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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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3-17-1983

**March 17, 1983**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

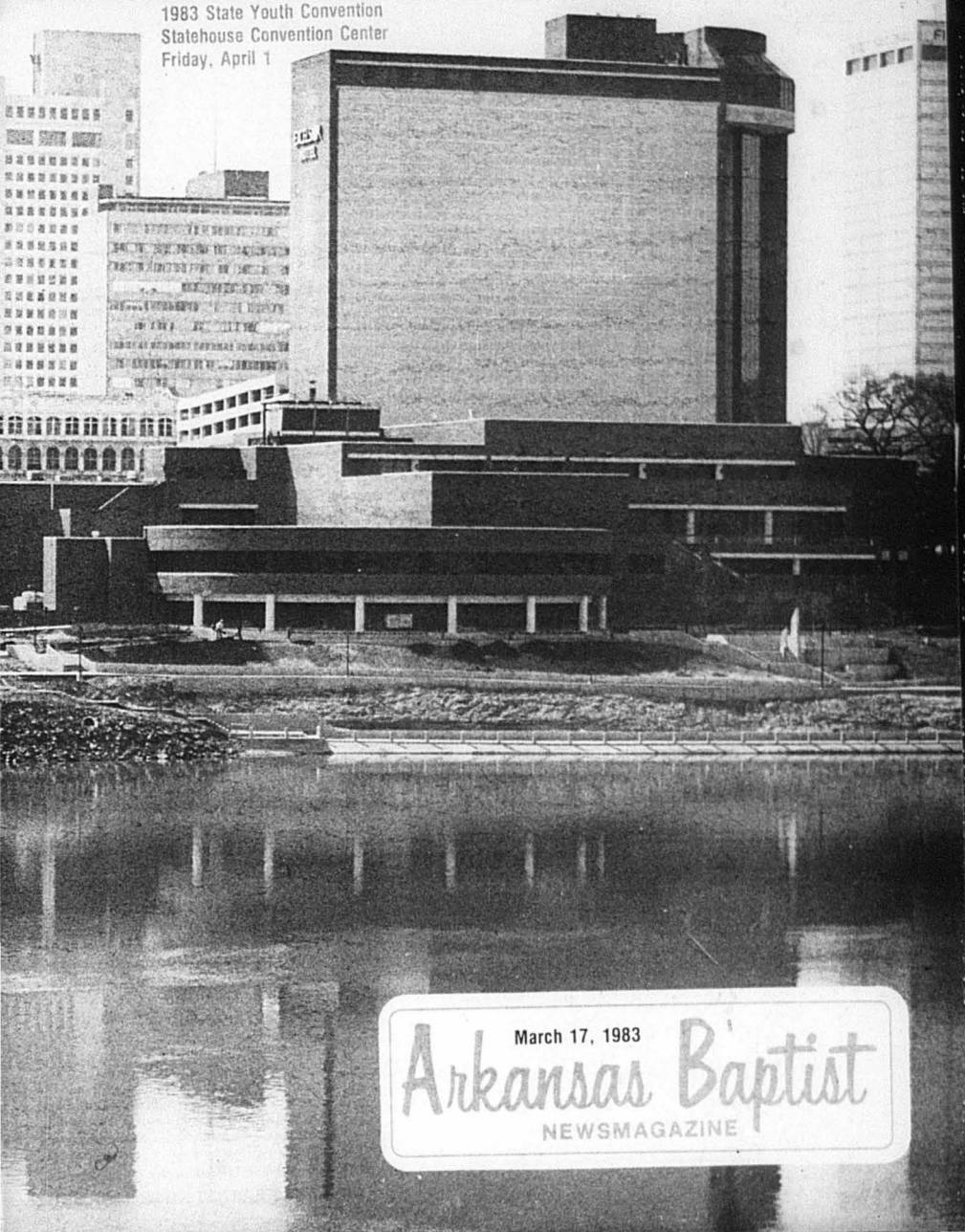
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1983 State Youth Convention  
Statehouse Convention Center  
Friday, April 1



March 17, 1983

Arkansas Baptist  
NEWSMAGAZINE



The state house convention center in Little Rock is the site of the annual youth convention April 1 sponsored by the Church Training Department of the state convention. The theme is "DiscipleLife ... Youth on Bold Mission."

## In this issue

### 8 Parachurch questions

Southern Baptist missionary Dean Dickens cites some examples from the field of problems that parachurch groups cause missionaries and nationals overseas.

### 10 Mission trip

A group of Arkansans talk about their experiences on a volunteer missions crusade in the Philippines.

# Pleitz explains CP committee's thinking

by Kevin Jones

An effort to reach people was behind the proposal to allow exclusions from Cooperative Program giving, according to the chairman of the committee which devised the plan.

"We hope to reach some of the people who think that some denominational agencies and institutions are acting contrary to their beliefs, who couldn't as a matter of conscience, be involved in supporting those ministries," said James Pleitz.

The Texas pastor and chairman of the Cooperative Program Study Committee was explaining the rationale behind his committee's controversial, and ultimately abandoned, proposal to allow churches to exclude certain causes from their Cooperative Program giving.

Pleitz was at First Church of Bentonville Sunday, Feb. 27, to help his former church and its pastor, Don Evans, celebrate its centennial.

"The State Executive Secretaries made us realize that this would have opened the door to hurting the Cooperative Program," he said. "We saw that negative designation could wreck our denomination down the road."

Pleitz said that those difficulties with the proposal never surfaced during the two years that the committee, with a membership which included two present and one former executive secretary and the heads of three of the largest agencies in the denomination, Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Board, William Tanner of the Home Mission Board and Caroline Weatherford of the WMU, was conferring.

No one person backed the proposal in committee, Pleitz said, and one of the people who had the most to lose by its implementation was one of its supporters. "Randall Lolley, of Southeastern Seminary was one of the most open minded about it on the committee," he said. "And yet if the proposal had gone through, his seminary would have been high on the hit list (of those favoring negative designation)."

Lolley was quoted in Baptist Press as saying "if we are going to provide for theological diversity within unity, then we should provide for flexibility in funding."

The only option open to those who have problems with denominational agencies and institutions is to make their voices heard on the boards of those bodies, according to Pleitz.

"Their view will count," he said of those who object to the actions and stances of some agencies, and they have been expressing their concern through the election of the recent presidents. The boards will through (those presidential) appointments."

"The boards of some of the agencies which have been most criticized should be especially vigilant, they should try to find

out why there is so much criticism." He said that a group such as the Christian Life Commission is more vulnerable to criticism because "it is on the cutting edge; it acts in a sense as our conscience."

Pleitz was lavish in his praise of current SBC President Jimmy Draper, who he said was trying to bring a balanced representa-



"We saw it could wreck our denomination,"

— — Pleitz

tion to the appointment process.

"Most people in the denomination are not in either camp," Pleitz said, and I would be uncomfortable in being identified with either movement. I think we can have divergent views and still walk in faith together as brothers.

