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August 14, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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August 14, 1986

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Recognizing their service:
prayer garden dedicated
page 2



GRAY PRAYER GARDEN
In Memory Of
DR. REL GRAY
In Honor Of
MRS. REL GRAY
Religious pastor and leader of Arkansas Baptists
"See Him in
Every Nation,
Work Hard"
Dedicated June 24, 1986

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

Neil Jackson, growth consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, presents Mary Alice Gray, wife of the late Rel Gray, at the dedication of an Arkansas Baptist Assembly prayer garden honoring her and her husband, a longtime state pastor (see article this page).

Prayer garden dedicated at Siloam Springs

A prayer garden at Arkansas Baptist Assembly near Siloam Springs was dedicated June 24 in honor of a longtime Arkansas Baptist pastor and his wife.

Rel Gray, who served Hot Springs Park Place Church, Keo Church, Sparkman First Church, Rogers First Church, and Helena First Church, as well as Temple Church, Ruston, La., died in an automobile accident in July 1960. He was a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the ABSC Executive Board. Gray and S.A. Whitlow, past executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, received the first two honorary doctorates from

Ouachita Baptist University.

Gray's wife, the former Mary Alice Webster, was present for the dedication. His son and daughter-in-law, Rel L. and Jody Gray of Ruston, La., contributed much of the money needed to construct the garden, which will provide a place for persons attending Arkansas Baptist Assembly to draw aside for prayer and meditation.

Neil Jackson, a growth consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., unveiled the plaque during dedication ceremonies. Jackson served as minister of education at First Church, Rogers, when Gray was pastor there.

Governor's Scholars enroll at Ouachita

ARKADELPHIA—Eight recipients of the 1986 Governor's Scholars Awards, one of whom also received National Merit Finalist recognition, have submitted enrollment forms for the fall semester at Ouachita Baptist University. The scholarships, created in 1983 by legislation sponsored by Governor Bill Clinton, award \$2,000 a year for four years of undergraduate study to 100 outstanding high school graduates, encouraging the state's best students to remain in

Arkansas for their college educations.

The recipients of the Governor's Scholars Award indicating their intent to attend Ouachita are: David Anderson of Gurdon (National Merit Finalist), Jeffrey G. Noble of Little Rock (Pulaski Academy), Jana L. Taylor of Hot Springs (Lakeside High School), Lisa C. Long of Sheridan, Britt-Marie Tromater of Hope, Angie B. Shedd of Manila, Holly A. Feltman of Hughes, and Charles C. Mashek of Dardanelle.

Missionary service pins awarded in Thailand

Max and Betty Alexander received their 25-year missionary service pins at the annual meeting of the Thailand Baptist Mission in early July. William Wakefield, area director of south and southeast Asia, made the presentation at the Baptist encampment on the Gulf of Siam in Pattaya, Thailand.

Alexander was born in Lake City and later moved his family to Jonesboro. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

He pastored a quartet church in Elkins in the early 50s. His assignment is business manager for the Thailand Baptist Mission.

Mrs. Alexander is from Hazel Valley and is a graduate of Arkansas Bible Institute (now Citadel Bible College), and Golden Gate Seminary. Her assignment is church and home.

The Alexanders were appointed to Thailand in 1961. They have three daughters, Pamela Sue, Donna Kay, and Doris Renee.

In this issue

4 GNA perspective

Clarence Shell, director of Arkansas' Evangelism Department, offers his evaluation of this past spring's simultaneous revivals and talks about his plans for an Arkansas sequel in 1987.

11 shared responsibility

Shared Ministry means shared responsibility for caring for the needs of other people, one Arkansas congregation has discovered.

Correction

A news brief on p. 6 of the July 24 ABN should have said Dave McKinney has resigned as minister of youth and campus outreach at Nettleton Church, Jonesboro, to serve Lepanto First Church as minister of youth and music.

