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## February 17, 1983

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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## Strengthening families: Baptists have a plan

Statistics on American families - marriages vs divorces, single parent household increases, two-income patterns and other data - almost drown the family in a sea of change

Concerned Christians must face the shockwaves of the future, says I. Clark Hensley, and recognize that "God, who established the family, who initiates change, permits change, welcomes change, and grows us in and through change, will sustain us as we cope with change."

## On the cover



Families of all sizes and ages committing to devotional time is the goal of an emphasis to strengthen the Christian family. The suggested time is Christian Home week this year. Members of one Arkansas church demonstrate how they will register that commitment Sunday, May 8, by bringing cards (available from Materials Services on the undated literature form).

## In this issue

## 8 and 9

A series of articles on what the state convention offers to local churches begins this week with an interview with State Executive Secretary Don Moore and a photo essay on a typical day for a state convention servant.

## 10 and 11

A proposal to go before the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention next week would allow churches to exclude certain causes and still have their offerings count toward the Cooperative Program. Reactions from leaders in Arkansas are mixed.

Hensley, recently retired as director for Mississippi Baptists' Christian Action Commission, also recognizes that, while public policy will continue to affect families, the most potent influence will be the church and Christian homes. He also sees church leaders beginning to redirect energies to strengthen families and support them, rather than competing with them.

Hensley's hope is undergirded by an emphasis that is part of Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust. For the first time in its history, the Southern Baptist Convention has mandated a denomination-wide emphasis on family. Beginning last year and lasting through 1985, the "Strengthen Families" emphasis centers on the local church and her leadership building an effective, balanced ministry to families in the congregation.

At nine Strengthen. Family Workshops around Arkansas March 7.8 and 10, church and associational leaders will be told that churches do not have to add or change activities on the church calendar to use the plan.

That is because most churches already have established the Christian Home Week observance which will be the vehicle for the family focus through 1985.

Southern Baptist Convention research shows that less than five percent of Southern Baptist families have a regular devotional time. So, one of the goals of the plan is to have one-half million Baptist families commit themselves, over the three year period, to begin a regular family worship time.

Other aspects of the step-by-step plans for 1983 concern family emphasis through


Bible study, worship and training. And the Southern Baptist Convention is supporting church leaders in the plan with materials and other resources through the three-year period

1. Clark Hensley's observations on families and the church in the eighties admit to change, change and more change. But his hope is that the Christian family, aided by the church, will be the model for family life. The Strengthen Families emphasis addresses that challenge. - Betty J. Kennedy

## Courts to reconsider private club bill

## by Kevin Jones

Around 300 people, many of them Southern Baptists, wearing handmade tags saying "I'm against SB 276" waited in vain for the House Rules Committee to meet Monday morning, Feb. 7.

Senate Bill 276, the controversial Senatepassed measure which would continue to permit private clubs to serve liquor in dry counties, was perhaps put on the back burner in the House by a court decision that morning. A scheduled public hearing on the bill was delayed a week, until Feb. 14. Two days after the decision, its Senate sponsor, John F. Bearden of Blytheville. withdrew the bill, reportedly in the face of fierce opposition in the House. Whether or not there will continue to be private clubs in Arkansas now appears to ride on court action.

The Arkansas Supreme Court sent a case challenging the constitutionality of the existing law back to Pulaski County Circuit Court with instructions that the lower court
admit evidence it had previously excluded
Frank Lady, Jonesboro attorney representing a group of Lawrence County residents challenging the law, had tried to introduce evidence about how the clubs actually operate Judge Perry,V. Whitmore had said in Pufaski Circuit Court that such evidence was irrelevant. The Supreme Court in their decision Monday said that the information was necessary in order to tell whether violations of the law actually exist.

Justice George Rose Smith, writing for the majority, said language of the 1969 private club law is too general and unclear, and that information about how the law actually allows clubs to operate is necessary before a determination can be made about the law.

Baptists who attended the Feb. 7 hearing were urged by John Finn, of the Christian Civic Foundation to contact their legislators to let them know their feelings on the law.


The Bible has much to say about false prophets and teaching. Christ warned that they come "in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are raving wolves" (Matt. 7:15). To counter these contemporary cults we need to do a better job of teaching the Word of Cod and of helping our people to know how to identify false teachers.

Many people today believe that one religion, especially one that calls itself Christian, is just as good as another. This simply is not true, since the Bible clearly teaches that there is but one way by which sinners can be saved. The Scripture is also clear that, in every area of faith and practice, Christians are to follow the instructions of God. No one would say to a traveler seeking directions from Little Rock to Memphis, "You take just any road you wish. One direction is as good as another."

Fortunately, many of our churches are doing an excellent job in teaching Bible truths. Our Sunday School materials, Church Training curriculum and the opportunities planned by our leadership have never been better. It is essential for our members to understand, however, that if someone presents teachings contrary to the scripture, it is to be rejected.

Perhaps the most crucial question is how a person can identify a cult. Many of these groups make great claims of doctrinal purity. Many of them also claim to do vast amounts of benevolent work. In some instances they seem to have a true interest in the well-being of those whom they are attempting to enlist into their movement.

The first identifying mark of a cult is the way they deal with the Word of God. Many contemporary cults have additional doctrinal books which they claim to be equal with the Bible. Actually, they place their writings above the Bible, since they insist that the scripture must be interpreted by their writings.

Still other cults, though they have no additional writings, wish to redefine hundreds of words in the Bible. One of the principles of interpretation of the Word of God is that the Bible is to be studied as any other piece of good literature. This means that if a person doesn't understand a particular word he should look it up in a dictionary. It also means that the Bible is to be studied in context. A verse is not to be isolated from the verses surrounding it.

A second characteristic oficontemporary cults is a dictatorial father figure who stands at the head of the organization and
claims to speak for God. The cult maintains that God can only be reached through this one person. Even after this father (or mother) figure is dead, everyone is expected to adhere to the rigid guidelines which have been left behind. In some instances, a successor or a group of successors is appointed to take the place of the father figure.

One of the basic fallacies in the father figure concept is the clear teaching of the Bible that everyone has direct access to God through Christ. Peter said, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5). All true believers are individual priests who have no mediator but Christ to bring them to the Father.

A third characteristic of contemporary cults is their brainwashing techniques. One of their targets is young persons. Once a youth is enlisted, he is programmed to do the bidding of the cult leadership through loss of sleep, inadequate diet, overwork, severe isolation and psychological domination. Once a person is brainwashed, it is difficult to reestablish his personal decision making.

Once a person is caught in the grips of a contemporary cult, it is difficult for him to escape. Many times, all of a person's money and possessions are signed over to the cult. Those within the cult are taught to fear persons on the outside as corrupting the cult's cause, or as a source of persecution. Relatives and former friends are considered major threats to the cause of the cult.

A final characteristic of many contemporary cults is a visible, earthly headquarters which is supposed to have both spiritual and material significance. These cult leaders may live here in absolute luxury, while their workers are living in dire poverty.

The foregoing list of characteristics is not intended to be exhaustive but to provide some insight into the dangers of contemporary cults. Christians need to be informed on cults. There are new ones developing regularly. Many of these cults are very aggressive and may come to your home at any time. Their approach is to prey on insecure, untrained or unwary church members.

For help in combating cults, information can be obtained from Pete Petty, Baptist Building, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Petty works in cooperation with the Department of Interfaith Witness of the Home Mission Board.

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# One layman's opinion 

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

## The Christian mainstream at Christian colleges

Occasionally I run the risk of getting in trouble with my faculty at Ouachita Baptist University by hinting that student influence on students may be even more important than faculty influence on students. It really is not necessary to choose between the two, because both are extremely important in making a Christian college what it claims to be. There is no guarantee that a Christian college will produce dedicated Christian graduates, but there is a strong statistical case for claiming that a "Christian mainstream" within the student body produces a mainstream of dedicated Christian graduates.

The American Council on Education recently shed some light on this claim by Christian colleges, when it reported on its annual survey of characteristics and attitudes of entering college students in the United States. Each year it surveys everything from parents' income, occupation, and education, to the students' political, social, and moral attitudes. Then they compare student attitudes in various kinds of colleges, including public and private, and it compares students in the various private
colleges in three categories - nonsectarian, Protestant and Catholic. It reported the percentage of students who favor legalized abortion, believe that "couples should live together before marriage," that "it is all right for people who like each other to have sex," "marijuana should be legalized," and that "homosexual relations should not be prohibited."
Results of the attitude survey make it clear that students at both Protestant and Catholic colleges are significantly stronger in their opposition to legalized abortion, premarital sex, legalized marijuana, and permissiveness in homosexual relations, than students in colleges without Christian orientation. It is perhaps even more significant that students at Protestant colleges are more conservative on these issues than students at Catholic colleges, with the exception of abortion, and that students at the private, nonsectarian, colleges are more liberal on all of these issues than students at public, Protestant, or Catholic colleges. Students at private colleges that espouse no religious connection or purposes were clearly more favorable to pre-
marital sex ( 69 percent higher), to extramarital sex ( 55 percent higher), to legalized marijuana ( 70 percent higher), to legalized homosexual relations ( 32 percent higher), and to legalized abortion ( 32 percent higher), than students in Protestant colleges.