I am not alarmed by what I see at any point in our denomination," said Pleitz, who labeled himself an eternal optimist. "What would be a tragedy would be to focus on the problems and forget the positive thrust of our committee and our plan, the thrust of what can happen if we work together — to reach \$2 billion (Cooperative Program giving) by 2,000. I think we have a chance to reach that goal."

## Nominations and appointments of SBC committees

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



SBC President Jimmy Draper deserves the applause of Southern Baptists for a job well done in the appointments he has made for the 1983 convention. Draper has kept his pledge to appoint people who support the denomination, including the Cooperative Program, and who are conservative but not affiliated with any particular power group within the denomination. The committee on boards, agencies and commissions needs to follow his fine example. If this committee, which has not yet reported, does its work as well as Draper, we should have a great convention at Pittsburgh.

The job of making good appointments is not easy. Draper shared with the SBC Executive Committee the process he has followed. He contacted the presidents and executive secretaries of each of the state conventions for suggestions. Direct suggestions made by individuals were also considered. Before the appointments were made, the vice presidents considered the names and agreement was reached in every instance. Finally, Draper said that he checked on each person with pastors and/or associational directors of missions.

Draper may have made the most thorough check of appointments in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention. The basic process used by Draper is not new. It had been used by previous presidents until recent years. Actually, much of the recent turmoil began with the abandonment of this system. We feel that the use of this method will eliminate many of the problems of recent SBC conventions.

While Draper is probably correct in thinking that the plan used by him in making appointments should not be made mandatory on all presidents, it would be difficult to improve upon. A president of the SBC has a sacred trust to appoint individuals who are theologically sound, cooperating Southern Baptists. A person who refuses to support the Cooperative Program is not fully cooperating with the denomination. Since it is impossible for any one person to

know people all across the SBC, some method must be used to screen the appointees.

Draper, is also to be commended for the early announcement of his appointments. Surely, Baptists have a right to know what is taking place in every area of the denomination. His procedure in this matter should assist in raising the trust level. We are deeply grateful.

The most important slate of names for the 1983 convention are those to be nominated for boards, agencies and commissions. President Draper has no direct control over this committee. Headed by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, Ga., this committee does not appoint, but nominates. The convention messengers are responsible for the actual election. We call on Dr. Stanley and his committee to do the same kind of work that Draper and the vice presidents have done.

We believe that if the committee on agencies, boards, and commissions announces its appointments early, anyone having objections to any of the nominations should make it known publicly. Though not mandatory, such openness and fairness is crucial to the overall well-being of our convention. Hopefully, the nominations will be of such quality that no one would desire to challenge them.

The reports which we have heard from across the Southern Baptist Convention indicate that the vast majority of Southern Baptists are pleased with the leadership President Draper is giving.

The keys to a bright future for Southern Baptists are: (1) to make the Bold Mission Thrust (the winning of people and the establishing of churches) our number one priority; (2) to raise the trust level through openness; (3) to encourage committees to do their homework properly by determining that everyone appointed or nominated is of the highest quality; and (4) to recognize that although there is some diversity in our beliefs and practices, we can work together. As we follow these guidelines, the brightest days are ahead for Southern Baptists.

# Arkansas Baptist

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

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

### Windfalls and God's wind

The daily mail can make or break my day. Mail can bring good news or bad news or both. It can bring compliments or criticisms, contributions or bills, joy or sorrow, solutions or problems, or all of the above, but seldom none of the above. My emotional temperature can rise or fall in accordance with the kinds of letters I receive.

Recently I received a wonderful letter from D. Barton Dowdy, of Huntington, that not only made my day but made many days for me, and left an afterglow that still gives me a strangely warm feeling. The letter contained a generous check from him and his wife as an overpayment on his pledge to the Ouachita Centennial Advancement Program. Although gifts to Ouachita have a way of giving me a strangely warm feeling, it was not the gift itself that made my day. It was what Mr. Dowdy wrote in his letter that really caught my attention.

Brother Dowdy reminded me that they were already paid up on their Ouachita Centennial pledge, but that they recently

had a "windfall." Then he wrote, "No, I will not call it a windfall. It was unexpected income and I believe the Lord blew it our way. Praise him!"

I have been doing quite a bit of thinking lately about the difference between a windfall and "the Lord's wind." My mind searched back through the recent past and even the more distant past to those times when unexpected income had almost dropped into my hands. I found myself trying to recall just how much I praise God and thanked him for having "blown" it my way. I also found myself trying to recall how much I praised God in the actual spending of the money. Thanks to Mr. Dowdy's reminder, I made a belated new year's resolution to do better in the future with the windfalls that are blown my way within the providence of God. Come to think of it, all wind, like all income, unexpected or not, comes from God and he never stops being interested in what we do with it.

**Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.**



## Woman's viewpoint

Marjorie Grober

### Who botched it up?

Interpreting is a challenging task. You must listen and speak in two languages at the same time.

I was in Sunday School in Brazil interpreting for a volunteer in partnership missions. When she finished teaching, a Brazilian man stood up to pray in preparation for the preaching service to follow. I listened especially to his words in order to translate anything of special interest to the American volunteer. I was brought to attention as he said, "Lord, accept this service that we are about to offer to you."

How many times have I thought, if not said, "The preacher didn't say much to me today," "That special music isn't quite up to the usual," "Mr. so and so prayed too long." His way of expressing his prayer awakened me to the fact that we are involved in worship together.

All of us, as a church family, are here to send up a sweet smelling savor to our Lord. Our practice and preparation has been the time we've spent in Bible study, prayer, ser-

vice and meditation during the week.

Now, here we are all together to worship him. We are all responsible and we all fail or succeed together. We're responsible for the sermon, the special music, and the prayers.

Will our service today be an offering acceptable to him? Will someone botch it up by not giving the money they should?

Will everyone support those in leadership positions? (our prayers may prevent the soloist missing that note or the preacher chasing that rabbit).

Will everyone have the lights of Christian love turned on? Just one mad face can make a mess of the performance.

The word the Brazilian man used was *prestar* meaning to give or offer. Remember this word as you gather with your church body to offer your gift of worship to him.

**Marjorie Grober and her husband Glenn are missionaries on furlough from Brazil currently residing in the Little Rock area.**

## Letters to the editor

### Gambling problem

I agree with the editorial in the Feb. 24th *Newsmagazine* entitled "Say 'no' to racing extension." I am older than you are and have observed the drift toward acceptance of gambling by our nation. There is an interesting article in the Feb. 24th *Wall Street Journal*. It is headlined "State lottery craze is spreading, but some fear it hurts the poor." It is interesting that it was published the same day that your editorial was published. The graph shows that the gross revenue for U.S. lotteries has skyrocketed.

How did people become gamblers to the point that we now have "Gamblers Anonymous" and some people gamble away their grocery money? The little child got his (or her) training when they were barely big enough to walk and were riding in the grocery cart and saw mommy register for the drawing of a prize or cash. Also, daddy aided the child's education by buying a raffle ticket.