Letter to the editor

Witness in Las Vegas

In my opinion one of your readers was wrong when he said that Baptists have no business going to Las Vegas for their annual meeting in 1989. A few months ago I was in that city for several days leading a music conference jointly sponsored by the Nevada state convention and the Sunday School Board. I stayed in a remote section of a large casino, but my route to the car took me through the game area daily, and I'm sure I was just as shocked as your reader apparently was.

But I also saw the evidence of empty souls written on the faces of the dealer, pit bosses, Keno girls, cashiers, and other employees, not to mention the gamblers. At least the tourists eventually leave this mire; the workers and citizens are in it daily.

I also would suggest that the gambling and glitter scene is over-emphasized. If you leave the "strip" and the downtown area you see

a city very much like any other, with great spiritual need and few evangelical churches, a city that seems in some ways even oblivious to the casinos except for the broken lives that result from them. And you see Baptist churches that are working diligently to reach people.

What better thing could Baptists do than to go to this city and demonstrate an alternative lifestyle, witnessing as they go? It would be refreshing to see our convention set aside its power struggle and be shocked back into the urgency of our calling as an evangelical, missions denomination. Though the convention hotel and meeting hall are adjacent, I hope that Baptists will venture out, that in fact extra time will be made available for them to witness in Las Vegas. The people there desperately need it, and the Nevada churches deserve the encouragement.—Richard Huggins, Edmond, Okla.

Invitation to nominate

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The invitation to make nominations for the various boards, agencies and institutions extended in the July 24th issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* should not be taken lightly. The full page form on page 17 invited any Arkansas Baptist to nominate trustees for our institutions, agencies, and the Executive Board.

This is a democratic gesture by the Nominating Committee. It is, also, a sincere invitation. The Nominating Committees will need all of the recommendations no later than August 19th so that they can prepare a report for the convention. The committee has a heavy schedule with much of its work to be completed in a relatively limited time period.

The Nominating Committee consists of nine members representing pastors and lay people that are widely distributed across the state. The convention president appoints three of the

nine members each year for the important task of making nominations to the State Convention for all boards.

Suggestions for the committee's consideration should be made sincerely, carefully and prayerfully. A potential board member's qualifications and interests should be primary factors. Willingness to serve, ability to give the necessary time should be assured. Nominating someone because of friendship or to do a personal favor are the worst possible reasons. Some trustees have found that giving the necessary time imposes a hardship. To be a very good trustee, an individual must invest considerable time.

Arkansas Baptists have an able Nominating Committee that takes its work seriously. The structure of our committee works well and inviting all Arkansas Baptists to make suggestions confirms our democracy and makes the committee work even better.

Cure the desire to receive something for nothing

There is a latent desire in the hearts of most people to have something for nothing. The hope of obtaining a great deal in return for little or no physical toil is as old as the human race. Yet, such desires are both morally wrong and self-destructive.

Many legal and illegal businesses capitalize on the desire to gain something for nothing. Among the illegal ones are the con-artists who sell phony stocks at a ridiculously low price or the chain letter which promises all those receiving it that for a small investment they will receive a large return. The only possible winners are the shysters who perpetrate the scheme. Sooner or later, the con-artist usually ends up in the penitentiary. The victims, almost without exception, lose their money. Yet, those responding to chain letters may be subject to prosecution themselves.

Another scheme, apparently legal, is the growing number of letters which come to our home suggesting that a person may win a fabulous amount of money simply by returning a personal entry form. The material usually has the catchy opening, 'Congratulations, you have already won \$100,000 in cash.' In the fine print it then hints that you may have won a second, third or twentieth prize amounting to considerably less. It usually continues by saying there will be one thousand guaranteed winners. The materials are designed to encourage the readers to believe that no intelligent person would pass up an opportunity to obtain a gift for nothing.

Most of these materials are legal because they do give the prizes they promise people. Of course, the possibility of winning is infinitesimal because of the large number of responses. When companies give what they promise, what is in it for them? All of these offers provide a prize for contestants who buy a magazine

or purchase some other merchandise. The company receives far more in return than it gives away.

