructions. Shuttle buses will unload at the front of the main east gate and park on this east lot.
- G. Parking immediately east of the main east parking area across Monroe Street adjacent to parking area at the Health Building. Fee of \$2 here for overflow of buses.
- H. Public parking in and around stadium area, Medical Center, Ray Winder field area, etc.

Reminders to all persons

1. Parking will be congested even at best.
2. Come early to insure plenty of time.
3. Come in buses, if possible.
4. If you come in cars, use the shuttle bus parking area if possible until they are filled.
5. Be patient and understanding with those who are helping with the parking job.
6. Wear a head covering and sun glasses as it will be very hot on that day.
7. Concession stands will be open at the stadium serving food and drink all morning.

BSU-sponsored students share Christ through music and drama

The Arkansas Share Team, four Arkansas college students representing Baptist Student Unions, are touring Arkansas churches and camps this summer. The music and drama team, composed of Karen Moon of the University of Arkansas, Leigh Thurman of Henderson State University, Mike Flowers of Arkansas State University, and Daniel Humble of Southern Baptist College, is part of Baptist Student Union's summer missions program. A total of 34 students were chosen and will be supported by the 27 campus-based Baptist Student Unions of the state.

The summer schedule of the Arkansas BSU Share Team is:

- Central Church, North Little Rock, June 8-10
- Dermott Church, June 11-13
- First Church, Arkadelphia, June 13-14
- First Church, Amity, June 14-15
- Second Church, Arkadelphia, June 15-16
- Park Hill Church, Arkadelphia, June 16-17
- Salem Church, Benton, June 18-21
- First Church, Rector, June 22-23
- First Church, Walnut Ridge, June 23-27
- First Church, Cabot, June 27-28
- First United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, June 28-July 1
- First Church, Sherwood, July 3-7
- Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock, July 7-11
- Baptist Tabernacle, Little Rock, July 11-15

- First Church, El Dorado, July 16-25
- Central Church, Hot Springs, July 25-29, July 31-Aug. 1
- Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, Aug. 1-6

The BSU Share Team will appear at the Joy Explosion at Little Rock on Aug. 6-7 and will appear each Thursday in July at Siloam Springs, July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.



Share Team members are Daniel Humble, Leigh Thurman, Karen Moon, and Mike Flowers.

Arkansas all over

Arkadelphia First Church will observe the church's 125th anniversary with four special Sunday services to be held on June 27, July 4, 11 and 18. Mary King is chairman for these special services. Nathan Porter is pastor.

P. N. Kurien, founder of the All India Prayer Fellowship, was guest speaker at **First Church, Alma**, on May 27. He told of the work of the organization which he organized in 1957. Several Southern Baptist Churches have supported this

program. Kurien is a former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a member of First Church, Longview, Tex., and is president of the board of directors for the IPF. Derrel Thomas, deacon of First Church, Alma, serves as a trustee on the board.

First Church, Concord, held a revival May 31-June 6. Bill Scott of Dallas, Tex., was evangelist. There were four professions of faith, one coming by letter, and 15 other decisions. Bill Williamson is pastor.

First Baptist Church Arkadelphia 1851-1976

The First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia invites Arkansas Baptists to join them in prayer and praise during their 125th anniversary celebration.

**Four Sundays, June 27, July 4, 11, and 18
8:30 & 10:45 a.m., and 7 p.m.**

Mary King, 125th Anniversary Celebration Chairman
Nathan Porter, Pastor

Baptist heritage

by Bernes K. Selph

Baptists have broadened their perspective since the early days of the founding of this nation. In those days the emphasis given preaching and teaching was upon doing right in order to reach heaven and escape hell.

Preaching still has its personal element of individual salvation, but an added emphasis is given to the necessity of Christian truths applied to daily living.

They have sought to implement this through organizational efforts, Bible teaching in Sunday Schools, training organizations, programs of character development with church sponsored recreational and social life. In mission work they have expanded from preaching and teaching to radio and television, education, medicine, agriculture, and to minister to every area which affects modern needs.

And that's how Baptists have grown with their nation these 200 years.

□ O. K. and Marjorie Armstrong, *The Indomitable Baptists*, Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1967, pp. 258-261.

Arkansas youth choirs attend festival

GLORIETA, N.M. — Youth choirs from two Arkansas churches attended the recent Youth Choir Festival at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M.

The churches include First Church, Jacksonville; and Beech Street First Church, Texarkana.

Youth rally set at theme park

Grady Nutt, Christian humorist, and "beautiful downtown Dogpatch, U.S.A." will be the featured attractions for young people who attend the "Young Christians' double day holiday" June 28 and 29.

The Harrison Ministerial Alliance and the theme park are sponsoring the event, which includes a youth rally featuring Grady Nutt, plus the use of the park and rides for the special rate. More information about the event may be obtained from Stephen Spurgin, 603 E. Walters, Harrison, Ark. 72601. Motel information may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 939, Harrison, Ark.

Your state convention at work

Reach Out: A unique strategy of high school evangelism

by Neal Guthrie

Phase 5: Share

The Sharing Ministry: "Joy Explosion" is sharing Christ in an atmosphere and language that young people can understand. The purpose of Joy Explosion is to reap the results of all of the other areas of the Reach Out Strategy.

Joy Explosion proclaims Jesus Christ.



Guthrie

It proclaims this in a way that young people can understand. It proclaims him informally. It proclaims him so that those young people with long hair, dirty jeans and sneakers, or anybody else can know who he is!

Joy Explosion may take many forms:

1. Joy Explosion: weekly evangelistic meetings
2. Joy Explosion: retreats
3. Joy Explosion: evangelistic Bible studies
4. Joy Explosion: evangelistic socials
5. Joy Explosion: youth revivals

The Key to the Sharing Ministry: "Joy Explosion" is that Jesus shares his life with people. "Once again an immense crowd gathered around him on the beach as he was teaching..." (Mark 4:1 TLB)

Joy Explosion seeks to find creative ways to gather Christian and non-Christian young people together to share the good news of Jesus Christ — in a real explosion of joy! Contact Neal Guthrie, Evangelism Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

Nominating Committee and Church Training

Jesus began his ministry by calling out a select group of leaders or potential leaders. He spent much of his ministry directing, teaching and equipping these men for their leadership role. Leadership is the key to building any worthwhile, effective, lasting program. This is certainly true of a church's training program.



