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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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February 3, 1983

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Observe Race Relations Sunday, February 13, 1983

February 3, 1983

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



There is no shortage of ways by which people treat one another. On occasion we treat each other with impatience, with hostility, and with insensitivity. Frequently, we manage to do better and to relate in a way that is positive and redemptive.

Christians, however, do not always act in concert with what Paul describes as "a more excellent way." Most people do not choose to be unloving in dealing with others.

"This is my commandment that you love one another..." (John 5:12). God is no respecter of persons and he does not limit this love to "my kind of folk."

A God who loves all people everywhere cannot be represented by people who don't.

It is right that we work and pray for this "more excellent way." Lord, let us not see a fellow traveler in distress and pass by on the other side. Where our deed can make life better for another, enable us to do it. Where our word can cheer or lift, cause us to speak it. Where our prayer can advance your kingdom, dear Lord awaken and energize that prayer. — W. David Lockard

Discipleship, ethics seminar set

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A Christian Life Commission national seminar designed to help Southern Baptists deal with the ethical dimensions of Christian discipleship has been set for March 21-23 in Louisville, Ky.

The seminar on "Discipleship and Ethics" supports a three-year convention-wide Bold Mission Thrust program emphasis on Developing Believers.

William Hendricks, professor of theology and philosophy of religion at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in San Francisco, will deliver the keynote address at the annual seminar. Robert H. Schuller, founder and senior minister of the Crystal Cathedral of Garden Grove, Calif., will deliver two addresses on the concept of personhood in the Bible as this concept relates to discipleship.

Other speakers include Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., who will relate the social imperatives of the gospel to Christian discipleship, and Richard Foster, popular author and assistant professor of theology at Friends University in Wichita, Kans., who will discuss biblical criteria for Christian lifestyles and values.

Arthur Simon, founder and executive director of Bread for the World, a world hunger education and advocacy organization, will make specific proposals for Christians to use in dealing with the problem of world hunger.

Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners*, a magazine of Christian opinion, and editor of *Waging Peace* and author of *Agenda for Biblical Peacemaking*, will speak on peace with justice.

Charles R. Swindoll, senior pastor of the First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, Calif., will speak on Christian servanthood. Swindoll's books, *Improving Your Serve* and *Strengthening Your Grip*, are currently number one and two on the Christian Bestsellers list.

Additional speakers are: Eleanor Nutt who is a speaker, writer, and active mem-

ber of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.; Don Shriver, who is a Presbyterian minister from North Carolina now serving as president of Union Theological Seminary, and Gladys Lewis who has served as a Southern Baptist missionary to Paraguay and who is now an involved Southern Baptist lay person living in Oklahoma. All of them will deal with the ethical dimensions of discipleship.

"This seminar is designed to help Christians become disciples who act in clear and courageous obedience to their Lord," said W. David Lockard, director of organization for the Commission and seminar director. "The seminar theme of 'Discipleship and Ethics' is timely and desperately needed to provide the hope of the gospel in a world of hunger, violence, war, and moral decay."

Additional information on the 1983 seminar to be held at the Galt House in Louisville may be obtained from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

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Next month in Arkansas update

March 18-19 are the dates for the **Volunteer/part-time Music Leader Workshop** at Camp Paron, which was listed in the Jan. 27 issue of ABN as scheduled for February.

February 19 is the date for the **State Youth Choir Festival**, previously listed for March. Junior High choirs will meet at Life Line Church in Little Rock and Senior High choirs will convene at Geyer Springs First Church, also in Little Rock.

In this issue

8-9 Evangelism conference

Over 1,300 people attended the annual state evangelism conference held this year at Geyer Springs church. A summary of actions, aims and messages is contained in a two page spread.

13 Resolutions committee

In what was termed a "team effort" Southern Baptist Convention president James T. Draper has announced the resolutions committee for the 1983 meeting of the SBC in Pittsburgh.

New writer begins 'lessons for living'

Leroy A. Sisk, Director of Chaplaincy Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, begins this week writing "lessons for living", based on the International Bible Lesson.

Sisk, a North Carolina native, served with the U.S. Army for 20 years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and has been pastor of churches in North Carolina and Texas. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth. Sisk also has received training in counseling and clinical pastoral ministry and has attended U.S. Army chaplaincy school in New York.

He retired from the Army in 1979 and became Arkansas' director for chaplaincy ministries.

Sisk is married to the former Nancy Harper and they are the parents of four children.



Sisk



Fortunately the people who collect litter and trash are gaining more status. It is certain they deserve it as they are hard working people who perform a useful service. Their improved status is long overdue. Tragically, however, the collectors of verbal garbage are usually accorded a higher status than they deserve. To solve this problem Christians need to refrain from gossiping and disseminating garbage.

None of us would think of picking up common garbage and recycling it through our bodies as food. Nor do we keep it in our houses for long periods of time. We keep it in garbage bags until it can be picked up and dumped into the garbage pit. With regular household garbage there is no mistaken identity. We recognize it for what it is and treat it accordingly.

Yet good people hear verbal garbage and often pass it on for something reliable and respectable. The question arises, "how do we determine what is authentic truth from verbal garbage?" Obviously it is not always easy to tell the difference. Some of the following guidelines may be useful in separating verbal garbage from the truth.

First, "scoop" type information should always be treated suspect until it is confirmed. The news media often obtains information before it is generally known, but a good reporter makes every effort to authenticate his information prior to dissemination.

Second, one may be able to determine verbal garbage by asking, "why is this information being shared? Is the individual who is giving this information a friend or foe of the person he is talking about?" It is, of course, as difficult to discern motives as it is to detect verbal gossip, but there are cases in which the intentions are rather obvious.

All of us collect more good things about our friends than we do about those who are our enemies. Bad stories often can be tracked back to unhappy experiences which have left emotional scars. It also is obvious, that we are more eager to believe and to tell damaging things about people whom we already dislike.

Finally, a way to detect a verbal garbage collector is to count the number of times he passed on "dirt" regarding others and the number of people he knows unkind things about.

The Bible has a great deal to say about the sin of judging others. James, for example, warns, "Speak not evil of one of another . . ." (James 4:11). The verb "to speak evil" usually means to speak evil of someone in that person's absence, to criticize, to insult, to slander someone when he is not there to defend himself. This sin is condemned throughout the Bible.

Actually, when one is speaking evil of another he is breaching the royal law of loving one's neighbor as oneself. Obviously a man cannot love his neighbor as himself and speak evil about him.

When we speak evil of another we are infringing on the prerogative of God. The Bible is clear that no human being has the right to judge another. The right of judgment belongs to God and God alone.

One of the tragedies of the dissemination of garbage is that its damage can seldom be recalled. Once a false impression has been planted in the minds of others, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to repair the damage.

The dissemination of garbage is one of the worst sins that beset Christians. Devout Christians are not given to violence and would say that they wished to harm no one. But, almost without thinking, an individual can pass on verbal garbage which can destroy the usefulness of another. This pitfall becomes even more likely when individuals are involved in disagreement or debate.

Verbal garbage may be no more than a rumor, partial truth, inference, or implication, or it may be truth that puts someone in a bad light. Whatever it is, when we receive it and pass it on, we should consider why we are doing it. We should ask, are we doing this to help or to hurt?