What is wrong with companies encouraging or desiring people to get something for nothing so long as they keep their minimal promises? It encourages people to fall prey to a kind of mind control which consumes them. The illegal recipients of welfare (those who could and should work) having bought this philosophy. It, also, produces depression when the hoped for prize does not arrive and encourages unbridled laziness. It may, also, make people easier prey for illegal con-artists, when the names of the winners are advertised.

Finally, a philosophy of getting something for nothing will destroy the Christian concept of work. The Bible declares that man is to subdue the earth (Gen. 1:28). This means that honest labor is to be part of the fabric of the human existence.

Work is taught both through commandment and example throughout the Bible. In the Ten Commandments man is instructed to work (Ex. 20:0). In the Garden of Eden Adam had the responsibility to 'dress and keep' the garden (Gen. 2:15). God himself worked in creating the earth (Gen. 2:2). Jesus labored as a carpenter until he was thirty years of age (Luke 3:23 and Mark 6:3).

The ultimate cure for the desire to receive something for nothing is a true realization that everything belongs to God. We are stewards (caretakers) of the possessions that God has placed in our hands. As caretakers the amount of possessions we supervise is not as important as how we use the possessions God has entrusted to us.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 31

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

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Shell estimates Arkansas revivals brought in 3,300 new believers

by J. Everett Sneed

Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, has had reports from approximately one-half of the churches who have held the "Good News America: God Loves You" simultaneous revivals. Based on the statistics he has been able to obtain, Shell estimates that 75 percent of the churches in Arkansas held a Good News revival and that approximately 3,300 professions of faith were made.

Shell believes that in addition to the professions of faith the revivals significantly benefited evangelism in Arkansas. He says, "These probably were the best planned revivals in the history of Arkansas Baptists. Excellent planning was done both by the associations and by local churches."

Shell also observes that excellent materials were prepared to assist with the Good News revivals. He says, "Both the Home Mission Board and the state Evangelism Department contributed to a "Pastor's Preparation Manual" which detailed the proper steps for revival preparation."

Shell believes the preparation manual for the local churches contained the best detailed steps possible for prayer preparation for revival. He says, "Prayer is absolutely essential if revival is to take place. This manual detailed, step by step, how a church is to carry out its prayer preparation for revival."

Finally, the manual gave instructions on how to carry out a People Search. This was a cooperative effort between the Sunday School Department and the Evangelism Department of Arkansas. Shell says, "Many of the churches that participated in the People Search found large numbers of prospects. These prospects were invaluable during the Good News revivals and in many instances enabled churches to have good results. Many churches are also continuing to reach people as a result of discovering prospects."

Shell found that many churches are continuing to report good evangelistic results since the simultaneous revivals. He says, "This excellent carry-over is a result not only of the People Search but because so many New Testaments were distributed prior to the Good News revivals." Probably this was the largest number of New Testaments ever distributed in the history of Arkansas. The New Testament distribution took place all across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Shell observes every church has several evangelistic opportunities each year. Among these are the two revivals he believes every church should conduct. Shell said, "Even when the state convention or the local association conducts simultaneous revivals, there should only be two revivals a year. This is because of the amount of preparation needed in order to have a successful revival."

Other evangelistic opportunities include vacation Bible school, Bible camp and perennial evangelism. Shell believes that perennial evangelism programs such as the

Continuing Witness Training is essential if a church is to be effective in reaching the lost in their community. He says, "I think that the spirit of evangelism is caught as well as taught. So churches should keep evangelism before the people on a perennial basis."

"The best mass evangelism will only take place when churches do good personal evangelism," Shell continues.

Shell feels that Southern Baptists have the best personal evangelism tools that they have ever had. He says, "I believe that CWT is the best personal evangelism program that God has ever given Southern Baptists. Churches should have at least two cycles, and possibly three, of CWT each year. A cycle requires 13 weeks of training."