Holley

tains some excellent helps for your nominating committee. The book, *Working With Volunteer Leaders in the Church*, by Reginald McDonough, has just been released by Broadman Press and is available from the Baptist Book Store. This is an excellent help for nominating committees, pastors and church staff members, particularly chapter two, "Finding and Enlisting Volunteers." — Robert Holley

Freedoms theme planned for Acteens

During this bicentennial year teenage girls will be considering their liberties while at Acteens Camp at Camp Paron, July 26-31. They will have the liberty to make decisions about many of their activities.

The theme of freedom will be carried throughout the camp as girls look at their own talents and experiences in the light of Bible truths and the lives of outstanding Christian women. Mrs. Ed (Charlene) Smith, missionary to Botswana, and Anne Mosteller, missionary kid from Thailand, will lead mission study. All activities will point toward commitment of liberties and talents to discipleship.

Previously popular camp schedules will be made more popular with more time when girls can choose their own activities and fewer periods of sitting — especially on camp shelter benches.

Swimming, sports, fun times, hiking, art, crafts, music, camp fires, and much more will be included in the list of choices of activities girls can make.

As the pattern of growth continues the upswing, Acteens Camp will not be able to house all the girls who want to attend this year. Girls are urged to get reservations in early. Write WMU, Box 552, Little Rock 72203.



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Active group participation in discussions highlighted Special Ministries Conference. Tommy Bridges, Director, Special Missions Ministries, directed the Special Ministries Conference.



Conference studies volunteers



Charles Hancock, Home Mission Board, leads discussion on "Working With Volunteers."

An invitational Special Missions Ministries Conference was held recently at the Baptist Building, Little Rock. "Working With Volunteers" was the theme of the conference and emphasis was on

enlistment of volunteers.

Program personalities included Charles Hancock, Director of Personnel Development, Home Mission Board, Derrel Watkins, Professor of Social Work, Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and Tommy Bridges, Director of Special Missions Ministries, Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The conference theme was planned to correlate with the current Bold Mission emphasis of the Home Mission Board. In the next three years major effort will be devoted to the enlistment, training and sending of volunteers on various mission projects.

Dr. Hancock noted that he would want volunteers to: (1) know they are people of worth; (2) believe they are responsible and capable; (3) care for people no matter how they look or what they say; (4) be honest and acknowledge the needs of everybody that can be met, and (5) not seek to perpetuate systems or structures that do not meet the needs of the people involved.

Resource materials provided the participants included *This Difficult Business of Helping* by Alan Keith-Lucas, *Volunteers in Christian Social Ministries* by Edward and Judith Freeman, "Creating a Church-Community Ministry," and "Community Weekday Missions."

The conference was a cooperative venture of the Department of Christian Social Ministries, Home Mission Board, and Special Missions Ministries division of the State Missions Department.

For God and country

War Memorial Stadium, July 3, 1976. Goal: 53,000 people.

Our Convention has agreed to ask our people to give — not one holiday weekend, but one day of a holiday weekend for a massive demonstration of our love and loyalty to God and country.



Dorris

This is not asking too much for a "once in a lifetime experience." America can best be called back to God and to prayer in these days of continuing crisis by this statewide Rally than by private and community picnics, fish fries, and other celebrations that go unnoticed beyond their borders.

It is already evident that all types of media, both local and national, are interested in what Baptists of Arkansas have planned in the Life and Liberty Rally on Saturday, July 3. Their interest is not merely in the presence of the prominent national figures who will be on the program, but in the content of the program as well.

Networks of TV and radio will carry accounts of the rally and excerpts of Paul Harvey's patriotic speech and Manuel Scott's evangelistic message. Newspapers will hail the assemblage of so many Baptists and our guests from other denominations. We cannot afford the embarrassment of failure by having less than 50,000 people in the stadium.

People are coming! From all over the state comes the word that many Baptists are "putting first things first" and are willing to undergo the fatigue of travel and the usual July heat in order to be a part of this celebration. Presbyterians and other groups have asked for tickets to promote attendance among their people. Requests have come from Memphis and from southwest Missouri, also.

Word from two Baptist associations is that "every church bus" is scheduled to come, and one spoke of renting additional buses to bring people committed to attendance.

Brethren, let us not have it on our consciences that we half-heartedly promoted attendance, or gave only passing attention to the rally. Let's give it all we've got . . . for God and country . . . one day of a holiday weekend in a whole lifetime! — R. H. Dorris, Director of Missions

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'Using freedom responsibly'

by Charles W. Dewese and

Freedom is not an automatic and inevitable achievement for Americans. Men and women have died in many wars to acquire and preserve freedom for the United States of America.

Colonial America witnessed the beatings of scores of people who endured dehumanizing treatment rather than conform to a state church.

The U.S. provides as many freedoms for its citizens as any country in the world — an affirmative note worth celebrating. Such freedom is not a worldwide reality, with millions of people still struggling for liberty.

Three principles are cited that will, hopefully, help generate wholesome understanding and constructive uses of freedom, followed by several guidelines on dealing creatively with religious liberty and the right to individual interpretation of scripture.

The first principle: "Persistent and sacrificial effort must be employed to gain and retain freedom." Aggressive action has been essential both to the procurement and maintenance of liberty. A word of caution for the future is in order, however. Present freedoms won't remain intact and new freedoms will never come into existence without constant work.

It's imperative that Americans stay on guard. Citizens of tomorrow will live in slavery if citizens of today do not work as earnestly as their ancestors for freedom's sake.

The second principle states, "Freedom is legitimate only when exercised within the context of authority and certain limitations."

The desire for freedom can never become such an obsession that it abandons necessary restrictions. Otherwise, laws are broken, social customs violated and moral codes set aside. Further, factionalism results when the desire for freedom overextends itself.

Individuals, groups and institutions, in this instance, "do their own thing," disharmony erupts, and relationships fracture as aimless freedom searchers cross paths and conflict.

Freedom can never be so free that it exists apart from authority. Typical constraints on freedom include the laws of the land, cultural patterns, institutional requirements and

biblical mandates, among others. Psychologically, physically, morally, spiritually, socially, politically, it is essential that freedom operate within boundaries.

Consider, for example, a recent Tennessee Supreme Court ruling that made it illegal for a church to continue the practice of snake-handling as part of its religious services. The court's belief was that its ruling didn't violate separation of church and state but, rather, was designed to protect the church's members.