I am convinced the contrast would be even more dramatic if the survey could report student attitudes at those colleges that take their Christian commitment seriously, as distinguished from those having only a nominal religious commitment. But the evidence is impressive even when so-called Protestant colleges are lumped together.

The moral mainstream at Christian colleges is a matter of documented truth. It is not just glib propaganda, even though no Christian college is perfect. It makes a sig. nificant difference in roommates, classmates, dating partners, and life companions. Few things are more important in the long-term decisions and growth of young people.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.


# Woman's viewpoint 

Henri E. Walker

## And let us not be weary. . .

Do you ever get discouraged? If so, you'll understand what I'm going to say. Each Sunday night I teach church training for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. I think it's important for children to have every opportunity to learn more about Jesus and being a Christian. So I study carefully and attend faithfully every week.

For several months after I began teaching, however, only two or three came. And those two or three didn't seem very interested in what I was teaching. Here I was spending hours each week preparing something that wasn't reaching anyone. I began to feel I was wasting my time. And I became more and more discouraged.

But I hung in there, continuing to pray God would reach these children through me. Then one Sunday night there were six in church training instead of two. I began as usual with prayer, involved them in some
activities and then started teaching the lesson.
A hand shot up. "Miss Henri," Jan said, "may I ask a question?" Surprised, I quickly said yes. (When I first started teaching, no one wanted to ask or answer a question.) She asked, "Would it be all right if I memorize a scripture verse for next week?"

That question really stung. I had gotten so used to no one wanting to memorize scripture that I just skipped over that part. I had stopped challenging anyone to learn the Bible. Because I hadn't seen instant results, I had stopped expecting any results. I had let discouragement take over.
"O ye of little faith" I heard within me. Silently I prayed, "Lord, forgive me." After I said, "Ian, I'd love for you to do that," she asked if she could memorize a verse for each week of the month! This same girl entered the first Bible drill our church has
had in years and became a champion in the state Bible drill.

Jan has encouraged others and inspired me. And she has unknowingly taught me a lesson. Never let discouragement replace faith. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

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.

# State Lottie Moon giving increases 

by Kevin Jones

Giving in Arkansas for the annual Lottie Moon Christmas offering for Foreign Missions is up nearly $\$ 100,000$ over this time last year

Totals at the end of January of 1983 were $\$ 1,434,123.28$, while in $1982 \$ 1,334,733.64$ had been received. The total received last year when the offering was closed out in the late fall was $\$ 1,686,430.50$.

The top five churches, in terms of total dollars in offering, were First Church of Fort Smith, with a state record total of $\$ 100,686.12$. Next was Immanuel in Little Rock, with $\$ 54,038.55$, followed by First Church of EI Dorado with $\$ 45.362 .16$, Grand Avenue of Ft Smith with $\$ 43.892 .96$ and First Church of Springdale with $\$ 40,641.69$. Nearly 20 percent of the state's total Lottie Moon Offering as of January came from those five churches. Approximately 300 churches gave nothing to Lottie Moon during 1981-82, and preliminary indications are a similar number will abstain this year.

Bill Bennett, pastor of First Church of Fort Smith, attributed his church's unprecedented giving to several factors, including a missions saving club, in which each member is encouraged to give weekly to the Lottie Moon offering. Since the Savings Club was instituted in 1981, the Lottie Moon Offering has doubled at the church, according to Bennett.

The church also has a White Christmas celebration, when every member of the Sunday School is asked to contribute to Lottie Moon. On the Friday evening prior to the White Christmas Sunday, a dozen Southern Baptist missionaries come to the church and share their testimonies and set up a booth at a mission fair run by the church.

## Prayer day chosen

May 5. 1983, has been proclaimed a National Day of Prayer by President Reagan. In his proclamation, the president called upon "every citizen . . . to gather together to pray for unity of the hearts of all mankind."

## You'll be glad to know

Don Moore's column will return next week

## Letters to the editor

## Concerned on licensing

The stand that some Southern Baptists have taken favoring the suspension of Social Services licensing by church related child care facilities concerns me. Suspension of licensing. I feel, would prove tragic for countless innocent children.

As the director of a church related child care facility, I am well aware of the time and expense involved in securing and maintaining a license and in operating a center under the guidelines of Social Services regulations. But consider the alternatives - consider the children. Tragically, even with licensing there is much non-compliance with Social Services regulations. It is frightening to think about the situation in the event there was no screening, no iicensing at all.

I'm concerned, and I'm confused. Those opposing licensing on the grounds of the separation of church and state are, in many cases, the very ones who have demanded the legalization of prayer in public schools. This seems a basic inconsistency. I too believe in the separation of church and state, but, in this situation, when I weigh this viewpoint against the welfare of our precious children, I find myself strongly in favor of licensing.

As a child care center director, I will continue to seek licensing and to operate within the guidelines set forth by the Social Services Department. I would like to challenge the many others who share this viewpoint to stand up and speak out with the same vigor as those who oppose it.

It is my prayer that the child care facilities operated by Southern Baptists will be "pleasing in thy sight". - Linda Whatley, director, FBC child learning center, EI Dorado

## Against licensing

To make sure that people have all the news, I would like to answer paragraph three, page 8, of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Jan. 27, 1983. Not all local churches are squarely on the side of the people who desire licensing. I could go into many reasons as to why we oppose licensing, but I shall not. If the people at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock want licensing, I think they ought to have the privilege of getting it. But if the State actually wants us to do the job that needs to be done and that we can do best, I think they ought to let us do it without interfering. The paragraph that begins "A similar law" hits the nail on the head. I believe that the parents are responsible for the total wellbeing of the child. In the statement by Kevin Jones that begins, "All they could do was remove their child or talk to the Center Director," is the total issue. Parents need to be responsible. This is a free country. If they don't like it, take them out. That's why we have, in a free
society, a freedom to put and to place children where we want them to be

Having been involved in daycare centers for some 10 years, I think I am at least a quotable authority. The truth of the matter is, most of the children kept by daycares are there simply because people are trying to keep up with someone else. I know I may catch flack, but I have been told if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. I'll stand on what l've said. - Bill Sutton, Fort Smith

## Take cue from conference

I have attended the State Evangelism Conference for several years. Arkansas Baptists well can take a cue from the recent Evangelism Conference Ian. 24 and 25 in Little Rock. The performance of speakers prove the wisdom of their selection. The conference pointed out and stressed over and over that Baptists be about our father's business - we are witnesses

There came to my office a few days ahead of the conference a so called journal that identifies with a position. One man and his institutions were represented on almost every păge. Its pages were 'oft repeated slanders against Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist Agencies. While at the conference, I picked up a copy of the Arkansas Baptist Magazine and read Cothen calls for emphasis on democracy soul competency. In the article quote "Despite the problems," Cothen said allegations by some that this denomination is drifting toward liberalism "are not substantiated by the facts." Baptists must make the choice to stay confused by heresay and gossip or listen to leaders in position to know.

Grady Cothen is in position to know. He is former pastor, State Executive Director, college and seminary president, and president of Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board.

Arkansas Baptists do well to love the brethren and get on with our responsibility and privilege of making known the unsearchable riches of our Savior and Lord. My father owned and worked strong mules and horses. He knew first hand "kicking mules seldom pull and pulling mules never kick." Our job is too big to permit kicking each other. We will influence the lost community as we pull together. - John Ashcraft, Little Rock

## ABN letters policy

> Letters to the editor expressing opinion are invited. Letters should be typed doublespace and must be clearly marked "For publication", All letters must be signed original copies, although the name of the writer may be withheld at writer's. request and discretion of the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

Arkansas all over

## by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Charles Mageothin
is serving the Dollarway Church in Pine Bluff as minister of music. He and his wife, Peggy; have three children.

## Jack Porter

has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Paris Mission Church at Paris, going there from the Floral Church.

## Doug Martin

is serving as pastor of the Fellowship Church at Batesville, going there from a church in Rocky Bayou Association. He attended Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College and Grace Bible Institute in California before coming to Arkansas.

Bill Volner
has been called to serve as pastor of the Anderson Tully Church at Trumann.
Larry Pendegraft
has resigned as pastor of the Lebanon Church at Harrisburg.
Gary Brown
began serving Feb. 3 as pastor of the Pleasant Grove Church near Harrisburg.