Shell encourages churches to use people that have completed CWT to make witnessing visits when a cycle is not in progress. A second use that can be made of CWT graduates is as counselors with individuals who are making decisions during regular worship services. Shell says, "The only way we will ever reach our state for the Lord is to have a week by week perennial evangelism program."

Another method of involving individuals in personal evangelism, Shell believes, is by using the Lay Evangelism School. He feels the Lay Evangelism School does not require the commitment CWT does, but it is a means of training people to use a Scripture booklet

Finally, true revival results in lost people being saved. Shell observes, "Revival is for God's children. But it results in seeing people come to know Christ as Savior."

Shell says he has heard of several outstanding revivals across the state. Among these are First Church, Benton; Union Avenue, Wynne; and Midway Church, Judsonia. Shell observes, "In each of these instances the people had prepared for revival, they had agonized in prayer, and they believed revival would come. I believe 75 percent of the success of a revival is determined before the evangelist or guest musicians arrive."

The revivals were well advertised. Shell says one of the best evangelistic media campaigns ever conducted in Arkansas was used to advertise the Good News revivals.

There was at least one person saved in connection with the television advertising of the Good News revivals. In Fayetteville a pastor visited a man in the hospital who was unresponsive to the gospel. Later, he visited the same man again. The pastor said, "God loves you." The patient replied, "I know. I heard it on television." The pastor was able to lead the man to accept Christ.

Shell feels many other people were reminded of their need for the Lord or of their responsibility to serve Christ as a result of the media campaign.

The Evangelism Department is now preparing for a 1987 evangelistic follow-up



GOOD NEWS AMERICA, GOD LOVES YOU.

and to give their own personal experience with the Lord. Some who go through the Lay Evangelism School later participate in CWT.

Shell observes a revival has many values. First, in a true revival there will be repenting of sin. Shell says, "There is a tremendous need for Christians to turn from sin in our churches today. Sin affects people's lives. When people turn from sin, as did David, the man after God's own heart, they become effective witnesses for the Lord."

A second value of revival is renewal of fellowship with God's people. God's children will desire to be with God's children. It also produces a renewal of fellowship with God himself.

Shell observes, "A relationship with God is never broken if we have really been saved, but our fellowship with him can be disturbed by sin."

A third value of true revival is a restoration of joy. David prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation." There is tremendous joy for an individual when his fellowship with the Lord and other Christians is reestablished.

which will be entitled "Good News Arkansas: Jesus Loves You," Shell says, "This will not be a simultaneous effort. The Evangelism Department is asking churches to conduct a Good News Arkansas revival in the spring of 1987. The time will be at the discretion of the churches."

There will be a number of events that surround this effort. It will be kicked off with a Good News Run on March 15, 1987. Young people will be enlisted to carry a torch through every association in Arkansas. Shell says, "The light of the torch will symbolize the love of Christ who is the light of the world. Crossing every association will give publicity to the evangelistic effort of each of our local associations."

"The main emphasis," Shell continues, "will be on personal evangelism. The goal will be to share a booklet, "Good News Arkansas: Jesus Loves You," with every lost person in Arkansas. We believe that this approach will reap great results."

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

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Now is the time for all good men/women to come to the aid of their pastor/staff. The widow, widower and aged usually have lived in the same community a lifetime. Community people and relatives are usually close by to look after them. A retired pastor/staff person may have lived in a dozen places. In retirement they are "without a country." They usually move from their last location to get out of the way. No one of the previous churches feels responsible for their welfare. The last church can't have the burden of their support. To beg, they are ashamed. To borrow, they are reluctant. Some are without children. Others children are not able to provide assistance. Who is responsible? Can't something be done?



Moore

It is easy to say that they are responsible. They are! However, most church workers are on extremely low salaries. The housing provided proves to be an asset to the church through appreciation, but a hindrance to the pastor/staff person, because he accumulates no equity toward having a house in retirement. A provided house is one basis used for justifying lower salaries. It is not possible to build much savings or retirement on the salaries most pastor/staff make.