The five judges' mandate stressed that even religious liberty must be practiced with certain conditions and restrictions. In this instance, the authority of personal and social health took precedence over the continuing exercise of a dangerous form of freedom.

Further, to become free is to assume responsibility for the rights of others, not only self. For the U.S., this includes the rights of other nations, of minorities; for corporations, the rights of consumers; for individuals, the rights of other individuals.

Principle three declares; "Genuine freedom originates with God and makes sense only if related to the achievement of purpose in life."

God's identification of himself as "... the Lord your God, who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; and I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect." (Lev. 26:13, RSV), makes explicit that liberation for the Israelites evolved directly out of God's initiative. The concept of walking erect suggests this freedom created a conducive environment in which the Israelites could fulfill God's intentions and purposes for them.



American beginnings were saturated with biblical imagery which conveyed that freedom for the new nation was God's gift and that he had a holy calling for the country. The

Child Care

Home alumni come home

The Baptist Children's Home held its first alumni homecoming Saturday, May 8, on the grounds of the Home.

Mrs. Lois Campbell, 78, from Houston, Tex., was among the approximately 170 who attended the event. Mrs. Campbell lived at the Home from 1907-1918. Another old-timer present was Wayne Evans, a Monticello resident, who had lived at ABHC during this time.

Mrs. Campbell flew to Little Rock and then traveled by bus to the Monti-

cello site. She is planning a summer trip to the Holy Land.

As she reminisced about the past, Mrs. Campbell pointed to where some buildings had once stood. She recalled going to school half a day until she completed the eighth grade, which was as high as one could go at the Home. She said that the children's activities were all centered at the Home. She, as other alumni, were especially happy that the children now are involved in the com-

munity activities and that they attend the public school and the town churches.

Mrs. Campbell, as well as the other guests, were free to tour the campus during the morning. Most houseparents prepared refreshments for the guests. One in particular, Mrs. Sue Darwin, of the Senior Boys cottage, had prepared 1,100 cookies and had bought a "Welcome Back Alumni" cake.

After lunch, Johnny Biggs, Executive Director of the Agency, showed a slide presentation of the agency and its pro-

Easy chore' say historians

Ronald Tonks for Baptist Press

former concept frequently became twisted both in the failure to acknowledge God as the source of liberty and in the temptation to insert human ingenuity in God's place.

The latter concept often deteriorated into the belief that America's cause was always God's cause, resulting in misplaced priorities. Some other guidelines to remember and heed in the continuing struggle for religious liberty and freedom are cited:

— Realize the battle to maintain the separation of church and state and religious freedom will be a permanent feature of American life and, therefore, deserves constant support of all who favor it; fulfill the demands and opportunities of religious liberty; acknowledge that disagreement over doctrinal issues always has been and continues to be a legitimate feature of Baptist life; recognize that Baptists are non-creedal; realize that the individuality, background and prejudices of each Baptist are different; remember that every person is created in God's image but God does not expect that all be alike. This means, among other things, that God expects man to be creative. And a crucial kind of creativity is theological reflection. All persons are compelled to explore the vital dimensions of our faith.

The examination of one's origin, reason for being, the basis of his doctrinal stances, and the future are just a few of the timeless considerations of mankind. Baptists would be remiss in discouraging their peers from engaging in the freedom of creative spiritual thought, even if the results of such reflection vary.

A proper appreciation of the worth of fellow Baptists and the value of their ideas is an integral feature of the priesthood of all believers.

— Work graciously but firmly against the efforts of dominant personalities who try to force their interpretations on others. A passive acceptance of the doctrinal pronouncements of a person who appears overly aggressive and far too definitive is a disservice on two counts.

One does disservice to self by being so dependent on the thinking of another that he or she never engages individual intellectual and spiritual capacities in the area of Baptist beliefs.

Second, the person who pretends to have the ultimate answer to every question does disservice to himself or herself in assuming a characteristic reserved for God alone.

One can learn much from fellow Baptists in Sunday School and Training Union classes, in worship services and in other church meetings. But each Baptist must learn the fine art of thinking for self, in depth, seeking the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit for guidance.



A multitude of new insights are available for a responsible encounter with the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and the Baptist heritage. The freedom — to think and interpret — must be guarded by every Baptist.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a four-part series on America and Christianity, adapted from a new book, "Faith, Stars and Stripes," by A. Ronald Tonks and Charles W. Deweese of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission. The material is used with the permission of Broadman Press, Nashville.

gram. This was followed by a question and answer session. A talent show, which included members of the Home and others from the community, was presented later in the afternoon.

An organizational meeting to elect officers to direct the Alumni Board culminated the day's activities. Officers elected were Dub Ripley, President; Ron Greenwich, Vice-President; and Vernice Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer. The Alumni Homecoming is to be an annual event. — Dub Ripley, Activities Director, Arkansas Baptist Home for Children.

The bookshelf

The Hot Pepper Episode and Other Readables, Iris O'Neal Bowen, paperback, available at Baptist Book Store.

Mrs. Bowen, column writer for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* for six years, has compiled a book of her "Woman's viewpoint" columns which appeared in the *Newsmagazine*. They are

light reading, but most have a moral to the story. The cover, which is "hot pepper-eater pink" was drawn by her son, Danny.

Mrs. Bowen is a member of First Church, North Little Rock. Her father was a well-known Arkansas Baptist preacher, W. B. O'Neal.



Southern Baptist Convention, Norfolk, June 15-17

Pastors' Conference outwardly calm, inwardly in turmoil

by Dan Martin

NORFOLK, June 14 — Jerry Vines of Mobile, Ala., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in a meeting that was outwardly calm but inwardly in turmoil.

On the floor of Norfolk Scope here, more than 6,000 pastors listened to sermons and addresses. The mood was subdued, with far fewer amens and less applause than in past years.

On the outside, however, the conference was in turmoil. Both the conference and its current president, Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., have drawn fire from demoninational and secular press.

The primary factors in the controversy have been Rogers' possible election as president of the SBC, the tradi-

tional role of the conference presidency as a springboard to the SBC helm, Rogers' position as a director of the controversial Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, and charges he "loaded" the conference program with people connected with BFMF.