Most of us have heard repeatedly the old adage, "if you can't say something good about a person, don't say anything." It is very difficult to improve upon this advice.

All of us would do well to remember and ponder the words of Jesus as he said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." (Matt. 7:1-2).

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

Buying the button and claiming the coat

Two private colleges were hauled into court recently and, in separate federal cases, judges were asked to decide whether the government can rightfully "buy the button and claim the whole coat." A U.S. court ruled last summer that Grove City College in New Jersey may be required to prove they are not discriminating on the basis of sex in any aspect of their entire college, even though the institution receives no federal support except through student aid. Although the language of the law limits the jurisdiction of the U.S. Education Department to "any education program or activity receiving financial assistance," the court ruled that the entire college was a "program" and that, in effect, buying the button paves the way for designing the entire coat. Grove City College has appealed this decision to the Supreme Court.

More recently a different federal court has ruled more favorably to Hillsdale College in Michigan. It caught my attention in part because Ouachita Baptist University

came very close to playing Hillsdale in the NAIA National Football Play-offs in December, but the toss of the coin sent our Tigers to Oklahoma. The news story also caught my attention because this time the judges, by a vote of 2-to-1, said that buying the button allows the government to claim only the button. That's pretty radical language for federal judges in this day and time, and only time will tell whether the U.S. Supreme Court will uphold it. They said Hillsdale College cannot be required by the U.S. Education Department to prove it is nondiscriminatory in all aspects of the college, simply because students who attend receive federal assistance. The court said that "only the student loan and grant program is subject to Title IX regulation." The differences in the two decisions affecting Grove City College and Hillsdale College almost guarantee that the Supreme Court will have to decide the issues in these cases.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this controversy. Even for

those people who do not fear federal regulation of our colleges and universities, there is the serious question of whether we should allow government to regulate without paying the full cost of compliance with their regulations. For those colleges who have religious purposes and take them seriously, the growing governmental restraints on religious freedom in the field of education make this whole question a matter of urgent concern. The implications of this issue for the future of free enterprise in business and society are obvious. Legislators, political leaders, and lawyers are well aware that this controversy could have a powerful impact on the future direction of constitutional law in the United States.

Personally, I am beginning to doubt the wisdom even of selling a button to the government. Buttons and coats have a way of going together.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.



Woman's viewpoint

Henri E. Walker

Panic time?

I forgot the words! Right in the middle of the second verse of my solo, I forgot the words! I had no words in front of me, so I couldn't even look down to see what I sing next. Panic time!

Of course, for any sensible person it would have been a time of panic, and I do consider myself a sensible person. And yet, my nerves weren't ruffled. For nine whole measures I stood silently in front of 150 people with the organ softly playing while I should have been singing, and I wasn't even nervous.

Years ago I would have rushed away in tears. I probably never would have sung a solo again. But this time was different. I remained calm. I didn't know the words to sing, but it didn't bother me. Why not?

Why was this time so different? Why didn't I get embarrassed? How could I stand up there in front of all those people and not be concerned about making a fool of myself? Because I quickly took my mind off myself and that roomful of people and turned it toward God.

The words of Paul flashed through my

mind: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything . . . let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

I closed my eyes for a few seconds and prayed, "Dear Jesus, keep my eyes on you." Immediately I felt a surge of warmth and peace flowing through me. I opened my eyes and then heard the organist softly singing the words to my solo.

The time was right. I didn't have all the words formed in my mind, but I had Jesus in my heart. And I trusted God to use me. I began singing again, this time with more of God's power.

I took my eyes off the problem and put them on the one who can solve all problems. When I finished the solo, I felt a renewed love for God and a deep thankfulness for his keeping me in that "peace which passeth all understanding."

A homemaker, Henri E. Walker is the wife of First Church, Prescott, pastor Drew Walker. She teaches a Sunday School class

for young women and a primary church training class. Her hobbies are writing, singing and needlework. She is currently working on a book of devotions.

Her husband, who was an attorney prior to entering the ministry, has been pastor at Prescott since being graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the summer of 1980. They are both natives of North Carolina.

Aid offered cancer patients

There will be a free cancer information-sharing and support group offered on five consecutive Thursday nights, beginning February 3, and continuing through March 3. Classes will meet from 7-9 p.m. at C.A.R.T.I. The class is sponsored by the Pulaski County Unit of the American Cancer Society. The classes are open to all cancer patients and their families in the Little Rock area. Attendance at all five classes is encouraged since material is presented in a sequential manner.

by Don Moore

You'll be glad to know . . .

... SPECIAL MINISTRIES ARE DEVELOPED

AS needed by our Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. For instance, our seminary in California, Golden Gate, provides educational opportunities in Korean, Spanish and Chinese. These language groups have large concentrations of people in California and therefore we minister to them. Special ministries training is also given for those working with blacks and native Americans. These groups and churches need well trained leaders as much as anyone else. I'm glad I have a part in helping them.



Moore

... WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE OLYMPICS.

The summer games will be held in Los Angeles in 1984. Our Home Mission Board is already underway with plans for a strong ministry there. They are enlisting people to work and witness at the '84 Olympics. Arkansas Baptists are grateful the Home Mission Board has chosen one of our number to be the Executive Director of this project. Elmer Goble, BSU Director and staff member at Ouachita Baptist University, has accepted the invitation to head this work. We are thankful our denominational leaders are looking ahead and preparing for this witness.

... WE ARE PROVIDING TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH OUR MINISTRY WITH NATIONAL BAPTISTS.

Two weeks of camps for black Baptist youth produced the following numerical results. Only God knows the full results. We had 163 enrolled during boys week and 218 during girls week. There were 42 saved. That is more than most of our churches had saved during the entire year. We also have been able to give some small scholarship assistance to black students preparing for the ministry in our colleges and seminaries. Our thanks to God and Dr. Robert Ferguson for giving good leadership in this area.

... WAY OF THE CROSS CAMPAIGN (Sunday School) WILL BREAK ALL RECORDS.

In terms of requests for the program materials and the results these churches will have in attendance, this program is phenomenal. My prayers are with you all in your efforts.

I never cease to be amazed at what we can do when we all work and give together. Aren't you glad to have a part in such ministries.

Don Moore is Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Evangelism: First in a series

Creating an atmosphere for evangelism in the church

by Johnny Jackson

To grow an evangelistic church there must be a warm spirit in the local congregation. Evangelism is "caught" more than "taught." A joyful and enthusiastic atmosphere is a "must" in helping our churches achieve evangelistic results. How can this be done?



Jackson

1. It begins with the pastor. He must believe in evangelism. He must make it a priority in his own life and in the program of the church. He must preach evangelistically. His own personal burden for lost souls must be evident to his membership. He must continually encourage and exhort the membership to keep evangelism as the top priority in the church.

2. It grows with proper items in worship. When the church meets for worship on Sunday morning and evening and in special times such as revival meetings, there must be several components present for the evangelistic atmosphere to prevail. The music is vitally important. Joyful praise and gospel oriented music are essential. Classical type music adds little to evangelism. In fact, it usually detracts from the evangelistic thrust. Music in worship from both choir and soloists should never be for the purpose of demonstrating the talent of the musicians but always should be to help create the atmosphere and experience of worship,

praise and celebration.

