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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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February 24, 1983

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

God's Challenge



FOR

OUR
LAND

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

God's Challenge



FOR OUR
Land

ABN photos by Mike Cut

God's challenge for our land is to reach the 100 to 150 million persons in the United States who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord. The Week of Prayer for Home Missions is the opportunity to accept the challenge by praying for home missions, giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering to help finance the work and committing to minister and witness as God leads individuals.

In this issue

6 Brotherhood

State Brotherhood Director Neal Guthrie talks about his goals and plans for the continued growth in ministry of the organization he leads. It's the second in a series on the convention's work and workers.

8 Backyard Bible Clubs

Backyard Bible Clubs and their unique ministry were spotlighted at a state-wide Vacation Bible School clinic recently. The clubs, which are held in addition to regular VBS by many churches, are an aid to a church's outreach.

Postal subsidy cut would hurt ministries

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Reagan's proposed cut in a non-profit postal subsidy would seriously undermine the efforts of Christian ministries and other non-profit organizations, according to the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Rep. James R. Jones, D-Ala.

Addressing a workshop during the annual meeting of the National Religious Broadcasters, Jones said the administration's 1984 budget proposal calls for a 49 percent cut in the postal subsidy which pays the Postal Service for providing preferential rates for a wide range of non-profit mailers.

Noting the subsidy was sliced by 30 percent in 1982 and by a net of six percent in 1983, Jones said the previous cuts had a "severe impact" on religious organizations

and other non-profit groups.

At a time when the administration is asking non-profit organizations to pick up the slack caused by government cutbacks in social program spending, Jones described postal subsidy cuts as a "double whammy that should not be placed on these organizations."

"The president is making it very difficult for non-profit organizations like the Christian ministries to take the place of government social programs when they are hampered in their fund-raising work," he said.

Following the large postal subsidy cut in 1982 which doubled postage costs for non-profit mailers such as Baptist state newspapers, Congress appropriated \$789 million for the subsidy for fiscal 1983, well above the \$500 million recommended by the administration.

Pastor's Bible conference set

ARKADELPHIA — The sixth annual Statewide Pastor's Bible Conference will be held at Ouachita Baptist University April 25-27, according to Gene Petty, assistant professor of religion at Ouachita and director of the conference.

The purpose of the conference is to create a place and atmosphere of worship, fellowship, study and recreation for pastors, church staff members and others interested in Arkansas and to allow an opportunity for these people to become acquainted with the Southern Baptist Convention's January 1984 Bible Study on the book of First Corinthians.

The conference preacher will be Don Moore, executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Moore, a graduate of Ouachita and Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has served in various churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. He was pastor of the Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith for

12 years prior to taking the position with the convention.

Tom Urrey, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will serve as the conference teacher. Also a graduate of Ouachita and Southwestern, Urrey has written several books and is a well-known conference teacher in the state. At Southwestern, he teaches New Testament and Greek.

The three-day conference will include four sessions of Bible study and worship, as well as three afternoons of recreation, according to Petty. Meals and housing accommodations will not be available for anyone this year, so other arrangements will need to be made for those attending the conference.

Petty said the conference is open to all interested persons and for more information, contact Dr. Petty at OBU Box 638, Arkadelphia, 71923 or by calling 501-246-4531, ext. 517 or 246-8848.

New Writer begins "lessons for living"

W. Coy Sample, pastor of First Church of Morrilton, begins writing "lessons for living", based on the Life and Work Sunday School lesson this week.

Sample, a native of El Dorado, attended Southern Baptist College, Arkansas College in Batesville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. All of his pastoral experience, which has included Ruddell Hill in Batesville, Immanuel and Warren in Almyra and Morrilton, has been in Arkansas. He has been at Morrilton since 1969.

He has served on the Executive Board of the state convention, been Vice Chairman of the Operating Committee of the Executive Board and been moderator of several associations. He is also a board member of the Christian Civic Foundation.

He is married to the former Vivian Lois Keith and they are the parents of three children, Billy Coy, Margarette and Jimmy.



Sample

Say "no" to racing extension

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



"My business is always down during the racing season," declared a Little Rock businessman. Yet, many of our legislators are proposing an extension of both the Hot Springs and West Memphis racing seasons. Both Oaklawn and Southland take money out of Arkansas and away from legitimate businesses. Even worse, gambling damages the morals of all who participate in it.

The concern of the Governor and the General Assembly over the shortfall of tax revenues is understandable, since it appears that money must be obtained from somewhere to provide the services that we all need and desire. But the answer does not lie in receipts from gambling.

The Senate has passed a bill lengthening the dog track season at West Memphis by 20 days a year and the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee has recommended a six-day extension of the horse racing season at Hot Springs each year. Both may be law by the time this is in your homes.

Let's analyze the possible economic impact of this legislation if it becomes law in Arkansas. Arkansas would collect an estimated \$2.5 million in additional pari-mutuel tax annually. This sounds tempting, until a person realizes that perhaps an additional \$50 million would be bet at the tracks, in legal and illegal (untaxed) off-track betting.

The question arises, "Who is the big gainer from pari-mutuel gambling?" Certainly not the citizens of Arkansas, since much of the money bet at the race tracks will leave this state. Furthermore, the state receives no tax money from illegal gambling. Much of the estimated additional \$50 million will leave Arkansas never to return. The obvious winner from the extension of the number of racing days is the gambling industry.

Loss of money is, undoubtedly, the least important item involved in the extension of the horse and dog racing seasons. The personal damage produced by gambling is far greater. Many who gamble will face economic ruin. Worst of all, it destroys the moral fiber of those who are addicted to it.

There are many factors which have produced the legalization of gambling in our state. Each of us must accept personal responsibility, since this legalization has occurred in the face of public apathy. As Christians and

citizens, we can influence our society when we care enough to put forth an effort.

Some argue that gambling will always be with us; therefore, we should legalize it, control it and receive the tax revenue it produces. Such arguments simply do not hold up when correctly and honestly evaluated. One could just as readily argue that since crime will always be a curse on our society, we should sell permits to steal and kill. This, too, would provide tax dollars. When a practice is morally wrong, we simply place our stamp of approval on it by making it legal.

Gambling is a disease which develops greed and dishonesty in individuals who, through their passionate endeavor to gain something for nothing, become a menace to the whole community. Their crimes cost more than the increased revenue that gambling taxes produce. Losers are often driven to theft and other crimes to live, while continuing their gambling.

Any comprehensive police report will reveal the increase in crime due to gambling in Arkansas or any other state. It has often been reported that gambling has led to the control of law enforcement agencies by the professional gambling industry.

