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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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8-28-1986

### August 28, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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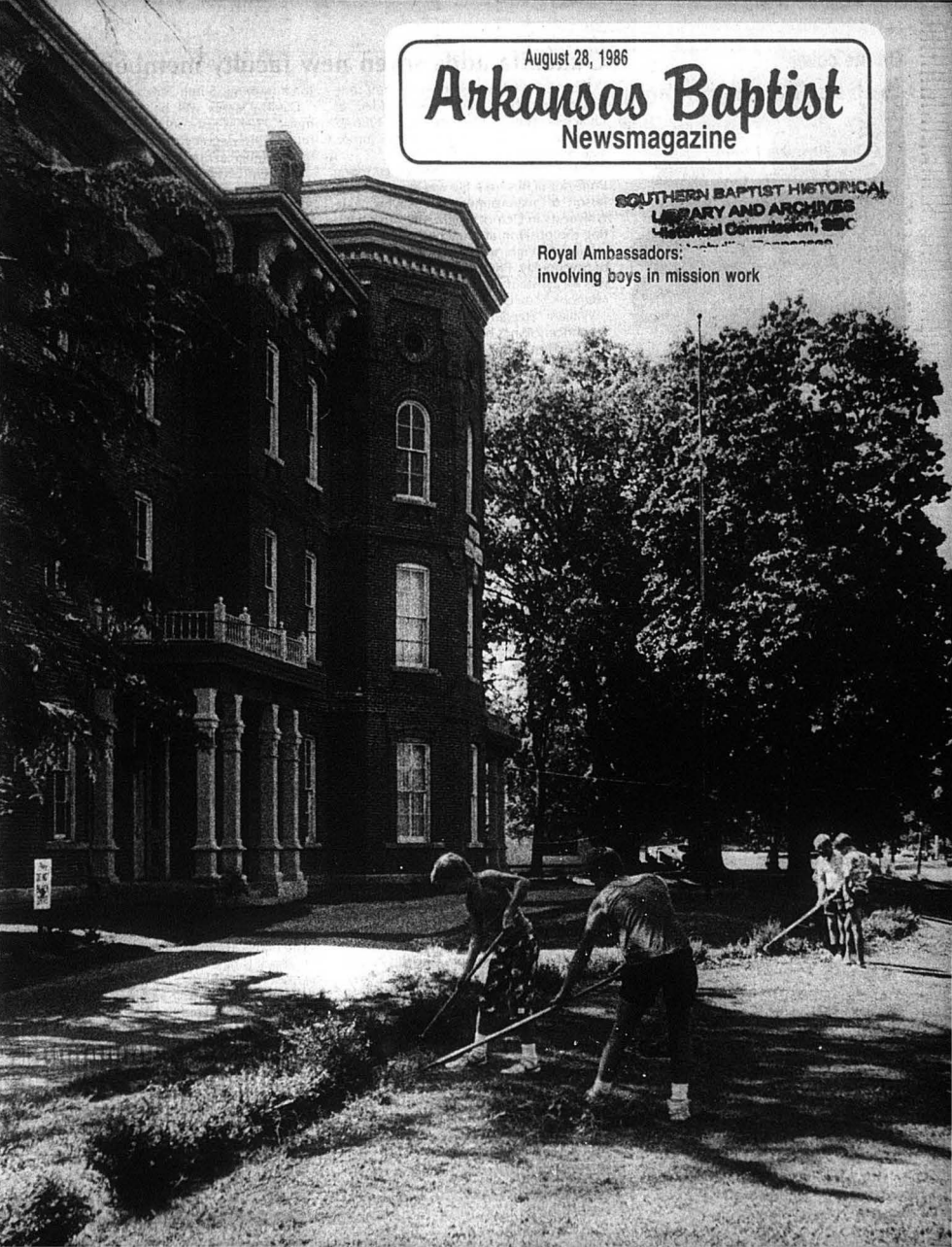
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August 28, 1986

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC

Royal Ambassadors:  
involving boys in mission work





ABN photo / Mark Kelly

Doing missions can be far more instructive—and more interesting—than hearing about it in a classroom, as these Royal Ambassadors learned during the recent RA National Congress in Memphis, Tenn. (see “Helpline” article, p. 8)

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## In this issue

### 4 planning for disability

The final of four installments by Larry Page of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation on preventive planning for possible disability focuses on revocable trusts and living wills.

### 14 enrollments and baptisms

Churches with Sunday School enrollments higher than their resident membership consistently have high baptism rates, a Sunday School expert observes.

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## Ouachita adds seven new faculty members

ARKADELPHIA—Seven new full-time faculty members have been added at Ouachita Baptist University for the 1986-87 academic year, according to Thomas Turner, vice-president for academic affairs.

Robert F. Allison will be the George Young Professor of Business. He was associate professor of management at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., prior to accepting the position at Ouachita.

Randall Wight will be assistant professor of psychology. Prior to coming to OBU, he was an assistant professor of psychology at Memphis State University in Memphis, Tenn.

William Steeger will be missionary-in-residence. He has been serving as a lecturer in Old Testament studies at the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa in

Johannesburg, South Africa.

David Dennis will be an instructor in music. He has just completed his doctor of musical arts degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Lou Ann Locke will be assistant professor of sociology. She formerly was director of social work services at the Arkadelphia Human Development Center.

Caroline Cagle will be assistant professor of mathematics and computer science. Prior to coming to OBU, she worked for a commercial firm, Computer Consoles, Inc., in Arlington, Va.

Schellely Childress will be an instructor in library science. She was on the faculty of St. Mary's College in Raleigh, N. C., before coming to Arkadelphia.

## Evangelist Vance Havner dies in North Carolina

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP)—Vance H. Havner, 84, longtime Southern Baptist evangelist, author and Bible conference speaker, died Aug. 12 in Greensboro, N.C.

Havner's ministry as a pastor and writer began during his adolescent years and spanned seven decades. His pastorates included First Church in Charleston, S.C. Later he became a full-time evangelist and conference speaker whose services were sought nationwide. For 10 years he wrote a weekly column for the Charlotte (N.C.) *Observer* entitled “Havner's Reflections.” He wrote 38

books, most of which are still in circulation. Havner was born in Catawba County, N.C., Oct. 7, 1901. He attended Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Catawba College; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

His wife, the former Sara Allred of Greensboro, died in 1972. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

The family has requested memorials be made to the Vance H. Havner Scholarship Fund, P.O. 1048, Greensboro, N.C. 27482.

## Housing forms mailed for St. Louis meeting

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Housing request forms for the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention are being mailed to state convention offices and should be available shortly after Labor Day, according to Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager.

The forms, similar to ones used to reserve rooms in the convention city for the past seven years, also will be printed in the September issue of *The Baptist Program*.

“There has been a difference of opinion in our convention between those who felt that they should be free to secure their own housing and those who felt the need for a bureau so they could be assured all of the rooms would not be taken by travel agents or special interest groups,” Hedquist said.

Over the years a compromise has emerged in the housing policy. Under that policy, about 4,000 are held by the convention to be used by the city-run housing bureau. Those rooms are for individuals and may only be secured by the use of official forms.

Hedquist said St. Louis has about 15,000 hotel rooms, somewhat less than the 23,000 available in Dallas and Atlanta. Of the 11,000 not in the convention block, Hedquist estimated about half already have been reserved by individuals, travel agents, or special interest groups.

Hedquist explained the housing request forms must be mailed to the St. Louis Con-

vention and Visitors Commission (CVC), 10 S. Broadway, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63102, on Oct. 1. Forms postmarked earlier than Oct. 1 will be considered late, Hedquist said.

He added shuttle service probably will be limited to the 12 hotels in the convention block and said messengers to the annual meeting will not find sophisticated mass transit such as was available in Atlanta. “Out of the downtown area a car is needed for transportation,” he said.

He warned parking probably will be a problem, since there is very limited space available at the Convention Center, and parking will be several blocks from the meeting site.

The hotels available through the convention block (single rates listed first, followed by rates for doubles):

Adams Mark, convention hotel, \$88, \$98; Best Western-St. Louisian, \$46, \$54; The Chase, \$70 for either single or double; Clarion (WVU headquarters) \$75, \$85; Days Inn at the Arch, \$52, \$62; Embassy Suites, \$90, \$96; Forest Park, \$75 for either single or double; Marriott Pavilion, \$89 and \$90; Mayfair, \$59 for either single or double; Radisson, \$63, \$68; Red Bird Inn, \$50, \$55; Sheraton St. Louis, \$77, \$91.