Occasional testimonies from the congregation are inspiring. Special times of prayer for the lost will contribute to the overall evangelistic fervor. Congregational response to the preaching with genuine "amens" is a natural occurrence in soul winning churches. Few "silent" churches are truly evangelistic.

3. It accelerates with results. Success breeds success in nearly everything. So it is in evangelism. Nothing causes people to want people to be saved and to work for people to be saved as much as actually seeing people saved week by week. An expectant attitude among the congregation helps to create the atmosphere that anticipates a visible response to the gospel. Let a church be warm in spirit, loving in concern and believing in attitude and that church will regularly hear the shouts of newborn souls into the Kingdom of God.

4. It is undergirded with preparation. The pastor must be prepared personally. The congregation must realize its responsibility in coming to the services prepared through prayer and submission before the Lord. Many churches have structured their Wednesday evening services to "get ready for Sunday." Teacher training, visitation, prayer, pastoral exhortation and personal testimonies are helpful items to have in your Wednesday program that will undergird the design to create a truly evangelistic atmosphere in your church.

Johnny Jackson is pastor of Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock.

OBU staff changes told

ARKADELPHIA — Ouachita Baptist University has announced seven staff changes effective immediately.

Harold Johnson, who has had the double duties of being both Director of Student Financial Aids and Director of Admissions Counseling will now serve only in the capacity of Director of Student Financial Aids.

Buddy Barnett has joined the admissions counseling staff as a full-time admissions counselor, and Barry Burnett has been hired as assistant director of Evans Student Center.

Jim Dann, in addition to his teaching duties in the physical education department

and serving as swimming coach, has been given additional duties in coordinating the activities of the new \$4 million HPER building under the direction of Bill Vining, athletic director at OBU, and Bob Gravett, chairman of the physical education department at the school.

Bill Phelps of Arkadelphia has been employed as a full-time programmer in the University's data processing department.

Cheryl Bass, a senior elementary education major from Hartford, and Bill Braden, a senior business administration major from Waynesville, Mo., have been hired as part-time admissions counselors for the spring semester.

RTVC to honor CBS' Jankowski, Keeshan at Abe Lincoln Awards

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — "Captain Kangaroo" and a CBS television executive will be honored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) during its 14th Abe Lincoln Awards for distinguished broadcasters, Feb. 17.

Bob Keeshan, creator and host of "Captain Kangaroo," and Gene F. Jankowski, president of the CBS/Broadcast Group, will receive two of the top awards presented by the agency at the annual ceremony.

Marc Cramsey

joined the staff of North Little Rock Amboy Church Jan. 9 as minister of music and youth. A native of New Jersey, he is a 1981 graduate of Arkansas Tech University at Russellville. Cramsey has served other Arkansas churches including those at Lake Village and Delaware. He has also served in associational leadership positions. He is married to the former Hazel Wesson of Lonoke. They have a two-year-old son, Austin.

Jack Bettis

was commissioned Jan. 23 by Oak Cliff Church in Fort Smith for his new ministry as associate to the executive director of the Capital Baptist Association in Oklahoma City, Okla. Bettis, pastor of Oak Cliff for the past eight and one-half years, began his new work Jan. 25. While in Arkansas he has served as a member of both the Arkansas Executive Board and of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. and Mrs. Don Phillips

of Sidney will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 6 with a reception at the Sidney Church. Phillips, who attended Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge and graduated from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, has pastored churches in southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas. The Phillips' are parents of nine children. They have 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Byron Allen Jr.

is serving as pastor of the East Side Church in Mountain Home. He came there from the Liberty City First Church at Kilgore, Texas. Allen received a bachelor of arts



Cramsey



Bettis



Rev. and Mrs. Phillips



degree from Howard Payne University at Brownwood, Texas, and a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. In a period of more than 20 years, he has served in various denominational positions in Arkansas and Texas. He taught Bible classes for three years at Kilgore Junior College. He and his wife, Patsy Ann, are parents of five children, Melinda Ann, Charles Byron, Joel Ervin, Stephen Timothy and Marie Annette.

Ben Bates

was recently honored by Security Church Finance, Inc., for accomplishments in 1982. Dr. Bates, a member of the Perryville First Church, was recognized by the firm for the sixth consecutive year as a member of the President's Club.

Lanny Faulkner

has joined the staff of Hebron Church in Little Rock as outreach director. He is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga. He and his wife, Linda, are parents of three children.

Richard Carr

has resigned as minister of music at High-

land Heights Church in Benton to join the staff of the First Church of Springfield, Va.

Herbert David Phillips III

of Gould was a December graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis.

Harold Dunham

has been called to serve as pastor of the North Main Church in Sheridan.

Wesley Keith

is serving as pastor of the Pleasant Valley Church of Sidon, coming there from Searcy, where he was a member of Trinity Church. Keith and his wife, Katie, have two daughters, Stephanie and Melanie and a son, Michael.

John Lewis

has resigned as pastor of the Lowell Church to serve as pastor of the Ebenezer Church in Greenbrier, Tenn.

David Payne

has joined the staff of the Marianna First Church as minister of music/youth. He came there from Gulf Shores, Ala., where he had served on a church staff for more than six years. Payne and his wife, Pamela, have two children, Dave and Jennifer.

briefly

Wynne Church

has initiated a deacon/yokefellow ministry with 69 men actively involved in outreach efforts to every church family. Monthly reports will be given to the deacon body with both deacons and yokefellows to meet quarterly to discuss results of this program.

Calvary Church

in West Memphis ordained Dave Missman as a deacon Jan. 30.

Barcelona Road Church

in Hot Springs has planned a spiritual growth conference April 22-24. Laymen John Harris and Andy Hogue will direct this weekend of activities.

Jacksonville First Church

held a deacon ordination service Jan. 23 for J. D. Harrison.

Brinkley's Chapel

at Osceola ordained its pastor, Danny Brewer, to the ministry Jan. 9.

Little Red River Association

Woman's Missionary Union held a re-organizational meeting Jan. 20 at Pines Church. Glendon Grober, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil and currently missionary-in-residence for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. Officers were installed by Bernice Witham of Heber Springs First Church. They include Esther Hogue of Pines Church, director; Glenda Miller of Heber Springs South Side Church, assistant director; Lois Lunsford of Heber Springs First Church, secretary and Mary Derby of the South Side Church, mission action/personal witnessing director. Age level directors are Elaine Ratliff of Heber Springs First Church, Baptist Women; Oneta Williams of Quitman First Church, Acteens; Ila Westerman of Heber Springs West Side Church, Girls in Action and Norma Lauderdale of the Pines Church, Mission Friends.

Hot Springs First Church

observed a deacon emphasis day Jan. 23 with a morning ordination service and an evening recognition service. Ordained were Paul Batson, Alex Strawn, Shawn Clamon and Raymond Rowe. Doug Dickens, pastor, recognized all the deacons in the evening service as he shared with the church the deacons' responsibilities to First Church and its members.

Fort Smith First Church

held a deacon ordination service Jan. 16. Ordained were: Fred Beckman, John Brewster, Jerry Jones, Durand McCarrel, Baker Evans, Doug Hicks, Bill McCorkle, Johnathan Forester, Kenneth Poague, Ted Lynch, Ken Sauer, Tony Carter, Tom Howell, Tom Geurian, David Bethel, Galen Pike, Don Marley, Charles Wilkins, Bobby Taylor, Bill Washum, Gordon Kaiser, Luverne Vandenberg and James McKeever.