Even the casual reader of the Bible knows that greed affects man's relationship with God and his fellowman. The Ten Commandments say, "Thou shalt not covet... anything that is thy neighbor's" (Ex. 20:17). Furthermore, covetousness keeps men from treating his neighbor as he would wish to be treated.

As Christians, we need to let our legislators know how we feel about all forms of gambling. With the present economic crunch, our legislators may be prone to feel that gambling revenue is a quick fix for our tax needs. The establishment of and dependence upon immorality never produces lasting positive results.

It is urgent that we let our legislators know our opposition to the extension of horse and dog racing if we do not wish this evil to be extended. You can get your message to your legislator by calling 372-6211. A message will be delivered in your behalf. When Christians speak up they will be heard.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 82

NUMBER 8

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

Do the religious also have rights?

My last two articles in this column dealt with the bias of those involved in print or broadcast journalism and the tendency of the news industry to champion secular and liberal views and to demean traditional and conservative positions.

If one carefully reads the news, the cannot escape the conclusion that most of those involved in the news industry operate out of a set of assumptions which perceive the religious and political conservative as being bigoted, ignorant, incompetent, reactionary and anti-everything — a mediocre villain — and which perceives the liberal to be erudite, competent, winsome — the good guy. These prejudices often lead the journalist right up to the very brink of implying that the traditional or conservative voice should not be allowed to speak, and if it does insist upon speaking, should not be heard.

A convenient illustration of these prejudices is seen in a recent cartoon by my fav-

orite cartoonist, George Fisher. Although Mr. Fisher is a clever and incisive humorist, he betrays in his work a full dose of the prejudices I have just reviewed. In his cartoon on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1983, he pictures two men, presumably legislators, walking toward the Capitol building in a parking lot marked "Reserved for Lobbyists". In the parking lot there are a number of sleek, modern automobiles and one horse-drawn buggy done in somber black, labeled "Religious Zealots." One of the men says to the other as they walk behind these vehicles, "Well, I see they are back again."

The cartoon yields one or more of the following conclusions (1) those who speak out of a religious conscience are "zealots", that is, irrational, radical; (2) those who speak out of a religious conscience are out-of-date, dowdy, reactionary; (3) those who speak out of a religious conscience are not really entitled to speak, but are a nuisance to be tolerated; (4) while all other interests,

including the gambling and liquor lobbyists, have a legitimate place in the halls of the legislature, those who speak out of a religious conscience are out of place there. (5) there really should be some way to totally eliminate the voice (and the annoyance) of those who speak out of a religious conscience.

I cite Mr. Fisher's cartoon because it is recent and was likely seen by most of those who will read this column, not because his prejudices are unusually pronounced. That is the tragedy of the situation, Mr. Fisher's prejudices as reflected in the cartoon are merely typical.

Any group which finds itself the object of the bias of a force as powerful as the news industry must recognize that its right to speak, its right to be heard, its right to be involved in public affairs is seriously threatened.

D. Jack Nicholas is president of Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge.

Letters to the editor

Worse than I thought

An article in Southern Seminary's abstract of principles reads: "Those whom God hath accepted in the beloved, and sanctified by his spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end..." Dr. Moody's chapter as printed in the ABN is in contradiction to this. Since he signed the article, he is morally obligated to resign.

Baptist Press reported him as saying his views cannot be changed by use of Creeds or Confessions. Most Southern Baptists would agree with this, since we do not base our beliefs on these, but on the Bible. However, several church historians have stated that Baptist churches from their beginning have used confessions as helps in guarding against doctrinal error. The Philadelphia and New Hampshire confessions have been credited with giving doctrinal stability to American Baptists, particularly in the south. Many separatist Baptist churches, which did not use confessions so widely, fell into universalism and other false doctrines, many ceasing to be Baptists.

Mr. Newman, in a letter to the ABN, Jan. 13, uses the terms "soul liberty," "tolerance," and "liberty of conscience" in defense of his and Dr. Moody's belief in apostasy. But most Southern Baptists hold to these. We would defend people's rights

to hold any belief and to preach it in churches and schools that so believe. We do not give them the right to do so in Southern Baptist churches and schools. Would we stretch "soul liberty" to the extent of permitting one to advocate in our churches sprinkling for baptism or baptismal regeneration?

But if Roger Singleton in the Feb. 3 issue of the ABN is correct, apostasy is not the worst or Dr. Moody's doctrinal errors. He cites pages from Dr. Moody's book, *The Word of Truth* for worse false teachings, including that salvation can be had outside Christ and that the historical Jesus and the Christ are not the same. These charges are serious and need to be investigated. Surely, as bad as the doctrine of "falling from grace" is, it is not as bad as these beliefs. — **Freeman McMenis, Smackover**

Help for family

To paraphrase Mark Twain — very loosely — "Everybody talks about the awful plight of the American family, but nobody does anything about it."

Through the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis "Strengthen Families," Southern Baptists are at last trying to do something positive to strengthen and enrich family life. Convention leaders are calling 500,000 families to spiritual growth by committing themselves to regular worship and Bible

study in their homes.

After more than 30 years of trying to minister to families, I know of nothing else that will enrich Christian family life like the simple practice of faithful worship and Bible study in the home.

During Christian Home Week, May 1-8, churches will lead families to make this commitment to worship and Bible study at home. I invite pastors and other church leaders to write me (or your state family ministry leader) for information about this emphasis, including a free leaflet "Twelve Steps to Family Worship and Bible Study in Your Home" which may be given to all families. — **Reuben Herring, Editor, Nashville, TN**

Articles commended

I want to commend the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* for two recent articles about the licensing of religious child care centers. As a Southern Baptist of some 22 years, and a Sunday School teacher, I was proud to read such an objective, factual account of the issues. I was glad to hear the "other side" of this issue come from our newsmagazine which I have read and respected for years. So, thank you for having the courage to present another side to this controversial issue.

Thank you again, and please keep up the good work. — **Carolyn Deeter, North Little Rock**

You'll be glad to know

... What happened in January. A few days before our books closed on receipts credited to January, I was told we were \$218,000 short of our anticipated budget receipts. My head sank! I knew we had had storms, floods, unemployment and inflation. But, I



Moore

also knew God is faithful to provide for ministries he inspires. I shuddered at the thought of having to curtail any of our ministries. Last year our budget was a little short and it was not pleasant to come into this office knowing all needs could not be fully funded. As always, what sight could not behold, faith did, and God prompted our people and they came through. We actually exceeded our budget requirements by \$5,348.31. This is the largest amount we have ever given in one month for world missions through the Cooperative Program. Friends, God is in this business we are about. It is bigger than a man, a church or program. He is going to bless the churches who bless his name by supporting the ministries that honor him.