A list of other hotels in St. Louis is available through Hedquist's office, 901 Commerce, #750, Nashville, TN 37203.



The controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention is continuing. Unless the Peace Committee is able to find a solution it will may be that the controversy will continue for some time to come. Baptist state papers are caught in the middle of the controversy. Since many Southern Baptist preachers and laypersons have strong convictions regarding the controversy and express themselves in newsworthy public forums, it is the responsibility of Baptist state papers to report these events to their readers.

Several questions arise regarding the reporting of the controversy. Among these are: Does the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* devote an inordinate amount of space to the controversy? Does the *Newsmagazine* provide a great deal more coverage for one point of view than it does for the other? Does the *Newsmagazine* control or manipulate letters to the editor? It is probable that anyone espousing an extreme "moderate-conservative" position or an extreme "fundamental-conservative" position would feel that the *Newsmagazine* had not dealt fairly with the situation.

The only way the editor and staff of the *Newsmagazine* could determine with accuracy the handling of the controversy was to analyze the news stories and letters for an entire year. So all 49 issues of the *ABN* published during 1985 were examined. Five categories of news copy were identified: Arkansas news, Southern Baptist Convention news, mission news, news articles representing the perspectives of "moderate-conservatives", and news articles representing the perspectives of "fundamental-conservatives." Three categories of letters to the editor also were identified: letters representing "moderate-conservative" arguments, letters representing "fundamental-conservative" arguments, and letters pertaining to all other subjects.

For purposes of analysis, *ABN* covers, editorials, Sunday School lesson commentaries and advertising was excluded from the survey. Normally one would expect that an editor would frequently use the editorial page to deal with the controversy. But this has not been the case with the *ABN*.

Regular features such as "Arkansas All Over" were counted as one article. Had the individual items contained in these features been counted separately, they would have skewed the total number of articles, and the percentages accounted for by the *ABN* would have been infinitesimal.

For purposes of the study, "moderate-conservative" and "fundamental-conservative" articles were defined as those in which proponents espoused their positions or criticized persons of another persuasion without balanced quotes within the article. Articles dealing in straight-forward fashion with the controversy,

but which did not advocate a particular perspective or which had balancing quotes, were treated as Southern Baptist Convention news and counted as such.

In 1985 the *Newsmagazine* published 13,902.5 total inches of news copy. This represented 1,090 news articles in the five categories. Arkansas news accounted for 8,619 inches or 62 percent of the total inches. Of the 1,090 articles published, 574 or 52.5 percent related to Arkansas news.

Southern Baptist Convention news accounted for 3,151.5 inches (22.6 percent). The Southern Baptist Convention news articles represented a total of 603 articles (28.1 percent).

Articles dealing with home and foreign missions accounted for 1,605 inches (11.4 percent). Mission articles also accounted for 174 articles (16 percent).

Articles representing "moderate-conservative" perspectives accounted for 264.5 inches (2 percent). There were 18 articles printed (1.7 percent). Articles representing "fundamental-conservative" perspectives accounted for 262.5 inches (2 percent). There were, also, 18 "Fundamental-Conservative" articles printed (1.7 percent). It is interesting to observe that there was only a two-inch difference between articles representing "moderate-conservative" positions and "fundamental-conservative" positions.

In 1985, 27 issues of the *ABN* carried absolutely no letters dealing with the controversy. Letters dealing with "moderate-conservative" perspectives numbered 21 (22.1 percent) of the letters. The "fundamental-conservative" letters numbered 15 (15.8 percent) accounting for 83.5 inches (14.6 percent).

All other letters numbered 59 (62.1 percent) accounting for 359 inches (63 percent). It should be pointed out, however, that the staff of the *ABN*, in recent times, has printed all letters to the editor that have met the guidelines laid down by the *ABN* Board.

We believe the facts indicate that the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* does not slant its selection of news articles in favor of either group involved in the controversy. In fact, the closeness of the two categories is amazing, since the staff did not keep a running total or tally sheet throughout the year. We believe it simply reflects an even-handed approach to our reporting.

Our readers should be most pleased by the fact that 96 percent of the space was devoted to news of Arkansas Baptists, Southern Baptists, and home and foreign missions. This figure would be even greater if covers and editorials were included.

It is our desire to serve the Baptists of Arkansas. We sincerely believe it is essential Baptists be informed. We welcome any suggestion that assists us in providing our readers better news coverage.

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85

NUMBER 33

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor  
Mark Kelly 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-space and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked for publication.

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

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## Planning for disability: last of four Planning techniques: revocable trust and living will

by Larry Page

Having discussed the statistics of disability and two of the major mechanisms for dealing with it, viz., guardianship and the durable power of attorney, in earlier installments, we conclude this series of articles with descriptions of two other techniques which are often used in planning for disability. These techniques are the revocable living trust and the living will.



Page

A revocable living trust is a trust created by a competent grantor or trustor during his lifetime. The grantor reserves the right to revoke or amend the trust at any time. The grantor may name himself or another to serve as trustee and a successor trustee may be nominated. The trust may be funded at the time it is created by transferring property and assets to it or funding may be deferred until some specified event, such as the onset of the grantor's disability. If the latter course is chosen, the power to fund the trust may be given to an agent serving on behalf of the grantor under a separate instrument, a durable power of attorney, which was described in the preceding article. Used in

this way, the two instruments can complement one another.

The two major advantages of the revocable living trust derive from what it can often allow the grantor and his estate to avoid. Like the durable power of attorney, the revocable trust typically avoids many of the problems associated with the guardianship proceeding, such as court hearings, undue expense, delay and embarrassment.

The trust can also continue after the death of the grantor benefitting children, grandchildren or charity, or upon death of the grantor, it may distribute the grantor's property and assets without estate administration, or probate as it is commonly referred to. The trust should be coordinated with the grantor's will so that a conflict between them does not throw property and assets of the trust into probate. This is most often accomplished by use of a "pour over" will which will transfer any property and assets not already in the trust to the trustee for distribution pursuant to the trust's provisions.

By legislation enacted in 1977, the Arkansas General Assembly provided for the execution of a living will by which a person may refuse and deny the "use or application by any person of artificial, extraordinary, extreme or radical medical or surgical means or procedures calculated to prolong his life." Alternatively, the document may be used to

request that such means be utilized to prolong life. The living will must be executed with the same formalities as are required by the execution of a will.

The statute states that any person, hospital or other medical facility which acts or refuses to act in reliance on such a written document will be immune from liability which would normally arise from failure to use or apply the medical or surgical means or procedures listed in the previous paragraph.

If the person is a minor or an adult who is physically or mentally unable to execute the living will, the document may be executed on his behalf by either parent, if the person is a minor, or by the spouse, or if the person is unmarried or the spouse is unable or unwilling to act, by a majority of the person's children. When this manner of execution is used, the document must have attached to it a signed statement by two physicians confirming that extraordinary means would have to be utilized to prolong life.

For more information about these subjects or any of those dealt with in the previous articles in this series on planning for disability, please contact your Arkansas Baptist Foundation at P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call 376-0732.

Larry Page is vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



**Noteburning and dedication**—The Pleasant Valley Church near Walcott dedicated rebuilt sanctuary and educational space Aug. 17. Insurance proceeds from a January 28, 1986, fire which virtually destroyed the church's facility were used to rebuild the structure at a cost of \$45,800. Above, deacons Delmar Massey, Randy Allred, Dennis Gregory, and Henry Carr and pastor Bob Kinnett (right) burned the paid-off building note. Kinnett also presented a plaque to Carr and his wife, Ella Jean, for their providing temporary meeting space for the congregation. After the fire, which occurred the same day as the Challenger space shuttle disaster, the congregation was out of its facilities for 110 days. Carroll Gibson, director of missions for Greene County Association, brought the dedicatory message.

## Deaf ministers conference slated

Ministers to the deaf and those interested in starting a deaf ministry in their churches are coming from as far away as California and Kansas to attend the "Ministering in the Deaf Congregation" conference Oct. 7-9 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. "This is the first conference of this nature we've offered," said Thomas A. Kinchen, director of continuing education. "We're anticipating a large number in attendance."