False pretenses

Thomas Newman's letter (ABN, 1-13-83) needs clarification. First, he missed the center of the Moody controversy. While theological difference is genuine, the wrong involved is that Moody has signed a document which he does not believe. J. P. Boyce, who wrote the *Abstract of Principles*, stated, "If the summary of truth established be incorrect, it is the duty of the Board to change it. . . . No Professor should be allowed to enter upon such duties as are there undertaken, with the understanding that he is at liberty to modify the truth, which he has been placed there to inculcate." (Lecture delivered to Furman University trustees, July 31, 1856)

Moody's great wrong to Southern Baptists is teaching under false pretenses. This is the central issue. His writings do not harmonize with the *Abstract*. Not only has he missed the mark on apostasy; he has missed it in these vital areas: general salvation is sufficient to save (p. 59-60); there are ways of salvation outside of Jesus Christ (p. 60-61); the historical Jesus and the Christ are not the same person (p. 61, 404, 406, 424-426); Jesus only became God's Son as God "lured Jesus on to do his will in every word and deed so that Jesus can be called the incarnation of God in man" (p. 425; citations from *The Word of Truth*).

Second, Millikin's statement that Free-will Baptists should join another church is consistent with the history of Southern Baptist theology. The two confessions mentioned by Newman are neither Southern Baptist nor bases for Southern Baptist doctrine. Every Southern Baptist systematic theology and confession (except Moody's) affirms the perseverance/preservation of the believer.

I have no personal animosity against either Moody or Newman. I do, however, resent that my Cooperative Program funds pay the salaries of men who do not teach what they sign to teach. Our foundations are being eroded by those whom we are paying. If a man cannot abide by those statements which reflect Southern Baptist theology, then neither should he accept pay by Southern Baptists while teaching deviant views. — Roger Singleton Oldham, Brinkley, Ark.

Hospital joins Baptist

Forrest Memorial Hospital, a 112-bed acute care facility, officially became Baptist Memorial Hospital-Forrest City when final papers were signed Jan. 4 making the institution a member of the Memphis-based Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc.

The 25-year lease agreement was completed in the offices of St. Francis County Judge Carl Cisco.

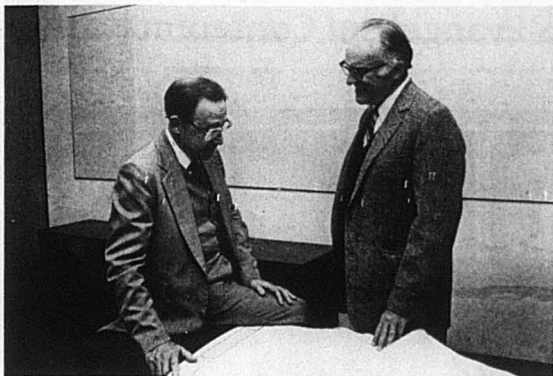


Photo by David Haywood

Rowland Crowder (left), retiring secretary of the Sunday School Board's church architecture department, is shown here going over local church building plans with Lawson Hatfield, state building consultant for Arkansas. Crowder retires Feb. 28, after more than 30 years of service with the board.

Arkansan retires from architecture post

NASHVILLE — Rowland E. Crowder, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department since 1971 and an Arkansas native, will retire Feb. 28 after more than 30 years with the department.

He came to the Sunday School Board's church architecture department in 1952 as an architectural consultant, and he served as director of field services for the department from 1966 until he assumed his present position.

Crowder has been involved in consultation with more than 10,000 churches during his career, and has done on-site walking tours with pastors and building committees in more than 3,500 buildings, he estimates.

His early memories of a personal interest in church architecture are from his childhood. "Growing up in a pastor's home made me aware that churches always had building needs," he said.

His professional relationship with church architecture work began when the First Church of Parkin, Ark., called him as pastor, "with the understanding that they'd be in a building program in six months," he said. "The last service in the old building was on Mother's Day, and the next day we took the building apart."

As pastor of First Church, Stamps, Ark., he began a building program, and as associate pastor at First Church, Shreveport, La., he experienced the difficulty of having to postpone a building program due to a shortage of building materials following World War II.

In his last full-time pastorate, at Central Church, Springhill, La., Crowder was preparing to lead a building program when he

contacted the person who had helped him many times before, W. A. Harrell, the late secretary of the church architecture department.

"I've been helping you put up church buildings for years," he quotes Harrell as saying. "It's time for you to come help me help churches all across the SBC put up buildings."

Crowder moved to Nashville before construction began at the Springhill church.

Throughout his career, Crowder personally has taken the services of the church architecture department to some of the smallest churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"There are a lot of churches in the SBC whose pastors think their churches are not large enough to take advantage of the church architecture department's services," he said.

But even as retirement approaches, Crowder's desire is that all churches know of the free and cost-recovery services that are provided by the department. Among the areas of consultation are program analysis and space planning, site selection, building design, financing, floor plan layouts, property development, remodeling, maintenance, equipment and design.

Crowder earned the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, and the master and doctor of religious education degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, the former Marjorie Biles of San Antonio, Texas, live in Gallatin, Tenn., and are members of First Church of Hendersonville.

Moore tells Evangelism Conference attendees

Don
Hook

Bernes
Selph

Adrian
Rogers

Dillard
Miller

Thomas
Hinson



ABN photos/Evrett Sneed

*'Developing Believers
in Lifestyle
witnessing'*



Full-time evangelists on hand for the state evangelism conference included: (front row) Susie Little, music, 8118 W. Markham, L.R. 72205, 224-0547; Brian Kinder, music, P.O. Box 2036, Little Rock, 72203, 758-6870; Billy Davis, music, P.O. Box 1662, Jonesboro, 72401; Paul Jackson, P.O. Box 5971 Little Rock, 72215, 664-5040; Rex Easterling, 1901 W. Magnolia, Rogers, 72756, 636-7056; Clarence Hill, music, 3837 Albert Pike, Hot Springs, 767-6489 and

Tony Weston, P.O. Box 1662, Jonesboro, 72401, 933-0500. In the back row are: Bob Etters, music, 43 Ophelia Dr., Maumelle, 851-3553; Billy Walker, W. B. Oakley, Dyer, Tn.; Margaret Kinney, music, #10 Inlet, Little Rock, 72204, 225-3525; Gene Ellis, Star Rt. 11, Box 103, Hot Springs, 71901, 767-3689 and Dr. Allis Moore, P.O. Box 77, Ash Down, 71822, 898-5403, 898-3617.

"It's God's nature for his people to multiply"

Richard
Harris

Mrs.
Drumwright

Wilbur
Herring

Joe
Atchison

Don
Moore

Clarence
Shell

D. L.
Lowrie



The 1983 Evangelism Conference convened in the Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, on January 24-25, featuring, in each session, a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

There were approximately 1,300 present on Monday night.

State Evangelism Secretary Clarence Shell presented three goals in Evangelism for 1983. These were to see that: (1) the gospel is shared with every lost person in the state; (2) baptisms are increased by ten percent over 1982; and (3) every Southern Baptist Church in the state is assisted to reach its potential in winning and baptizing people.