... Reaching the lost continues to be priority with Arkansas Baptists. Record attendance at the Evangelism Conference with a super abundance of the "Spirit of Grace" encourages me to believe we are still committed to the ministry he gave us of reconciling men to God through Jesus Christ. Enrollment in the Continuous Witness Training Clinics is at capacity. Churches following such training with solid Sunday School strategies are breaking out with joy and growth. It is a most delightful experience to talk with pastors who are going to two worship services and two Sunday Schools and considering how to build to meet the needs of their mushrooming congregations. Bold new steps are being taken by some of our churches in the area of television. Paul said we should "by all means save some." The last and best chapter has not been written on evangelism, unless this is the last. Let's make it the best! You can do it without sacrificing quality in any area while multiplying the joy in every area.

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

□ The world is spending \$1 million a minute on arms, 20 times more than industrialized nations spend to help poorer countries.

FEBRUARY 1982							MARCH 1982							APRIL 1982							MAY 1982							JUNE 1982							JULY 1982																																	
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Next month in Arkansas

March 2-4, Associational Directors of Missions meet at DeGray State Park for their annual retreat.

March 4-5, State Handbell Festival will be held at Woody's Sherwood Forest, North Little Rock. Demonstration, adjudication and mass performance for church handbell choirs.

March 6-13, Week of Prayer for Home Missions emphasizes the challenge of our land being unreached for Christ.

March 7, 8 and 10, Strengthen the Family Area Conferences in nine locations will train pastors, staff, associational directors of missions, deacons and members of family ministry committees in local churches.

March 10, Win Our World Training Day, held at the Baptist Building in Little Rock for those who teach the WOW concept to youth, including pastors, directors of missions and youth workers.

March 11-12, Mini Recreation Lab at Camp Paron. Training is available for pastors, staff, church recreation committees and drama/puppet teams.

March 13, Home Mission Day in Sunday School, is the focus of a month-long emphasis on home missions. Helps for interpreting missions needs appear in monthly Sunday School leadership publications.

March 13-20, Youth Week, suggested time for churches to educate youth in church leadership responsibilities through the

Church Training-sponsored emphasis.

March 14-17, Continuous Witness Training Seminar at South Side Church in Pine Bluff offers interested pastors information on the CWT program of evangelism.

March 18-19, Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Workshop at Camp Paron offers training for the music leader who is not a full-time paid church staff member.

March 19, Associational Baptist Youth Night, to be held in individual associations.

March 21-25, District Bible Drills and Speakers Tournaments provide competition for children and youth who have advanced through local church and associational level drills and tournaments.

March 24-26, Marriage Enrichment Retreat at Ozark Folk Center at Mt. View, offers educational experience to strengthen a good marriage with certified marriage enrichment leadership.

March 25-27, Arkansas Baptist Deaf Leadership Conference at Little Rock First Church. Deaf Baptists and their leaders will have evangelistic services and workshops covering general concepts of the deaf church and specifics in specialized areas.

March 25-27, BSU Leadership Training Conference at Camp Paron for BSU directors, associates, Student-to-Student workers and newly-appointed summer missionaries.

Cooperative Program report: January

Summary for January 1983

		Year	January gifts	
			Over (under)	% Increase
Received	\$838,681.67	1978	Monthly Budget	Over Last Year
Budget	<u>833,333.36</u>	1979	(\$20,652.63)	9.09
Over	\$ 5,348.31	1980	6,169.47	17.64
		1981	(11,072.38)	5.04
		1982	83,762.48	29.83
		1983	59,273.98	8.72
			5,348.31	2.41

A head start is always beneficial and Arkansas Baptists jumped ahead in January with 100.64 percent given toward the budget for world mission ministries. The \$838,681.67 total monthly gift is the highest ever for the Cooperative Program and sets the pace toward reaching our first \$10,000,000 budget. — James A. Walker, director

Crusade boosts numbers

MINDANAO, Philippines — Forty-five churches were organized during a church planting crusade on Mindanao, Philippines.

Initial reports also showed more than 7,500 professions of faith and 1,200 bap-

tists, with some reports still expected.

Crusade planners hope the number of new churches will reach 137 as outstations organize into new Baptist churches.

Brotherhood gets men into missions

by J. Everett Sneed

"Brotherhood is a total mission program for men and boys," says Neal Guthrie, state director of the Brotherhood. "It is our purpose to promote mission education and mission actions."

Guthrie is proud of the advance he has seen in the mission actions of men and boys recently. "One of my greatest delights is the excitement we have witnessed in disaster relief. It has given a great satisfaction to men who have been involved in helping people who hurt."

Disaster relief produces positive results for the Lord, Guthrie believes. "One lady, who was not a Baptist, has decided to join one of our churches because of the flood disaster relief work done by our men," Guthrie said. "I believe that when people see Christians in action, it will always have a positive witness for our Lord."

Guthrie feels that it is imperative for Baptist men to have opportunities to become involved in meaningful mission actions. "If we don't provide leadership for our men, they will get excited about something else."

Guthrie is also pleased to see the way the work with boys (Royal Ambassadors) is developing. Last year there were approximately 1,300 boys who attended the R.A. Congress. This year, Guthrie believes there will be 1,500 or more in attendance. "One of the things that has helped our work to grow is the addition of track and field competition," he said. "When we meet the needs of the boys they will respond."

Last summer, several R.A.'s went to Roanoke, Va. to help in an inner-city missions center. "The boys worked with children whose parents were both employed," Guthrie said. "They provided Bible Study and recreation for these children."

This summer, Guthrie plans to take a group of men and boys to Alaska. He said that the boys will do some construction work, develop nature trails and build fire pits. The men who go will be constructing church buildings.

Guthrie said that there is a growing interest on the part of men to be involved in mission projects. "We are seeing men doing all types of things to help people. They are doing repair work, installing storm windows and insulating homes for the elderly."

Guthrie has a number of short and long-range goals. Among his more immediate goals are (1) to increase both the men and boys' units by 10 percent; (2) to organize disaster relief units to involve more people and to help the men to respond more quickly to needs; (3) to develop the camp program to appeal to more boys; (4) to provide better leadership training for men and boys; and (5) to reinstate the Layman Revival Crusades.

"One of the ways we can involve more boys in our camping program," Guthrie said, "is to provide more opportunities in the afternoon. We also hope to open up more wilderness camping facilities in the not-too-distant future."

Some of Guthrie's long-range dreams are (1) to have an associate to work exclusively with the Royal Ambassadors, and (2) to have men and boys in at least 50 percent of the churches involved in meaningful mission programs.