Conference leaders will be Carter Bearden, Home Mission Board consultant for deaf ministries; Jerry Seale, pastor of the deaf congregation at First Church, Knoxville, Tenn.; Vesta Bice, director of Reach Out to Texas Deaf in Dallas; Mark Short, associate professor of church administration at New Orleans Seminary; Fisher Humphreys, professor of theology at New Orleans Seminary; David Perkins, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Seminary; and Daniel Johnson, associational worker with the deaf in Louisiana.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126, or call (504) 282-4455.

### What is happening?

I recently read a story concerning the recalling the committee responsible for recommending a successor to William Tanner at the Home Mission Board. The motion to ask for the resignations was brought by Rev. Johnny Jackson... of Little Rock, while the directors were in executive session. As I read the article, I got this sickening feeling in my stomach. I am angry, sad, and heart-broken.

What purpose, for God's sake, is being served by all of this? We were asked by the Peace Committee to refrain from doing things that would cause more tension. Then we find out that a group has succeeded in literally throwing out a duly appointed search committee before they could do their work.

That is absolutely incredible! To top that, it was done in "executive session." What could inflame emotions more than this kind of action? Why all the secrecy? What are we trying to hide?

I do not know any of the persons who were on the search committee or Rev. Jackson, who brought the motion asking for the resignations. I do know, however, that a real travesty has occurred in not giving the committee an opportunity to do their work.

What is happening to us as Southern Bapt-

tists? Who do I have to answer to before I am an "approved" Southern Baptist? This is becoming frightening. May the Lord help us negotiate these trying times.—Layne E. Smith, Fayetteville

### One man's opinion

In regard to an article about three weeks ago, it seems to me to be absolutely ridiculous to call the modernists and liberals moderates. That is putting them close to, if not in the same class, as conservatives. Nothing could be further from the truth and is just another illustration of how the Baptists meet, eat and retreat. That's one man's opinion.—Clarence Edwards, Rogers

### Role expectations

I would like to respond to Charles Willis' article on page 22 of the July 24 edition of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

There is a general failure on the part of some ministering persons to do in the ministry what we are asking our lay people to do. Most of our working age men and a large portion of the women in our churches work at jobs outside their homes. They put in 40 hours each week or more on their jobs. Many of them come directly from work to church on Wednesday night for activities that keep them there until 9:30 p.m. They

are at work at 8:00 a.m. the next day. Yet, some ministering persons leave work in the middle of the afternoon, the reason for which is, "I have to be at the church until 9:30." My question is, with whom? Can our laymen go home in the middle of the afternoon and "rest" so they can feel "fresh" for officers and teachers meetings, children's choirs, meetings of all kinds, prayer meetings, choir...? Any staff person who says, "Well, it is work for me," has not done any of these things in a while. And some of these same persons will drag in at 10:00 the next day complaining of being tired because they worked late while our laymen have been on the job two hours!

I believe that a ministering person should put in at least 40 hours on the job and then come to Sunday School, worship, Church Training, evening worship, Wednesday prayer meeting, and do his share of visitation. That is the minimum we expect of our laymen. There is a difference between productive hours and hours on the job. One thing is clear: there will be no productive hours if we are not on the job.

Laymen usually appreciate a disciplined person and will follow him. This example will produce more work being done for the cause of Christ, and a lessening of some of the frustrations in role expectations.—Winfred P. Bridges, Paragould



### The Southern accent

Steve Lemke

### A vision for Christian institutions

What is the purpose of a Baptist institution? Why do we have them? I got a valuable insight into this question recently when a colleague had a family member in Baptist Hospital in Little Rock. The family member underwent a series of tests to diagnose the cause of some health problems.

When the doctor gathered the family to report the result of the tests, the news was not as good as they had hoped. But as he shared the bad news, the doctor also courteously and compassionately inquired about the spiritual welfare of the patient. He then shared a word and witness to Christ.

What a wonderful model for Christian institutions! A Baptist hospital should offer the best technology and health care, of course. There also should be an atmosphere in a Baptist hospital where concern for physical well-being is matched with a concern for spiritual well-being. It should be a place where the best technical expertise is matched with the best skills in person-centered ministry.

I believe this incident offers a clue to what

a Baptist college should be all about. Like the technical skills that our hospital offers, a Baptist college should offer the finest scholarship available. No student attending a Southern Baptist school should have a second-rate education. But a Baptist college should offer more than that. Like the hospital, a Baptist college should offer an atmosphere of spiritual compassion and concern. It should be a place where a Christian administration, faculty, and staff are sensitive to the spiritual needs of the students (and each other). It should be a place where expertise in one's academic discipline is matched by a concern to minister in the name of Christ.

As our hospitals, schools, and other institutions are characterized by this kind of Christian concern, they offer a plus that secular institutions cannot have. And they are the kind of institutions that you and I as Baptists can be proud to support!

Steve Lemke is professor of religion at Southern Baptist College.

### Jackson Bible Conference to be held Sept. 4-6

The 10th annual Paul Jackson Bible Conference will be held Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 4-6, in Little Rock.

The Thursday evening, Friday evening, and Saturday morning sessions of the Bible conference will be held at Life Line Church in Little Rock. Friday morning, the Bible conference will convene at Little Rock's Excelsior Hotel, followed by a noon luncheon.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention will be the featured speaker for the conference. Rogers will deliver addresses during the Thursday evening and Friday morning sessions.

Evangelist Bill Stafford from Chattanooga, Tenn., will speak to the Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions. Stafford, a Tennessee native, is an evangelistic conference speaker and revivalist. He is author of the book *Spirit-filled Giving*.

Evangelist Michael Haines of Lindale, Texas, will address the noon luncheon at the Excelsior Hotel and the Saturday morning session at Life Line Church. A former pastor, Haines is the author of the book *The God of Rock*.

Other speakers include Johnny Jackson, executive director of the Paul Jackson Evangelistic Association, and Nick Garland, pastor of Second Church, Hot Springs.

## missionary notes

ABN photo / Millie Gill

**Jay Bennett**, journeyman to Korea, has completed his two-year term of service as a computer programmer and analyst in Seoul, and returned to the States (address: P. O. Box 266, Springdale, AR 72764). Before he was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1984, he graduated from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

**Janna Bryles**, journeyman to Brazil, has completed her two-year term of service as a secretary and teacher for missionary kids in Florianopolis, and returned to the States (address: Rt. 2, Box 609, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901). She was born in Little Rock and lived in Pine Bluff. She was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1984.

**Boyd Pelley**, journeyman to Uganda, has completed his two year term of service as a student worker in Kampala, and returned to the States (address: 1541 High Trails, Norman, OK 73071). He considers Mena his hometown. Before he was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1984, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma.

**Mary E. Ware**, journeyman to Gaza, has completed her two year term of service as a nurse, and returned to the States (address: 3918 Old Sterlington Rd., Monroe, LA 71203). Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1984, she was a nurse at Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock.

**Mr. and Mr. O. Stanton Parris Jr.**, missionaries to Venezuela, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: #3 Nob View Circle, Little Rock, AR 72205). He is from Hope. The former Charlotte Wilson, she was born in Dumas and considers Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed in 1982.

**Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Sorrell**, missionary associates to Nigeria, are in the States for furlough (address: 134 S. Nettleton, Bonner Springs, KS 66012). He was born in Randolph County. She is the former Hazel Westbrook of Kansas. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981.



**Anniversary celebrated**—Greenlee Church in Pine Bluff celebrated its 50th anniversary of service Aug. 16-17. The church, organized Aug. 16, 1936, held its first services in a school building. It grew out of a Sunday afternoon Sunday School class started by Nora Greenlee, for whom the church is named. The present building was built in 1968. Anniversary activities included a Saturday musical program and picnic supper, a Sunday fellowship meal following the morning worship service, and an afternoon program which included the dedication of pictures of former pastors and Mrs. Greenlee. The dedication, led by Mrs. Nelson Eubank and Pastor Jimmy Watson, was a memorial to the late Glenda Monk Iding who began the pictorial collection in 1969 while a member of the church's Young Woman's Auxiliary. Phil Beach of Fordyce, a former pastor, was morning worship speaker.