We must not condemn the practice of registering for prizes, or buying and selling raffle tickets because some of our community leaders participate and sit in the "amen corner" in church. — **Ben Fried, Mena**

### Search the scriptures

How often do we hear, "Well, it works. It gets results." What an awful, asinine assertion! Sin works and produces results, too! Preachers, along with other church members, would do well to remember that God's work is to be done God's way! There is a right and a wrong way to get church members and the money needed to do the work of the Lord.

It is time some preachers, and other church leaders, get their methodology in line with their theology — and checked carefully and regularly to see that both are Biblical! Let all Christians search the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11) to see if what the religious, educational, political, business and media moguls are saying is true. Read your Bible, in its entirety, in 1983. Its truths will liberate and keep you free. — **Charles Rosson, Gravette**

### ABN letters policy

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

## You'll be glad to know . . .

... Southern Baptist growth defies the trends. With the old line traditional denominations in much trouble over the past decade or so with declining memberships, it continues to be a phenomenon that our Southern Baptist Convention continues to grow. Baptisms were greater in 1982 than in 1981 by almost 6,000. Church membership was up 1.5 percent. Church Training increased by 7.5 percent while many denominations have no evening activities at all on Sunday. With a society determined to saturate us with a humanist-material approach to life, it is reassuring to my own heart that God blesses a people who stick with the scriptures, preach the gospel of Christ and honor the local church.

We do not rejoice over the losses of others at all. We only refer to them for comparative reasons. Our gains are so small we can hardly boast. In fact, the increase in baptisms represents an increase of one for every six churches. That isn't much to brag about, is it? Statistics indicate that the bulk of the growth in baptisms centered in a fairly small number of churches. We have to face the fact that many of our churches are not growing. This gives us all cause for concern. Except for isolated areas where population shifts have reduced the potential, it is safe to assume that everyone of our churches could grow. If they could, then they should. We at the Baptist Building are committed to helping that happen all over the state. Let us know if you think we can help you do this.

"We dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (II Cor. 10:12).

We must ever live in the awareness that our success is not based on how well we do compared to others performance, or even our own, but by what we could do with what God has given us. Because of our resources of people, buildings, materials and finances, no group likely carries a heavier responsibility before God than Southern Baptists. That is very likely true of Arkansas Baptists. Let's rededicate ourselves to doing better — far better — than we have ever done in the use of our opportunity.

Don Moore is executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Moore

## Camps, assemblies coming up

A variety of camps and assemblies are being offered to Arkansas Baptist young people and adults this summer.

Kicking off the summer's activities will be a week for 4th through 6th grade RA's at Camp Paron from June 6-10. Mike Canady, missionary on furlough from Malawi, will be the principal speaker. The second week, June 13-17, the same age group will be led by state, home and foreign missionaries. In between will be an overnight campout for men and boys in grades 1-3 on June 10-11. A wilderness backcamping trip into the Ozarks is also in the planning stages for later in the summer.

The first assembly at Siloam Springs, which is open to all ages, will be June 13-18. Jerre Hassell, former chaplain of the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock and currently pastor of First Church of Stuttgart will be youth pastor.

During the second week of assembly, June 20-25, Clyde Lee Herring will be youth pastor. The author of *Determining My Values* (the youth book at the assembly three years ago), he is pastor of Southern Hills Church in Tulsa.

The third assembly week, June 27-July 2, will feature Lyndell Worthen, pastor of First Church, Arkadelphia, as youth pastor. The fourth week, July 4-9, Charles Baker, pastor of Stillwater Heights Church in Stillwater, Okla., and the author of the youth study

book two years ago, will be youth pastor.

On July 4 and continuing through July 8, GA's and Acteens will be in camp together at Camp Paron. For the week of July 11-16, Don Moore, the executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention will be youth pastor at Siloam Assembly.

Caroline McLendon, home missionary at Friendship House in New Orleans and LaVeta Sargeant, a missionary to Taiwan, will be the featured guests July 11-15 at GA camp at Camp Paron.

From July 18 to 23rd, Bob Norman will lead the youth at Siloam. He is pastor of Northway Church in Dallas, Tex. A week of GA camp will be held July 18-22.

William Oakley, pastor of First Church of Piggott, will be youth pastor at Siloam Springs from July 25-30. A third week of GA camp will be held at Camp Paron July 25-29.

Three mother-daughter overnights are planned at Camp Paron during the summer, the first on May 20-21, and others on June 24-25 and July 15-16. Barbara Massey, editor of *Aware* and *Discover*, GA magazines, will be the speaker for the June overnight.

National Baptists will use Camp Paron two weeks during the summer, June 20-24 and June 27-July 1 for children ages 9-14. Larry Maddox, pastor of Second Church in Little Rock will be among those on the program. — Kevin Jones



Don Nall, pastor of First Church in Batesville and outgoing president of the BSU advisory board (left), presents a plaque of appreciation to Tom Logue, state BSU director, for his work on the Third Century Campaign, an endowment which raised a million dollars to support student work in the state.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

#### Wanda Tutt

has joined the staff of Calvary Church in East Camden as minister of music and special activities. She came there from the Hampton First Church. She is a graduate of Henderson University at Arkadelphia. Mrs. Tutt and her husband, Bob, are parents of two high school daughters, Gigi and Tammi.

#### Mark Weaver

is serving as pastor of the Lowell First Church, coming there from a church staff position in Olatha, Kan.

#### Gary Graves

has joined the staff of Temple Church in Benton as part-time music director. He is attending the University of Central Arkansas at Conway and is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Graves was a member of the Central Church of North Little Rock.

#### Bob Brocius

has accepted the call of Benton First Church to serve as their associate pastor with responsibilities in the areas of educa-

tion and youth.

#### Marvin Boggs

is serving as pastor of the Shiloh Clay Church in Current-Gains Association. Boggs recently moved to Arkansas from Grayson, Ky. He and his wife, Marsha, are both students at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. They have three children, Jason, David and Cari.

#### Jack Bedford

is serving as pastor of the First Church of Wedington Woods.

#### Don Prill

is serving as pastor of the Spring Valley Church.

#### Charles Allen

has joined the staff of Calvary Church in North Little Rock as minister of education/youth. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Tex., and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Sue, are parents of one son, Christopher.

#### Randy Cox

has joined the staff of Batesville Calvary Church as minister of music, coming there from the Batesville First Church. He is a student at Arkansas College.

#### Clyde Vire

began serving March 6 as pastor of Paris First Church. He moved to Paris from Little Rock where he had served as pastor of the Archview Church for 10 years. A native of Clarksville, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Vire and his wife, Janet, are parents of a son, John Mark.

#### Mike Seabaugh

has joined the staff of Strong First Church as associate pastor in charge of youth. He is a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University.

#### Jesus C. Lane

died Feb. 26 at age 78. He was a deacon in the Black Oak Church. A former Manila resident, he had been a resident of Caraway for 19 years.

## briefly

#### South Side Church

in Pine Bluff adults held a briefing March 6 concerning a summer mission trip to Steamboat, Nev., where they will assist with a building improvement program and work in Vacation Bible Schools.