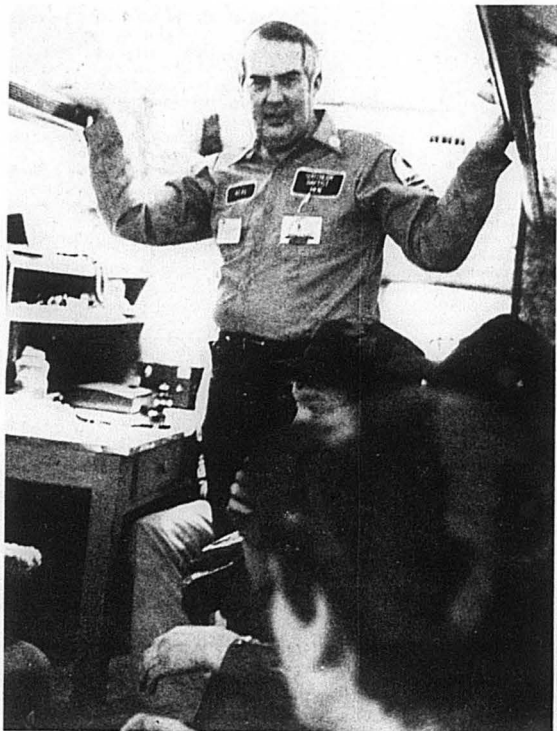
Guthrie feels that the Lord has been preparing him for work with men and boys for many years. Before coming to his present position, he had been a public school band director, a music and education director in the local church and an associate in the State Evangelism Department in charge of

pre-college evangelism.

"My family plays a big role in my work. Both my wife and I grew up in Baptist churches. My wife has been on the staff of Baptist churches," Guthrie said. "We have three boys," Guthrie continued, "all are active in R.A.'s. And my family and I have participated in mission projects together. We went to Malawi in 1981. It was a great blessing for all of us to get to participate in this mission effort."

When Guthrie talks about the future of men and boys' mission involvement, his excitement is evident. "I just want to thank Arkansas Baptists for allowing me the privilege of serving as Brotherhood Director for our state. The future is bright as we all work and pray together."

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine".



Guthrie talks to National Guardsmen who have come in to get out of the cold and rain in the Baptist Disaster Relief Van during the recent flooding.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

James W. Bryant

will begin serving March 1 as pastor of the Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, coming there from the Sagamore Hill Church in Fort Worth, Texas. A native of Georgia, he is a graduate of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. He holds both a bachelor of divinity



Bryant

and a doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Bryant, the author of six books, has served churches in Georgia, New Mexico and Texas. He is married to the former Ruby Ann Garland of Elmhurst, Ill. She is frequently used as a clinician in Adult Ministries. They have two sons, Scott and Kurt,

both students at Baylor University.

Dean Smothers

was ordained to the ministry Jan. 23 by Curtis First Church where he is pastor.

Phil Brannan

has accepted the call to join the staff of Little Rock First Church as minister of youth. He will come to Little Rock from the Sheridan Hills Church in Hollywood, Fla. Brannan is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Georgia, Florida and Texas. He and his wife, Cheryl, have a daughter, Rachel Lene.

Lloyd Hamilton

is serving as interim pastor of Elkins First Church.

Richard Wentz

is serving Cotton Plant First Church as minister of music and youth.

Jim Glover

has been called as pastor of the Life Line Church at Pleasant Plains.

Lannie Jones

is serving as pastor of the Mount Zion Church in Banner, He and his family moved there from Batesville, Miss.

Dudley Lockard

is serving as pastor of the New Bethel Church at Heber Springs. He has been pastor of other Arkansas churches, including Harris Chapel at Pangburn and Pleasant Ridge at Heber Springs.

Sidney Jackson

has been called by Searcy First Church to serve as minister of youth and education. A native of Georgia, he is a graduate of Mercer University in Atlanta and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

buildings

Biggers Church

ordained Jim Walmsley and Ray Ingram as deacons Jan. 30. John Colbert, director of missions for Current Gains Association, served as moderator. Others assisting were Earl Humble, Bill Oakley, Don Cochran and pastor Bill Jenkins.

Olivet Church

in Little Rock honored Lucy Knabe Feb. 13 with a reception, recognizing her 30 years of service as a pre-school worker.

Murfreesboro First Church

is beginning a tape ministry for its members who are ill, shut-in, residents of a nursing home or otherwise unable to attend services.

Clarendon First Church

has voted to broadcast its morning worship services on a local cable television system.

Southside Church

in Waldron held a deacon ordination service Feb. 20 for Bob Cabe, Melvin Smith and James Yandell.

Pines Church

at Quitman has added Baptist Women, Girls in Action and two Royal Ambassador chapters to its missions education programs. Church Training has also been organized with an average of 28 participating.

Black Oak Church

nursing home mission team has completed seven years of ministry to nursing homes in Monette and Caraway. The team, organized by L. E. and Bessie Sanders, now has eight full-time members and a number of associates.

Hot Springs First Church

is launching a CARE ministry to reach out to people who need to be reminded they are not forgotten, according to pastor Doug Dickens. Virginia Byars will assist in coordinating this ministry to shut-ins, nursing home patients and others. Youth of the church have planned to "adopt" some new grandparents as another facet of this program.

Elmdale Church

in Springdale dedicated a \$422,500 Christian Life Center Feb. 6. The building, which is debt free, is providing both educational and activities space.

Dell Church

has completed an improvement program that included renovation of the fellowship hall and the addition of a parking lot.

Extension diplomas given

Three Arkansans received diplomas in January from the Clear Creek Ozark Seminary Extension center.

Ron L. Clark, bi-vocational pastor of First Church of Altus and a used car sales manager, received a pastoral ministry diploma. Ed Standifird, a department store department manager from Alma, received a pastoral ministries diploma, also. He is a member of Concord church. Gerald Gentry, of Van Buren, a nurse at Crawford County Memorial Hospital, was the third to receive a diploma in pastoral ministries.

OBU deadline set

ARKADELPHIA — The application deadline for academic scholarships for the 1983-84 academic year at Ouachita Baptist University is March 1, according to Harold Johnson, director of student financial aids at OBU.

Current Ouachita students, incoming freshmen students, or transfer students wishing to apply or re-apply for scholarships should acquire a scholarship application form from Johnson's office in Mitchell Hall, room 200, or by writing OBU, P.O. Box 776, Arkadelphia, 71923 or call (501) 246-4531, Ext. 570.

MK Prayer Calendar

Home and foreign Missionary Kids
who attend college on the Margaret Fund

March

- 3 Byron Ray Hall (Kenya) OBU Box 892, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 5 Bryan L. Bullington (W. Africa) OBU Box 810, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 24 J. Reade Mitchel (Tanzania) OBU Box 614, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 25 Jaren Key (Brazil) OBU Box 812, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

God's for C Week of Prayer



1.