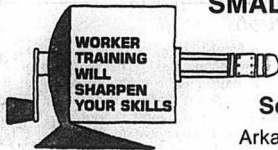
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## SMALL SUNDAY SCHOOL



## WORKERshop

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Siloam Springs

*for workers in Sunday Schools of less than 150 enrolled*

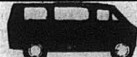
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# Helpline

for the local church

**Is September ever promising for you?** Unless a need is being met by the activities and events we plan, they are discontinued. If new needs are discovered and ideas developed, we start new projects to help meet the needs. September will reveal our attempt to do just that.



Moore

**New for you: workers in Sunday School with under 150 enrolled!** Never before have we had a meeting like this. The frequent complaint, "Your conferences are always geared to the larger church" will no longer be justified. Sure, we have to do some things that fit the medium size and larger church. But this is just for the smaller churches. Over half of our churches in Arkansas fall in this category. The meetings are on Friday night and Saturday so that

bivocational pastors and other employed people can attend. The location will not be good for some, but if the response is good to this first meeting, we will try to spread them out over the state next year to meet the small church challenge. Small churches deserve the best Bible teaching possible. If this fits you and your situation, join the group Sept. 19-20, 1986, at the Siloam Springs Baptist Assembly.

**New for you: bivocational and small church evangelism conferences!** Located at Union Avenue in Wynne on Sept. 8, First Church in Mt. Ida on Sept. 9, and Eastside in Mountain Home on Sept. 11, these evangelism conferences are designed to bring information and inspiration to special groups of our people who do not ordinarily get to attend the State Evangelism Conference in January. You will love Carlos McLeod, outstanding evangelism leader from Texas, who will be preaching. Pastors and lay people both should join in this special opportunity. A common complaint we hear in bivocational meetings is that small churches are reluctant to plan ahead far enough to get good leadership for revivals. Perhaps this will help lay people open up to better approaches to evangelism in their churches.

**New for you: College Concern Conference!** Our Sunday School Department and BSU Department are combining their efforts to try to help those who work with college and university students. Art Herron will be here from Nashville to assist. Pastors and church staff persons responsible for ministries with college students, along with Sunday School workers and BSU directors, should take advantage of this. The dates are Sept. 8, 9, 11.

**The greatest Arkansas Baptist Youth Day ever!** All the fun you would expect at Magic Springs plus a super great speaker and singers. Paul Smith, formerly with the Imperials, and "Harbor" concert artists from Nashville, will headline the spiritual festivities that youth really enjoy. You will get help, for sure, on living the Christian life as Frank Pollard speaks, and you find a plan for growth in your Christian life. Pastors, staff and other

youth workers need to capitalize on this fantastic event on Sept. 6. You need to order your Magic Springs tickets directly from Magic Springs. Call 1-800-272-2152.

**Senior Adults Chautauqua, Sept. 22-26.** Since this is at Glorieta, perhaps not too many of you can attend. Those who do will have the time of their life. Don't be afraid. Scores of you who wonder how best to use your time need to venture out this year. Call Bob Holley at 376-4791 to reserve your place on the bus. He can tell you the cost, too. The bus leaves Saturday, Sept. 20, and returns Saturday, Sept. 27.

**Single Adult Labor Day Weekend.** For the quality of time, relationships, food and travel, the price is right! You need to spend the holiday somewhere with someone. Can you think of a better way? Get the details from Gerald Jackson, 376-4791, and invest in yourself this Labor Day. Good reports come from these events.

**WMU prepares for tremendous advance!**  
**Ten area conferences for leadership training:** six separate conferences; all local church leaders can be trained; day-con-

## A promising September

by Don Moore

ferences repeated at night for working women.

**Church WMU Training Day, Sept. 4.** Immanuel Little Rock: 10 conferences; leaders from four states; in-depth, specialized training.

**State Sunday School Conference.** A record for convention attendance was set last year with over 1,500. With 26 different conference leaders from across the Southern Baptist Convention coming this year, I know our leadership will be excited about the help they will receive. So much in our churches hinges upon the success of our Sunday Schools. Please, pastors and Sunday School directors, go to the utmost extent, spare no effort to get your workers here for this conference. You can't take all your workers to Ridgecrest or Glorieta, but we can bring the same quality to you. I will see you on Sept. 26-27, at Park Hill, North Little Rock!

**Missions. Far? Near? Which?** It isn't one or the other. It is both "far" and "near." How close is "near?" Yes, it is right here in Arkansas, even in your home town. Make plans now for special studies, prayer and an offering, Sept. 21-28, for state missions. Contact Julia Ketner or Conway Sawyers for special materials to help you. The Dixie Jackson offering is to state missions, what Little Moon offering is to foreign missions.

**Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.**

This monthly Helpline is a cooperative ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to the churches. Pages 9-11 were produced by the ABSC Executive Board.

### 8 involving boys in missions

*Two Brotherhood Commission staffers talk about keys to building a successful Royal Ambassador program.*

### 12 plan ahead!

*Dates and places for ABSC-sponsored events from September through December will help you plan your fall calendar.*



# Involvement, relationships key to successful RA program

by Mark Kelly

ABN photo / Mark Kelly

*"Tough? I'll tell you what's tough. Teenage boys. If you want to tackle something hard, you try to get a bunch of 'cool' teenagers coming to a 'stuffy,' 'churchy' program like Royal Ambassadors. Then you'll know what tough really is!"*

Sound familiar? Anyone who has ever tried to get high school boys interested in starting a Royal Ambassador chapter knows the story. And once you've got them there, keeping the attention of a roomful of rambunctious, energetic young men proves even harder.

How do they do it, the churches that have strong Royal Ambassador programs? How do they get boys interested enough to come? How do they get them involved and active?

There are some common elements in successful Royal Ambassador programs and keys to working with teenage boys, according to two staff members of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

Rusty Griffin, director of the children and youth division, and Ken Raines, director of Pioneer Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men, insist that, contrary to appearances, teenage young men want two things Royal Ambassadors can provide. First, they want to help others and the cause of missions. Second, they want meaningful relationships with adult men.

Those two desires, however well-hidden they might be, offer several keys to involving teenage boys in missions education and action, Griffin and Raines assert.

Ironically, the first obstacle to a successful program has more to do with the congregation and church leadership than with the boys themselves.

"The first key to a strong RA program is church leadership saying, 'We want kids involved in being Christians, in living their faith,'" says Griffin. "When churches get to the point where they expect young people to be involved in living their faith, rather than being entertained, you won't have to worry about promoting programs like RA's."

A related challenge is finding men who can act as role models of missions involvement, Griffin explains. "A high level of commitment is required for missions involvement," he notes. "Missions is something we like to talk about, but not something we like to do." Finding men who exemplify a missions lifestyle is essential to building a program that involves boys in missions, he says.

A third key to a successful RA program involves one's assumptions about how people learn. "We have tended to say you learn by being taught in a classroom, and so we have an expert standing up and talking," Griffin claims. "But that approach restricts learning, and we have paid dearly for limiting ourselves to classroom missions



*Dwayne Severs, a Royal Ambassador from First Church, Odessa, Mo., clips a hedge in front of the Porter Leath Children's Home in Memphis, Tenn., as part of a missions project during the RA National Congress Aug. 4-7.*

education.

"Successful programs that are reaching and involving large numbers of boys are using multiple models of learning," he continues. "Some learn best by self study. Others will never understand missions until they see someone else do it. Some learn best by doing."

Fourth, Griffin points out that church size has very little to do with ability to organize a successful RA chapter. "Too often, lack of size is used as a cop-out," he asserts. "I've seen fantastic RA programs in churches with 25 or 30 members present on Sunday morning. The commitment of the church and staff to missions is far more important than size."

Perhaps the most important element in building a successful Royal Ambassador program lies in developing good relationships between boys and their counselors, Raines believes. "I was raised in a church with 60 in Sunday School," he recalls. "The key to my experience was the relationship with my counselor, as well as with my peers."

"That relationship formed a foundation for missions education," Raines continues. "Because of it, I could be led to help someone else or work for advancement. If it hadn't been for our leaders being willing to take time, we wouldn't have had a chapter, I wouldn't have done advancement... it's a beautiful relationship that can be formed."

Never underestimate the power of relationships to motivate people, Raines warns. "Many young men desire and need that relationship with adult men," he adds. "RA

leaders shouldn't see their work as just another church position, but as an opportunity to influence young men."

The RA National Congress, which drew 1,400 Royal Ambassadors to Memphis Aug. 4-7, reflected Griffin's and Raines' belief that teenage boys are interested in helping others. More than 900 boys worked one day on mission projects across the city. Cutting grass, raking yards, trimming hedges, painting and repairing houses, visiting in nursing homes, passing out Scripture portions and witnessing, the young men proved their willingness to help.