Could anyone else be responsible? Shouldn't all of the churches in which a person has served share in the responsibility of meeting the needs of their servants when the declining years come? Most companies provide some assistance at this point. Why shouldn't a church? Yes, God takes care of his own. But, he usually does it through his own people. We need to begin looking more toward meeting future needs than just immediate needs. Of 1,272 churches in our Arkansas Convention, 662 are helping with retirement. We have 448 who are in retirement now. Some receive little because little was paid in. Of these, 219 receive less than \$100 per month. Now is the time to plan and work toward a reasonable retirement.

Since pastors are reluctant to make requests that eventually benefit them, I want to ask our lay people to become knowledgeable in this area so they can lead the church to address this need. In the August Helpline you will find the location of eight conferences we are conducting that will greatly help you understand how you can help.

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

August 14, 1986



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Singles potluck

Older singles (over 30 years old) in a church, or anywhere, are an interesting and diverse group of people. Some have never been married and often are doing well financially. Others are working more than one job to help support children and are having a hard time making ends meet.

Whatever their situation, singles find a support group important in their lives. They can share problems and blessings and help each other find solutions to common problems.

Potluck meals are an economical and easy way to have "food and fellowship," especially for such busy people as singles. Someone can act as host or hostess at his or her home or apartment for an evening meal. The church kitchen at Sunday noon is an alternative if the group is too large. Children should be welcome. If necessary, a sitter can be hired and the cost shared.

The person who acts as host or hostess will be responsible for table settings, drinks, and often bread. Usually it is better to let everyone bring whatever dish is most convenient. I personally have been to only one potluck where the food was "out of balance." That one was mostly desserts, which are my weakness, and I enjoyed it.

Our recipes this month are for two quick dishes. The first one can be prepared the night before, and the other put together in 10 or 15 minutes the day of the event.

Vegetable marinade

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 lb. fresh broccoli | 1 cup vegetable oil |
| 1 small head cauliflower | ½ cup sugar |
| 8 large fresh mushrooms, sliced | ½ cup vinegar |
| 3 stalks celery, chopped | 1 teaspoon salt |
| small onion, grated | 2 tablespoons poppy seed |
| | 2 teaspoons dry mustard |

Wash and break up broccoli and cauliflower into bite-size pieces. Place vegetables in large bowl. Combine oil, sugar, vinegar, and seasonings. Stir well and add to vegetables, tossing to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 3 hours. Serves 10.

Quick peach gelatin salad

- 1 3-oz. box peach gelatin
- 1 16-oz. carton small curd cottage cheese
- 4-5 peaches, peeled and chopped
- small carton whipped dairy topping

Mix together dry peach gelatin and cottage cheese. Add peaches and dairy topping. Mix. Refrigerate until served.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. James E. McPherson, Baptist representatives to Gaza, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 20, Gaza via Israel). He was born in Texas, and lived in New Mexico and California. The former Sharon Hanson, she was born in Bentonville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Rees Jr., missionaries to Honduras, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 515 Tallowood Dr. #31, Houston, TX 77024). He was born in Missouri and lived in Jonesboro while growing up. The former Martha French, she was born in California and grew up in Missouri. They were appointed in 1978.

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Lynn Madden will join the staff of Little Rock Immanuel Church Aug. 24 as minister of music. He will come to Little Rock from Mobile, Ala., where he has served as minister of music at Dauphin Way Church since 1982, developing a music program there of 19 groups with an enrollment of 700. He also has served as minister of music at Twelfth Street Church in Gadsden, Ala. Madden is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, Melodie, age eight, and Philip, age three.

Marvin Murphree has joined the staff of Camden First Church as minister of music. He formerly served as minister of music and youth at First Church of Lakeside in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a July graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Murphree and his wife, Debra, have two daughters, Melissa and Angela.

Judy Focht recently observed her fifth anniversary of service as receptionist and secretary at Little Rock Second Church.