1. In Chaplaincy Ministries

Maurice Graham, chaplain at St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, visits one of his patients. Graham is one of approximately 2,000 chaplains endorsed by the Home Mission Board. Chaplains minister to people in the military, in hospitals, in institutions, and in industry.

Annie Armstrong Offering Allocation for Chaplaincy Ministries \$164,000



2.

3.



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions

National Goal: \$25,000,000



Challenge our Land

Home Missions March 6-13, 1983

2. In Church Extension Ministries

For Bonnie McAllister, church extension missionary in Worcester, Massachusetts, making personal contacts is the heart of her job.

Annie Armstrong Offering Allocation for Church Extension Ministries: \$3,450,000

3. In Interfaith Witness

How to reach people in religious cults like these Hare Krishnas is a growing concern among Southern Baptists. The Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department helps Southern Baptists know how to deal with cults and witness to people of other religious faiths.

Annie Armstrong Offering Allocation for Interfaith Witness: \$288,000

4. In Christian Social Ministries

Rachel Hernandez, who attends the Baptist Center in El Paso, Texas, is one of thousands whose lives are touched by Christian social ministries.

Annie Armstrong Offering Allocation for Christian Social Ministries: \$2,450,000

5. In Language Missions

Jane Poole teaches Laotian children about Jesus at First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. But how to reach all 270 language and ethnic groups who live in the United States with God's love is one of the greatest challenges Southern Baptists face.

Annie Armstrong Offering Allocation for Language Missions: \$5,300,000



"Let us . . .
not forget to
do good and
share
with others,
for with
such sacrifices
God is pleased."

(Heb. 13:15-16 NIV)

5.

VBS + BBC = outreach + growth

by Millie Gill

Backyard Bible Clubs and their unique ministry were spotlighted at a state-wide Vacation Bible School Clinic Feb. 8. The clinic, held at North Little Rock's Baring Cross Church, was sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Marvin Fitts, minister of education at First Church of West Memphis, shared BBC information by reviewing its long range effect on a church's growth program.

He revealed that in three years the West Memphis Church has seen the number of clubs grow from 33 to 46 and an enrollment increase of from 1,302 to 1,585. He emphasized that church membership continues to grow as a result of these.

Fitts was quick to offer assistance to churches wanting to launch this ministry, giving credit to Springdale First Church for aiding West Memphis First Church.

He listed as BBC ministry success steps (1) church-voted support; (2) sufficient church budgeted funds; (3) church calendar priority; (4) complete defined/detailed staff involvement and assignments; (5) enlisted, equipped and trained workers; (6) a well-organized promotional campaign and (7) accurate and complete records.

Fitts pointed out these clubs were held in addition to the regular church Vacation Bible School.

The North Little Rock clinic prepared associational workers as a part of the annual process to train Arkansas Baptist workers for 1983 Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs.

Local church workers will be trained by the more than 260 participating in this clinic. This instruction will be given prior to late spring when the first of Arkansas' VBSs or BBCs are held.

Instructors for the NLR clinic were trained at Ridgcrest and Glorieta Baptist Confer-

ence Centers where it was noted that the same amount of Bible teaching that takes place in a two-week VBS or BBC would take seven months to accomplish in Sunday School.

Arkansas' 1982 statistics reveal a 25 percent increase in total number of schools for a total of 1,202. Enrollment totaled 100,793 and there were 1,650 professions of faith. Prospective Sunday School members discovered were 14,477. Pupils' missions gifts totals came to \$38,013 while their Cooperative Program gifts came to \$26,552.

State Sunday School director Lawson

Hatfield said that not only do the statistics show that VBS and BBC increase missions giving and Cooperative Program gifts, the programs' success is represented by the numerous professions of faith, and the enrichment gained by children, youth and adults through hours of Bible study.

He also said, "that although Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs can be some of the most delightful activities a church conducts, they are especially so for those involved in early preparation."

Millie Gill is an ABN staff writer.



Randy Cash, state Language Missions director, (above) added another dimension to the statewide clinic when he participated in the pre-school conference, giving a mini-sign language course. Clinicians will use this when teaching a VBS session on "Thank God for My Ears." The BBC sign (left) was displayed to encourage Backyard Bible Club volunteers to use similar signs throughout their community for promotional purposes.



Crusades or revivals?

by Paul Jackson

In our last article, we discussed the value of evangelistic meetings. Basically there are two types of evangelistic meetings common among Southern Baptists. One is the local church revival sponsored by one individual church. The other is a cooperative effort, a multi-church crusade. It should be noted that these two types of evangelistic campaigns have their own character and cause. It is a great mistake to compare the two or to imply that one is more valuable than the other. The reason is that each serve a specific role in the life of Bible-preaching churches.



Jackson

Great evangelistic crusades are not born from the committee meeting but from the prayer closet. A crusade is born when the burden and passion for souls overcomes a man, a church and ultimately groups of churches. The area-wide or multi-church crusade is simply designed to bring churches together in a cooperative effort to magnify the Gospel and therefore raise the God-awareness of their particular community.

There are certain things that an area-wide crusade will do for a community in this regard that no church revival will ever do. On the other hand, church revivals provide for an opportunity to win the lost in a much more intimate setting and therefore have a significantly different effect upon the life of a congregation. Area crusades do a great service to local congregations by enlarging their vision of evangelism and their responsibility in this area.

Evangelistic crusades should be for the purpose of bringing people to Jesus Christ. The pulpit in an area-wide evangelistic campaign should be used to preach Christ and him crucified — not politics or social reform.

Organization and promotion are essential ingredients but can never substitute for the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Organization channels the power, and promotion makes known the power, but neither will produce spiritual power.

The ultimate objective of the area-wide evangelistic crusade is to help individuals discover the joy of a daily and continuing walk with God through a local Bible-preaching church. There is no question that the heart of all evangelism is the local church. Therefore, any area crusade that is to be beneficial to God's Kingdom must

function in and through the leadership and authority of local pastors and churches.

The basis of the success of any evangelistic campaign is most aptly stated in our Evangelism Department's theme: "... not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts."

There are basically three steps or components of mass evangelism. These steps are penetration, proclamation, and preservation. Whether in a church revival or an area crusade, proclamation (the message) should not be different. It should be an uncompromising declaration of the claims of Christ and the Gospel of grace. In the area of penetration, an area crusade is much more effective at penetrating the wall between the religious world and the secular world than a church revival meeting. However, oftentimes the results of a revival are easier to preserve than the results of an area crusade.

Our conclusion should be that both local church revivals and multi-church crusades should be utilized in getting the Gospel to our community. Every church needs to have a church revival regularly, and every community needs to periodically have an area crusade.

Paul Jackson is Executive Director of the Paul Jackson Evangelistic Association.