"Boys in grades seven through 12 are looking for opportunities to experience Christian faith through hands-on experience," says Raines. "Boys are different, and they respond to different things. But basically young men enjoy helping others and helping the cause of missions."

Raines acknowledges the RA's who attended the national meeting, which is conducted every six years by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, did not have to come all the way to Memphis to find mission needs. "If they learn anything while they're here, I hope it's that they didn't have to come to Memphis to find yards to mow, buildings to paint, or nursing homes to visit," Raines says.

"We want them to understand that missions is not an event, but a lifestyle," he concludes. "It's an active, day-by-day lifestyle of sharing and caring for other people."

**Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.**

## Woman's Missionary Union WMU Leadership Training

The 1986-87 WMU emphasis, "Gifted to Serve - Called to Act," is a statement packed with action words. God desires for us to use our gifts to faithfully serve others. His call challenges us to administer his grace through personal acts of ministry and witness.

### Gifted to Serve Called to Act

WMU leaders can be equipped to serve others by being trained to fulfill the task to which they have been called. It is important to remember that training is not a one time experience, but an ongoing process.

September is filled with training opportunities for WMU leadership. The month begins with Church WMU Training Day at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock on September 4. Age-level conferences for church WMU leaders will be led by women from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. A conference for church WMU centennial chairman will be led by Bonnie Margason. The agenda for the day begins at 10 and concludes at 2:30. Participants need to bring a sack lunch. A nursery will be provided for preschoolers.

## Church Training Church Training Convention

The annual Church Training Convention on October 28 will feature Dr. Phillip B. Harris as one of the guest speakers. Dr. Harris, retired Director of the Church Training Department, BSSB, is still an avid jogger, speaker-teacher, and Church Training enthusiast. Dr. Harris will speak in the general session of the morning and evening sessions of the Convention.



Harris

Dr. James Bryant, missionary to Thailand, will speak at the afternoon session. Dr. Bryant will speak on the subject, "As you go...make disciples." Dr. Bryant and his wife Virginia have just

Realizing that everyone can attend the Church WMU Training Day, eight area conferences will be held throughout our state in September and October. These conferences offer excellent opportunities to receive training in your age-level organization and to share ideas with other leaders. Morning conferences begin at 10 and conclude at 2:30. The evening session is from 7-9. Women attending the day conferences need to bring a sack lunch. A nursery for preschoolers will be provided for both the day and evening sessions. Plan to attend the conference in your area.

September is also the month for the observance of the Season of Prayer for State Missions. This year the theme is "Open My Eyes... Use Me." We encourage church-wide observance of the Season of Prayer, September 21-28. Use the prayer guides daily during this special emphasis. The state goal for the Dixie Jackson Offering is \$430,000. Challenge your church to give to this worthy offering.

What will be your response to our emphasis, "Gifted to Serve - Called to Act"? Be willing to open your eyes spiritually and use your gifts to serve others through personal acts of ministry and witness. God has given us so much. What gifts will you give to God? - **Angela Lowe, Acteens Director.**

## Annuity/Stewardship Area conferences

The Annuity/Stewardship Department joins the WMU and Brotherhood this year in nine area conferences.



Walker

the Rock, Calvary.

Pastors, stewardship, budget or finance committees, and church treasurers will receive materials and information on budget planning and promotion and on the Expanded Church Annuity Plan during conference sessions.

Charles Vanderalice, Annuity Board, will assist in conference leadership the first week. Jimmie Sheffield will conduct the third week conferences. - **James A. Walker, director**



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returned home for a furlough following their first term of service under the appointment by our Foreign Mission Board.

Immanuel Church in Little Rock will host the Church Training Convention with sessions beginning at 10 a.m. and 1:45 and 7 p.m. Training conferences will be offered for pastors, church staff, Church Training leaders and associational Church Training leaders. There will also be special conferences for Church Secretaries and Media Library workers at each of these sessions.

The Church Training Convention offers an ideal opportunity for leadership training and information at the beginning of the new church year. Don't miss this opportunity to get the help you need to build and maintain an effective discipleship training program in your church. - **Robert Holley, director**

## Sunday School

### State Sunday School Conference scheduled for September 26-27

Thirty-three conferences are scheduled for teachers and officers in the State Sunday School Conference to be held on

September 26-27, 1986 in Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. The Conference theme will be "The People Challenge: Go...Tell...Teach."

A major portion of the Conference will be devoted to sessions designed to help with Bible teaching with all age groups, outreach, growth, administration, and evangelism. A

conference for teachers of the deaf will also be provided.

The meeting will begin with a general session at 6:50 on Friday evening. Dr. Don Moore will speak during this session. Conferences will follow from 7:45-9:15.

The Saturday session will be devoted to conference time, beginning at 8:30 and closing at 12:30.

Out-of-state conference leaders will include John and Margaret Sizemore, Pat Piland, Patti Kline, Bill Cole, Lou Heath, Willa Ruth Garlow, Zadabath Uland, and Jewel Wells Nelson. Baptist Sunday School Board program personnel will include Ernie Adams, Steve Harbin, Mike Mitchell, Brad Thompson, Doug Merritt, Cosette Baker, and Rachel Coe. Arkansas con-

ference leaders will include Randy Cash, Clarence Shell, Sandy Hinkson, Bob Pruett, and Edith Wiley.

Child care will be provided for preschoolers birth through three. There will be a \$5.00 fee per child. Churches in Pulaski and North Pulaski Associations are urged to provide child care for their own preschoolers.

**Please note this correction:** The Small Sunday School Workshop to be held at Camp Paron is scheduled for October 10-11, 1986, and not October 17-18 as reported in the last issue of the Sunday School News. — **Pat Ratton, preschool consultant**



Ratton

teaching with all age groups, outreach, growth, administration, and evangelism. A

## Church Administration

### Bivocational Pastor's Conference

Dr. Lloyd Elder, President of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be one of the speakers at the first state-wide conference

for Bivocational Pastors to be conducted October 3-4. The conference will be hosted by the Olivet Church in Little Rock with sessions on Friday night and Saturday morning. In addition to Dr. Elder, other program personalities include Dr. Joe Stacker, Director

of the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board and D. G. McCoury, a Church Administration consultant with special responsibilities in bivocational ministry.

Approximately one out of every four Southern Baptist pastors serves bivocationally. In Arkansas our best information indicates that approximately one-third of our pastors are bivocational, working part-time or full-time in another occupation. The role of the bivocational pastors offers some unique opportunities as well as unique challenges and struggles. This conference will address some of these opportunities and challenges.

Bivocational pastors and their wives are invited to the conferences. Conferences are planned especially for the wives while pastors select from conferences related to the Preaching, Caring and Leading aspects of their ministry along with an optional conference on Family Ministry.

Bivocational Pastors, plan now to be a part of this unique opportunity planned especially for you. — **Robert Holley, director**



Elder

## Evangelism

### Bivocational and Small Church Evangelism Conferences

Your State Evangelism Department team will be privileged to travel across beautiful Arkansas in September. We will be coming

to three different areas in our state to conduct Bivocational and Small Church Evangelism Conferences. These conferences will be September 8 in Union Avenue Baptist Church, Wynne; September 9 in First Baptist Church, Mt. Ida; September 11 in

begin at 7:00 p.m. The host church will share in special music. There will be four special conferences at 7:15. They are as follows: "Biblical Basis for Evangelism", Glendon Grober; "Personal Witnessing", Jim Lagrone; "Music Evangelism", Ervin Keathley; "Evangelistic Preaching", Clarence Shell.

We will be sharing with our pastors and people our emphasis for 1987. "Good News Arkansas - Jesus Loves You" will be introduced. This is a program with a heart to share the Good News of Christ with each lost person in Arkansas.

Carlos McLeod, Director of Evangelism in Texas, will be our featured speaker. Carlos is well known and greatly loved in Arkansas. He was one of our dynamic speakers at a recent State Evangelism Conference. He identifies with pastors and peo-

ple of the smallest church as well as those of the large church. He has a fresh message from God when he stands to preach. You will be glad you came to hear this man open the Word of God.