## Larry Vernich

joined the staff of Mount Carmel Church in Cabot Feb. 14 as associate pastor in charge of extension ministries. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University at Jonesboro with 20 years of experience in the ministry. He and his wife, Jean, have three children.
briefly

Forrest City Second Church
recently honored Forrest McKinney for 53 years of service as an active deacon. He was presented a plaque by Dan Minton, pastor.

## Lavaca First Church

held a service Feb. 20 to ordain Leon Meyer, Ralph Newman and Arnold Sexton as deacons.

## East Side Church

in Fort Smith recently honored Rev. and Mrs. Clyde Jones for their seven years of service with the church. They were presented with a 1983 stationwagon.

## Van Buren First Church

Senior Adults held an organizational meeting Jan. 25 , voting to meet the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Elected
as officers were Mrs. Clem Dotson, president; Faye Marie Taylor, vice-president; Freida Wofford, treasurer/records; and Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Wade, activities/program co-directors.

## Elliott Church

at Camden ordained one of its members, Paul King, to the ministry Jan. 30. He and his wife, Stephanie, are students at Ouachita Baptist University.

## Waldo Memorial Church

men met Jan. 22 for a fellowship breakfast as part of a weekend of promotional activities. Waldo First Church men and their pastor, Roy Tilley, were guests. Tilley was devotional speaker. Memorial Church men led Sunday, Jan. 23, services in observance of Baptist Men's Day.


Sunday School Board trustee Don Fuller (second from right), a businessman from Brinkley, Ark., and his wife visited briefly with Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Elder at a reception following Elder's election as the seventh president of the Sunday School Board.

Cabot First Church
youth choir will be in Pine Bluff Feb. 19 to minister at the Youth Services Center there. They will witness to the boys ages 13 to 18 . Chaplain Benny McCracken coordinates religious activities at the Pine Bluff center.

## Indiana update

The North Oaks Chapel in Bluffton is now meeting in a new building on a choice piece of property as the result of the Arkan-sas-Indiana Linkup. Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, for the past three years, has sponsored this Indiana work.

North Pulaski Association has voted to give $\$ 8,000$ toward the purchase of a new building in New Haven, Ind., and allocated $\$ 250$ per month for support of the property. Chapel Hill Church in Jacksonville has budgeted $\$ 2,400$ to help the New Haven work. Lee Lawson is pastor of the Jacksonville church and is chairman of the North Pulaski Association missions committee.

Other Arkansas associations voting to assist with new linkup work are Mississippi County and Arkansas Valley. Hughes First Church is assisting with the First Church of Shipshewana, Ind.

## Chambliss named OBU dean

ARKADELPHIA Charles Chambliss, professor of education at Ouachita Baptist University, will assume the office of Dean of the Graduate School and Chairman of the Division of Education at OBU, effective immediately, according to Daniel R. Grant, president of

, Chambliss Ouachita. He succeeds Dewey Chapel who retired on Feb. 1 after 19 years in the position.

Dr. Grant said the appointment of Chambliss to succeed Chapel is a "natural," because of his "outstanding reputation among educators in the state and region, as well as within our own faculty." Tom Turner, vice president for academic affairs, expressed great pleasure in the appointment and confidence that "Dr. Chambliss will lead the Graduate School to new levels of strength."

Chambliss is a native of Bearden and in 1960, graduated from Ouachita with a B.A. degree in mathematics. In 1963, he graduated from Texas A \& $M$ University with a master's of education degree in natural sciences education, and in 1970, graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a doctorate of education degree in higher education.

## Baptist Men receive by giving during disaster

by Kevin Jones

Ozzie Berryhill, an RA leader at Levy Church in North Little Rock who is blind, goes over some denominational material printed in Braile.

Despite its damage to hundreds of homes and the loss it caused businesses throughout the state, the recent floods may have brought a lasting benefit to Baptist Men in Arkansas.

The help that more than a thousand Baptist Men volunteered has made a difference in many lives throughout the stricken area. "Though many do not know our Jesus, they are aware that they have participated in his loving care," said Wayne Ferguson, a lay volunteer from Amboy Church in North Little Rock who is disaster relief coordinator for Arkansas Baptist Men.

The Baptist Men themselves have also been blessed by their service almost as much as those they aided. "The work we did during the flood, using something like 1.500 volunteers, has been a help to us; it will be a real boost to the program of Baptist Men in this state," said State Brotherhood Director Neal Guthrie.

said. "We've never had as many men involved in a ministry in this state, to my knowledge."

To some, like the Mayor of flood-devastated Jacksonport, the activity of Baptist Men was a revelation." I wasn't even aware of Baptist Men," he said, "but I am now - and I'm a Baptist. We didn't think we had any help until the Baptist Men showed up." For weeks, Baptist Men fed flood victims and ran a warehouse where grocery vouchers and items of clothing, furniture and even appliances were given out. They also assisted in the cleanup efforts.
"We hope to see some strengthening of our statewide organization through this," Cuthrie said. "It will bind the men of the state closer together and get some men involved, who had never been active before.
"There are a lot of men in Arkansas who are excited about the Lord who are looking for some place to serve," he went on, "and

One of those men who has found a way to be useful through Baptist Men is Ozzie Berryhill, a member of Levy Church in North Little Rock. Though blind, he manned the radio in the Baptist Men's disaster relief bus for three days during the worst of the flooding, providing vital information on location of victims and availability of aid.

It took a lot of encouragement and acceptance from Baptist Men for Berryhill to reach his present point of being almost a full-time volunteer. For a few years after he lost his sight, in 1977. Ozzie Berryhill didn't do much "I just thought, 'what's the use," " he said. "I felt unaccepted by people. I had lost one eye back in the 40's, so I was aware of how people treated blind people pretty shabby. When I lost my other eye in an accident, well, I'd be at church and I'd hear people talking about me, saying, 'there's old Ozzie. I just don't know what to say to him anymore', acting like I couldn't hear either. I started looking for a (new) church home, and when I came to Levy, I felt accepted. There are a lot of handicapped people who go to our church and people treated me like a person."

Along with his church, Guthrie and Baptist Men went a step further; they asked him to get involved again. "I think they were just being nice at first," Berryhill recalled. "I don't think they really thought I could do it. I didn't either. But I told the Lord 'surely you aren't through with me yet.' And I told them I would help."

Since then, his volunteer efforts have run from finding a place to park the Disaster Relief Bus to regularly leading training sessions for Royal Ambassador leaders. "Some men have come to the workshops and haven't been sure they could lead RA's," Berryhill said. "But then they see me doing it being blind. And they say 'if you can do it, so can I.'"

It has gotten to the point where Berryhill can be thankful for what he used to consider a handicap. "I don't regret the loss of my sight," he said. "I used to only be able to do this when I had time, but now I can give it full time."

It has been through the help provided by Baptist men and others that Berryhill has reached that place of acceptance. "If the men didn't encourage me when I do the training sessions or when I help on something like the disaster, I might slow down or even stop," he said. "But they say to me that it does something for me to be along. that my example encourages them and that helps me."

For Berryhill, and some 1,500 other Baptist Men all over the state, the flood was a time when they could serve the Lord together by helping others, and like him, they may have received as much as they gave.


Vignettes from the day-to-day ministry of state workers: (clockwise from top left) Pat Ratton, Sunday School preschool consúltant, totes those necessary materials at the beginning of another trip; Pat Glascock, WMU's Mission Friends/Girls in Action director,
studies; staying overnight at a conference site. Gerald Jackson of the Church Training Department takes a break to call home; and Bill Falkner leads a conference in his area, youth Church Training.


Executive Secretary Don Moore contemplates his goals and hopes for Arkansas Baptists.

# Laborers together is Executive Secretary's goal 

by Betty J. Kennedy

Six months into his service as Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Don Moore has some very definite ideas about who serves who and how.

Coming to the position from the pastorate of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, he understands the pastor/staff member/layperson view of the Baptist Building.

And he is anxious to sharpen what he sees as that fuzzy image.

Moore thinks people draw the conclusion that they are to serve the state convention and he feels the reason is that they do not know what Executive Board departments and the agencies have to offer. Nor do they know about the price, he thinks.
"A lot of people in our churches do not realize we are able to come at no cost to the church," he says. And he is concerned that many Arkansas Baptists do not know what Convention employees can do to aid the local church.

Moore sees two facets to the ministries being carried on from the Baptist Building. "First, we can assist churches with ideas and training to strengthen their program organizations," he notes, "and then we have ministries to individuals and can also help churches to help individuals."

The Executive Secretary explains the difference by citing examples: Sunday School, Church Training, evangelism and music personnel might conduct statewide or associational level training sessions for leadership. They also could help a local church adapt a new concept to their needs.