Three non-Arkansians who occupied the spotlight as the key speakers for the Evangelism Conference were Adrian Rogers, pastor of Belview Church, Memphis, Tenn.; D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Tex.; and Richard Harris, associate director of Mass Evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

Testimonies were given by Oscar Golden, pastor of Calvary Church, Benton; Brad Taylor, quarterback for the Arkansas Razorbacks from Danville; Mike Petty, pastor of First Church, Casa; and Joe Atchison, pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff.

A highlight of the Evangelism Conference was a message by Executive Secretary Don Moore. "We are calling on our people to be evangelists," he said, "because it is God's nature for his people to multiply."

"How can our people become multipliers?" Moore asked. "We must: (1) create an atmosphere for multiplication; (2) make evangelism our priority; and (3) develop a strategy for evangelism, such as the continuing witnessing program."

"I praise God," said Director of Evangelism Clarence Shell, "for breathing his Spiritual power on the conference. We give him the honor and glory for the two days of victory. It is our prayerful desire that God will use this conference to strengthen our churches and to save the lost in Arkansas."

What the conference speakers said

Bible Teacher D. L. Lowrie said, "The conversion of Saul of Tarsus ranks second to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as far as providing validity to the Christian witness. It still might be said that the conversion of a sinner is the greatest proof of Christianity in today's world."

Don Hook, retired pastor, Little Rock, said, "The lost man is over the cliff of a literal hell, hanging by the thread of life, and God is in a hurry to see him redeemed. God needs redeemed men to carry the gospel message to the lost."

B. K. Selph, also retired, discussed the missions established by First Church, Benton while he was their pastor. "Often a mission needs someone to stand ready to help," he said. "It is like a child; it should not be helped any more than it needs."

Adrian Rogers said, "Faith does not create anything. It just lays hold on what God has done. Some of the television preachers would have you to believe that you can have anything you want by 'just naming it and claiming it.' This is totally untrue: 'One of the great secrets of prayer is for a prayer to start in heaven. You just close the circuit.'"

Bill Oakley, pastor, First Church, Piggott, said, "Real revival will come in our New Testament churches, or it will not come at all. The commission was not given to para church groups. It was given to New Testament churches. Revival must begin in our churches."

Thomas Hinson, pastor of West Memphis First Church, said, "Philosophy is the mind of mere man. But in the scriptures we have the very mind of God. Commitment to personal witnessing begins with an individual — getting into the Word of God."

Richard Harris, of the Home Mission Board, said, "The Lordship of Jesus is the greatest discovery any person can make. Jesus is waiting to become the King and Governor of every individual's life. Our commission to witnessing is dependent upon the Lordship of Jesus."

Minette Drumwright, assistant to the Executive Vice President of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., said, "Unfortunately, most women feel that witnessing is for men and, especially, for pastors and missionaries. The Bible, however, emphasizes that it is everybody's responsibility." She listed practical barriers to witnessing and suggested ways they could be overcome.

Wilbur Herring, pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro dealt with the practical aspects of organizing for evangelism. "I have heard disparaging remarks made about organization," he said. "You are either organized or unorganized. Jesus Christ was the Master Organizer."

Joe Atchison, pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff, spoke on the value of continuing witnessing training. "I believe there is a domino theory in our church life," he said. "When churches major on New Testament principle, it will have a chain reaction." He credited the CWT program recently developed by the Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board with having a positive effect in every area of church life.

Oscar Golden, pastor, Calvary Church, Benton, preached on the joys of being a pastor. "Although there are problems," he said, "the joys far outweigh the difficulties." Experiences of seeing people saved have — produced great joy in his own life.

FMB launches all-India effort

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — After 20 years of concentrating work in one area of the country the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is launching an effort to expand work to all of India.

The plan is to use Indian leadership to plant churches in areas where no other Baptist groups have work and to cooperate where possible with other Baptist organizations.

Indians' response to the gospel has been encouraging in recent years with Southern Baptist-related churches increasing from 13 in 1979 to 46 in 1982. India, the second most populous nation in the world, with 713 million people, "has far more people who need a gospel witness than any other country we're working with," said Bill Wakefield, Foreign Mission Board director for south and southeast Asia.

But because the Indian government does not issue resident visas to missionary evangelists the board has concentrated on benevolent and educational ministries, most notably the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore.

Now priorities are shifting to help the national churches reach out more through Southern Baptist assistance in training and other support methods.

Under the new emphasis the Foreign Mission Board and Southern Baptist missionaries would train Indian Baptists in church planting methods; assist in training lay people to be church leaders so the Indian church planters would be free to leave the fledgling churches and move to new areas and be open to fraternal relationships with other Baptist groups through coordinating training and providing support such as literature.

In some cases the Foreign Mission Board will take over work currently being done by independent Baptist organizations based in the United States. One such group is Universal Concern Foundation of Yazoo City, Miss., organized in the mid-1970s with Owen Cooper as president.

This foundation has sent groups of interested pastors and lay people to India for short evangelistic efforts and supported Indian Baptist evangelists through an India-based subsidiary, Universal Concern India. The intention was to create self-supporting Baptist churches in areas where there was no Baptist witness, Cooper said. Though the group now has 10 to 15 preaching points the work has not become self-supporting.

"When we started this we hoped the Foreign Mission Board would take it over some day," said Cooper, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and retired president of Mississippi Chemical Corp. "I'm delighted that the board is taking this step."

According to Dr. W. Morgan Patterson, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate, the Seminary was awarded associate membership status.

GG Music accredited

MILL VALLEY, CALIF. — The church music program at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has won accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music.

According to Dr. W. Morgan Patterson, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate, the Seminary was awarded associate membership status.

Fourteenth Annual Church Music Workshop Ouachita Baptist University February 24-25, 1983

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Baptist Sunday School Board
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Southern Seminary
Ron Bond, Pianist
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For further information,
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Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, I feel that my depression is increasing to deeper levels and affecting every area of my life. What positive steps can I take to get control of myself and feel healthy again?

This problem is one frequently expressed by wives of church staff members. Perhaps the first thing to explore is one's physiological condition. Could there be some physical malfunction? Have you had a consultation with your physician regarding the matter?



McGriff

Another approach after considering some organic malfunction might be an evaluation of time schedule and the relative energy expenditure. It is very easy to become over-extended. It is equally difficult to appropriately monitor one's provision for rest and refreshing recreation. Exhaustion can be mistaken for depression.

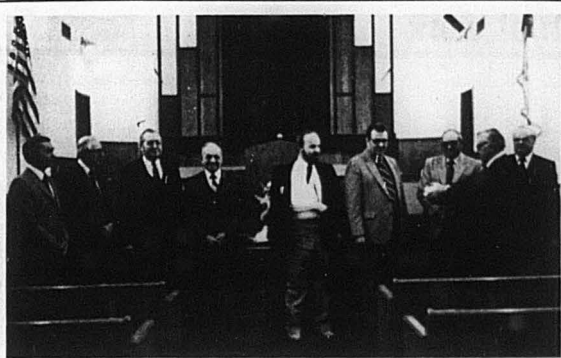
Finally, it might be noted that excessive attention upon one's "feelings" can be a contributing factor to depression. Constant concentration on problems producing fear and anxiety can cause one to lose objective awareness of significant provisions. It is often very helpful if one can rearrange his concentration from "feelings" to "facts". An objective assessment of one's present provisions can be sufficient to stimulate a new focus. The new focus upon the "fact" of a God of gracious beneficence and undiminishing love can foster change in one's "feelings". Persistent or prolonged depression should lead one to seek professional help from available resources or agencies.