The purpose of the Area Evangelism Conference is to bring a good program to pastors and people who may not be able to attend the state conference. Each pastor will do well to enlist several lay people to come with him. Information and inspiration will be shared to make you more effective in your community to reach people for Jesus. Choose the closest conference to you. Pray for the conference. Make a commitment to attend. We look forward to seeing you. — **Clarence Shell, director**



Shell

East Side Baptist Church, Mountain Home. There will be a special emphasis on sharing the Good News with all Arkansans that Jesus Loves you. Each conference will

## Student Department

### New Title; Same Job

The State BSU Advisory Committee recently accepted a recommendation of its Personnel Committee to change the name of 'Student-to-Student Workers' to 'Outreach Coordinators.'



Logue

The recent college or seminary graduates will continue to work in the areas of campus evangelism, Bible study, and dorm visitation. But the new title, it is felt, will more adequately describe what the campus workers actually do. Moreover, the Student-to-Student Workers of the past have felt that the title indicates to others that

they are still college students. So the recommended change came from Arkansas' BSU Directors to the Personnel Committee. Dean Newberry of Rogers, chairman of that committee, brought the recommendation to the full committee at its July meeting, and the recommendation was accepted unanimously.

A salary increase recommendation brought to the full committee from Finance Committee Chairman Jerry Hodge of Little Rock also was unanimously accepted. New monthly salaries for Outreach Coordinators starting this fall will be \$700.00 a month for college graduates and \$800.00 for seminary graduates. Dr. John Wikman of Fort Smith asked that a study be made of salaries of similar workers in other states and expressed concern that Arkansas pay

comparable salaries.

Salaries of Outreach Coordinators are made possible through the earnings of the III Century BSU Endowment Campaign, handled by the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. Now in its 10th year, over 70 new campus workers have been provided.

When we realize the impact of these 70 workers on the lives of our college students, we again express our gratitude to God and to Arkansas Baptists for their vision of the III Century Campaign. — **Tom J. Logue, director**

## Music

### Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas: Convention Musicians

The Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas: Who are they? Who can belong? When do they meet? These and many other



Keathley

questions could be, and are frequently asked about these singing groups which appear regularly on convention programs and occasionally in local church concerts. The membership is somewhat limited, but not at all exclusive. Staff members, wives or husbands of staff members, and other persons with music leadership responsibilities in local Baptist churches are eligible to join. This includes organists, pianists and graded choir directors, but does not include adult choir members who do not serve in a music leadership position.

- The purpose for these groups is:
1. To provide music for state meetings when requested;
  2. To provide a limited number of local church concerts;
  3. To provide opportunities for fellowship among music leaders of Baptist churches in Arkansas;
  4. To provide a singing experience which these leaders do not normally receive because of their leadership responsibilities;
  5. To provide for continued development of music skills through the discipline of concert preparation;
  6. To provide spiritual and professional

growth through Bible study and vocational seminars.

Our rehearsal schedule varies from year to year, but it basically includes a two-day rehearsal in October plus short rehearsals before state events and local church concerts. During these two days in October, we learn most of the Convention and Evangelism Conference music. That makes this rehearsal very essential and almost a prerequisite to membership. Membership is on an annual basis and sometimes a person's church calendar or personal obligations make it necessary for him to lay out a year, but you can always get back in as your schedule permits.

The next rehearsal/concert for the Music Men is scheduled for September 22 at Second Baptist in Monticello. The staff there invited us to come to their church more than a year ago, so we're glad we can finally make it. We will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. for rehearsal, have dinner together, then present a concert of choral and instrumental music for an hour or more. All the Music Men who can possibly make it are expected to attend. Others wishing to join us in September should call the music office, 376-4791, for information about membership and dress code.

Some exciting things are in the plans for 1987. The Singing Women have been invited to sing in the opening service of Music Week at Glorieta on July 11. I don't believe any state ladies' choir has had this opportunity before, and I know our ladies will do a marvelous job under the leadership of Jean Pilcher, First Baptist Church, Little Rock. It will take a lot of planning and

sacrifice, but the week of training they receive at Glorieta will be worth the investment they and their churches make.

The Music Men have been invited to take a group to Brazil to participate in AMAR next year. This has some exciting possibilities, too. Glendon Grober has asked us to do this because of the tremendous response he has seen to music by the Brazilian people. This will require some real sacrifice in time and finances for those who are able to go, but I haven't heard anyone who has returned from an AMAR project say that it was not worth much more than they invested.

Several of the Music Men have already gone to Brazil as a part of an evangelistic or construction team, but we are hoping to send a group of musical ambassadors to share Christ with the throngs of Brazilians, whom Dr. Grober has assured us will turn out to hear a quality music group. We will discuss this trip in detail at the October 23-24 rehearsal/retreat at OBU.

As we implied earlier, membership in these groups is on an annual basis, and usually begins with the rehearsal time in October. If you are interested in being a Music Man or Singing Woman of Arkansas in 1986-87, please return the membership application you receive in the mail or call the Church Music Department in Little Rock, 376-4791, for an application. You must be enrolled by October 10 to participate in the two-day rehearsal at Ouchacha the 23rd and 24th. We hope to see you there. — **Ervin Keathley, State Music Secretary**

**September 4. Church WMU Training Day.** Immanuel Church, Little Rock, annual event providing training for leaders and members of local church WMU organizations.

**September 4-5. Furloughing Missionaries Orientation.** Baptist Building, Little Rock, acquainting furloughing SBC foreign missionaries with the work of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Next month in Arkansas: September

**September 5-7. Fall Arkansas Campers on Mission Rally.** Greer's Ferry Damside Area, one of two annual rallies for Christian campers who desire to share their faith as they go.

**September 6. Baptist Youth Day.** Magic Springs, Hot Springs, an upbeat promotion of discipleship for Arkansas Baptist youth.

**September 8. Bi-vocational and Small Church Evangelism Conference.** Union Ave. Church, Wynne, first of three area conferences providing information and inspiration for pastors and laity in small church and bi-vocational situations.

**September 8. College Concern Conference.** Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, first of three area conferences designed to help improve skills for people who work with and want to reach college students.

**September 8. WMU, Brotherhood.**

**Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** First Church, Monticello, first of nine area conferences providing training for leaders in three important areas of church life and ministry.

**September 9. Bi-vocational and Small Church Evangelism Conference.** First Church, Mt. Ida (see Sept. 8).

**September 9. College Concern Conference.** Arkansas State University, Jonesboro (see Sept. 8).

**September 9-10. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** First Church, Hope (see Sept. 8).

**September 11. Bi-vocational and Small Church Evangelism Conference.** East Side Church, Mt. Home (see Sept. 8).

**September 11. College Concern Conference.** University of Central Arkansas, Conway (see Sept. 8).

**September 11. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** First Church, Mena (see Sept. 8).

**September 15. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** Eastside Church, Ft. Smith (see Sept. 8).

**September 16-17. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** First Church, Bentonville (see Sept. 8).

**September 18. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** First Church, Mt. Home (see Sept. 8).

**September 19-20. CPA Pastors/Wives Retreat.** Petit Jean State Park, second annual retreat sponsored by ABSC

*Church Extension for pastors and wives from churches receiving Church Pastoral Aid from the SBC Home Mission Board.*

**September 19-20. Small Sunday School Workershop.** Arkansas Assembly, Siloam Springs, first-ever training event for Sunday School general officers and teachers in churches with less than 150 enrolled in Sunday School.

**September 21-28. Season of Prayer for State Missions and Dixie Jackson Offering.** annual time for Arkansas Baptist churches to educate and challenge their people about missions opportunities in the state.

**September 20-27. Senior Adult Chautauqua.** Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, New Mexico, inspiration and training for senior adults and those who work with them.

**September 22. Music Men Concert.** Second Church, Monticello, regular rehearsal for Music Men of Arkansas with concert open to area church members.

**September 26-27. State Sunday School Conference.** North Little Rock, training emphasis for Sunday School workers, features 26 conference leaders from across the Southern Baptist Convention.