Arkansas Baptists, Moore thinks, may not be as aware of the ministries to individuals. For example, while language mis-
sions work directly to spread the Cospel to migrants through the Baptists' center at Hope, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services provides counseling and residential care to hurting families and children. Arkansas Baptist Foundation aids individuals, many of whom want to make Baptist causes beneficiaries of their estates, and simultaneously undergirds the other agencies, institutions and programs.

Besides making Arkansas Baptists aware of what's available for the asking, he says he wants to assure that the personnel plan and provide according to the needs of the local church.

> "People being saved is the reason behind all we do"

His view is that state convention staff must tailor what's provided to meet needs of both the single staff member church and multiple staff member congregation.
"The different needs of small and large churches also must be considered," he notes, "and we need to adapt," Moore concludes.

Providing for recognized needs is Moore's plan and he wants to get to the heart of the matter in doing it. "Spiritually speaking, we can't just have meetings," he is convinced. "People being saved is the reason behind all we do," he emphasizes. "And," he explains, "we need to communicate that to the people."

He firmly believes that churches viewing state convention workers as partners in the work and those workers seeing church staff and members the same way would create a stronger fellowship and bond.

The Executive Secretary is enthusiastic about creating a stronger sense of fellowship among Arkansas Baptists, but it's a goal he acknowledges will take some work. He wants to help "us to love and trust each other" because he's seen a lot of mistrust and suspicion between "factions" among Southern Baptists all over.

He characterizes some of the fighters as "feudamentalists," adding that he sees himself as a fundamentalist but not a "feudamentalist."

Don Moore points out that Baptists have different spiritual gifts, but he sees some emphasizing one gift or ministry to the exclusion of others. "We begin to conclude that, since you don't emphasize the same gift or ministry that I do (or have a different vocabulary on spiritual matters), that you can't be as dedicated as I am."

Communicating is a start on a solution to that problem, the Executive Secretary feels. He's anxious that Arkansas Baptist people see each other as fellow laborers, working toward bringing persons to Jesus Christ.

As a means to that end, the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine begins this week a series of features on State Convention work and workers. These are scheduled for twice monthly to inform Arkansas Baptists about all Executive Board departments and agencies.

Betty J. Kennedy is Managing Editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

# Proposal would change Cooperative Program 

## by Kevin Jones

Reaction in Arkansas is mixed to a proposal that would allow churches to "exclude certain causes" and still have their gifts considered as Cooperative Program contributions.

The report will be made to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention next week by the 25 -member Cooperative Program Study Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee last year. The Executive Committee can make recommendations to the SBC annual meeting in Pittsburgh in June.

The "negative designation", if passed, would be the first major change in the Co operative Program since it was instituted in 1925. Presently, all gifts to the Cooperative Program are divided among all SBC agencies according to a budget approved by messengers to the annual SBC meeting.

A group within the denomination concerned about what they feel is a trend toward liberal theology has protested being "forced," by the present Cooperative Program setup, to support seminaries and agencies they do not agree with. Others maintain that tampering with the Cooperative Program will wreck the mission support program, possibly damaging the support of those ministries and agencies that do not have popular appeal.
Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, was one of the early proponents of the idea, having delivered it as part of a paper he presented at a November, 1982, meeting in Texas of 40 Southern Baptist leaders called by SBC President James Draper.

## Executive Secretary's reaction

"I contend that this proposal, if enacted. will wreck the Cooperative Program. In that way, I am with the group labeled moderate, but I am not a moderate theologically as I understand their use of the term," said Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Secretary Don Moore. "I am not identified with either group, but this, along with the special offerings, will bring about the demise of the Cooperative Program. This is a step back into the past where each agency and institution will have to sell its program. Lots of programs do not have the emotional or sentimental appeal that others do, and they could have problems with support.
"This will allow people to protest over every little thing that comes up, and if they are unhappy, to withhold their money.
"It will destroy the planning process," Moore went on, "since institutions will not be able to anticipate their support in advance.
"It [negative designation] will also alienate people instead of unifying people," he said. "I can visualize people gathering in camps around certain institutions or causes.
"Yet there are some good things that could come from this," he added. "It's an open acknowledgement that a real theological problem exists, that some theological positions are untennable to some people. Some people have tried to ignore it, but now an official organization of the convention is trying to deal with it."

Moore also said that the proposal would put pressure on institutions to "perform or conform." "There would be no pressure on, say, Southeastern or Southern Seminary to maintain a conservative style," he said.
"They could target their funding efforts at a particular group and cater to them; it might make it hard for the seminaries to work together.
"Some programs might even fail," Moore predicted. "And it will cheapen the motivation of the leadership of agencies. Rather than conforming out of conviction, they will be conforming to maintain support. It's shameful that it has to be dealt with by material standards instead of being resolved spiritually," he said. He added that he did not see any other way to resolve the issue outside of divine intervention.

James Walker, director of the state convention's Stewardship Department, said, "I'm skeptical of the recommendation. I think it's an overreaction. We should not ask the convention to do something that we would not promote in our local churches."

## How it works

In Virginia, one of the few state conventions which has adopted a negative designation plan, a church can exclude any item on the state budget and can exclude as many as they want as long as one state budget item is left and still have their gift counted toward the state total, according to Tom Miller, associate editor of the Religious Herald, the state Baptist paper.

Though giving has increased since the plan was passed last November, it had already been increasing steadily before the change. In the two-plus months that the plan has been in effect, there has been no significant change in giving, according to Miller.

So far in Virginia, only two items have been negatively designated: the University

## Evangelism: third in a series

## The value of evangelistic meetings

by Paul Jackson

Though some perhaps would like to, there is really no realistic room for questioning the value of local church evangelistic meetings. It has been my privilege for 10 years to travel America preaching in such meetings, and not only have I seen hundreds, even thou-

jackson sands of people saved, but I have witnessed the testimony of literally untold thousands of people who received the Lord through "church revival meetings."

Let's establish a clear purpose for revival meetings. In essence, it's to unify the
"saints" in an intensified harvest effort. The scripture likens the work of evangelism to bringing in a harvest. I grew up in a small rural town. I also had the opportunity as a boy to work on the farm with family members. I discovered that the only time a crop could be harvested was when the crop was ready. And when it was ready, in order for the harvest to be completed, it had the priority of the laborers.

It was not uncommon to notice boys and girls missing from my school classes during harvest time. Parents required their children to miss school in order to get the harvest in. I'm convinced one of the reasons we don't see the harvest that we ought to see in many revival meetings is because we are unwilling to make the harvest such a priority that we change our schedules and
our plans in order to get the harvest in when the crop is ready. This must be done in order to have a successful revival meeting.

God's Word has a promise for the harvest. The Scripture says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." The promise is clear. If we're willing to pay the price, to agonize over the souls of men and women, to weep in diligent prayer, and to sow the Gospel seed, we will have a reaping time of joy.

The greatest problem to the harvest was clearly expressed by Jesus in the Cospel of Matthew. He said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Things have not changed too much since Jesus made that statement. Since we have so few

of Richmond, because of a policv which allows students to drink alcohol, and Virginia Baptist Hospital, because it performs abortions for the sake of the mental well-being of the mother. The state convention in Virginia supports a $\$ 25,000$ a year chaplaincy program at the hospital. "Funding will definitely be cut for the chaplaincy program," Miller said, "but only by the percent of the total budget it gets from each church's gift. For instance, if a church gives $\$ 1,000$ and the hospital was designated one percent. the hospital would lose $\$ 10$." The state convention will not make up the difference in the amount lost due to negative designation; the chaplaincy budget will simply be cut by whatever figure the negative desig. nation amounts to.

In order to negatively designate, a church has to vote and send a dated notice of its action to the state office.

## Pastors' reactions

Tommy Hinson, pastor of First Church of West Memphis, said, "We are going to have this (negative designation) or lose some churches entirely. There are churches here in Arkansas who believe that having a man on the faculty who teaches that you can fall from grace is sufficient reason to withhold funds to that seminary. If that is the position that a church holds, it is stupid not to recognize it.
"I think some denominational people, in seminaries and agencies, only understand economic language," Hinson went on. "If their pockets are hurting. you get their at-

tention. I would like them to be honest, not to take Baptist money and deny Baptist teaching. I can respect a man who becomes a Methodist more than a man who stays and tries to make a Baptist church semiMethodist."

Don Harbuck, pastor of EI Dorado First Church, said, "When this principle is applied to a local church, it undermines the vigor, force and unity of the congregation. If I can't subordinate my will to the collective judgment of the group, then I need to find a group I can fellowship with."
W. O. Vaught, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Little Rock, said, "This is a dangerous recommendation and it opens the door for the destruction of the Cooperative Program. This is a step toward the division of the Southern Baptist Convention because the Cooperative Program has been one of the biggest things that has bound us together."