Jo Ellen Ford of Little Rock has accepted a position on the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Foundation Fund, a voluntary support group for the UAMS and its programs. She is a member of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, where she served as a Sunday School teacher for 15 years.

Lucelle Newton is retiring Sept. 28 as organist of Camden First Church following 50 years of service. The church will observe "Lucelle Newton Day" on that date.

Matt Porter has resigned as director of music and youth at Harrison Northvale Church to continue his studies at Ouachita Baptist University.

George McGraw is serving as pastor of New Hope Church at Greenwood. He has been serving in Buckner Association.

Patty Huston was honored July 27 by Rosedale Church in Little Rock in recognition of seven years of perfect attendance Sunday School, Church Training and in both morning and evening worship services. She received a pin and certificate for her attendance records.



Madden



Murphree

Alan Quigley has resigned as minister of youth at Fordyce First Church to enroll in Southwestern Baptist Theological.

Vern Falk is serving as interim pastor of Burlington Church.

Bob and Nancy Schaefer who have served as Wycliffe Bible Translators in Ghana, West Africa since 1971, have returned there following a year's work in the U.S. where they have been proofreading the Frafra New Testament and preparing the manuscript for publication. The first copies arrived in Ghana in August. The Schaefer's are former members of Eureka Springs First Church.

briefly

Stateline Church at Winthrop dedicated a new parsonage July 20 at 2 p.m. Pastor Roy Gene Brooks led the service. James Cannon, director of missions for Little River Association, was speaker.

Oak Cliff Church in Fort Smith recently sponsored two mission projects by sending 22 youth to Gotebo, Okla., for a week-end revival and youth sponsored activities that resulted in two professions of faith and by sending 24 adults to Loveland, Colo., to assist in the construction of an auditorium for Derby Hill Church. Oak Cliff recently ordained Larry Biggs and Keith Patterson to the deacon ministry, according to Pastor Phil Whitten.

Tennessee Church at Texarkana celebrated its 102nd anniversary Aug. 10 with a 1 p.m. service, featuring special music and messages by former pastors. Billy Gene West is pastor.

Jonesboro Fisher Street Church will observe Jerry and Barbara Schleiiff Appreciation Day Aug. 17, prior to their returning to their Foreign Mission Board assignment in Zimbabwe.

Newport First Church mission team returned July 19 from Crown Point, Ind., where they spent a week assisting Emmanuel Church with backyard Bible clubs, noon Bible studies, a youth choir concert, puppet ministries and evening revival services. Newport Pastor Gene Crawley and Doug Moore, minister of music and youth, coordinated the mission trip and assisted with services.

Batesville First Church mission team



Swimming pool baptism—Military Road Church at Jacksonville had an unusual baptismal service July 13, baptizing Delbert Pierce in the swimming pool at the home of church member Robert Estes. Pierce, age 56, has been confined to a wheelchair for 40 years. Pastor Holland T. Ball, assisted by deacons, conducted the service.

has returned from Muncie, Ind., where they assisted in backyard Bible clubs and the organization of a mission.

Goshen Mission met in a mobile chapel for the first time July 16. Pastor Farrell Ard reported that 37 were in attendance for the Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer time. There were 29 in Sunday School and 33 present for the worship service July 20.

Jonesboro Central Church will launch a 16-week evangelism training emphasis Aug. 15 with an Evangelism Explosion banquet featuring Jim Robinson of Broken Arrow, Okla., as speaker.

Northpoint Church in Little Rock will observe its 50th anniversary Sept. 14 with homecoming. Bill Lewis, director of missions for Harmony Association, will be speaker. His father, the late Lee Lewis, served as the church's first pastor. Pastor Steve Harrelson reported activities also will include a noon luncheon and afternoon program.

Fordyce First Church mission team has returned from a summer assignment in Virginia.

Marble Falls Church observed a "Holy Spirit Day" June 29 that resulted in seven professions of faith and three additions to the church. Pastor Roger Carson also reports 12 decisions with nine professions of faith in a recent vacation Bible school.