**September 29. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** East Side Church, Paragould (see Sept. 8).

**September 30. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** First Church, West Memphis (see Sept. 8).

*University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

**October 10-11. Tri-State RA Campore.** Camp Cordova, Memphis, Tenn.

**October 11-18. Senior Adult Chautauqua.** Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, North Carolina

**October 12. World Hunger Day Workshop.** Camp Paron

**October 18. GA Missions Spectacular.** Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

**October 20-23. National CWT Seminar.** Haven Heights Church, Fort Smith

**October 23-24, 24-25. Baptist Women Retreats.** Camp Paron

**October 28. State Church Training Convention.** Immanuel Church, Little Rock

**October 31 - November 1. Small Sunday School Pastor / Director Workshop.** Beech Springs Camp, Smackover

## October

**October 1. WMU Area Conference.** First Church, West Memphis

**October 2. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** Calvary Church, Little Rock

**October 3-4. State Bi-vocational Pastors Conference.** Olivet Church, Little Rock

**October 3-5. State Baptist Student Convention.** University of Arkansas at Little Rock

**October 4. Campus BYW Event.**

## November and December

**November 1. GA Missions Spectacular.** Camp Paron

**November 2-8. National RA Week Luncheon**

**November 8. State RA Fellowship Luncheon**

**November 30 - December 7. Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

**December 11-12. Evangelism Workshop.** Camp Paron

**December 29-30. Joy Explo '86 Youth Evangelism Conference.** Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock

**December 2-3. Career Assessment.** Baptist Building, Little Rock

## Southern Baptist hunger gifts drop sharply in 1986

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist gifts to their denomination's program of worldwide hunger relief have declined sharply compared to the record pace set in 1985.

Figures from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board show gifts to overseas hunger relief during the first half of 1986 lagged 40 percent behind the six-month total for 1985.

Through June, the Foreign Mission Board had received \$3,364,060 for overseas hunger relief, compared to \$5,519,454 in the first half of 1985.

In contrast, gifts through June to domestic hunger through the Southern Baptist Home

Board were slightly ahead of last year, \$513,025 in 1986, compared to \$484,813 in 1985.

In 1985, Southern Baptists contributed a record \$11.8 million for combined overseas and domestic hunger ministries, shattering the previous 1984 record by more than \$4.6 million.

While giving during the usually lean month of July could signal the beginning of a downward trend, hunger relief officials are encouraged that overall giving in 1986 is still ahead of the pace set two years ago when Southern Baptists gave \$7.16 million.

John Cheyne, Foreign Mission Board

senior consultant for human needs ministries, said the board had anticipated a decline from the record total in 1985, due in part to declining media exposure of the drought and famine in Ethiopia and other African nations.

Cheyne and Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, emphasized if giving in 1986 remains above the 1984 level, it will reflect a long-term commitment among Southern Baptists to hunger relief.

"The fact that hunger giving to date in 1986 is ahead of the same period in 1984, without the stimulus of international media coverage, is reassuring," said Parham. "The Foreign and Home Mission Boards and other agencies have worked hard to keep Southern Baptists informed about ongoing needs, and churches and individuals have continued to respond."

## Southwestern Seminary gets record cash gift

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, received its largest single cash gift—\$2.47 million—Aug. 4.

The gift is partial distribution of the estate of Carl McEachern, an Austin, Texas, cotton farmer, rancher, and businessman. Southwestern Seminary may yet realize another \$3 million after final distribution of the McEachern estate.

## Area Brotherhood Training Conferences

Sept. 8.....	First Church, Monticello
Sept. 9.....	First Church, Hope
Sept. 11.....	First Church, Mena
Sept. 15.....	East Side Church, Fort Smith
Sept. 16.....	First Church, Bentonville
Sept. 18.....	First Church, Mountain Home
Sept. 29.....	East Side Church, Paragould
Sept. 30.....	First Church, West Memphis
Oct. 2.....	Calvary Church, Little Rock

Night Session

7 - 9 p.m.

**Brotherhood Conferences: Baptist Men and RA leaders**

(bring leader materials)

## Paul Jackson Bible Conference

September 4, 5, 6

Life Line Baptist Church

Baseline at Chicot Rd., Little Rock



Adrian Rogers



Bill Stafford



Michael Haynes



Nick Garland



Johnny Jackson



Joyce Rogers



Jim Murray

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# Sunday School enrollment indicator of baptism rate

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—A review of Uniform Church Letter statistics indicates a high ratio of Sunday School enrollment to resident church membership is related to a high rate of baptisms.

Tom Lee, evangelist consultant in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, told pastors attending a Sunday School leadership conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center churches tend to increase the number of baptisms when they have a larger number of persons who have not accepted Christ as Savior enrolled in Sunday School.

He said a review of Uniform Church Letter statistics indicates churches with a Sunday School enrollment larger than the resident church membership are more likely to have consistently high rates of baptisms.

"Sunday School enrollment higher than resident membership means you have unsaved people in the Sunday School," Lee said. By enrolling unsaved persons in Sunday School, churches "move the mission field inside the church walls."

He noted a recent trend of declining baptisms while Sunday School enrollment has been increasing is contrary to historical trends. In the past, baptisms have increased along with Sunday School enrollment.

Also, baptisms historically have been

about 5 percent of the Sunday School enrollment. That has dropped to lower than 4.5 percent in recent years, he pointed out.

"If we don't turn this around, the People Challenge may be bigger than we can handle," Lee told the pastors. "Challenge 10/90—The People Challenge" is the Sunday School theme for an effort to enroll 10 million persons in Southern Baptist Bible study by 1990.

Lee suggested a way to achieve the 1990 goal and reverse the declining baptism rate is to focus on reaching unchurched people. At the same time baptisms have been declining, the ratio of Sunday School membership to resident church membership also has been declining, he explained.

But during the period of 1952 to 1963, Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment exceeded church resident membership.

At times during those years, Sunday School enrollment was as high as 5 percent more than resident church membership for the convention. During that time, the baptism ratio was one person baptized for every 15 to 18 church members.

In 1985, Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment was 77 percent of the resident church membership, and the baptism ratio was one person baptized for every 29 church members.

Lee reviewed statistics of the 151 Southern Baptist churches that have baptized more than 65 persons in each of the last three years. Many of those churches have Sunday School enrollments greater than their resident church membership. Others in the group have enrollments equal to or near the total resident membership.

Many of the 151 churches also have baptism ratios much lower than that convention average, with several showing ratios of one person baptized for every 10 church members or fewer.

Lee suggested churches evaluate their membership and baptism ratios and develop strategies for reaching unchurched people.

He recommended a baptism profile to show what age groups churches are baptizing. A high percentage of baptisms for ages 12 and younger would indicate primarily biological growth. "That's good. We need to maintain that. We also need to reach unchurched adults," he said.

The profile will indicate what age groups a church should concentrate on for outreach. Reaching non-Christians through Sunday School enrollment can be a key to evangelism, he said.

Lee pointed out that 7 out of 10 non-Christian adults who are enrolled in Sunday School later accept Christ.

## Can you answer these trivia questions?

- (1) Which singing group composed of University of Arkansas students is heard weekly on television stations across the state of Arkansas?
- (2) Which Arkansas singing group has toured extensively through the United States, England, Germany, France, Belgium, and Switzerland?
- (3) Which Arkansas singing group provides music for the worship celebrations at University Baptist Church in Fayetteville?

### Answers:

- (1) The New Creations
- (2) The New Creations
- (3) The New Creations

Auditions for men and women vocalists, brass, percussion, and keyboards will be held at University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, the first week in September. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Music Office at 442-5312.

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## International

### *God's rule will come*

by C.A. Johnson, Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Daniel 7-8

Focal passage: Daniel 8:1,15-26

**Central truth:** Christians can be assured of God's ultimate victory over all opposition.

The vision of the four beasts and the Ancient of Days in chapter 7 came to Daniel in a dream. The four beasts represented four kingdoms. Some identify the four kingdoms as Babylon, Media-Persia (one kingdom), Greece and Rome. Other interpreters identify the four as Babylon, Media, Persia and Greece.

Daniel sees the four beasts rising out of a stormy sea (7:2-3). The stormy sea, a symbol for the earth (v.17), is an appropriate symbol of the troubled life of the world and the clashing nations of the earth. Then Daniel sees one like the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven. The kingdoms of this world give way to the kingdom of God (vv. 13-14). In the end, the saints of the most high share rulership with God and possess the kingdom for ever and ever (v. 18).

In chapter 8, Daniel sees a vision of a ram and a goat. The ram was pushing in three directions. The ram was so strong that no one could oppose him. Then from the west came a he-goat who utterly defeated the ram. Subsequently, the great horn of the goat was broken off and was replaced by four horns. The angel Gabriel is told to help Daniel understand the vision. It is clear that the visions relate to world history, but scholars differ as to the time, place and nations involved. For instance, some interpreters relate the period of God's wrath (8:19) to the time of Jewish persecution by Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century B.C. Other Bible students relate the time to the future. Still others see a double reference that includes both past and future fulfillment.