William L. Bennett, pastor of First Church of Fort Smith, said, "The Cooperative Program is the Cooperative Program and not the coercive program. I understand this to mean that churches can choose to give or not to give and exclude certain agencies in what they give. I say this as one who has liberally supported the Cooperative Program and never excluded anyone.
"I believe agencies that are excluded should become more sensitive to the norm of Baptist faith and practice. If they do not, they must bear much of the blame for

## 

Kevin Jones, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, is an intern with the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine."

## HMB notes increase in missionary force

ATLANTA (BP) - The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board noted an increase of 23 percent over the previous high for missions appointments during 1982, boosting the number of home missionaries to 3,424 , reported Irvin Dawson, director of the HMB's missionary personnel department.

The HMB appointed 693 missions workers in 1982, surpassing the previous record of 563 missions appointments set in 1980 The 1982 total also represented a 38 percent increase over 1981 missions appointments, said Dawson.

During 1982, the board appointed 77 mis sionaries, 118 missionary associates and 41 US-2 missionaries and approved 385 persons for church pastoral assistance and 72 persons for language pastoral assistance.


## Baptist Bookstore moves west

Saying that Baptist Bookstores had considered the accessibility and convenience of their Little Rock store in changing the location, Jimmy D. Edwards (left photo) helped dedicate the new site in West Little Rock last month. Edwards, vice president of the Office of Publication and Distribution for Baptist Book Stores, joined Arkansas Executive Secretary Don Moore (below, second from left) and Pulaski County Association Director of Missions Clenn Hickey (below, left) in the ceremonies. Robert Barnett, (right) is manager of the store, now open at West Markham and Barrow Road. The store has expanded business hours, according to Barnett, and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week


The building committee of Lake Ouachita Baptist Church gathered outside their new 3.500 square foot educational building. which was built almost entirely with church labor. The committee members are (left to right) Eddie Clark, chairman, Odell Philpot, Earl Emery, Hubert Forga and pastor Ed Sud. bery. Not present was Murray Sauders.


## Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, is it wrong or selfish for a Christian to want some time for themselves?

People differ in their unique personality and the conditions that helps to form individual structures. It is difficult for any person to gain an accurate perspective of another. It is also easy to convey to another an assignment of "wrong" for the differences that are


McGriff obvious.

The person who has gained affirmation for being assertive, outgoing and social may assume that this is the "right" way to behave. One who experiences approval by significant others (usually parents and or siblings) for such behavior may become conditioned for that response. It is the response that results in the feeling of being loved. The comfort of that feeling can cause one to reconstruct the behavior. If the reward is again received, a positive reinforcement is made and the process will likely be repeated.

The conditioning by reinforcement is not implied as necessarily bad or negative. It can be when it is contradictory of one's basic personality and becomes a performance to gain acceptance. Such experience may lead to intolerance and criticism of those who differ in their behavioral response.

To be very direct in response to your question, NO - it is neither wrong or selfish for one to desire time alone. It is both natural and healthy. Persons are both unique and relational. Each one is a whole person in their solitariness. They are also capable of contributing and receiving enrichment in relationships. Perhaps a beauty of balance is a significant factor and a goal to achieve.

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

## RTVC trustees okay ACTS launch strategy

by Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) - Trustees of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) have unanimously approved a comprehensive strategy launching the American Christian Television System (ACTS) in March 1984.

In other board action during its lan $24-25$ meeting, the trustees announced James Landes, retired director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, would serve as development consultant to the commission, approved a policy for handling controversy and thanked comedian lerry Clower for his ten-year association with "Country Crossroads."
"There comes a time when every vision must be transformed into reality." said RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen in introducing the ACIS strategy. "That time is crucial That time is now." The plan, which was the product of a five-month study by a staff task force, included a tentative program schedule for 16 hours of daily broadcast. The majority of the programming would be produced by the RTVC, while some would be purchased from outside producers.

ACTS plans to broadcast six hours of new programming each day and repeat other programs for 10 hours. No programs will be repeated on the same day or at the same time of day, however. The cost of acquiring and producing the programming was estimated at $\$ 3.3$ million dollars for the first year.

Although ACTS will be non-commercial and make no appeals for money on the air. it will provide revenue through direct mail, commercial recognition (similar to those used in public broadcasting) and from a
system of sharing the satellite delivery costs. "From the very beginning, we expected to receive approximately $\$ 162,000$ per month," said Ron Dixon, RTVC vice president of media services
Participating churches and TV stations will be asked to share the delivery costs on a proportionate basis. Each low-power TV station will pay $\$ 500$ per month. Full-power stations will be charged $\$ 1,000$ per month Churches using ACTS on cable TV will be asked to share the costs at a rate of 10 cents per month for each resident member.

The satellite to be used to deliver ACTS programming to the stations and churches will cost the RTVC $\$ 175,000$ per month.

The task force, chaired by RTVC's Executive Vice President Luke Williams, also presented a strategy for counseling viewers who respond by telephone to ACTS broadcasts, a plan to enlarge and improve RTVC production facilities and a schedule for building the "uplink," or satellite transmitter unit.

The RTVC has asked the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for $\$ 6.4$ million to meet capital needs during $1984-88$, while commiting to raise $\$ 2.6$ million on its own.

After kneeling in prayer, the trustees unanimously adopted the report. Board Chairman John Hughes of Independence, Mo, called the action "a milestone and a step of faith."

Landes, who retired as head of Texas Baptists in December, will assume his role as consultant to the RTVC immediately. Allen said the commission is still seeking a
vice president of development.
Admitting controversy is inevitable for a national TV network, the trustees adopted the guidelines for the RTVC management in handling conflicts that arise through the ACTS network. The policy states ACTS will adhere to the broadcast industry standards of the Fairness Doctrine and Television Code of the National Association of Broadcasters. While maintaining the "freedom of the pulpit," ACTS will draw on the Baptist Faith and Message Statement as a guide to doctrinal integrity.

In a special appreciation funcheon Jan. 25, the trustee board named Clower "Ambassador at Large" for the RTVC. The entertainer has donated his time to cohost the weekly "Country Crossroads" radio program since 1972. Testimonials at the luncheon came from several "Crossroads" listeners who had received spiritual help from the program.

Other board action allocated $\$ 1.3$ million in 1982-83 Bold Mission Thrust advance funds to acquisition and production of programming for ACTS. Last year the trustees requested and received the 20 percent share of the advance funds, the money given to the Cooperative Program in excess of its budget.

Trustees also agreed to spend up to $\$ 50,000$, to be raised through special gifts, for occasional broadcasts on an existing satellite network later this year. The air time will be used to promote the 1984 launch of the network. The board also asked the commission staff to study the possibility of using and marketing a series of TV spot announcements.

## California editor announces retirement

FRESNO, Calif. (BP) - Elmer L. Gray, editor of the California Southern Baptist since January of 1974, has announced his retirement, effective July 31, 1983.

In announcing the decision, Gray said he would continue working for the executive board - of which the newsjournal is a part - until a replacement is employed and "until the board operations committee replaces me."

Gray, who will be 65 in March, came to the editorship of the 27,000 circulation newspaper from Colden Cate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., where he had been academic dean. He held the dean's post from 1970 to 1974. Previously, he was manager of the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for three years, professor of church administration at CGBTS for eight years, and pastor of three Southern Baptist churches in California.

## International <br> Suffering crucifixion

by Leroy Sisk, Chaplaincy Ministries, ABSC Luke 23:32-46
Central truth: The crucifixion of Jesus reveals both $\sin$ in its most heinous expression and also the infinite depth of God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

In the crucifixion, we see the age-old enmity against God by the fallen human race lesus was crucified not because he was bad but because he was good. Those who crucified him did so because they were unwilling to receive him for who he was, the Messiah. He was a threat to their self-willed plans. Because sin is spiritually blinding, this often is done in ignorance and even in the name of religion.

In this cruel incident. lesus revealed God's mercy and grace. He willingly submitted to death on the cross in order to be the savior. Some mocked him and hurled ridicule at him with the cynical remark, "He saved others: let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen one of God." As God often does, he took the ridicule hurled at lesus and turned it into a glorious truth. He did save others! He could not save himself and still be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In this act, God shows his infinite love for us all.

On the cross. Jesus demonstrated to those who follow him the grace of forgiveness. While his life's blood was dripping from him he prayed for forgiveness for those who placed him there! He is the supreme example! There is nothing so beautiful as Christian forgiveness and nothing more important! An unforgiving spirit soon turns the heart to bitterness. There is a truth in the saying that the one who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself.