Mandeville Church at Texarkana ordained Jimmie Reed to the deacon ministry July 27. Pastor Maynard Whipple served as moderator.

Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, at the recommendation of the Baptist Men, has voted to establish a linkage with Memorial Chapel in New Castle, Ind. Plans include financial help; a revival conducted by Fort Smith Pastor James Bryant; and a Sunday School enlargement campaign led by Steve Stege; a youth mission trip and construction assistance.

Bayou Meto Church near Jacksonville or-

ained James Spears to the deacon ministry Aug. 31 in a service led by Pastor Bill Brown.

Fort Smith East Side Church 34-member mission team recently recented from Winslow, Ariz., where they worked with the Navajo Indians at the Leupp Mission.

Augusta First Church mission team have returned from 10 days of ministry and witnessing in Griffin, Ga.

Judsonia First Church has organized layshpherding teams composed of deacons, their wives and two other lay persons. The purpose of these teams are to meet the needs of church families, according to Pastor Ray Meador.

Brinkley First Church honored Pastor and Mrs. Jim McDaniel with a reception on Aug. 3 in recognition of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village will observe its fifth anniversary Aug. 31 with morning and evening worship services and a 7:30 p.m. "afterglow" fellowship.

Douglasville Church will observe homecoming Aug. 24. Pastor Glen Smith reported activities will include Sunday School, morning worship, a potluck noon meal and an afternoon musical program.

Mena First Church honored Bee Gillam and Iona Deramus Aug. 3 for their years of service in the church nursery.

South Side Church in Pine Bluff has opened a youth house that will be open for special youth activities Wednesday through Saturday evenings.

New Liberty Church near Blytheville is having as featured speakers this month Russell Ozier, a layman from Blytheville; Royall Duffer of League City, Texas, and Alvin McGill of Blytheville, both former pastors; Bobby Floyd and Tom Schmidt.

First Southern Church of Central City will hold special services Aug. 18-20 at 7 p.m. J. Harold Smith will be speaker.

East End Church at Little Rock will observe its 50th anniversary Aug. 24 with traditional morning services, a potluck luncheon and afternoon musical program, according to Pastor David Masterton.



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

A portable chapel was dedicated Aug. 3 for the recently-launched Gamaliel Chapel on Highway 101 north of Lake Norfork. The chapel, which held its first service June 22, is sponsored by Eastside Church, Mountain Home. Arthur Hudson and Al Hopkins, two Praxis volunteers from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, helped get the mission off the ground by conducting community surveys and holding backyard Bible clubs in the area. The surveys revealed 80 prospect families in the community. The six-acre site was purchased by the White River Association, and the portable chapel was placed on the land by the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Among those participating in the dedication service were Byron Allen, pastor of Eastside Church; Joe Carrigan, Eastside mission committee chairman; Howard Kizer, associational missions committee chairman and pastor of Yellville First Church; Ed Powers, White River Association director of missions; and Floyd Tidsworth, ABSC church extension director.



Sports, gospel meet at Crosspoint camps

text and photos by Jim Veneman

ARKADELPHIA— "When the desire to excel athletically and the message of Jesus Christ . . . meet," was written on the backs of T-shirts worn by campers attending Crosspoint at Ouachita Baptist University.

In its first summer, Crosspoint, sponsored by the Sunday School Board's church recreation department, is being held this summer on seven Baptist college campuses. It is designed for boys and girls who have completed the fourth through eighth grades and who wish to improve their skills in one of six sports: tennis, basketball, baseball, football, soccer and gymnastics.

Deane Hartzell, camp director from the board's church recreation department, said that Crosspoint should not be viewed only as a sports camp.

"It's not only sports. Each day they're involved in Bible study, worship, singing, and fellowship together. A strong emphasis is placed on building relationships between campers and staff. We put the spiritual and the physical together and have a good time with all of it," he said.