Pastors and wives seminar

Taught by Paul and Mary Burleson, hosted by the First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Paul Burleson, pastor

Here is a quote from our Pastor, Paul Burleson:

"Never in my lifetime have I seen such pressure upon men in the ministry and their families. While it is true that we may bring some of it upon ourselves, it is also true that changing events, concepts, and values create some of those pressures. There are, however, some principles that can help us in our personal life, our marriages, and our ministries if understood and implemented."

For the past seven years, while pastoring in Fort Worth, Texas, God has graciously given Brother Paul and Mary the opportunity to hammer out some of these principles into a conference format through a ministry to several hundred seminary students. Topics will include, "How to have a Godly marriage and be a pastor at the same time..." How to develop a positive spirit within a church... How to work with staff wives... How to be a pastor's wife and not get bitter about it all... and many more.

Brother Paul and Mary will train the pastors and their wives while an area-wide Bible conference will be in progress in the evenings. There are some prerequisites for coming. Your registration is your commitment to fulfill these requirements: (1) Both husband and wife must attend. (2) There can be no late arrival or early departure unless in extreme emergencies. (3) Each couple must stay in a host family home... to be assigned at the time of registration. (4) No children can be brought to the seminar. (5) A \$15.00 nonrefundable registration fee is required.

Total cost of the seminar is \$30 per couple. Scholarships are available if you do not have any part or all of the fee.

To register, or for additional information, contact Betty Baker, pastor's secretary, First Baptist Church, 210 E. Broadway, Broken Arrow, OK 74012. Or phone Betty Baker at (918) 258-4575.

Two seminars to choose from SPRING, APRIL 24-28, 1983, FALL, SEPTEMBER 25-29, 1983

Paul and Mary Burleson teaching pastors and their wives, Fred Wolf preaching an area-wide Bible conference each evening. Pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Paul and Mary Burleson teaching pastors and their wives, Peter Lord preaching an area-wide Bible conference each evening. Pastor, Park Avenue Baptist, Titusville, Florida. Please write or phone for info soon; registration is limited.

Your state convention at work

Sunday School

Church building conference

A church building conference and consultation meeting is scheduled for April 26 at the Baptist Building in Little Rock. This meeting will assist church leaders, building committees and architects in making plans for new buildings and for redesigning existing buildings. Private consultations are available on the basis of reservations. These consultations normally last for about 45 minutes and are conducted by qualified state staff and a guest leader from the Church Architecture Department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

The meeting will open with coffee at 9 a.m. and the program



Hatfield

will start at 9:20. Subjects discussed will be surveys, committee work, architects, contracts, funding and other matters.

Personal consultations with committees will be scheduled from 3-4:45 p.m. If you want a personal consultation write me for an appointment. We request that committees desiring the consultation attend the conference.

For the consultations bring with you these items: (1) A property drawing (plot plan); (2) A present building plan; (3) Four pictures of your property from front, back and sides, or from the four corners of the property; (4) A copy of a regular Sunday School report form showing enrollment and attendance of the classes and departments. Also write or tell your assigned consultant how many people to provide for in the worship area and in the educational building. — **Lawson Hatfield, director**

Church Administration

Long-range planning seminar

Planning is the process by which a church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, determines its objectives, establishes its priorities, sets its goals and develops the strategies to reach these goals in the life of the church. Many churches have discovered that this process greatly strengthens their ministry and helps them fulfill their mission.

A Long-Range Planning Seminar is a training event to help pastors and other key leaders in the church to better understand the planning process. A Long-Range Planning Seminar will be held in our state Monday through Wednesday, April 11-13. The seminar will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday and will adjourn at 11:30 on Wednesday morning. It



Holley

will meet at the Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

The seminar leader will be Truman Brown, a consultant in long-range planning in the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board in Nashville. He is the author of several resources for church planning and well qualified to lead such an event. The subjects he will deal with in the seminar include: "Priority Planning," "The Key to Personal and Church Growth," "Identifying Future Church and Community Growth Opportunities;" and "Developing an Annual Plan for Church Growth."

In addition to the pastor, church staff members, and members of the Church Long-Range Planning Committee and church council are welcome to attend. Advance reservations should be made. For reservations or information, write: Long-Range Planning Seminar, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — **Robert Holley**

WMU

Annual meeting

Why come to the Arkansas WMU Annual Meeting on March 15-16 at Grand Avenue Church, Ft. Smith? Come to learn as current missions information will be highlighted at each of the four sessions. Broaden your perspective as home missionary, Jim Queen, Chicago, and foreign missionaries, the Glendon Grobers, Brazil, tell about their work.

Receive a challenge from Arkansas mission volunteers who have been involved in short-term mission projects. Experience fellowship with women from throughout the state that share a concern for missions. Accentuate a concern for missions education as Doris Diaz, language consultant, WMU, SBC, shares her experiences.

Christian Life Council

Aimed or aimless

More than common interest in camels began several years ago in Egypt while I was riding one over to the Sphinx and pyramids. Embarrassing to me, then and now, its name was "Whiskey and Soda."

The camel has been described as a committee planned horse. Highly prized by Bedouins, the animal has been characterized as savage but submissive and patient but perverse. As a pack camel — "ship of the desert" — it walks about 40 steps a minute. Its driver has to aim him. He will not walk straight by himself. In that respect, how similar the camel is to us. The natural or carnal man will not walk straight by himself. There is a way which seems right

but it leads to ruin. Man, created in the image of God, needs divine aiming. Jesus Christ will provide this.

The writer of Proverbs admonished, "do not turn to the right nor to the left, turn your feet from evil" (Proverbs 4:27). Even better, Jesus today offers himself to be our Saviour, Lord, and Shepherd-aimer. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

The unregenerate, like an unaimed camel, travels the broad way that leads to destruction. Such a way allows for aimlessness. The regenerate travels the narrow, straight path which leads to life because he's properly aimed. — **Bob Parker, director**

Family and Child Care

What if?

If I had a million dollars I would...! That statement has been made many times. Perhaps you have said it just as I have.

The truth is, none of us really knows what we would do with a million dollars until we have it in our possession. Whether we ever have the opportunity to learn what our reaction would be is not nearly as important as doing the right thing with what we have.

God does not hold us accountable for what we do not have. But he does hold us accountable for what he has entrusted to us regardless of the amount.

Christian stewardship includes the proper use of everything in our possession. That responsibility lasts a life-time.

The results of our stewardship will reach beyond our life here.

Missions

Meeting mission needs

Do you have unmet mission needs in your community? Each year about this time, many calls come requesting places for mission involvement. These calls come from both inside and outside of our state from all sizes and ages of mission groups.

Mission groups can help with VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, surveys, building repair, resort work, give concerts, etc. Most mission groups take care of all their own expenses.