The fact that lesus was crucified between two thieves has its own significance. The one reviled Jesus with harsh, abusive language while the other expressed the attitude of repentance. Jesus assured that one a place in paradise. This incident shows that it is never too late to turn to Jesus. It also shows the danger that salvation constantly rejected may harden the heart. What a tragedy that is in light of what God did on the cross to save us!
The lesson treatment is based on the international Bible Lesson for Christian teaching, Uniform Series, copyright by the International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## GOD'S CHALLENGE FOR OUR LAND

Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 6-13. 1983 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering National Goal: $\$ 25,000,000$

## Life and Work The possibility with God

by Winfred P. Bridges, First Church, Paragould
Basic passage: Matthew 19:13-30
Focal passage: Matthew 19:16-26
Central truth: The power of the Gospel is able to save anyone.

The encounter of Jesus with the rich young ruler is recorded in the synoptic Cospels with little variance. While the Cospel addresses itself to those who seem to be deep in $\sin$, (John $4: 18$, John $8: 1 \mathrm{ff}$ ) it also speaks to the respectable whose lives to the open eye are beyond reproach, but to God are not so. The Gospel says to any sinner, "come," even to the one who called himself the Chief of Sinners that invitation was extended. But the Gospel with equal affection and demand invites those, though offending God in seemingly small areas, to come and receive him. These passages clearly teach several things.

1. A good man can be a lost man. The religion of the young man was impeccable, without flaw. He was the kind of dedicated person that might add grace to any church. But down in his heart lay the flaw beyond all that of Cod himself. His Cod was religion and materialism, not Jehovah God.
2. A good man is a craving, unsettled man. One might think that with all his resources and dedication, he could satisfy the desire for what Rudolph Otto calls the "wholly other" in his life. But like another rich and resourceful man, Nicodemus, he could not. Nor could anyone else. If our desire for God is not satisfied by God, it will go athirst, forever.
3. A good man can become a saved man, not by taking on another good work. Quite to the contrary. By announcing his own goodness as trash before God's eyes and letting lesus atone for all.
Who then can be saved? Anyone willing to meet God on his terms, confessing self as sinful along with its pride, and receiving Jesus. But who will be saved? Often, the affluent religious church members will not be for the same reason the young man in consideration would not.
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.

|  | Hawaiian vacation <br> right days, seven nights departing May 31, 1983 double occupancy Little Rock to Little Rock <br> Holy Land Tour <br> 10 days <br> departing June 15, 1983 from N. Y. <br> Rev. David M. Hankins Jr. <br> 51 Broadmoor Drive, LR, 72204 <br> Phone (501) $565-4123$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |

## Bible Book

Israel's rejection of God's message
by Francis Chesson, First Church, Camden Basic passage: Romans 9:30-11
Focal passages: Romans 9:30-32a; 10:4-13, 19, 21
Central truth: God's plan of salvation includes all who respond to him in faith. God gives every person the choice to reject or accept him; Israel chose to reject his message.

Paul reminds the Jews that Centiles have found the way of Cod's salvation through faith. Israel was missing this because they were trying to achieve salvation by works (keeping the law). So too, some "church people" today are prone to fall into this same sort of trap, as they seek salvation through something other than faith in Christ, Cod's only provision.

In our day of self-made people, it's easy for "salvation by works" theology to creep into the thinking of church goers. For some, this may take the form of baptism, or church membership, or claiming a "Christian home." Paul would consider this just as much a rejection of God's message as the attempts of the lews.

The lews in Paul's day tried to do the work of God; indeed, their presumption bordered on trying to improve on Cod's plan. Paul was bold in pointing out to the Jews of his day that God's salvation was available to anyone. The only "works" involved on man's part is in his response to what God has already done through Christ. This is a "bold" statement, for the lews considered themselves God's favorites and far superior to Gentiles.
Today we may have different groups of individuals "co-existing" with each other With this comes the prevalence of prejudice and unchristian "labeling." A Christian needs to examine his thinking. Do I really accept and live out this teaching of verse 12 that "there is no difference . . . since all have the same Lord"?

Paul may use strong words in the gospel message, but they are always tempered with God's love. Often he reminds his hearers of God's patient love, in spite of the people's rejection and rebellion.
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## Disabled accepted at Florida church

by Janice Trusty

IACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) - "Acceptance," declared Pastor J. W. Wynn, "is why the handicapped come to Hogan."

Wynn and his congregation are among the growing number of Southern Baptists who have become aware of their responsibilities to the nation's 30.1 million disabled persons. Realizing most churches remain gracious turn-of-the-century bastions whose narrow corridors and unscalable stainways bar entries to the disabled, Hogan Baptist began a concerted effort to make its facilities accessible.

Their sprawling. mostly ground-level buildings needed only slight alterations such as ramps and enlarged rest rooms. Teenagers and adults volunteered to stand ready to push a wheelchair or hold a door.

Volunteer Becky Hill, 19, believes helping the disabled is one of the best things that has happened to her. "I love working with these people," she said. "It means a lot to them and I have learried the impor-
tance of caring for others."
Wynn has discovered that ministry to the disabled by the able-bodied is good for both. "Most people who join a church want to work," he pointed out, "and the disabled program is an ideal outlet."

Each person entering Hogan's doors is encouraged to serve. Brenda Broach, 31, who suffered brain damage at birth, sings in the choir despite a slight speech impediment. Jack Mincey, a paraplegic since an automobile accident, is a favorite with the children in the nursery. Other disabled persons work in Sunday School, Church Training or in the sign language ministry.

The project has expanded to include braille hymnbooks, interpreters for the deaf and audio system outlets throughout the sanctuary to aid persons with hearing disabilities. Two vans equipped with hydraulic lifts were purchased to transport wheelchair users and elderly members who have difficulty entering and exiting regular auto-


Disability no handicap - Members of Hogan Church in lacksonville, Fla., have found that ministry to the disabled complements ministry to the ablebodied. O. M. Koons helps lack Mincey from the church van using a special hydraulic lift. Mincey, a paraplegic since an auto accident, is a favorite with the children in the nursery.
mobiles.
"What most people fail to realize," Wynn commented, "is that anything helpful to the disabled is just as useful for the elderly and doesn't hinder the able-bodied."

Wynn is one of Southern Baptists' bestinformed pastors on work with the disabled. But, he admitted, the knowledge was forced upon him. When Stan Carter was paralyzed in an automobile accident at age 19, his family came to Wynn.
"I felt it was all over," remembered Carter. "But the preacher visited me from the very beginning. He faithfully appeared at the hospital with a smile, a prayer and cassette tapes of Sunday services."

Knowing Carter wasn't a Christian, Wynn asked him to critique the sermons. "He had to listen, and listening meant he heard the gospel," Wynn smiled. Carter became a Christian.
After leaving the hospital Carter reentered college. Today he runs his own business equipping vans for the disabled and works as director of disabled youth education at Florida Junior College.

Through his attempts to minister to Carter, Wynn discovered another critical need of the disabled - fellowship. The answer was the Bethesda Club - a fraternity for the disabled, begun by Wynn with Carter as the lone member. But the club grew rapidly. Volunteers took the group on shopping trips, to the 200 and to athletic events. For many, these trips were the first time they had participated in such outings since being disabled.

Recreational facilities also were nonexistent for disabled persons until 50 wooded acres were donated to the church for a park for the disabled. Financially unable to develop the land, the church gave it to the city and served as a consultant to the project.

Completed, the park provides cabins, restrooms and other facilities accessible to both the disabled and the able-bodied. Trails, winding through wooded terrain and around the well-stocked lake, accept wheelchair users. "It's shocking how these people have been deprived of so many things for such a long time," emphasized Wynn.

Appalled at the lack of educational opportunities for the disabled, Wynn approached Florida Junior College on behalf of Bethesda Club members. The college established a mini-high school at the church; many club members have since earned high school diplomas.

Wynn knows well the frustration of a lack of education. "I always thought I was just stupid," said Wynn. "Once the doctors identified my problem as dyslexia, it was a relief."
Adapted from Missions USA, Nov./Dec. 1982

## Your state convention at work

Sunday School

## Teach, Win, Develop Clinic

If our Sunday School classes do not have lost persons enrolled and attending then we have ceased to be fishers of men and have become keepers of the aquarium. Every class should be seeking to enroll the lost. If we are to make an impact for Christ in our community we must make. enrolling the lost our number one priority. If our Sunday Schools are merely "swapping fish from bowl to bowl" then we are not fulfilling the Great Commission no matter how good the numbers look


Pike

How do you develop a climate for evangelism in a Sunday School class? How do you make Sunday morning conducive for evangelism? How do you equip leaders and members for evangelism? Answering these three questions will be the focus of the Teach, Win, Develop Clinic, April 9, at Life Line Church in Little Rock. The clinic is sponsored by the state Sunday School Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board. Conferences will be conducted for all age group workers as well as general officers. All Sunday School workers should plan to attend this Saturday clinic. The clinic is from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. Bring a sack lunch. - Freddie Pike, assistant director

## Stewardship

## Giving through the churches

Arkansas Baptists weren't the only givers who gave beyond the inflation rate. In a report recently issued by the National Council of Churches, church members increased their 1981 giving by 13.2 percent. This topped the 8.9 inflation rate.