Rogers alluded twice to the controversy in open sessions. In one session, he said: "We have no axe to grind . . . no ulterior motive. We only want to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ."

In an interview following the opening session, Rogers said "many people have prejudged the pastors' conference as a political caucus. That is simply not true.

He also was charged with "loading" the conference with speakers linked to BFMF. He denied the charges, as did

Vines, also in a private interview.

Vines said he is not a member of BFMF, even though he has addressed two national meetings of the group since it was founded in 1973.

Rogers reiterated in the interview he is not a candidate for the SBC presidency, and said he meant what he said in a Memphis pastors' conference when he said he won't accept the position if he is nominated and elected.

However, he did say, in Norfolk, that "God may make me eat my words."

While the controversy swirled in advance of the opening of the SBC Tuesday morning, pastors listened to stirring addresses by a variety of speakers.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, predicted that America will fail to observe its 300th birthday unless its citizens improve their relationship with God.

R. G. Lee of Memphis, 89-year-old retired minister and former SBC president who has preached the pastors' conference annual sermon for the past 10 years urged pastors to take a path of personal piety and purity, hard work, prayer, good stewardship, continuous training, strong preaching and serving as God's advocate in the world.

Former U.S. Congressman Walter Judd asked the pastors to take an interest in their government.

The former missionary to China also urged Baptists to become active in political parties: "You can't do anything by throwing brickbats from without but you can have more influence than you can imagine from within."

Another speaker, Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, told the preachers that people were dying for love.

"He (Jesus) could have gone from village to village with an ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) petition signing all the women up. But he didn't do it. I think the devil will let us do a lot of good things if we will stop doing the best thing (preaching Christ)."

Russell J. Clearman, pastor of Olivet Church, Little Rock, advised fellow ministers that America's defense as a nation rested in the spiritual convictions, character, and commitment of its people, not economic resources, industrial prowess, scientific ingenuity, diplomatic skill or military might.

Elected to serve with Vines are Bailey Smith, pastor of First Church, Del City, Okla, vice president, and Mike Todd, pastor of Bluff Park Church, Birmingham, secretary-treasurer.



SBC PASTORS' CONFERENCE — Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., addressed a crowd of approximately 6,000 persons during the Sunday evening session in the Norfolk Scope Convention Center. (SBC photo by Floyd Craig.)

Weber urges SBC to vote for men of principle

by Roy Jennings

NORFOLK, June 15 — Jaroy Weber, outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Convention, urged Southern Baptist messengers here to go to the polls and vote for men who can lead the nation to follow Christian principles.

"We must be willing to become involved at every level of government by

encouraging some of our most capable businessmen, educators, and religious leaders to run for public office," said Weber, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Tex., in his Presidential address.

"Then, we who are Christians must give ballot support to men who can lead our nation back to those Christian principles expressed in that motto, 'in

God we trust'."

While Weber did not mention a specific presidential candidate, former Georgia governor Jimmy Carter, an active Southern Baptist, is a leading candidate for the Democratic nomination for president.

President Gerald Ford, who has addressed Southern Baptist gatherings before, was scheduled to speak to the messengers Tuesday afternoon on a patriotic theme.

Weber told the messengers that love for their country was a healthy dimension of responsible citizenship and that patriotism was neither out-of-date or inappropriate.

But patriotism involves more than shooting fireworks on the Fourth of July, singing the national anthem and prominently displaying the flag, he said.

"True patriotism demands praise for the country and, if necessary, disagreement with it. Patriotism must be expressed in responsible involvement and in compassion and prayer for a nation."

Using the subject, "Let the Church Stand Up" Weber reminded the Baptists that their forefathers, only a handful in number and a ridiculed people, made a great contribution to the religious liberties the nation enjoys now.

Citing Roger Williams, Isaac Backus, and John Leland by name, Weber lauded the struggles of early Baptist leaders for the adoption of the First Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing religious liberty for all.

Weber also praised Southern Baptists for their growth in recent years as a denomination to almost 13 million members in almost 35,000 churches in 50 states.

The SBC president attributed the growth to faithfulness of Southern Baptists to the Bible, an emphasis upon the joy of the Spirit-filled life, better training methods in evangelism and a bold missions emphasis.

As to the future, Weber recommended that Southern Baptists "remain on a compass heading of evangelism and missions.

"This is a time of world hunger, inflation, credibility gaps, loose morals, bad government, divorce, and drunkenness, but our greatest problems are spiritual and our greatest contributions can be through the church presenting Christ as the answer and solution to all man's needs.

"We must not be a denomination running around treating superficial conditions when the real need is for

Ford urges restoration of personal integrity

by Stan Hasteley

NORFOLK, June 15 — President Gerald Ford told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here that Americans cannot take pride in their government until personal integrity is restored in public officials.

In thinly-veiled references to the resignation of former President Nixon and to the current sex scandals in Congress, Ford declared that "the American people, particularly our young people, cannot be expected to take pride — or even to participate — in a system of government that is defiled and dishonored — whether in the White House or in the halls of Congress."

Ford, who was interrupted by applause 16 times during a 15-minute address to the audience of 10,500 messengers in Norfolk's Scope, drew his longest applause when he challenged Southern Baptists to avoid "situation ethics" and adopt instead the view that "there is a difference" between right and wrong.

Besides the 10,500 in the main, another 2,500 viewed the president via closed circuit TV in Scope's Chrysler Hall.

Ford's appearance here was the first for an incumbent President in the 131-year history of the SBC. It came at a time when a prominent Southern Baptist layman, Jimmy Carter, is practically assured of being the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

In his introductory remarks, the President took note of the fact that the last time he spoke to a Southern Baptist audience he was introduced by the former Georgia governor. That was two years ago in Dallas at a breakfast sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, a body which Carter currently serves as a director.

Ford said that on that occasion Carter had been "very considerate, very generous in his remarks, and very friendly. Today," he went on, "I would like to return that compliment."

The President also paid tribute to Baptists' missionary spirit, devotion to the Bible, and efforts in the fields of health and education.

At the same time he noted that his oldest son, Mike, currently a divinity student at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Massachusetts, was graduated four years ago from Wake Forest University, a Baptist school in North Carolina.

The President, an Episcopalian, acknowledged that Baptists have "jealously guarded" separation of church and state, but said nevertheless that "private morality and public service can — and must — go hand in hand."