Dr. Glen McGriff is the director of Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Inquires, comments or questions to be used anonymously in this column should be sent to Questions, Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Towers Building, Suite 660, 9601 Lile Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.

Criswell said the deacons thought it was a fantastic dream to "out of the blue" ask the church to add another \$1 million, but faced with the challenge, the church pledged \$7.8 million.

Throughout the year, Criswell said, there was speculation that the pledge could be met, but at the last deacons' meeting it was announced the pledge to the Cooperative Program would be made good.



Notes representing \$155,000 worth of indebtedness were burned January 16 at Des Arc Church. The notes represented two loans, one of which was paid off 18 months early and the other before it was due. An auditorium, 19 Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall, a suite of offices and a prayer chapel were built and the education building remodeled with the money. In addition to building, the church gave \$40,000 to mission causes last year and this year will give 29 percent to the Cooperative Program. Present for the ceremony were: Donald Devar, Billy Garch, Alvin Wray, Raymond Ingram, Mike Skarda, Willis Eddin, Alvin Green, Wayne Tate and pastor Jack Bledsoe. Not present were Talmadge Timms and Carlie Bacon.

Church music workshop planned by OBU

ARKADELPHIA — The 14th annual Ouachita Baptist University Church Music Workshop will be held Feb. 24-25 in the Mabee Fine Arts Center at OBU.

Open to church leaders, particularly those involved in music ministries and interested students, the workshop will feature sessions on staff relations, vocal development, children's choirs, choral conducting, creative service playing and new choral music.

Those taking part in leading this year's workshop sessions include Wesley Forbis, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board church music department; Ronald E. Boud, associate professor of church music at the Southern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Betty Bedsole, assistant professor of church music at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Another feature of the workshop, according to Paul Hammond, chairman of the OBU church music department, will be a piano recital by Boud on Thursday night, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the recital hall. It will consist of sacred and classical music and will be open to the public.

For more information persons should contact Hammond at Ouachita, phone (501) 246-4531, ext. 146 or write to Church Music Workshop, OBU, P.O. Box 710, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.

Dallas raises missions million

DALLAS (BP) — A dream of Pastor W. A. Criswell of First Church, Dallas, came true when he presented the balance of the church's \$1 million pledge to the Cooperative Program for 1982.

Criswell gave Texas Baptist Executive Director James A. Landes the church's check for \$590,000. Previous contributions for the year have totaled \$410,000.

It is believed to be the first time any church has given \$1 million in support of missions through the Cooperative Program in a single year. First Church of Midland, Texas, which has led the Cooperative Program giving for the past few years, through Dec. 30 had given more than \$801,736, however, and First Church of Amarillo,

Texas, another perennial leader, had given \$458,465. The Texas Baptist Convention books closed Dec. 31.

In the fall of 1981, Criswell said, after the church's budget of \$6.5 million had already been adopted, he repeatedly had a dream in which the Lord showed him the need of the world to hear the gospel.

"The Lord said to me, 'I'm asking you to give \$1 million to the Cooperative Program,'" Criswell said.

"It dumbfounded me," he said, but "without any conferences with anybody — there was nobody to confer with — I asked the church to add \$1 million to the budget, to oversubscribe it by another \$1 million."

Your state convention at work

Woman's Missionary Union

Acteens Encounter

Gwen Williams, better known to the children with whom she works as "Ms. Chocolate," will be the featured speaker for an Acteens Encounter at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Feb. '25-26. Gwen is employed by the Home Mission Board's Christian Social Ministries Department and is serving as director of weekday ministries for Grace Church in New Orleans, La.

After receiving a master's degree in church music from New Orleans Seminary she served as supervisor of the Women's Unit of the Baptist Rescue Mission. She generously uses her musical talents in working with children who follow her



Williams

Evangelism

Personality preparation for witnessing

As we seek to reach people for Christ, we need to display a pleasant personality. The attitude of the witness may help determine the decision more than anything we say.

The witness should be friendly and cheerful. This demonstrates what we want to give them. Friendliness many times will prevent the drudgery in visiting. A friendly attitude will warm a cold heart. We are told in Proverbs 18:24 "A man who hath friends must show himself friendly."

A witness should display a genuine smile that shows the joy of Jesus. A smile will open closed doors. A smile will demand attention and respect from strangers. A smile will help



Shell

"Pied Piper" fashion.

April 29-30 a second encounter will be held at Ouachita Baptist University where Mildred McWhorter, Home Missionary from Houston, Texas, will be featured. Both encounters will have similar programs. MKs and internationals will plan a festival for the girls on Friday evening. Music at Southern will be led by Debbie Harless, associate BSU director at Arkansas State University. Stacey Melton, a student at Ouachita, will serve as musician for the Encounter there.

The theme "Color Me . . . Responsible" will be spelled out in theme interpretations, small group conferences and all the segments of the schedule. Both meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and end at 3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information write Betty Jo Lacy, Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — Betty Jo Lacy

to unlock a mind and heart that will hear the message.

A witness should be polite. By all means respect any person in their home. It is important that we are courteous and kind in our dealings with the unsaved. We should be gentle and considerate as we seek to share Christ and his love.

A good witness will be tactful. Tact is the wisdom or skill of saying or doing the right thing at the right time. It has been defined as spiritual intelligence. Brother Jesse Reed said, "If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the bee hive."

A successful witness will be courageous. The devil laughs at the fear of Christians. The Bible says, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." We can enjoy a perfect love that will cast out all fear. — Clarence Shell, Evangelism Department Director

Stewardship Department

Church finances in hard times

Economists agree that hard times are upon us. How can churches maintain a high level of giving during economic recessions? These suggestions, while not a panacea, will assist stewardship development.

- Acknowledge that times are tough.
- Discourt the "poor talk." People always find reasons not to give.
- Take a long view. God has blessed his churches during previous recessions.
- Build on a biblical base. Most Baptists accept the authority of God's word even if they don't practice it.
- Present mission challenges. People respond to people needs.

• Keep stewardship before the people. Paul kept reminding the Corinthians of their ministry opportunities.

• Assure the people that all funds will be handled properly and according to their desires expressed in the budget.

- Enlist new tithers.
- Make necessary adjustments in the budget.
- Use a budget promotion to create awareness and challenge the members.

• Encourage members to discover the "grace of giving." There is joy in sharing.

• Use the resources of your Stewardship Department. — James A. Walker, director

Christian Life Council

Poison poison?

It was recently reported that two men in Texas were being held on \$200,000 bond on charges of trying to extort \$200,000 from a winery by threatening to contaminate their product if not given the money!

Pure poison plus diluted poison automatically spells trouble. Pure poison alone spells trouble. Ask the maker of a well known extra strength remedy for pain. Diluted poison also spells trouble as attested by hundreds of thousands of broken hearts resulting from accidental deaths related to ethynol or ethyl alcohol.

That type alcoholic poison, even when diluted and consumed with various beverages, immediately alters the human brain.

If someone altered the mechanism of a mechanical computer the same as ethynol alters the brain, most delicate of all computers, screams of alarm would be heard from Washington, D.C., on down.