Southern Baptist churches received more than any major evangelical denomination with the total reaching $\$ 2.8$ billion. We were, however, near the bottom in per capita giving with $\$ 201.70$ reported. Southern Baptists ranked 36 out of the $40^{-8}$ denominations listed.

Seventh-Day Adventists claim almost 600,000 members with per capita gifts reaching $\$ 732.20$. The Adventists place a strong
emphasis upon tithing.
The $\$ 25.4$ billion given for religious and welfare purposes looks small compared with expenditures for non-essentials. Americans spent $\$ 46.2$ billion on alcoholic beverages and $\$ 23.1$ billion on tobacco.

An official with the National Council said real giving, after inflation, had increased only 14.3 percent since 1967.

Southern Baptists encourage the "grace of giving" through budget promotion programs available through the Stewardship Department. - James A. Walker, director

## Missions

## Deaf ministry training available

As of Jan. 1, 1983, Shirley Herald is the Deaf Ministries Field Consultant serving on a part-time basis under the Language Missions Division of the Department of Missions. Shirley's responsibilities entail assisting the ministry to the Deaf at Immanuel Church in Little Rock and leading in training seminars across the state relative to deaf ministry and consulting with the Director of Language Missions with regard to needs and trends among the Deaf Community. Shirley is available to any Arkansas Southern Baptist Church desiring guidance and training in deaf work, with particular emphasis on developing interpreter, ministry and coordinative
planning skills.
Shirley is employed full-time by the Arkansas Judicial Department as an interpreter. She possesses a Comprehensive Skills Certificate in interpreting as well as a Legal Specialist Certificate in interpreting, both granted by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

It is hoped that Arkansas churches will feel free to contact Shirley for those services deemed appropriate and/or needed. She can be contacted at $227-6341$ (home) or 371-2295 (work). - Randy Cash, language missions associate

## Woman's Missionary Union

## Acteens Encounter

Steve Wanje, an international student from Kenya, East Africa, and Teddy Reynolds, son of Marvin and Beth Reynolds, former missionaries to Botswana, will lead Acteens in a fellowship time during the Acteens Encounter at Southern Baptist College, Feb. 25-26. Both young men are


Wanje


Reynolds students at Southern Baptist College and are experienced in this type activity which includes music and testimonies.

The Encounter, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, features Gwen Williams, a home missionary from New Orleans. Conferences to help teenage girls adopt mission life styles will be held during the day Saturday. These are: "I can live without it" - Mrs. Boyd Margason, Mountain Home; "Fun with no funds" - Jeff Main, SBC, Walnut Ridge; "How to have time for missions" - Mrs. Steve Weidman, Blytheville; "Making your church youth program missionary" - Pat Glascock, Little Rock; and "Peer Ministry" Debbie Harless, Jonesboro. There will also be a conference for associational Acteens officers led by Mrs. Gordon O'Bryan of Little Rock.

A luncheon planned for Saturday noon in the North Dining Room at the college will honor girls working on Studiact, Acteens Individual Achievement Plan. - Betty Jo Lacy

## Your state convention at work

## Evangelism

## Continuing witness training worked for us

Joe Atchison, pastor at South Side Church in Pine Bluff, gave a perional testimony relating his church's involvement in CWT (Continuing Witness Training) during the 1983 Evangelism Conference. We are confident that his personal testimony will relate to many pastors across our state as they consider their church's involvement in CWT. The March 1983 seminar is already filled, but pastors could write and request enrollment information for the Sept 26-29 seminar to be held at Mt. Olive, Crossett.

CWT has done many positive things for


Kent our church. CWT has put evangelism on center-stage sof our church. I have 40 people in my church who can lead a person to Christ as well as anyone. There is ex́citement in our church: People are talking in the halls about witnessing and scripture memory. CWT is improving the fellowship.

CWT has increased the number of our prospects. Our secretary has to have 60 new prospects every week for visitation. We
found only a dozen lost adults on the Sunday School roll and 250 adults not enrolled who were on our church roll. After making a CWT presentation we enrolled them. Many became active and some were won to Christ.

The results of CWT, as far as large numbers of baptisms in the first year, have been slow. We have seen about 30 adults and 15 young people baptized since we started. (Spring. 1982-lanuary. 1983) We now have prospects in every worship service. CWT's thoroughness in its presentation leaves the door open for further witnessing like no other presentation I have seen. I think another strength of the program is that the people are involved for 26 weeks which begins to set a lifestyle thing with them.

There have been several surprises in CWT. One is those who will get into it. Many talk a good game, but don't show up for training. Some of our quiet and "in the shadows" people go into CWT and get hold. They begin to discipline themselves.

CWT is more adapted to Southern Baptist life than many longterm witnessing programs. It's hard work, it's discipline, it's worth it! - Wes Kent, Pre-College Associate

## Pastors experience renewal retreat

by Celeste Pennington

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (BP) - "This is where the egg hits the pan," said Ira Craft" to 63 South Carolina pastors and spouses. "How many of you can say you've heard the Christian witness of each of your deacons - and they have heard yours?"

Craft, a layman, looked out over the gathering, a "pilot" spiritual renewal retreat for pastors. No one raised a hand.

Spiritual renewal in the SBC - for a decade geared toward laypersons - is moving to the pulpit. The aim is to familiarize the pastor with renewal experienced by church members; to better prepare the pastor as an equipper for these newly-motivated saints and to offer a renewal "jour-
ney" tailor-made for the clergy.
"Pastors kept asking us, 'Where is our place in lay renewal?'" explained Reid Hardin, director of the Home Mission Board evangelism support department, which guides lay renewal programs. "We learned pastors and their wives have the same need for spiritual renewal as the laity."

The S.C. retreat - the first projected for five states in 1983 - was patterned after lay renewal meetings held in about 3,000 churches in the past 10 years.

Ralph W. Neighbor Jr., director of Touch ministries, a Houston-based effort to train churches how to equip laity, spoke pastor-to-pastor.

# Volunteer / part-time music leader workshop Camp Paron, Mar. 18-19 



Tommy Keown
small church consultant
CMD, BSSB
music directors


Nodell Dennis FBC, Trumann pastors

State keyboard specialists: piano, Bennie Carol Wade, Second Church, Monticello; organ, Ron Ballard, Park Hill Church, NLR.

Early bird activity, new music, worship planning, directing hints, free music, Bible study, keyboard training, book store materials.

Registration deadline, March 7, sponsored by Church Music Department.
"Why do pastors run so hard for office in the SBC?" he asked. Why are pastors so dependent on the size of the church, the number of baptisms, the expansion of the Sunday School for a sense of worth, he continued. "How many of the laity today get their significance from their control of the budget or a piece of the program?" Laity often take their cues from the pastor, he insisted. "We have some values very unlike the one we serve."

Bill Mackey, director of evangelism for South Carolina, said, "It is important for us to help our (church) people be more effective in their sharing ... in their serving Christ."

Mackey will help prepare the South Carolina pastors and their spouses for a threeyear renewal journey through "sharing groups" organized by geographic areas. Their meetings and study will revolve around the three-year ministry of Christ, he said.

The pilot retreat was a "good start," Hardin believes. "The pastors and their wives met with colleagues and experienced renewal in the same way laity experience it in local churches."

## Highlights of the South Seas

New Zealand, Australia, Tahiti, July 14-30
"Classic" Alaska tour
August 2-12
Special features, - write today: Dr.
Cecil Sutley, OBU, Arkadelphia 71923

## Baptist support urged for hunger resolution

WASHINGTON (BP) - A bipartisan group of House members has introduced a resolution opposing budget cuts in federal nutrition programs for fiscal year 1984.

Primary sponsors of the "Preventing Hunger at Home" resolution are Reps. Leon E. Panetta, D-Calif.; Carl D. Perkins, D-Ky.; James M. Jeffords, R-Vt: Ceorge Miller, D-Calif, and Claudine Schneider, R-R.I. It is being pushed by Bread for the World, a non-profit organization that seeks to eliminate hunger.

The resolution expresses the sense of Congress that federal food programs be excluded from budget cuts so that government may respond to citizens suffering from unemployment and high food prices.