Ford cited the contributions of Baptists in the life of the nation, noting in particular Roger Williams, who founded the colony of Rhode Island and helped form the first Baptist congregation in America.

Two more recent Southern Baptists were also mentioned by Ford. Billy Graham was called "one of today's most influential Christian evangelists and one of the most admired men of our times." Ford characterized Books Hays, former SBC president and former congressman from Arkansas, as "a man of courage and conviction, a man of towering moral strength."

The presidential visit was marred by stringent security measures required by the Secret Service and by the fact that thousands of Southern Baptists were unable to get inside the Norfolk Scope. Only the first 10,500 registered messengers were allowed access to the hall during both morning and afternoon sessions Tuesday because of limited seating capacity.

Just minutes before Ford's arrival, convention president Jaroy Weber, of Lubbock, Tex., drew applause from the messengers when he assured them things would return to normal as soon as the President departed.

open heart surgery," he added.

Another contribution Southern Baptists can make is to take a stand for stronger Christian homes, President Weber said. He amplified his suggestion this way:

"The home must stand to speak of the biblical principles governing marriage, family, and sex . . . (It) must be taught by the example of parents. Our Baptist churches must speak to the spiritual needs of the home. The home must be penetrated with Christian influence by the church.

"We have been content too long with getting a family into a church building on Sunday with too little concern in getting the powerful presence of God into the home and life of the family members every day of the week.

"Too many of us practice a form of religion on Sunday and leave every vestige of worship out of our lives the rest of the week."

Weber also advised Southern Baptists to give more attention to the problem of divorce and teenage drinking.

"Faithful and obedient churches cannot stand by irresponsibly to leave these crying evils unchecked," he said.

Weber concluded his presidential address with a plea for Baptists to give their best to church and state, to God and humanity, requesting that as a demonstration of this commitment, the messengers sing together the patriotic melody, "God Bless America."

Women stress mission advance, Christian principles in nation

by Theo Sommerkamp

NORFOLK, June 15 — Missionary advance and the application of Christian principles in government depend to a large degree on women, speakers at the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Southern Baptist Convention declared here.

WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham described the role of women in missions advance.

Edward E. Plowman of Washington, news editor of *Christianity Today*, presented them with information about the national political scene.

Following Plowman's address, a list of senators and congressmen was circulated among the 2,500 persons at the WMU convention. Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., WMU president, urged them to write legislators to register their opinions on vital issues.

Miss Weatherford said men declined the leadership role of the modern missionary movement in its beginning days. "The attitude of men seemed to be, 'Lord, here am I, send my sister,'" she said. As a result, women stepped into leadership.

But Miss Weatherford reminded the WMU conclave "the task of missions is so big its success depends upon the en-

tire denomination" and not on women alone.

Plowman also told the women's organization Christians are having a permeating influence in government, in spite of Watergate and other negative news from the Capital.

Asking women not to be pessimistic about recent scandals making news in Washington, Plowman expressed optimism "God can get at people when they are at their lowest points."

The WMU executive director (chief administrative officer) cited as encouraging the growth evident in membership, circulation of WMU publications, attendance at national meetings, and participation in young women's groups.

But she reminded them that WMU is not an organization devoted to fostering women's rights. Rather, "it is a missionary organization with woman appeal. Remembering missions will give the depth of meaning and purpose that today's Christian woman seeks."

The women received their customary "tour" of mission fields around the nation and world through messages brought to them by foreign and home missionaries appointed by SBC.

The presence of God in war-torn countries was emphasized by Norman Lytle of Jerusalem, a Southern Baptist missionary to Israel. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Burnes, Southern Baptist missionaries to Greece, told women how they have maintained Christian family unity under pressures.

Baker J. Cauthen of Richmond, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, stressed the missionary zeal burning throughout the world. The problems of Baptists in communist countries were cited by C. Ronald Goulding of London, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

Paul M. Stevens of Ft. Worth, presi-



BICENTENNIAL SALUTE — "The Fabric of Freedom," a Bicentennial musical produced by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was performed by a HMB singing team during Kaleidoscope '76 at the Virginia Beach Dome for some 800 registrants and their families. (SBC photo by Warren Johnson.)



Southern Baptist Convention, Norfolk, June 15-17

dent of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, pointed out how radio and TV are used to tell all the world the message of Christ.

The religious consciousness that has been strong in American life was recalled by Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, executive director of the SBC Home Mission Board.

Rutledge, soon to retire from his post, was presented with a painting of Texas blue-bonnets as an official retirement gift from Woman's Missionary Union.

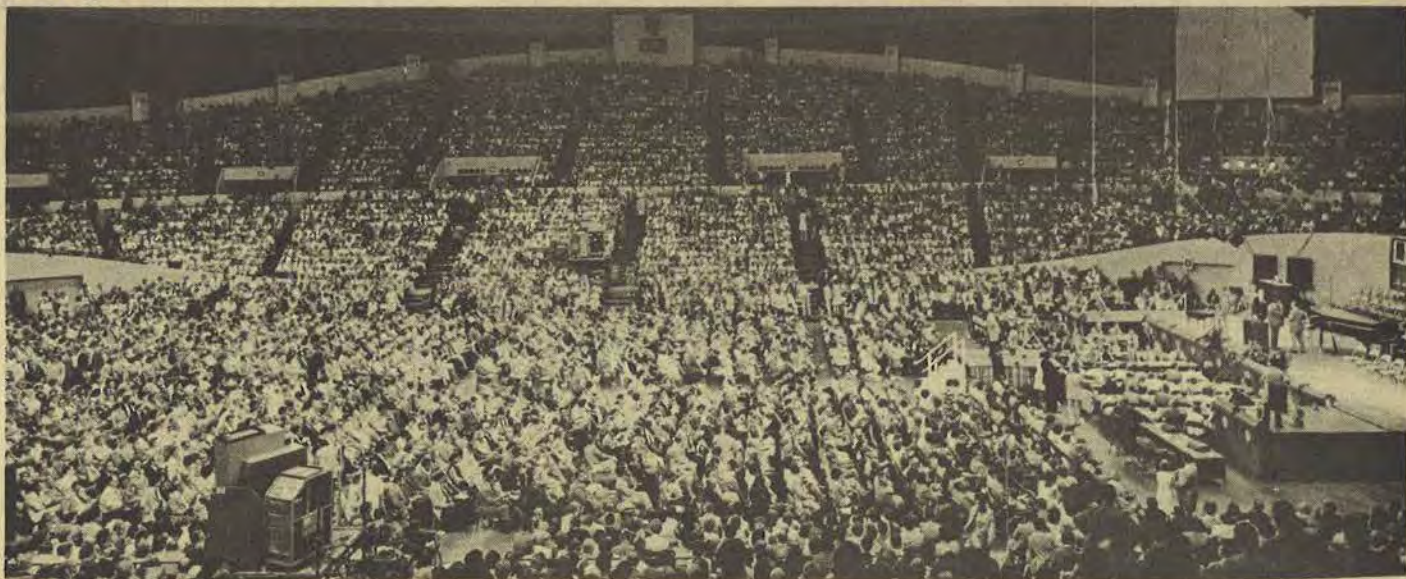
A former president of WMU, Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Tex., said the challenge of the missionary union is the legacy of the future. The spirit of missions must be preserved for the youth of today, she declared. Mrs. Gregory was re-elected president of the WMU, and Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky., was given another term as recording secretary.