#### North Maple Church

in Stuttgart observed Baptist Men's Day Feb. 6 with a breakfast and by assisting with church activities, including teaching Sunday School classes, leading the worship services and entertaining with an evening fellowship.

#### Centennial Church

in Pine Bluff ordained Donnie W. Terry as a deacon Feb. 20.

#### East Camden Calvary Church

is experiencing its highest Sunday School

attendance in its 30-year history. Pastor Jim Taylor reports a February average of 186. There were 210 present Feb. 27 as the church launched the six-week "Way of the Cross" campaign. Taylor attributed the church's growth to a Sunday School enlargement campaign directed in April, 1982, by Freddie Pike, associate director of the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

#### Fouke First Church

was in a revival Feb. 20-26 that resulted in 22 professions of faith, 30 re-dedications and one decision to a full-time Christian vocation. Terry Fox of Ashdown was evangelist, according to Dale Wooten, pastor.

#### Trinity Church

in Fort Smith honored pastor Bruce Morris

and his family March 6, recognizing their fifth anniversary of service to the congregation.

#### University Church

in Fayetteville's Collegiate Choir was on a tour March 12-17. The 70-voice choir is composed of students from the University of Arkansas attending the Fayetteville church. F. Tanner Riley directed performances in St. Louis, Memphis, Parkin, Brinkley, Conway and Booneville.

#### Rison Church

has begun the publication of a weekly newsletter under the direction of Ramona McKinney and Gail Jennings.

#### Crawfordsville First Church

held a deacon ordination service March 6 for Wayman Duncan.

## buildings

#### Harlan Park Church

at Conway recently voted to expand its auditorium and do other building reconstruction improvements. Estimated cost is \$89,000.

#### New Hope Church

at Conway has purchased land to begin a building program. A 6,000 square foot prefabricated building has been delivered and construction work is scheduled to begin in early spring.

#### Lincoln First Church

is beginning a two-story educational building, the first part of a two-phase building

program.

#### Friendship Church

at Springdale held services Feb. 20 to dedicate a building housing classroom, a nursery and a fellowship hall.

#### Sylverino Church

at Fouke broke ground March 6 for an educational building. Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall and a kitchen will be housed in the approximate 2,800 square foot building when construction is completed. Wallace Watkins of Marshall, Texas, a former pastor, and J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, were

speakers. Prayers were led by Joe Crow, a deacon, and Ellis Bull, building committee and deacon chairman.

## Focus on youth

#### Hillside Church

in Camden youth organized a puppet team March 6. Renee Hardesty will direct rehearsals each Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

#### Lincoln First Church

youth are planning to do summer mission work in California according to pastor Al Gebauer.

## Challenge grants claimed

ARKADELPHIA — Two challenge grants totalling \$750,000 for the completion of the new health, physical education and recreation complex at Ouachita Baptist University have been claimed as the result of a successful fund-raising campaign, according to Roger Harrod, OBU's vice president for development.

Included in the amount of \$500,000 from the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla. and \$250,000 from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan. The grants were awarded after Ouachita had met the terms of the challenges by raising \$3,250,000 in cash and pledges during the HPER campaign.

## ROTC scholarships at OBU

ARKADELPHIA — Students interested in applying for U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarships at Ouachita Baptist University should contact Captain James Foster, assistant professor of military science at OBU.

The multiple year scholarships pay for tuition, fees and books, in addition to a \$100 monthly subsistence allowance.

## Asian ministry formed

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock recently led in organizing a group to conduct outreach to Asians living in Arkansas. One of the principle ministries which the new corporation, Christian Asian Communications Outreach Ministry, Inc., supports is a morning program for Phillipinos on Little Rock Christian radio station. The goal of the group and the program is to reach the more than 2,000 Asians in Arkansas with the Gospel.

## Snowblanket organizer receives CSM award

A woman who helped an Arkansas Baptist church provide blankets, caps and gloves to families in inner-city Philadelphia is the first recipient of an outstanding achievement award in Christian Social Ministries.

Gaylor I. Yancey received the Clovis A. Brantley award for her work as weekend ministries director for Frankford Avenue Church in Philadelphia, Penn. The project involving Arkansas was known as Operation Snow Blanket. First Church, Gentry, helped provide the blankets.

## Indiana update

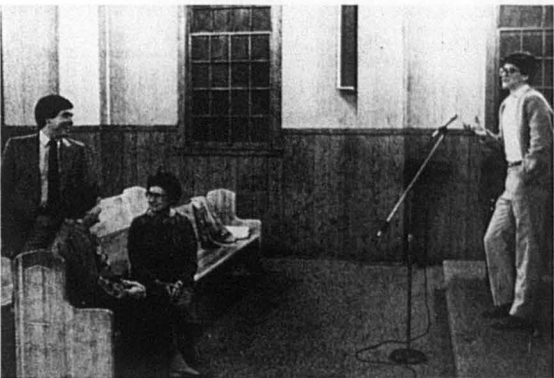
### Immanuel Church

in Little Rock Youth Mission Project Committee has announced plans to participate in the Arkansas-Indiana Linkup as a summer missions project. Plans are to work in Portage, assisting with a building program, Backyard Bible Clubs, a survey and evening Bible studies. They will be in Indiana June 8-18, working with Norman Johnston, pastor of the Portage Church.



Jasper "Red" Caveness (left) talks about the early days of First Church of Bentonville with his pastor, Don Evans prior to their church's celebration of its centennial Feb. 27. Caveness joined the church in 1918 and is the member in longest standing. The cornerstone of the original building is embedded in the cement by the front steps of the church where they are seated.

ABN photo/Jones



Southern focus week — Some of the program participants during Christian Focus Week at Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge were Southern students, Teddy Reynolds (at microphone), Bonnie Margason, state WMU president (right), Jim Brewer, the school's admissions director (standing) and Jackie Burton, BSU director at Southern. These people and others led the students in devotional and educational sessions during a week in February.

ABN photo/Jones

## missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Sutton, missionaries to France since 1975, resigned from missionary service Feb. 28. They served in Lyons, France. He is a native of Hot Springs, Ark. The former Susan Hill, she was born in Shreveport, La., and considers Mansfield her hometown. They may be addressed at 332 Atlantic Ave., Shreveport, La. 71105.

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Viser, mission-

aries to Brazil, are the parents of Lauren Coke, born Feb. 2. They may be addressed at 6302 Turtle Creek #A, Texarkana, Texas 75503. He is a native of Memphis, Tenn. The former Susan Sims, she was born in Camden, Ark., and grew up there and in Hot Springs and Pine Bluff, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.



# Dollars, sense, and parachurch finances: some questions and problems

by Dean Dickens

Student days found many of us with gratitude for parachurch campus-discipling groups. In recent years, however, there has come a gnawing sense of frustration relating to the parachurch and nondenominational groups. (The term "parachurch" refers to those groups, normally nondenominational, that committed themselves to assisting and working alongside — or "parallel to" — the existing local church. Today, seemingly every radio-TV evangelist wants to be viewed in such an "assisting manner." I refer here to the general category of those that feel free to seek financial support from "every concerned Christian listening to us out there in radio-TV listening land!")