Poisoning, or even threatening to poison, a socially acceptable poison is rare news! Drinking a socially acceptable poison without poison added, produces daily news — usually bad! — Bob Parker, director

Sunday School

'Way of the Cross' materials are out

The "Way of the Cross" attendance/enrollment campaign materials are receiving wide acceptance across the state. Inquiries have also been received from several adjoining states. We are in our third printing of promotion materials. That means some 5,000 plus posters, 100,000 commitment cards and nearly one half million stickers!

The material is suggested for use Feb. 27-April 3. However, the material is undated and can be used during any six week period. A supply of materials is on hand and can be sent to you immediately.



Pike

This type of campaign is a choice opportunity for a church to:

- Give a fresh expression of compassion for members and projects who need Bible study;
- Renew its spiritual vitality through visits with "people who need to know Jesus";
- Stretch itself, "and get a vision of what God can do through a church that cares about people";
- Provide an enriching, life-changing Bible study experience for spiritually needy persons.

There is still time to order and receive materials but do it soon. It could make a difference in your Sunday School. It has already made a difference in some Sunday Schools that used the materials earlier. — **Freddie Pike**

Family and Child Care

Thanks for the children's Christmas

You did it again! The gifts our children received from you this year made a very good Christmas for every youth at ABHC. The gifts of money, toys, clothing, etc., have just been overwhelming as you have responded so graciously to meet our desires and needs.

I wish each of you could have glimpsed a bit of the fun and joy we had as staff members, including Executive Director Johnny Biggs, as we visited from cottage to cottage to watch the children open their gifts and share Christmas refreshments. It really is the best time of the year.

Thank you notes are forthcoming from the children. This is a big task and so we trust you will be understanding if we have a mix

up on addresses, etc. We try!

How can I say thank you? Many of you have shared with me the joy you get from sharing and have made my understanding of the words of Jesus. "It is more blessed to give than to receive", much clearer. I know that you have shared from God's abundant blessings upon you, and our prayer is that we will be good stewards of the gifts you share with us and that the love of Christ will continue to be shed abroad in your hearts and ours as we continue to teach children about that love. May the Lord grant you a truly Blessed New Year. — **Mrs. Eula Armstrong, Director of Special Activities**

Resolutions committee for 1983 SBC appointed

EULESS, Texas (BP) — Calling the appointments a "team effort," Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. has announced the resolutions committee for the 1983 meeting of the SBC in Pittsburgh.

Draper, pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, said the appointments are a "three-man effort" between the president and the two vice presidents of the 13.8 million member denomination. "I feel I have done everything humanly possible to make it so," Draper told Baptist Press.

Draper said he was following through on a pledge to make key committee appointments far in advance of the June meeting of the SBC. He made the pledge after the appointments and their release became the subject of controversy before the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans.

In September, Draper named Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Columbus, chairman of the resolutions committee. He also named three members of the SBC Executive Committee — required in convention bylaws — to serve on the committee. They are LeRay Fowler, pastor of West University Church of Houston; Thurmond George, pastor of First Church of Gilroy, Calif.; and Lois Wenger, a member of First Church of Orlando, Fla.

The new appointments include six persons: a pastor, a retired pastor, an evangelist, two laypersons and a retired director of associational missions.

Those named are:

—John T. Tippet, pastor of Calvary Temple in Savannah, Ga., a former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, a current member of the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee and current chairman of the Georgia Baptist Public Affairs Committee. Calvary Temple contributes 12 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program;

—Verlin Kruschwitz, retired pastor of Sevens Valley Church of Elizabethton, Ky., and a former president of the Kentucky Convention. He currently is a teacher at Boyce Bible School, a part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville;

—Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist from Catrina, Texas, and current president of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas. He is a former staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and president of the Texas Baptist Evangelists Conference;

—William Rhodes, an attorney, deacon and Sunday School teacher at Briarlake Church in Decatur, Ga. He is past moderator of the Atlanta Baptist Association and currently is a member of the advisory committee for the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Briarlake church is the number two church in Georgia in Cooperative Program giving;

—Joan Tyler, the wife of a physician in

Collins, Miss. She is a member of Collins Church, which has 356 members and gave \$17,759 through the Cooperative Program and \$35,431 to all missions causes last year. She is a member of the Mississippi Convention Executive Board and Executive Committee, as well as first vice president of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, and

—W. D. Stogner, recently retired director of the Northwest Baptist Association in Shreveport. Stogner in 1976 led the 80 churches of the association to become the first association in Louisiana to give more than \$1 million in a single year through the Cooperative Program. Last year the association gave some \$2 million through the SBC unified giving program.

Both John Sullivan, first vice president, and Gene Garrison, second vice president, agreed with Draper that the appointments were a "three-man effort."

Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church of Shreveport, La., said the appointments "are as much mine as they are Jimmy's."

Garrison, pastor of First Church of Oklahoma City, said Draper has been "super to work with. We have been double, triple cautious to make sure the ones we appoint represent Southern Baptists."

Draper also said he has requested that Bonham call a meeting of the entire resolutions committee, possibly in early May, to discuss ways to streamline the exhaustive process.

International Asserting kingship

by Leroy Sisk, Chaplaincy Ministries, ABCS
Focal passages: Luke 19:29-40, 45-48

Central truth: Jesus, God's Anointed King, is worthy of our obedience, honor, praise and worship.

When Jesus sent two disciples into the neighboring village to bring the beast upon which he was to ride into Jerusalem, they responded with unconditional obedience. Initially, they may not have understood the reason for this request but they trusted him explicitly. They had learned that obedience to Jesus never brings disappointment. Have we?

As Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, he came as the King whose kingdom is love and peace. Only in war did kings ride upon a horse. The multitudes honored him by placing their garments upon the beast and some by spreading garments before him along the way. How many of us have such uninhibited devotion to the Savior that we would lay before any means of devotion at our disposal?

As a spontaneous outpouring from their hearts, his followers began to "praise God with a loud voice for the mighty works they had seen". This kind of praise still flows from the hearts of those who have experienced the mighty works of the King. There is joy and rejoicing; there is singing and praise when we acknowledge him in our hearts as God's anointed King.

While the actions of the multitude affirmed him as Messiah, the Pharisees objected. They said to Jesus, as it were, "Correct their error. They are mistaking you as Messiah." But it was through these human voices that God was making his proclamation of the promised King. If they should withhold their voices, the stones would proclaim it. There is a truth that will not be stopped, not by Satan's power, nor by anyone who might be in league with him.

Jesus went into the temple and observed the money changers and those selling animals for the sacrifice. They had turned these transactions into a well-planned scheme for profiteering. Those hungering for God were being exploited by those greedy for gain. In his actions, Jesus demonstrated for every generation that any distortion or profane use of abuse of worship at the house of God is an abomination in the sight of God.

Life and Work The narrow way

by Winfred P. Bridges, Paragould First Church
Basic passages: Matthew 7:13-14; 10:34-39; 16:24-27

Central truth: Following Christ is a definite, continuous experience.

Colloquial and provincial sayings have been of some interest to the writer. When we resided in Northwest Arkansas, we often heard the expression, "A blind fowl found an acorn," in reference to some good luck experienced by someone. Following Christ is not a stumbling, half attentive way to encounter life. It is called a narrow way. It has clearly defined perimeters. Why is it a narrow way, a difficult path?