Many of the record 18,670 registered messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention wait for the session to begin in Norfolk's Scope Convention Center.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS — President Gerald R. Ford addressed the Tuesday afternoon, June 15, session of the Southern Baptist Convention, becoming the first incumbent president to speak to that body. (SBC photo by Floyd Craig)

NEW SBC OFFICERS — New Southern Baptist Convention officers selected during the annual meeting in Norfolk, Va., are (l to r) James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, president; Mrs. Carl Bates of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., second vice-president; and Dotson Nelson, pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., first vice-president. (SBC photo by Warren Johnson)





Anita Bryant



Paul Harvey



Manuel Scott



Dave Woodman

- ⑤ Air National Guard flyover
- ⑤ Color guard
- ⑤ National Anthem
- ⑤ Pledge of Allegiance
- ⑤ Band concert
- ⑤ Congregational singing
- ⑤ 2000-voice choir
- ⑤ Evangelistic preaching
- ⑤ Patriotic message



'76 Life and Liberty Campaign

BICENTENNIAL RALLY

JULY 3

War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.

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AN AFTERNOON TO RELAX — Participants in Kaleidoscope '76, a national meeting for young adult women sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, took an afternoon off from their meetings to attend a fish fry. (SBC photo by Warren Johnson)



KALEIDOSCOPE PERSONALITIES — Taking a moment to relax during discussion of the Kaleidoscope '76 program are Carolyn Weatherford (l), executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and Jane Hix, consultant for Baptist Young Women and Kaleidoscope Coordinator.



NOT A GOOD PREACHER'S HUSBAND — When people asked Ann Daniel when she was a seminary student why a nice girl like her hadn't married, she responded with a twinkle, "I haven't found anyone who would make a good 'preacher's' husband." Miss Daniel, a home missionary associate working as a social worker at Sellars Baby Home and Adoption Center, New Orleans, La., spoke to the 800 participants of Kaleidoscope '76 on ministering as a single woman. Kaleidoscope '76 was the first national meeting for Baptist Young Women, the Woman's Missionary Organization for women ages 18-29. SBC photo by Warren Johnson.

A kaleidoscope for Baptist Young Women

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The church and civil authorities

June 27, 1976

Romans 13:1-10

We live in a day when there is a breakdown in respect for authority. The beginning of it all goes back to the home. It is followed in the schools, streets, and government, because of the breakdown in home and church.

In our lesson today, we will recognize at first glance these major obligations for which we as Christians are responsible.

(1) The obligation to the Lord ... "every soul ..." (1:1)

(2) The obligation to authorities in a direct manner ... Give unto "tribute to whom tribute ... honour to whom honour." (13:7)

(3) The obligation to those we contact day by day. "Owe no man anything, but to love one another ..." (v. 8)

The church at the time of this scripture was undoubtedly made up to a large extent of Jewish members. The Jews had a particular feeling when it came to bending their knee to a Gentile ruler. Notice the account in Mark, of Jesus being questioned by Jewish leaders concerning his attitude toward the Roman government. The Pharisees declared it was wrong to acknowledge a Gentile ruler; the Herodians, being politicous, thought the best policy was to acknowledge Caesar and Herod. The same question was in the minds of the early church.

If you look at Romans, the twelfth chapter is the rule for those who are Christians, those who belong to the church. But the state is different. The state is a divine institution with its own definite duties. It is not our business as a church to see that the world is not plunged into lawlessness, but it is easy for us to think this.

We see in these verses a simple outline. Verse one presents the "higher powers" which can be summed up in one word ... state. Verse eight proposes another idea, "Owe no man anything, save to love one another," the citizens of the state. Verse 11 points to "the day," the day of the Lord's coming.

The Christian's duty to the state (vv 1-7), the Christian's duty to the citizens of the state (vv 8-10), the Christian's duty to himself (v 11).

Verse 1, subjection; verse 8, love; verse 11, wakefulness.



Holston

The Christian's duty to the state (Rom. 13:1-7)

As a church we must teach the truths that Romans 13 bears forth.

I. The scope of the subjection — "Let every soul be subject to higher power." Notice this is not every church member, but every soul. This teaches us it is not just a spiritual thing. But as Christians, we ought to be even more so committed to obedience of the authorities.

A. There is no power but of God. There is no governmental authority except through God. It is all under the power and direction of God.

B. The powers that be are ordained of God.

C. They that resist the power, resisteth God, and shall come to judgment. God will take a Christian to task if he rebels against authorities.

D. The government is a terror to evil.

E. The officer of the state for he is a minister of God. The pastor ministers in the spiritual; the state ministers in the temporal or the material sphere. The governments and officers are God's ministers, God's provision even in a wicked world. No ruler exercises control unless God permits. Under normal circumstances, the Christian is to be obedient to the law of the land, only unless he is called upon to violate other rules laid down in God's Word.

F. In verse five, the external pressure to obey is applied, but for a Christian, there is a greater, the internal one, "conscience sake." (The limit comes in obedience when it violates other areas of definite commands.)

G. In verse six, we are to pay "tribute" (taxes), personal and property taxes. "Custom" means the tax that is put on imports and exports. "Fear to whom fear", this is our attitude toward officials. Fear means respect them. "Honour to whom honour," it is never right for a Christian to speak in a disrespectful way about any officer of the state.