Obviously, these groups today openly divert thousands of church dollars that might much more effectively be used in church and denominational mission ministries. It has shocked some churchmen to discover that these parachurch groups in many countries are actually working in ways detrimental to local and denominational ministries.

During a recent furlough, I was astounded by the enormous number of stateside TV evangelists and parachurch financial requests: One preacher wants help to build "a glass church on the west coast"; another wants funds "from 'faith partners' to increase ministry" in his church, college, and TV ministry on the east coast; a TV evangelist requests your "standing with us" to build a faith-healer's hospital — and so the list goes! Surprisingly, some of them now openly request that our church members send them their tithes and offerings!

How might a mission-minded Christian respond to these parachurch pleas? How might the concerned Baptist layman best be able to spend his mission dollar? It would be wise today to evaluate parachurch requests: (1) By seeking accountability for funds received (even as is demanded of Southern Baptists' Home and Foreign Mission Boards) and (2) By reviewing actual productivity in the use of those funds. Strangely enough, media evangelists and parachurch groups seldom offer stateside churches any accountability for the way they use funds. (Obviously, one or two "victory stories" told to stateside churches

do not reflect serious accountability nor does it mean that your money has been effectively used.) Again, it has been noted that on several mission fields, these groups have functioned in ways which are counterproductive to the ministries of local evangelical churches. Note several examples:

## Example one:

One Filipino pastor in a dynamic growing church recently spoke of a well-known campus parachurch organization coming into his church to "help." He said that after a short time, they quietly began to request his members to support the parachurch ministry. Later, they asked several church workers to stop working with the church and begin working with their parachurch organization. This pastor stated to them that "you are not arming the Church. You are disarming the Church!" If only that event

**"their ministries no longer support churches, but compete with and undercut them"**

were an isolated case. Unfortunately, missionaries and national pastors alike have experienced numerous other similar unfortunate situations.

## Example two:

Several TV and radio evangelists have solicited stateside funds for Bible distribution and other projects at a national prison ministry. Brief TV clips have been shown of their "ministries." A converted prisoner, now a pastoral student in the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary recently reported that (1) Many of these TV scenes were staged to show a support that did not actually exist, (2) Movie scenes have been staged of "the vehicle you bought us to carry prisoners to Church" — scenes which were in reality only prisoners being put in a van, driven outside the prison walls for camera work and then driven directly back inside the walls and unloaded, (3) There have been numerous indiscriminate televised Bible distributions to men who later sold or burned those Bibles. This converted

prisoner reflected that "you Baptists did not give us any money but you came to stay and work with us. You gave us yourselves."

## Example three:

"We have shown a religious film all over the Philippines and almost a million people responded to Christ!" Yes, the film was shown and people raised their hands indicating a responsiveness to the message, but the teams moved that week out of the barrios, oftentimes leaving nobody to follow up on the interested people. Those people were, in reality, only "a million hands" who demonstrated interest in knowing more about Christ. One Baptist pastor stated that of the thousands of those "responsive" decisions in his area, not one person had ever been known to be baptized into his church. And his is a large growing Church! The fact is that these groups seldom focus on bringing people into a local evangelical church.

## Example four:

A well-known American campus parachurch organization has recently started its own seminary in the same town where the Philippine Baptist Seminary has trained students for 30 years (including many from this parachurch group). When asked why they decided to develop their own seminary instead of continuing to use existing denominational institutions, they replied that the decision has "nothing to do with theology." They acknowledged being theologically agreeable with Baptists. It was because someone in the states had given them the money for building a seminary! While our Baptist seminary has not been adversely affected, the question for stateside Baptist churches must be raised: "When Southern Baptist churches are asked to support parachurch ministries does it really make good dollars or good sense?"

## Example five:

One campus parachurch group recently brought teams into local Baptist churches to "assist" them. An analysis of these teams revealed that they were of numerous denominations and one man had "only been a Christian a short time and was of no denominational loyalty" (for which their leader audibly thanked God). Needless to

## Valentine commends hunger relief gifts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists are to be highly commended for giving record contributions of \$5,553,984 to help alleviate hunger worldwide and domestic, in 1982, says Foy Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

The Foreign Mission Board has reported receiving \$5,283,783 for world hunger and the Home Mission Board received \$250,200.62 for domestic hunger. These figures do not include substantial funds given for hunger

that were put to use in local churches, associations and state conventions.

The 1982 contributions represent an overall increase of \$1,093,134 above 1981. FMB gifts increased \$988,783; HMB giving was up \$104,340.

"As we rejoice and give thanks for this highly encouraging report, we pause to thank all concerned Southern Baptists who last year responded to the biblical mandate to feed the hungry," he said.

"High commendation also is due those SBC agencies whose concerned involvement in last year's special World Hunger emphasis made this encouraging report possible. Without the caring commitment and financial cooperation of the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Sunday School Board, the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission, last year's special hunger emphasis and this resulting response would not have been possible," Valentine said.

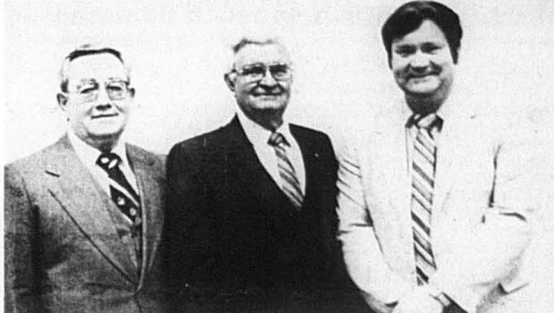
say, both churchmen and missionaries felt this was unwise. Numerous other examples could be given reflecting a refusal to teach using Baptist literature, a disdain for stamping the name of the church on tracts and so forth.

Stateside Southern Baptists, and other evangelical groups must recognize that (1) These parachurch campus groups have begun to shift their objectives away from the campus toward developing their own structured "denomination-like" organizations that duplicate the work done by local church and denomination groups; (2) What we are now seeing on many overseas mission fields is not the parachurch but a "pair of churches."

Yet these groups return to the unknowing stateside churches seeking financial support from church groups as Baptists — but they do not truthfully report that their ministries no longer support and undergird local churches but often compete and undercut the ministries of the very denominational groups from whom they seek funds. One stateside pastor has graphically stated that such groups are "not parachurch but parasites" — feeding off the unknowing concerned evangelical churches.

I am not implying that all such groups are unproductive or counterproductive. Neither do I imply that their workers are not good and godly people. I do not suggest that their ministries are unworthy of support. I do suggest that Southern Baptists have their own exciting ministries worthy of greater support. In spite of increased giving, Southern Baptists' overseas mission buying power has not grown in more than 20 years. Perhaps it is time for us to look carefully at the well-intentioned parachurch people seeking money for their causes. Perhaps it is time to say "I am (already) doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" (Neh. 6:3).

Dean Dickens is administrative dean and professor of preaching at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary.