There are reports that the president's fiscal year 1984 budget will seek up to $\$ 7 \times 5$ billion in child nutrition and food stamp cutbacks on top of the $\$ 12$ billion reductions enacted in the 97 th Congress. Panetta said at a press conference announcing the


UhendanererCHURCH FURNITURE \& STAINED GLASS LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
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[^0]introduction of the resolution.
"Churches and agencies have been unable to keep up with the increasing demand for food," he said. "Our national conscience demands that we must respond.

A similar resolution will be introduced in the Senate by Sens. Rudy Boschwitz. R-Minn., and John C. Danforth, R-Mo., Panetta said.

In his statement, Miller said that at one time hunger in America had been eradicated. "Now the clock is being turned back. Hunger and malnutrition are returning to America."

Miller cited a recently released evaluation by the Harvard School of Public Health concluding that every dollar invested in the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) saves $\$ 3$ in immediate hospitalization costs. Freezing the WIC program at the 1982 level will force 115,000 high-risk participants out of the program $-23,000$ of them pregnant
women, he said
Schneider included a report by the Food Research and Action Center in her statement showing that the infant mortality rate has increased in eight states over the last year. The study attributed a great majority of these deaths to the lack of basic foods and health care for both mother and child. she said

At the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention, messengers passed a resolution on hunger "encouraging our elected representatives to place a high priority on the responsibility of using our God-given bounty to alleviate hunger both in the United States and abroad"
"Baptists should support this resolution 100 percent because it will have a national span addressing one of the most serious problems we are having now," said Nathan Porter, Home Mission Board national consultant for disaster relief and domestic hunger.

## Area Strengthen Families Workshops

Monday, March 7, 1983
Tuesday, March 8, 1983
Thursday, March 10, 1983

El Dorado, West Side Church, Ft. Smith, South Side Church; Jonesboro, First Church Arkadelphia, OBU Evans Center; Fayetteville, First Church; Forrest City, First Church Little Rock, Markham St. Church; Mt. Home, First Church; Pine Bluff, First Church

Participants will become acquainted with the 1982-83 Bold Mission Thrust Strengthen Family emphasis and learn how to implement an effective, balanced ministry to typical families in the church and community.


Ray Wells


John Lee Taylor

## For:

Pastors, staff
Directors of missions

## Deacons

Family ministry committees


Gerald Jackson

Registration: Send name, address, church and $\$ 3.50$ registration fee to Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Sponsored by
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Arkansas Baptist State Convention } & \text { Baptist Sunday School Board } \\ \text { Church Training Department } & \text { Family Ministry Department }\end{array}$

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## THEOZARKS' MAINEVENT

Eureka Springs is the Ozarks' Main Event because it offers so much to so many. And with church groups it offers the added appeal of the Ozarks' greatest attraction, the Great Passion Play.

In 1983 the Passion Play will have an early opening with special performances April 29 and 30 and May 1,3 and 4. The season will run through the last Saturday in October. No performances on Thursdays and Mondays
Eureka Springs also offers your group the historic downtown district and shopping for arts and crafts, a full size steam powered train to ride, fine country music
shows and the beauty of Ozark scenery and many natural attractions.

There are plenty of fine places to stay and most offer group rates. For full information write Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce, Dept. 7. P. O. Box 551, Eureka Springs AR 72632; or call toll- free 1-800-643-3546.

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

Featuring
Wes Forbis, Choral Clinician Baptist Sunday School Board
Betty Bedsole, Children's Choirs Southeon Seminary
Ron Bond, Pianist
Southem Seminary
For further information. please contact:
Dr. Paul Hammond Box 210 OBU
Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923
(Thanksgiving Offering, Mother's Day Offering, Church Budget, Birthday, Sponsorship, eic.) ilotify Johnny G. Biggs, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, if an error is found in this report. Thank you, Arkansas Baptists

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## INDEPENDENCE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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| GOD'S CHALLENGE FOR OUR LAND Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 6-13, 1983 Annie Armstrong faster OttatingNational Goali $\$ 25,000,000$ |
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Page 23

## Reagan's social revolution barely alive

by Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) - At midpoint in his term of office, President Reagan's social revolution is all but dead

Elected just over two years ago and aided by a new majority in the US. Senate and a decidedly more conservative House of Representatives, the president was expected not only to push an economic package through Congress but also to go all out for his social agenda by seeking a ban on abortion, reinstatement of group prayer in public schools and enactment of tuition tax credits.

But while this key economic package of domestic budget cuts accompanied by tax reductions sailed through Congress after in-

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tense White House lobbying, the social issues did not move significantly. Congressional insiders consider their chances in the new Congress even worse.

Among the reasons:

- Economic problems have necessarily dominated the president's agenda;
- The strength of the New Right, including the Religious Right, has been vastly overstated;
- Traditionally conservative Republicans, upstaged in Reagan's election by the New Right, are beginning to regain dominance in their party; and
- Politicians of many persuasions are catching on that the people do not want
action on any of the "big three" issues of abortion, school ${ }^{3}$ prayer and fuition tax credits.

Contrary to the oft-repeated claim of the New Right, Ronald Reagan was elected primarily because he offered a different economic philosophy, not because the American people were ready for a social revolution Many political observers are convinced that limmy Carter's campaign was doomed by persistentil stubborn economic indicators such as rampant inflation and interest rates, along with the perception that the United States had been brought low by the captivity of the hostages in Iran.

Despite those two overriding reasons for Reagan's election, his most rabid supporters insisted he had been given a mandate to pursue basic social changes.

Knowing of their longstanding devotion and importance to his political career. Reagan repeatedly asked leaders of the New Right such as Richard Viguerie, Paul Weyrich and Howard Phillips to be patient, to give him time to implement his economic revolution before turning to their social issues.

## Analysis

But they are now realizing that just as his predecessor was plagued by intractable economic difficulties, Ronald Reagan too has had to keep fiscal questions front and center, not to mention increasingly urgent foreign policy considerations also long delayed.

Rather than rallying around the man they supported for 20 long years before he captured the presidency. leaders of the movement have turned on him. Indeed a good case can be made that from the very first month of his term, when the carping began, these zealots have been Reagan's worst enemies.

At the heart of their misperceptions is a bloated view of their own importance to the president and to the movement he represents. In spite of major pollsters' findings that the 1980 Reagan landslide owed far more to fiscal considerations than to "moral" issues, the New Right leadership often reminded the president and everyone else that they put him in office.

To a certain degree the president encouraged that view by giving them enough visibility at White House functions to lead them on. A perfect example was the May 6 , 1982, Rose Garden ceremony when Reagan announced his intention to send a constitutional amendment on school prayer to Capitol Hill. He and Mrs. Reagan were surrounded by religious leaders such as Jerry Falwell, Edward E. McAteer and a host of other figures from the Religious Right.

These people believed the president
when he told them he would fight for their causes He will not, not because he is not committed to them, but because he, better than they, knows their issues cannot win in Congress

Descriptions on Capitol Hill of the chances for passage of anti-abortion and pro-school prayer and tuition tax credit measures now range from "not good" to "not a chance" This owes mainly to the political reality that members of Congress read election results like no others.

In the House the chances for the social revolution were never very promising. Committees and subcommittees kept all New Right social causes bottled up throughout the 97 th Congress. But in the Senate expectations ran high.

Just the same, only two of the big three made it past the committee stage. Neither of these, an anti-abortion constitutional amendment and a tuition tax credit bill, reached a vote on the floor. In the new Senate, while Republicans kept their eightvote margin over Democrats by breaking even in the 1982 elections, chances for significant movement toward passage of any of the three have all but been extinguished

One of the primary reasons is that New Right standard bearer Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C, suffered a series of costly embarrassments at the polls. All five of the North Carolina congressional candidates he supported with big dollars from his Congressional Club war chest were beaten. Helms now faces an uphill battle for his own reelection in 1984.

Helms will have much less leverage on the Senate leadership this time around. Majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., who announced recently he has had enough of the increasingly hostile environment in the "world's most exclusive club" and will not seek reelection in 1984, will be able to direct floor proceedings from a position of strength. He will not have to cut deals with Helms or other New Right senators, a number of whom also must face the voters two years from now

Along with other powerful Senate leaders, including Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., and the venerable dean of conservatives Sen. Barry Coldwater, R-Ariz., Baker will insure that congressional Republican leadership is once again dominated by more moderate thinking.

Finally, politicians from various points along the political spectrum are beginning to realize that on the questions of abortion, school prayer and tuition tax credits, Americans in fact want to get government off their backs. Members of Congress, never hesitant to duck the tough calls, will be perfectly happy to oblige by leaving such issues alone.

Stan, Hastey is chief of the Washington (D.C.) byreau of Baptist Press.


[^0]:    Area Representative
    RON DODD
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