II. The subject of the subjection — obedience. It is the church's business, the Christian's business, to be the salt of the earth in everything. Since as Christians we know God, we must obey.

The Christian's duty to the citizens of the state (Rom. 13:8-10)

Love is the greatest debt we owe. (v. 8) When you have paid all your other

debts, taxes, customs, reverence, and whatever else you may owe, there will still be one debt unpaid, the universal debt of love. Love must remain the root and spring of all actions; no other law is needed. I Corinthians 13 says unless we have love, all the other things we have are nothing. The more you pay the debt of love, you will find the more you owe. In verse eight some people interpret it that you are not to borrow money, and this may be true. Perhaps if you did not take it so strictly, look at it in this sense. We ought to owe nothing that we cannot pay upon demand. A man should never assume an obligation that he cannot be reasonably sure he can pay, but you will always be in debt to love for one another.

When love operates, other sins will be cared for. (v. 9) When you love, you will not commit adultery, kill, steal, bear false witness nor covet. For you will love your neighbor as yourself.

Love worketh no evil to his neighbor, for it is the fulfilling of the law. This love toward the "neighbor" in the state is any man who exists along with us as citizens of the state.

The Christian's duty to himself (Rom. 13:11)

Know the "times" or "season." "Awake" for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Be wakeful, be watchful. Do all these commands in chapter 13 while it is day, "The night cometh when no man can work."

Oh Church, rise up to teach and lead our people, God's plan for our day.

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Freedom to love and help

June 27, 1976

Galatians 6:1-10; 14-18

The story is told of a preacher named John Bradford who lived in Great Britain, and who preached during the reign of Mary Tudor. One day as he was preaching in an outdoors area to a group of people, a prisoner was led past the group with a rope around his neck on his way to the gallows to be hanged. Bradford stopped his preaching, eyed the poor fellow as he passed by, and said, "My brethren, there but for the grace of God go I."



Lineberger

This statement could be made for many people. The reason we are not passing that way is not because we are better than others. It is simply because of God's grace and mercy toward us and our response to Him.

Paul brings the thought to our attention that because of God's grace to us we are free to extend our love and help unselfishly to other people. Paul says that we are free to love and help in the right spirit (Gal. 6:1 and 3; 14-15), we are free to love and help sacrificially (Gal. 6:2-3; 6), and we are free to love and help tirelessly. (Gal. 6:6-10)

Free to love and help in the right spirit (Gal. 6:1 and 3; 14-15)

Paul begins chapter six by calling attention to the fact that if a brother is overtaken, "to surprise or detect," in a fault, "a slip or lapse rather than a willful sin," then the believer should restore him in the right spirit. The word "restore" is used in Matthew 4:21, of mending nets. The nets were mended so that they could be made useful for further service. We are to restore or help mend our fellows in such a way that they are not destroyed, but are strengthened for further service to God. The bitter, vindictive spirit used by some Christians is more destructive than constructive.

Paul reminds the believers that no person is beyond a lapse into sin as long as they are in the human body. The words, "considering thyself," mean to keep an eye on yourself much like the runner described in II Corinthians 4:18 kept his eye on the goal. When you are constantly keeping an eye on your

brother looking for an opening to belt him, you are leaving yourself wide open for Satan. Being pre-occupied with the negative will not help your spirit to be positive.

Believers are reminded again in verse three that we deceive ourselves if we begin to think our behavior causes us to rate righteousness in God's sight. This verse could be freely rendered, "thinks himself a big number, when he is zero, he leads his own mind astray." Jesus reminds us in Matthew 7:1-5, that we should examine our own lives more closely than we do the lives of others. No man can escape his own spiritual burden or cargo. (Gal. 6:5)

We are reminded that God's grace in the cross of Jesus is the only glory we possess as believers. (Gal. 6:14)

Free to love and help sacrificially (Gal. 6:2-3; 6)

Being free to love and to help in restoration is a sacrificial work that a believer should not go into expecting to gain an advantage. It is the kind of spiritual endeavor that can cost a lot of time, prayer, and concern.

In verse 2, we are told to "bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." The word "bear" is the same word used by John in John 19:17, to describe Jesus carrying the cross. It is not an easy, and sometimes, it is not a pleasant task.

A "burden" in this instance means "a weight." When a person's load is about to press him to the earth, then we are to join in and help him carry it. The weight represents toil, anxiety, and responsibility that has been pressing him down now being shared by another because of the love of Christ.

A believer is free to express his love in this manner because Christ has borne the believer's burden already. The believer "fulfills the law of Christ," which is the law of love, by getting under the load with someone else.

There is more to the Christian life, as has been so appropriately expressed in a song. However, the more for many believers has meant more time spent upon themselves rather than upon others. When Christ is on the throne of the believer's life, there will be more time

for restoration and more time for burden-bearing.

Free to love and help tirelessly (Gal. 6:6-10)

One of our nation's great basketball coaches had a slogan attached to the wall of his player's dressing room which read, "He who perseveres will win." Many times I've heard one of our foremost football coaches say at the half-time of a ballgame, "Let's just stick to our knitting," by which, of course, he simply meant to not get disturbed but to patiently continue to do what the players had been taught. Paul expresses this thought in these verses as pertaining to the maintenance of the Christian life.

The believer must remember as he perseveres that God is aware of all that takes place. (Gal. 6:7-8) It all registers with him, and the one who sees every sparrow fall will not forget one of these for whom His Son died.

In verse nine the believer is urged not to be discouraged with doing good, and not to "faint," or "give up" through discouragement or loss of spirit. We are freed from the success syndrome of life. As long as we are doing what God has commissioned us to do, he takes care of the won-loss column.

The believer is not only urged to not give up, he is urged to do more in the face of difficulty. (Gal. 6:10) "Do good at every opportunity," says Paul, and especially to your fellow believers.

The marvelous grace of God frees the believer to love and help in the right spirit, to love and to help sacrificially, and to love and to help tirelessly.

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Louisiana, Alabama men help rebuild Guatemala

SAN RAYMUNDO, Guatemala (BP) — Louisiana Baptist men were the first to completely rebuild a Guatemalan Baptist Church building since the February earthquake shook this Central American nation, claiming more than 20,000 lives.