New officers were elected by the state directors of missions at their annual meeting March 2-4. President is Carl Fawcett (left) of the Arkansas Valley Association. Secretary-treasurer is Carroll Gibson, of Greene County association (center) and the new vice president is Manuel Max, of the Rocky Bayou Association.



Northside Church in Horseshoe Bend held an organizational service March 6 which was attended by representatives from 11 sister churches. The members signed the charter, which will be held open for two months, until May 6. Chester Miller has been called as the interim pastor.



NEW ORLEANS — Barbara Long (left), minister of education of Second Church, Little Rock, meets with Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Long, who is president of the Arkansas alumni association of the seminary, was one of 22 state representatives who attended the annual alumni officers' workshop in New Orleans Feb. 8-10.



Carroll Gibson accepts a handshake and plaque from Ouachita Baptist University president Daniel Grant after being selected as associational missionary of the year. The recipient of the award is chosen each year by state convention leaders and university administration members. The award was presented at a banquet at the school.

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# Arkansas Baptists help reach thousands in Phillipines

by Kevin Jones

Six Arkansas pastors and one layman were part of a volunteer mission force of 88 Americans who traveled to the Phillipines in January of this year.

"Our mission was to enter into new areas on the island of Mindanao," said Leroy French, pastor of Rye Hill Church in Ft. Smith. "We evangelized in the first week, then helped the new converts organize into churches during the second week. We don't have the complete report yet, but so far over 11,000 decision cards have been turned in indicating professions of faith."

Besides producing such spectacular results, the trip had a powerful effect on those who went. "We became totally reliant on the Spirit," said Gene Bates, pastor of Rector Heights Church in Hot Springs. "In that situation, even a little flesh was too much. I found out I needed to surrender myself again to the Lord. My ministry will never be the same."

All of the men left behind comfortable houses and beds to sleep, sometimes as one of a dozen in a room, on mats on bamboo floors. Their situations varied: some preached in cities of 30,000, while others went far back into the hills to much more primitive areas. Some had to walk 30 miles a day to minister, and all had to preach with an interpreter.

Yet as different as the surroundings were, none were facing the challenge that Elmer Sinky was. A layman and proprietor of a clothing store in North Little Rock, he had never preached before. Anywhere. Even in English. "I told one of our missionaries when I got there that they had my name wrong on their forms; they had reverend and I wasn't a preacher," he said. "He said, 'before you leave, you will be.'"

Sinky almost sank on his first attempt at baptism. "I stepped off into the stream and went over my head," he recalled, laughing. "I came up blowing water and told them 'well, I've baptized myself, now y'all come and take a turn.'" Sinky eventually was in-

strumental in nearly 100 decisions for Christ.

Keith Taylor, pastor of 47th St. Church in North Little Rock also got more than he planned on — a case of amoebic dysentery that kept him hospitalized for much of the trip. He has no regrets about the trip, however. "I was laying in bed and I talked to the Lord. I asked him why he sent me half way around the world to preach and then have me flat on my back and unable to do anything," he said. "But I learned about the power of the Word of God. He can do his work without me." After he recovered, Taylor led two people at the hospital to Christ and also persuaded a doctor to donate land for a church that a local congregation had been praying for some time.

"I came back with a deeper respect and

love for our Southern Baptist missionaries," French said. "A Southern Baptist is highly respected in that country because of the high moral character and example of love of our missionaries. I had trouble getting money orders cashed until the cashiers saw my miniature diploma from a Southern Baptist seminary; then they were cashed. That was another evidence of how Southern Baptists are regarded because of our missionaries."

All of the men also said that they are more firmly committed than ever to be supporters of the Cooperative Program because of having seen the work that Southern Baptist missionaries do on the field.

Speaking for the group, French said, "it was a tremendous spiritual experience which will help my ministry. I want to go back as soon as possible."



Recalling their experience in the Phillipines, these Arkansas Baptists had a lot to talk about. They were part of a group of nearly 100 American volunteers who led revivals and started churches in the Phillipines in January. Among those talking are Bill Kreis, pastor of First Church of Paris, Gene Bates, pastor of Rector Heights Church in Hot Springs, Roy Conatser, pastor of Dallas Avenue Church in Mena, Leroy French, pastor of Rye Hill Church in Ft. Smith, Elmer Sinky, a layman from North Little Rock, Keith Taylor, pastor of 47th St. Church in North Little Rock and Ted Richardson, pastor of Bluff Avenue Church in Ft. Smith.

ABM photo/GSI

## Overseas Baptists baptize 140,000 in 1982; 11 percent increase

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist mission work baptized a record 140,844 believers in 1982, nearly 11 percent more than the previous year.

Brazil, completing one century of Baptist work, accounted for a third of those baptisms — 47,565, according to Charles W. Bryan, Foreign Mission Board senior vice president for overseas operations.

Nigerian Baptists were second to Brazil with 16,193 baptisms, followed by the Phillipines, 11,243; South Korea, 9,800, and Tanzania, 7,229 (one for every 3.5 members). Baptists in Mexico exceeded 5,000

baptisms for the first time.

Membership in overseas Baptist churches grew to nearly 1.57 million in 1982, up almost 75,000 from 1981. Church membership in Kenya jumped 36.7 percent in 1982 to 22,486. In Bangladesh, where growth traditionally has been slow, membership increased by 26.3 percent to 1,433.

Despite the crippling effect of worldwide recession in many of the 96 countries where Southern Baptists work, total contributions by overseas Baptists exceeded \$65.8 million, 25 percent more than 1981 giving. "Many of them, like the Christians of Macedonia, gave out of their poverty be-

yond what they were able," Bryan said.

The number of overseas churches increased by 700 from 11,470 in 1981 to 12,170 as missionaries continued to focus on churches that will reproduce themselves, Bryan noted. The gospel also is preached at 14,997 missions and other preaching points.

Some 10,842 National Baptist pastors (up from 9,571) lead those churches. National Baptists totaling 6,173 enrolled in seminars and theological institutes during 1982 and 6,467 more took courses of theological institutes during 1982 and 6,467 more took courses of theological education by extension.

## International

## An expanding fellowship

by Kerry G. Powell, First Church of Forrest City

Basic passages: Acts 2 and 6

Focal passages: Acts 2:43-47; 6:1-7

Central truth: When they got together, cooperated together and shared together, their number multiplied and the word of God increased.

1. The scriptures know nothing of a Lone Ranger type of Christianity. Things happen when we get together. God's spirit moves upon his worshipping people. And when God moves and growth occurs, problems arise.

2. Some people today long for a church without organization and the overall responsibilities of a complicated structure. But even in the beginning, the church could not remain simply a group of Christians meeting in houses from time to time. Because with this tremendous growth came problems and needs that had to be met. New life brought an expanding problem of service.

3. One of the problems was that the Grecians (the Greek-speaking Jews of the dispersion) murmured against the Hebrews (the Aramaic-speaking Jews of the homeland) because their widows were neglected in the daily allocations from the church's common fund ... administered by the Hebrew Christians.