1. The entrance into the life requires purposing to do so. He chooses us before we choose him. There is no happenstance involved. It is by design (Eph. 1-4). A young man once expressed to me that he wanted to live his life his way and get saved before he died. Some feel that being saved is our choice. It is our response, but his choice of us and having called us out of the old life that predisposes salvation.

2. The perimeters of living the gospel out in our lives are clearly defined. The way is concise. It does not leave that much room for latitude of choices. However, this is our joy. Because so many decisions in life are already made for us by God, we can use the energy in life God has given us for productive living. God has chosen to give us abundant life! I like to think of it as energy to burn!

3. It is a daily experience. Too many people think of being a Christian as a one-time experience. We "got saved" and that's it! The Christian life is a disciplined life, that of a soldier. Each day we give ourselves to that purpose because our goal is to live out Jesus' life in ours. So many fail to realize the potential we have in Christ because we fail to recognize the discipline of the Christian life.

The way of Christ is a narrow, clearly-defined, well-marked way. It is a way of joy and peace but must be clearly sought, at any cost.

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Election and Evangelism

Both are Biblical! To deny either of these doctrines is a grave mistake! For a free paper on this subject send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Evangelist Charles Ransom, P.O. Box 60, Gravette, AR 72736.

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Bible Book Victory through the Spirit

by Jack Bledsoe, Des Arc First Church
Basic passages: Romans 8:1-2, 7-9, 14-17, 22-23, 28-31

Central truth: The earnest, or guarantee of victory in the Christian life, is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

We cannot begin to realize the awesome strength of our closest ally in our pilgrimage to Christian maturity until we understand the nature of the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the presence of the living Christ in the hearts of believers. It is through his office work that conviction of sin comes, conversion was accomplished, conservation is being maintained and consummation will be guaranteed. In another context, Paul reminds us that he who hath begun a good work in us, speaking of the Holy Spirit, will bring those efforts to fruition.

The real victory in the Christian life is revealed in several things that Paul elaborates on in these passages. First, through the convicting and converting work of the Holy Spirit, the believer is set free from the law of sin and death and as a result no one can bring a condemnation or accusation against him. That which had condemned lost man to spiritual death, sin, has itself been made of no effect through the power of the Holy Spirit. The indwelling Spirit is the mark of victory over the former life.

Second, the Holy Spirit in the believer is a witness that the believer has become a part of the family of God. This assurance is the answer to the groaning travail of all creation for deliverance from the curse that came as a result of Adam's fall. To become heir to all that God has to bestow upon his children makes all the difficulties along the way bearable.

Third, the Holy Spirit enables us to be overcomers in those areas of weakness. He leads us in our devotional life to discover and pray in the will of God. He even causes to come forth from the inner recesses of our spiritual being prayers that would have never occurred to us under normal conditions. This allows him to be an intercessor for us, making sure that the deepest desires of our hearts are made known to the Father.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit performs God's master plan in our lives. Only he knows what God has planned for us from the beginning. That which was instantaneously accomplished in the counsels of God for us before the worlds were made, the Holy Spirit patiently brings to fruition in our lives. Victory in Jesus through the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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ARKANSAS

Baptists react to Supreme Court ruling in Lubbock case

DALLAS (BP) — Baptist reaction is mixed to the decision of the United States Supreme Court not to hear an appeal by the Lubbock Independent School District of an appellate court decision which struck down a policy permitting students to gather for religious purposes before and after school hours.

Two Lubbock Baptists — Mrs. Don (Skeett) Workman who with her son and husband participated in the suit, and D. L. Lowry, pastor of First Church — were disappointed in the high court action.

"We thought they would hear our case," Workman said. "Their refusal means that we can have no voluntary acts before or after school or any school property for anything that pertains to religion. We believe

He did not predict what actions will be taken, noting Baptist ministers "have just been waiting and hoping that the decision would be overturned. Since it hasn't, we will have to look at other alternatives" such as opening churches near school campuses for morning watch or other religious activities.

Phil Strickland, director of Texas Baptists' Christian Life Commission, expressing understanding for the decision, said: "The fact this court, representing a wide spectrum of legal and political philosophy, was unanimous in this action indicates that this was not the clear test of the issue that is needed. The issue of equal access to school facilities for activities before and after school is not really resolved by this case. There were too many other complicating factors."

Like Strickland, James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., said the court's action was understandable. Rejection of the case, he said, "is yet another example of the old legal maxim that 'bad cases make bad law.'"

Dunn said the Lubbock case was "flawed from the beginning, mainly because of the school board's open defiance, over a 17-

year period, of the Court's correct rulings in 1962 and 1963." In those years the high court ruled that states and localities may not under the Constitution require prayer and Bible reading in public school classrooms.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, a prominent U.S. senator who had asked the high court to review the Lubbock case, indicated he will reintroduce legislation in the new Congress forbidding school districts to "discriminate against any meeting of students on the basis of the religious content of the speech at the meeting."

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., who was joined by 23 other senators in asking the court to review the lower panel's decision, said his bill is designed to protect the right of students to exercise freely their religion and at the same time keep schools from unconstitutionally establishing religion. The bill specifies that the meetings must be voluntary and must not involve any "activity which is in and of itself unlawful."

Hatfield's bill also contains language forbidding any unit of government to "influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity" or "require any person to participate in prayer of other religious activity."

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this is a loss of freedom of speech... the freedom of assembly. It is much broader than a loss of religious freedom."

Lowry said he believes the Fifth Circuit decision "is too restrictive. I believe it has gone beyond the original ruling of the Supreme Court to prohibit any kind of Christian or religious expression on the school grounds."

He commented the ruling eliminates many activities of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and said school officials have banned Young Life representatives from the campuses of public schools.

High Court avoids student gathering dispute

by Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP) — Rejecting an appeal from a Texas school district, the U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 17 it will not review a lower court decision striking down a policy permitting students to gather for religious purposes before and after school hours.

At issue in the bitterly disputed case was a 1980 policy of the Lubbock Independent School District permitting students "to gather at the school with supervision either before or after regular school hours on the same basis as other groups as determined by the school administration to meet for any educational, moral, religious or ethical purposes so long as attendance at such meetings is voluntary."

Although a federal district court ruled earlier that the Lubbock policy did not violate the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last March reversed the lower ruling. The school district then asked the Supreme Court to review that decision.

But in a one-sentence order that followed its tradition of not explaining its reasons for denying appeals, the high court rejected the school board's arguments. None of the nine justices entered a dissent to the order.

By denying the appeal, the justices let

stand the Fifth Circuit decision but stopped short of affirming the lower panel, a distinction often missed by the public but legally important. If it had chosen to affirm the lower court, the nation's highest tribunal would have placed its seal of approval on the lower court's decision and reasoning.

By simply rejecting the appeal, however, the high court avoided setting a legal precedent and left open the possibility that another similar case might be accepted for review.

Some church-state observers had warned the facts in the Lubbock case might cause the court to take the course of action it chose.

Following the high court's landmark rulings of 1962 and 1963 forbidding state-written prayers and state-enforced Bible readings and prayers in public schools, the Lubbock school district defied the court by continuing practices outlawed by the decisions.

After 17 years of such defiance, attorneys for the Lubbock Civil Liberties Union in 1979 took the school district to court for the practices, which included daily Bible readings over school public address systems and teacher-led prayers in classrooms.