A crew from Alabama also contributed recently in the partial construction of a building in San Andres Itzapa, according to A. Clark Scanlon, Southern Baptist missionary field representative for Middle America and the Caribbean.

Other state crews have torn down dangerously cracked and falling walls in preparation for the new buildings.

A crew from Arkansas was scheduled to be in Guatemala in late April and early May. Teams from Georgia, California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Oklahoma will follow them in sequence. Besides the Alabama and Louisiana crews, teams from Texas and Illinois have also helped in the reconstruction efforts.

"In the mountain town of San Raymundo, the Louisiana men pitched tents, ate local food, and worked beside members of the local church in the rebuilding of the church building," said Scanlon. "At night, they attended worship services in whatever part of the building they had constructed that day."

During the second week of their stay, the team had run out of materials and decided to take the day off in nearby Guatemala City.

According to Scanlon, some planned to fix a pump at the Baptist seminary, others planned to help a Southern Baptist missionary fix an ailing washing machine and another group planned to shop for some of Guatemala's famed woven goods.

"However, word came that the city had condemned the front wall of a home where a young woman and her mother lived," Scanlon explained. "The family had three days to tear it down."

Led by Robert Shivers, an engineer, and John Winters, associate Brother-

hood director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the volunteers gave up the day off to do "the act of kindness."

At the end of their two-week stay, the team attended the dedication service of the new church building, according to Harry E. Byrd, Southern Baptist missionary. Before the service started the pastor's step mother cried with joy saying, "I was afraid we would never have another building."

"Separated by language, economic status and culture, there was a love between work crew and Guatemalans which clearly reflected the power of Christ."

According to Scanlon, the day the crew left, the San Raymundo townspeople, who seldom go to Guatemala City, were at the city airport to bid them good-bye.

The Alabama crew worked in San Andres Itzapa but due to lack of materials could not complete the church building they started, Byrd said.

A smile or two

The minister was renowned for his sermons, not only for their quality but their length. Every one lasted fifteen minutes — no longer, no shorter.

But on this Sunday his sermon ran over a half-hour. His wife asked him later what happened.

"My secret device backfired," said the pastor.

"Secret device?"

"Yes, I always slide a cough drop under my tongue when I start the sermon," he explained. "It melts in exactly fifteen minutes, telling me it's time to stop."

"Well, what happened this morning?"

"Somehow," sighed the minister, "this morning's cough drop turned out to be a suspender button!" — *Funny Funny World*.

□

An anxious mother consulted with a psychiatrist about her son, who spent much time making mud pies and then eating them.

"That's not so uncommon," the doctor replied. "Lots of boys make mud pies and eat them."

"Well, I think it's odd. And so does my daughter-in-law!" — *Wall Street Journal*.

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Attendance report

June 13, 1976

	Sunday School	Ch. Trng.	Ch. Adns.
Church			
Alexander, First	90	40	1
Alpena, First	60	21	
Bentonville, Central Avenue	81	31	
Berryville			
First	156	60	3
Freeman Heights	133	44	9
Rock Springs	60	50	
Booneville			
First	275	215	3
South Side	087	86	
Cabot, First	393	96	
Caledonia	34	28	
Camden, Cullendale	487	104	
Cash, First	123	43	
Charleston, First	175	33	1
Concord, First	68	29	
Conway, Second	302		2
Crossett, Mt. Olive	345	159	
Damascus, South Side	122	59	
El Dorado, West Side	360	354	
Elkins, First	95		
Forrest City, First	552	64	
Ft. Smith			
East Side	277	76	7
Grand Avenue	828	173	
Mission	11		
Haven Heights	230	130	5
Temple	131	59	
Trinity	174	41	1
Fouke, First	93	33	
Gentry	180	66	
Grandview	52	30	
Green Forest, First	198	52	
Greenwood, First	313	138	3
Hampton, First	145	71	2
Hardy, First	131	58	1
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	322	123	1
Woodland Heights	80	53	
Hatfield, First	61	38	
Hope			
Calvary	149	73	
First	401	78	4
Hot Springs			
Memorial	100	48	
Park Place	302	73	2
Hughes, First	165		
Jacksonville			
Bayou Meto	178	96	2
First	399	76	2
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	121	83	1
Nettleton	266	77	1
Kingston, First	64	48	
Lavaca, First	333	95	
Little Rock			
Cross Road	119		1
Crystal Hill	175	108	
Gravel Ridge	179	67	
Life Line	510	104	
Woodlawn	113	41	
Magnolia, Central	592	226	
Monticello, Second	244	68	2
Mulberry, First	161	86	
Murfreesboro, First	119	40	
North Little Rock			
Calvary	333	100	2
Indian Hills	227	101	8
Levy	412	72	10
Park Hill	737	159	2
Paragould			
Calvary	203	132	
East Side	237	80	3
First	428	84	1
West View	164	87	2
Paris, First	369	101	8
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	145	50	
East Side	144	70	
First	644	81	2
Lee Memorial	169	120	
South Side	587	88	3
Tucker	23		
Oppelo	22	12	
Sulphur Spring	150	73	
Watson Chapel	330	74	
Rogers, Immanuel	456	77	
Russellville			
First	451		
Kelley Heights	43		1
Second	136	69	
Springdale			
Berry Street	84	25	
Caudle Avenue	158	61	3
Elmdale	259	64	
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	145	67	1
Vandervoort	85	41	
West Helena Church	246	73	
Wooster	98	64	
Wynne, Harris Chapel	85	72	

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SBC scenes

OLD GLORY — A crowd which swelled to 5,000 observed the raising of 15 historic flags by Marine women, WAVES, and members of Acteens, the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union organization for teenage girls. The observance was a part of the annual WMU meeting in Norfolk, Va. (SBC photo by J. C. Durham)



SBC PAGE — Royal Ambassador Gary Corker, 16, of Dumas, Ark., served as an official page to the annual business session of the Southern Baptist Convention. Corker, above left, receives his assignment from Mike Davis, SBC page coordinator and editor of Pioneer Royal Ambassador materials for the SBC Brotherhood Commission. He was one of 15 pages selected from outstanding Royal Ambassadors across the nation.

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PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS — New officers of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference are (l to r) Mike Todd, pastor of Bluff Park Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., treasurer; Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., president; and Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., vice president. Election of the officers was conducted during the organization's annual meeting in Norfolk, Va., June 14. (SBC photo by Warren Johnson)