Regardless of one's interpretation of the details of Daniel's visions, Bible students can agree on certain truths that are evident in these chapters. First, although evil rulers arise in every generation, God is the ultimate ruler who will conquer all evil rulers. Second, God's people can expect to face suffering and persecutions in a world led by evil rulers. Third, in the end, God and his people will triumph. World power is temporary. God defeats evil rulers in his own time. Someday, he will defeat completely the power of evil and God and his people shall reign forever.

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## Life and Work

### *Attitudes toward aging*

by Sidney G. Carswell, Crystal Hill Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Proverbs 16:31; Leviticus 19:32; Psalms 71:17-18; 92:12-15; Isaiah 46:3-7; 1 Timothy 5:1-22

Focal passage: Proverbs 16:31; Leviticus 19:32; Psalms 17:17-18; 92:12-14; Isaiah 46:4; 1 Timothy 5:1-4,8

**Central truth:** Christians are to respect, love and care for the aging.

Proverbs 16:31 sees old age in a positive way. This is in contrast to a society where we are told not to trust anyone over 30. It seems that churches don't want to talk to anyone over 45 to serve on their staff. Ministers are expected to be 35 years old and have 70 years experience. This verse reflects a society in which old age was respected. The wisdom of years carried weight in the decision making processes.

Leviticus 19:32 carries the same idea. God's word through Moses was that age should be respected.

The psalmist thinks back on a long life. He knew God has been with him. He has declared all that God has done for him from his youth. He prays. He asked God for support while he continues to share the good news about God.

This highlights the zeal and strength of older people. Many are not ready to head for the rocking chair. The knowledge and experience of our senior citizens is a great national resource. Most of our churches have able elders who can guide younger Christians into the work and away from the pitfalls.

Paul's advice to Timothy was clear. Age must be respected. The young preacher was to use courtesy and tact when correcting an elder. He was to treat him with the same respect he would use with his own father. Paul also stated that children must care for their elderly parents.

In the days before Social Security and retirement programs, children provided total support to the elderly. Today some children still assume total financial responsibility. However, most seniors have some type of assistance ranging from small to large.

The greatest need of the aging is love and respect. Financial support may in some ways reflect this. It will never replace it. The Bible clearly teaches our responsibility is to respect the elderly, learn from them, give them places of service and care for them if necessary.

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## Bible Book

### *God's promise of victory*

by Homer W. Shirley Jr., First Church, Siloam Springs

Basic passage: Zechariah 12:1-14:21

Focal passage: Zechariah 12:2-5; 13:1-3; 14:6-9

**Central truth:** God is purposefully moving the events of history toward a day of climactic victory for all believers.

When God speaks we should listen. The words spoken by the prophet Zechariah are the words of God. Just in case someone is in doubt about who God is, he is identified as the creator (12:1). That should grab our attention. Since he is creator he must have full knowledge of us. He also has authority and power to act in bringing about his purpose in history.

History is moving toward a climactic moment. The expression "in that day" speaks of the time when God will bring history to a climax. The phrase is used no less than 12 times in the last three chapters of Zechariah. To be sure every nation and person will be involved. No one will be exempt from these concluding events.

The process of restoration will be painful. Sin never dies easily. Neither does it leave us without its marks upon our lives. Those who rebel against God must finally face him.

Regardless of the severity of judgment and the painful process of reconciliation and restoration God brings it about. He has opened a fountain of redemption for sin and for uncleanness (13:1). He is determined to give people that opportunity to have forgiveness. He loves us that much. He is determined to salvage a remnant of those who will follow him. They will come through the fire of trial as purified people of God (12:9).

The day of the Lord is not so clearly identified as to date and time that we can calendar it (14:6-8). But we know from his word it is a reality. It is already fixed in the mind of God. The only surprise will come to those who are not prepared and not expecting it.

Since God is a God of purpose and moves history toward his purpose, we should consider our own lifestyle in reference to him. Each circumstance, event, thought, opportunity and deed should be seen in reference to God's will and purpose. As nearly as we can determine his will for us we should live accordingly. This is even more important when we consider that through death we could be ushered into his presence at any moment.

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## World Baptist leaders visit Christians in China

NANJING, China (BP)—Nearly 200 Baptist leaders from 21 nations have returned from a midsummer "listening expedition" to China.

The leaders, including many from the Southern Baptist Convention, were participants in the Baptist World Alliance Friendship Tour. They joined Chinese Christians for a conference in Nanjing which may have been the largest gathering of foreign Christians in China since 1949.

"Never before have so many friends from abroad spent so much time with us," said Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), president of the China Christian Council. Ding attended all of the conference sessions at Nanjing's Jin Ling Hotel, where the foreigners stayed.

Twenty of the Chinese participants also stayed at the hotel during the five-day conference in July. That provided a rare opportunity for informal discussion and interaction with the overseas Baptists, who came from the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Africa.

Chinese pastors, theologians and seminary students gave most of the addresses, Bible studies and testimonies of the conference. Nearly every speaker closed by asking the visitors to "pray for us."

Baptists learned much as they listened to their Chinese colleagues, according to tour coordinator Denton Lotz, director of the Baptist World Alliance's division of evangelism and education.

"The Bible is important" to Chinese believers, Lotz said. "In earlier days, when the Bible had to be hidden so it would not be burned, reading God's Word encouraged and preserved the faith. Recently 2.1 million Bibles have been printed."

The Chinese Christians "revealed Christ as the center of their belief and experience," Lotz continued. One Chinese pastor said, "By following Jesus as Lord in our daily life we can cope with the devil's temptations. Through the Word of God we can receive the power of the Holy Spirit to be mature and look ahead to the crown of life."

Students from the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary took turns telling the Baptists how God called them to ministry. One seminarian gave his testimony in this third-person narrative:

"In his childhood he was told religions were a poison. One day he picked up a selection of Western literary masterpieces and the mysterious kingdom of the Bible became an adventure. He was deeply moved by the story of Job and thought this part was not poison. As no Bibles were available during the Cultural Revolution, a friend gave him an old King James Version to read. The Bible was a good book! So finally he confessed his sins and accepted Christ as his Savior."

The Chinese Christians emphasized their "post-denominational" status and "three

self" practice of self-support, self-government and self-propagation. They believe these approaches have gained them respect and credibility in a society which once viewed Christians as converts to a foreign religion and puppets dominated by outsiders.

Today, Lotz observed, Christians are striving to disprove the 19th century phrase, "one Christian convert, one less Chinese citizen," by building an indigenous Chinese church which both glorifies Christ and contributes to China's progress as a nation.

One visible sign of their effort is the Amity Foundation, begun by Chinese Christians to render social service through a variety of development, publishing, teaching and training projects. The publishing effort includes Bible printing.

The foundation, which encourages international involvement, has helped put 12 teachers from the United States, Canada and West Germany to work in various parts of China. Amity director Han Wenzao said 40 more international teachers, including several Southern Baptists, were scheduled to arrive in August to teach at 36 universities.

Ding put the latest total of open Protestant churches in China at more than 4,000, with more new congregations starting daily. "Our churches are full," he said, "and this creates a problem. We can't do our pastoral work except on a mass basis."

Many more believers "prefer the intimacy of home meetings," Ding added. "Many new Christians have never worshiped in a church (building)."

Eastern European Baptists attending the Nanjing conference found interchange with Chinese Christians especially meaningful, observers said. The two groups compared their lives as believers in communist states, the structures and outlooks of their churches, leadership training and Christian literature.

"They were able to 'compare notes' in a way that many of us in North America would not be able to do with the same depth," said Lewis Myers, a Southern Baptist representative.

Myers is director of Cooperative Services International, the office formed last year by Southern Baptists to channel skilled personnel and resources to countries, such as China, where missionary presence is not possible.

Myers offered the help of Cooperative Services International to Baptist leaders at the Nanjing conference, especially those who might want to contribute to China with personnel or other aid. Baptist representatives from Australia, Canada, Sweden and several other European countries already are considering involvement, Myers reported.

The conference participants attended Sunday worship services in Nanjing churches. About half of the Baptist group also toured other cities in China. Thirty attended churches in Beijing, Shanghai and Guilin.

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