4. So seven Grecian men, (they all had Grecian names) with the necessary qualifications, were chosen by the church and ordained to oversee the daily distribution, leaving the apostles free to pray and preach.

5. And when the apostles were freed from secular activities, then preaching was intensified, disciples were multiplied, and even some of the priests became Christians, which strengthened the ties between Christianity and Judaism.

6. It's interesting to note that these first office-holders to be appointed, these deacons, were chosen, not to talk or rule but for practical service. They were servants with no authority.

7. And today when we get back to the biblical principals and scriptural concepts and apply them to any church in any community then the church will move forward and grow.

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## Life and Work

## Witnessing to the world

by W. Coy Sample, First Church of Morrilton

Basic passages: Matthew 5:13-16, 7:15-27

Focal passages: Matthew 5:13-16, 7:15-17, 20-21, 24-25

Central truth: The life in Christ is more than just hoarding up blessings, it calls for sharing those blessings with others.

Jesus speaks of witnessing in terms of daily living. Two easily applicable illustrations are used to demonstrate witnessing — salt and light. The very nature of salt lends itself to the characteristics of the Christian life. Salt makes food palatable and tasty, it is a preservative. If our lives are what they should be, we will add zest to life and draw others to the Savior.

As we consider the other illustration of light, we are reminded that Christians are not self-generated light. It is the light of Jesus dwelling in us that is to shine forth.

Light is to be seen. The Christians' light is to be seen, it is not to be kept secret. How is our light to be seen — like a city on a hill, like the lamp on the lampstand!

As Jesus spoke to us of witnessing, he also warned against false witnessing. He said that there was a way of telling the difference between a true witness and a false one. By their fruit! Jesus asked two questions which obviously call for negative answers. You do not gather grapes from thorns or figs from weeds. By the same token a wolf may wear a disguise of wool, but he cannot grow it. The unconverted heart will not produce a Christian witness.

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by issuing a call to obedience. Hearing and doing what Jesus teaches describes the proper relation believers are to have to the Kingdom of God.

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## Bible Book

## Accepting those who differ

by Francis Chesson, First Church, Camden

Basic passage: Romans 14:15-6

Focal passages: Romans 14:1-6, 13-17; 15:1-3

Central truth: With Christ as our example, the Christian's attitude toward those who differ must be based on love.

When it came to accepting a weaker person in the faith, some may have accused Paul of compromising, for we don't see him insisting that every convert follow a set ritualistic pattern. We need to remember that the Roman Christians came from various backgrounds, and their Christian practices were at times influenced by their former lifestyles.

This is not to say that Paul would ever encourage pagan practices or any type of immorality to creep into the early church. He is very strong against this in other passages. However, he seems to "bend over backwards" in doing all that he can to help a weaker brother; for God himself has accepted that person (14:3).

Isn't this one of the greatest lessons that we in churches today need to put to practice: if God has accepted one into his family, who am I to try to pass judgment?

A Christian must never be guilty of causing a fellow-Christian to stumble. Responsible Christianity means that one will forego his own pleasures if a weaker Christian is offended by them. The basis for such action is love (14:15). No earthly pleasure (which is fleeting) should be so important to a mature Christian that he would risk ruining another for whom Christ gave his life (v. 15).

In God's kingdom there is no "standing up for one's rights." On the other hand, there is "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (14:17). With this, who needs "rights"?

Paul makes it very clear that those who are stronger in the Christian faith have a responsibility to weaker Christians (15:1). This is important to remember today when there come differences of opinion within the church family. Christ, who did not insist on his own way, serves as our guide as we try to build up one another in the faith (15:1-3).

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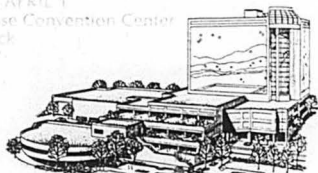
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**Morning Session 10 a.m.    Afternoon Session 2 p.m.    Evening Session 6 p.m.**

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## Study participants sought

A Georgia Baptist couple is looking for ministers and their families, and ex-ministers and families, who will share in research for a book about problems of ministerial families.

Dr. and Mrs. William L. Self of Atlanta are planning to write a book, tentatively entitled *Survival Kit for Ministerial Families*.

Dr. Self is pastor of Wieuca Road church in Atlanta. Mrs. Self is a past president of

Georgia Baptist Ministers' Wives' Conference.

They have urged children of ministers, missionaries or church staff members to share in the project. They say age or present employment is not a factor.

For details, contact Dr. and Mrs. Self in care of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, 3626 Peachtree Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30326; phone 404/261-4220.

## State Music Tournament and Vocal Ensemble Jubilee

May 14, 1983, Second Baptist Church, Hot Springs

Eligibility for the state tournament and jubilee is achieved through the Associational Music Tournament.

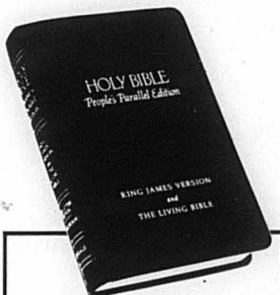
Contact your associational office or the associational music director for information concerning a tournament in your area.

Categories of participation and tournament rules are included in your music director's Minister of Music Handbook.

Entry deadline for those who qualify is May 2.

State event sponsored by

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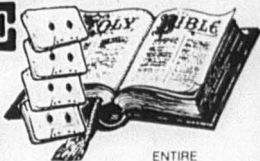


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# Your state convention at work

## Church Training

### Youth convention focuses on youth on Bold Mission

Almost every Southern Baptist has some level of familiarity with the words "Bold Mission Thrust." Allow me to share two little facts related to the Bold Mission Thrust goal of reaching the world with the gospel of Christ by the year 2000.

Fact number one: Most of the members of the high school senior class of the year 2000 were born in 1982.

Fact number two: The last group of adult leaders in our churches who will see the year 2000 are the children and youth in those churches right now.

These facts point up the reality that Bold Mission Thrust is not only a very timely goal, but also has a resource group available for accomplishing it. That resource group is the youth currently involved in discipleship growth and ministry in churches throughout Arkansas.

The evening session of the State Youth Convention on April 1 will give special emphasis to the theme, "DiscipleLife... Youth on Bold Mission." We will have a worship spectacular which will include music, drama, media presentations and much more. An important feature of the session will be a dialogue with Bill Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, and Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board. We will also have a live telephone conversation with Kyle Cox, Southern Baptist Missionary to Chile.

Plan to be a part of the State Youth Convention on Friday, April 1, at the new Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Sessions will begin at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Contact the Church Training Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, for more information. — **Bill Falkner, associate**



Falkner

## Evangelism

### The silent partner in witnessing

The silent partner is the other person visiting with the soul winner. This person is very important to the success of the witnessing visit. There should be a definite decision before entering the home on who will be the witness and who will be the silent partner.

The silent partner should participate in the preliminary conversation leading up to the presentation of the Gospel. When the Gospel presentation is started, he or she will stay in the background as much as possible.