Will you look for places of mission opportunity in your com-

munity, city or association and share the needs and opportunities with us? Through such mission projects people could be reached for Christ and his work strengthened.

Your Missions Department is anxious to make matches with your needs and available missions groups.

Contact me at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, phone (501) 376-4791. — **Homer W. Shirley Jr., Director of Development, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.**

Evangelism

Witnessing — how to get into the house

Each person who goes on a witnessing visit is concerned about being received in the home. The lost person can be saved anywhere the Gospel is presented. The witness will come much nearer getting a hearing if they can get in the comfort of a person's home.

The witness should observe the yard as he approaches the house for information about the family. If there are toys, you know that there are perhaps children. If there is a boat, perhaps the man of the house is a fisherman. Certain tools reveal certain hobbies or often tell the type of work that a person does. All of these make good conversation pieces and help to introduce the subject of the Gospel.



Shell

As a witness approaches the door, he should knock loudly or ring the door bell and step back. This helps relieve the person coming to the door of the immediate pressure. The loud knock will say that someone important is at the door. A soft knock tends to give the impression that there is a timid, scared or unimportant person there.

When the prospect comes to the door, they should be greeted with a genuine smile. There should be an immediate introduction of the visitor to the prospect. If one of the witnesses is known by the prospect, this witness should approach him first. This will relieve some of the tension related to the visit.

Usually the prospect will invite the witnesses in. If this is not the case, the witness should say, "May we come in and visit with you?" The attitude and spirit of this initial greeting will help determine the success of the witnessing visit. — **Clarence Shell, director**

Church Training

Dividend time

When we spend long hours helping someone grow in their Christian faith, it is sometimes difficult to immediately see the end results of those labors. Such may be the case many times over now as hundreds of children and youth are preparing to participate in Children's Bible Drill, Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speakers' Tournaments in Arkansas.

To the many parents and church leaders who are working so hard with these children and youth, allow me to say that your efforts are very worthwhile and will pay dividends many times over.

The dividends are more lasting than money represents. They are reflected in the men and women who are now serving as pastors, staff and laypersons in our churches and missionaries around



Falkner

the world — all aided in their discipleship by being involved in Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament. Obviously, only God really knows what dividends are in store as our children and youth hide God's Word in their hearts and express their growing faith in Christ.

Our District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments will be held March 21-25 in the following locations: (District, date and location) Northwest, March 21, First, Rogers; Southwest, March 21, First, Hope; West Central, March 22, First, Paris; Southeast, March 22, First, Warren; North Central, March 24, First, Mountain View; Northeast, March 24, Central, Jonesboro; Central, March 25, Olivet, Little Rock, and East Central, March 25, First, Forrest City.

You can be a part of these exciting events by supporting and encouraging Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament participants in your church. We thank God for this unique discipleship tool and look forward to seeing more of his dividends in the future. — **Bill Falkner, associate**

International

Jesus living again

by Leroy Sisk, Chaplaincy Ministries, ABSC
Luke 24:36-53

Central truth: Because Jesus lives we have peace, assurance, joy and victory in him. Likewise, we have an obligation to proclaim the Good News in all the world.

When the Living Christ comes into our presence he brings peace! After the crucifixion, the disciples were behind closed doors for fear of the Jews but Jesus knew where they were and he knew their emotional and physical state. When he appeared to them, he did not walk through the wall in some bizarre display. He simply manifested himself to them as if to indicate that he was there all the time, though not always visible. The important thing is that when the risen Jesus came to his early disciples or when he comes to us, he brings peace to our troubled and fearful hearts.

The next thing he does is that he dispels our doubts about the resurrection. To those first disciples, he appealed to their senses: sight, sound and touch. John's account of the same event (chapter 20) tells us that Thomas was not present and his doubt continued. Eight days later Jesus offered the same evidence to Thomas and he believed saying, "My Lord and my God". To this Jesus replied, "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed". Thomas was absent by divine providence on the previous appearance of Jesus to the other disciples to help people of succeeding generations to overcome their doubt.

When the assurance of the resurrection comes, it brings with it exuberant joy. A deep settled assurance brings a serenity which is never totally extinguished. When persecution later came, the disciples never once huddled together behind closed doors for fear of anyone. They never again lived as though Jesus was dead! If the joy of the risen Lord is no longer present, it is time to do some serious soul searching. Or, maybe we mistake "fun" for Christian joy. Fun is very transitory but spiritual joy is forever!

What the living Lord does in and for us was never meant to be retained behind closed doors. Just as Jesus sent the early disciples out to spread the Good News beginning at Jerusalem and then to the ends of the earth, so he sends us for we, too, are "witnesses of these things".

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.

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 6-13, 1983

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$25,000,000

Life and Work

Relating to God

by W. Coy Sample, First Church of Morrilton
Bible passage: Matthew 6:1-8

Focal passages: Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18
Central truth: In the practice of righteousness, Jesus commands us to make our deeds God-centered, not self-centered.

Jesus takes it for granted that his followers will do righteous acts, but they must be performed with a pure motive and without ostentation. Jesus seems to be more interested in the heart and attitude of his followers than in the outward performance of certain familiar religious deeds.

1. Giving: This important expression of righteousness has a danger of being manward turning in pride, instead of godward turning in gratitude and lowliness. Some were giving to be "seen of men". Since they did not act for God's glory, they could not expect any glory from him.

Giving in secret focuses on the real motives. A sure test of why we give.

2. Praying: Too many "men of prayer" were hypocrites — actors — and they went where they could find an audience. Jesus enjoined public prayer in both word and act. But if it be without private prayer, there is little depth.

The Father is "in secret" in that he is invisible. He sees in the secret place and into the depths of your being.

3. Fasting: Fasting had been adopted by the Pharisees as a method of showing piety. The requirement of self-restraint however, is written into the very essence of our faith. Jesus promised a reward for sincerity, but sincerity is present only when we remove the outward signs of this inward discipline.

Any self-denial for the sake of the Kingdom could be called fasting, but it must be voluntary, not merely a program.

Jesus did not forbid us doing righteous deeds before men. He does forbid us from doing them for the sole purpose of being seen of men.

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Bible Book

Israel's hope of salvation

by Francis Chesson, First Church, Camden

Bible passage: Romans 11
Focal passage: Romans 11:11-12, 15-25

Central truth: God has made every provision for Israel's salvation. This is Israel's hope; and she must respond to God's terms.

Paul goes to great lengths to show that God has not rejected his people. Even though the Jews failed to respond to God, his plan has not been thwarted (v. 11). On the contrary, in his efforts to make available salvation for the Jews, God has included all mankind, even the Gentiles — a good example that in God's economy, nothing is wasted. God's salvation is universal to all who accept on his terms.