The silent partner helps to get the soul winner and the prospect seated together. Upon entering the house, he quickly scans the room to spot the seating arrangement. If there is a couch and a single chair, he goes for the chair. He is concerned that the soul winner and the prospect be seated together in order to prevent unnecessary shuffling later.

The silent partner may find himself in the position to baby sit. This phase of work by the silent partner was illustrated to me in an experience some years ago at Almyra. Delton Cooper and I went out to share Christ with a lost mother. Her four children were home with the measles. They were feeling good enough to be very active. Delton gathered up those four kids and entertained them while I led their mother to Christ.

The most important thing the silent partner does in witnessing is to pray. The Bible says the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. — **Clarence Shell, director**



Shell

## Christian Life Council

### Lesson from the Warsaw ghetto

At the outbreak of World War II, Chaim A. Kaplan was principal of a Warsaw school. He kept an extensive personal diary during the German invasion and occupation of Poland. The last daily entry was made shortly before his death in a concentration camp. Later smuggled out of the country, the diary was written because of Kaplan's intense desire that future generations be aware of the cruel, inhumane treatment of the Jews by the Nazis.

Among numerous thought-provoking observations, on Oct. 7, 1939 Kaplan penned the following observation of Christian response to Jewish suffering: "Misfortune does not trouble the hearts of these practitioners of the 'religion of love.'" What a terrible indictment of those professing to be followers of Jesus, the suffering servant.

In light of the above and later occasions where untroubled hearts prevailed during human suffering, let us probe our own hearts. Human cruelty, often precipitated by greed and pride, will persist until Jesus returns. In the meantime, demonic meanness must be challenged with genuine attitudes and acts of agape love. The lack of such or neutrality in the face of human suffering makes one think of the words of the Negro spiritual, "Everybody talking about heaven ain't going there," and Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." — **Bob Parker, director**



Parker

## Church Administration

### Minister of education/youth seminar

Ministers of education and ministers of youth will enjoy fellowship together and have opportunities for personal growth and skill development when they meet for the annual Minister of Education/Youth Seminar. Will Beal, consultant in the Church Administration Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead joint conferences for ministers of education and youth in addition to separate sessions for ministers of education. Dr. Jim Minton, associate professor of youth education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead separate conferences for youth ministers.

The seminar will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 21-22, at the Ramada Inn in North Little Rock. The sessions will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday and will adjourn at noon on Friday. The program includes a buffet luncheon on Thursday. Special room rates are available at Ramada Inn for those who need to make room reservations. Reservations should be made directly with the Ramada Inn and you should indicate you are attending this seminar.

Topics to be included in the seminar include conflict management, working with people, stress management, team building, support systems and decision making. Also to be included will be a discussion of some of the latest resources to help ministers of education and ministers of youth in their work. All ministers of education or other church staff members responsible for any aspect of the church's education program are to be included in the seminar. Ministers of youth and other staff persons responsible for leading or coordinating the youth ministry of the church are invited, also.

For information about registration or room rates, write Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203 — **Robert Holley, director**



Beal



# Women's task force recommends program

by Duann Kier

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A seven-member task force on women in Southern Baptist life, named by the Christian Life Commission, has made recommendations to the moral concerns agency to enhance the status and responsibilities of women in the 13.8 million member denomination.

Proposals include establishing an informative service on women who are employed or who are seeking employment in church-related vocations, production of educational resource materials on issues related to women and an enlarged program to provide information on women's issues to state Baptist papers and denominational publications.

Greenville, S.C., also chairman of the Christian Life Commission.

Other recommendations include requests for the commission to consider establishing regular lines of communication for women in ministry and also to consider taking the leadership in sponsoring national meetings for Southern Baptists who share these concerns.

Members of the task force encouraged the ethics agency to sensitize Southern Baptists to the discrepancies in employment positions and wages between women and men and also to point out that many local churches fail to include their female employees in Annuity Board retirement plans.

"Some of the most sinned-against people are women employees of churches. Many if not most retire without a cent of retirement benefits," said Morgan who heads the SBC annuity agency. "Churches should include every full-time employee in their pension plan. It is the only fair and right thing to do."

During the meeting, task force members recommended the commission produce and market as widely as possible a study guide and a series of pamphlets on issues related to women.

"I feel a really strong need for Bible study and theological study to help women

know there is a place for them," said Weatherford, whose auxiliary serves more than one million Southern Baptist women."

Weatherford also pointed out the task force discussions had continually expressed concern for women in the home and for the family in general. "Women who are employed are also still women in the home. We are not anti-family."

Members of the task force highlighted the need to maintain current lists of women who are ordained or commissioned for full-time Christian service, churches which have ordained women deacons and women in professional church-related vocations who are not ordained. The task force also encouraged the commission to offer resources to support the seminaries in providing improved opportunities for women.

Anders, who as a sociologist has maintained an ongoing study of women in Southern Baptist life, said Southern Baptists should overcome their use of sexist language. The task force commended those local churches, state conventions and other agencies, particularly the Baptist Sunday School Board, which have shown special sensitivity to women's concerns and women's issues.

Task force members took note of the fact that more than one-half of foreign mission appointees are women.

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## SBC datelines

### FMB sued for \$5 million

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A \$5 million damage suit has been filed against the Southern Baptist Convention by an Austin, Texas, man who claims he was beaten by Turkish immigrants in Augsburg, West Germany, while serving with the Foreign Mission Board.

Nassar Lotfi, a two year FMB volunteer, is a former colonel in the Iranian Air Force and a naturalized U.S. citizen.

The lawsuit claims the defendant (the SBC) "did not disclose" that the work could be "hazardous to the plaintiff's personal safety."

### Tennessee convention sues IRS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have filed suit in federal court contesting penalties levied by Internal Revenue Service against TBCH for its refusal to file Information Form 990.

The suit which was filed Feb. 16 in United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Cookeville Division, will seek to recover \$17,675.12 paid by Children's Homes in penalties and interest in what was termed "unlawful assessments."

### 3,000 new churches the goal

ATLANTA (BP) — The church extension division of the Home Mission Board has called for a convention-wide "new-work commitment day" in response to a 1980 study indicating at least 100 million Americans lack a church home.

On "Pentecost Sunday," May 22, the Southern Baptist Convention's 36,079 churches will be challenged to start 3,000 new missions by next June.

In addition, a special intercessory prayer-line (1-800-554-PRAY or 1-800-282-SEEK) will operate March 1 through May 31.

### Centurymen to China

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The Centurymen, a choral group sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), will tour the People's Republic of China this fall and perform on Chinese radio and television.

The 100-voice male choir whose music is featured on Sounds of the Centurymen and other RTVC radio programs, was invited to mainland China by Shanghai Television. The group will sing in Shanghai, Beijing (Peking) and Canton.

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Members of the task force which met for two days were: T.B. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; Sarah Frances Anders, chairperson of the sociology department of Louisiana College in Pineville; James Flaming, pastor of First Church in Abilene, Texas, and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Women's Missionary Union.

Other members included Darold Morgan, executive director of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board; Patsy Ayres, an active layperson from Sewanee, Tenn., and David Matthews, pastor of First Church in