Paul uses this doctrine as an opportunity to remind his Gentile readers that the Jews are still in God's plan. He concludes that since God has exercised judgment on the rebellious Jews, he certainly will judge the Gentiles in like manner. Here one can see both the kindness and strict justice of God (v. 22).

Again, we are reminded that God has not given up on his chosen people. God has the power to save them; but they must come out of their state of unbelief in order to receive his salvation (v. 23).

Just as Israel's hope of salvation was based on obedient belief, so is that of every one of us today. God judged Israel ("the natural branches") so it is for sure that we (who have been "grafted") will also be judged (v. 21).

Every Christian needs to examine his life in the light of God's kindness (the included "even me") — and of God's judgment (the judges me too). God is just in all his dealings and no true child of His can take advantage of his kindness. It is because of this that our God cannot play favorites. Israel learned this fact as God dealt with her unbelief. Can we expect him to deal with us any differently? "Church people" have had every opportunity to know God's kindness and judgment. For us, there is no excuse for failing to respond to him.

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by

Ron Dunn

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Young Christians' Weekend

April 16 & 17

April 23 & 24

Another double edition of **YOUNG CHRISTIANS' WEEKEND** in Ozark Mountain County is planned for 1983! That means two inspirational and fun-packed gatherings of Christian youth from all over mid-America!

WEEKEND No. 1, April 16 & 17 - enjoy a live stage performance by Leon Pattillo, one of the newest and fastest growing popular Christian music artists today.
WEEKEND No. 2, April 23 & 24 - back for a return engagement is Andrus, Blackwood and Company! Both live performances will take place during the Saturday Evening Youth Rally! So mark your calendar now for the weekend of your choice!

In addition, both weekends will offer a series of interesting and enlightening seminars, featuring many new seminar leaders, along with daytime Christian musical performances.

For complete information about the Young Christians' Weekends, phone (417) 338-8206. Or write: Young Christians' Weekend, Silver Dollar City, Marvel Cave Park, MO 65616. A descriptive brochure about Young Christians' Weekend will be coming to you shortly after the first of the year.



Pro-Israel resolution to be reintroduced in Pittsburgh

by Stan Hastley

WASHINGTON (BP) — A resolution supporting the state of Israel, tabled by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans last June, will be reintroduced at this year's SBC in Pittsburgh, the chairman of the 1982 resolutions committee says.

Norris W. Sydnor Jr., a Maryland pastor, told an audience of several hundred at a "National Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel" he will introduce the volatile statement again. He predicted it will be adopted.

Sydnor also presented a plaque engraved with the resolution's wording to the Israeli consul-general in the U.S., and added: "We Southern Baptists are committed and we give our continual support and we pray for

the peace of Jerusalem frequently." He strongly implied the presentation was made "on behalf of 14 million Southern Baptists."

In New Orleans last June, the statement was brought to the floor by a resolutions committee dominated by political and theological "conservatives," but was twice turned down by messengers.

The resolution, which expressed "strong" support of Israel and urged that the U.S. government "publicly and privately assure Israel and her enemies of such support," drew spirited debate and was referred back to the resolutions committee for revision.

When it came back to the floor for a second time, the resolution's author, James DeLoach of Houston, and R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, made a dramatic joint appearance on the convention platform in which Parks said such a resolution could endanger the lives of SBC missionaries and representatives.

The resolutions committee ignored the pleas of Parks and DeLoach and presented their resolution for adoption. Messengers, however, heeded and voted to table the pro-Israel resolution.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said: "I was surprised to learn that Mr. Sydnor had presented the engraved plaque of the resolution, especially since the messengers to the SBC voted to table the resolution."

Bennett also noted messengers amended the resolution, saying they "in no way condone Israel's recent invasion of Lebanon" and urging "peaceful means to alleviate problems between Israel and her neighbors."

Informed of Sydnor's actions, Parks said in Richmond he is "deeply concerned" about the statements themselves and also that these statements may be misunderstood both by Southern Baptists and by Israel and other countries.

Even though rejected in New Orleans, ideas contained in the resolution have caused the Foreign Mission Board ongoing problems during the intervening months in some parts of the Arab world, where South-

ern Baptists maintain the large majority of their missionary contingent in the Middle East.

"Southern Baptists as a convention have not taken any official position regarding the state of Israel," Parks said. He noted that the denomination has representatives or missionaries in many Middle Eastern and other countries around the world whose work could be affected by such a stand.

"Historically, our understanding of the scripture indicates our responsibility is to preach the gospel to all people. At a time when our convention is caught up in Bold Mission Thrust with this as its overarching goal, any resolution which would make this task more difficult or create greater obstacles in many parts of the world would be contrary to what the convention has voted," Parks said.

The breakfast at which Sydnor spoke was sponsored by The Roundtable, a New Right group founded by Southern Baptist layman Edward E. McAteer of Memphis, Tenn. It brought together Jewish and evangelical leaders with a common commitment to influence U.S. foreign policy in Israel's behalf.

In his remarks, McAteer declared: "We literally believe God's word when it says, 'I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee,'" a quotation from Genesis in which God promised Abraham his blessing on ancient Israel. McAteer also said "all things are mortal but the Jews," adding that Jews are "immortal" because God has never violated the covenant first made with Abraham.

Like Sydnor, McAteer said he will push messengers to the Pittsburgh convention to approve the resolution this time. After last year's New Orleans meeting, he told Baptist Press his biggest disappointment was the messengers' failure to pass it.

Principal speaker Jerry Falwell told the breakfast gathering that Christians should stand "unashamedly and fearlessly" for Israel's survival and prosperity. He praised Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon,

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Parks takes strong stand against Israel resolution

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Any Southern Baptist Convention resolution supporting the State of Israel will hinder the denomination's mission work both in the Middle East and other parts of the world, R. Keith Parks said.

Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said it is his "sincere prayer" that such a resolution will not be discussed on the floor of the SBC's annual meeting in Pittsburgh in June.

In his February board report Parks elaborated on the potentially harmful effects of

such a resolution. "Much attention is given in many countries, even in the secular press, when Christian groups speak on political matters," he said.

He said such a resolution "will cause us to be identified politically in such a way that would jeopardize permits to work and safety of Baptists (not just missionaries)" in many parts of the world.

Southern Baptists have 45 representatives who work in Israel. But the denomination has many other missionaries or representa-

tives in pro-Arab parts of the Middle East and in other areas of the world where populations are predominantly Moslem.

Parks said "multiplied millions in the Middle East as well as other parts of the world" would interpret such a resolution as implying opposition to their own people. "Understandably," he added, "they would be reluctant to welcome representatives whom they feel are enemies of their own government. Although this would not be true, we must never do or say anything that could be interpreted to imply this."