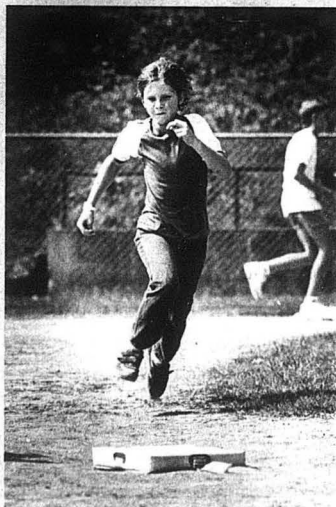
Lee Sanders, minister of youth at First

Church, Columbus, Miss., brought a group from his church to Crosspoint. "Rather than competitive tension, bonding develops here through the program's healthy approach to team building," he said. Crosspoint works to answer legitimate needs in the lives of these young people. A lot of groundwork is laid here."

A note written by Kris Traughber, Lone Oak Church, Paducah, Ky., to two of the staff was evidence of the impact Crosspoint can have, Hartzell said. The note read, "You have taught me a lot, but most of all you have taught me how to love one another and to work as a team."

Hartzell said eight sites are scheduled for next summer and that his enrollment goal is 1,750. Two of his future goals include more Crosspoint camps nationwide and additional traveling teams. "Once people realize what Crosspoint camps really are, I believe they will grow rapidly," he said.

Jim Veneman, a former staff member at Ouachita Baptist University, now works for the Baptist Sunday School Board.





(Far left) Along with individual skills, learning to work as a team is part of the Crosspoint daily diet. Team members from Arkansas and Louisiana plan their strategy in an early morning football practice. Left to right: Andy Holmes, Woodlawn Church, Little Rock; Ryan Fowler, First Church, Brinkley; Will Rusher, Central Church, Jonesboro; Will Fox, First Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff; and Michael Durham, Luddington Church, De Ridder, La.

(Bottom, far left) Goal setting discussed in the classroom takes on a new dimension as Joshua Slack, Luddington Church, De Ridder, La., runs for second base.

(Left) As each day ends, the campers from First Church, Columbus, Miss., join together for room devotions.

(Bottom, left) Following the directions of the staff song leader, Crosspoint campers enjoy a spirited rendition of the action song, "Father Abraham."

(Below) Kyle Washburn, West Church, Batesville, raises a question during one of the afternoon classroom sessions.



Guardianship of a mentally disabled family member

In the introductory article for this series on planning for disability we said some ways to plan for disability, including guardianship, would be explained. Actually, reliance on the guardianship proceeding represents no planning at all for disability. Since, however, it is the primary means by which we deal with a family member's mental disability, we thought it wise to include it.

When a person who has not prepared for disability becomes mentally incompetent to make decisions regarding his residence, health care and the management and investment of his property and assets, a guardian should be appointed to make such decisions for him. Incompetency can result from such things as insanity, mental illness, senility, other mental disorders caused by an accident, habitual drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, advanced age and physical disability.

Normally, the appointed guardian will be a family member. However, if the incompetent person has no family or there is no

member of his family who is willing and qualified to serve, a bank or court-selected attorney may be appointed.

In Arkansas the guardianship proceeding is instituted when the proposed guardian or some party in interest has an attorney prepare and file in the probate court in the county where the incompetent person is domiciled, a petition or request for the appointment of a guardian. The petition must apprise the court of things such as the nature of the alleged incapacity of the incompetent person, approximate value and description of his property, identities of persons most closely related to the incompetent person, reasons the appointment of a guardian is sought and the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding.

The course the proceeding takes after the petition is filed is dependent on the circumstances of the individual case. Some or all of the following steps will be undertaken in a typical guardianship proceeding: a court hearing or series of hearings will be conducted in which testimony concerning the alleged incapacity can be taken from medical personnel; notice of the petition and hearing date(s) must be given certain interested and presumably interested parties; an attorney may be appointed to represent and

protect the interests of the alleged incompetent; and the guardian, if appointed, will be required to file annual or more frequent accountings with the court verifying the guardian's administration of the incompetent person's estate.

It should be apparent from this cursory description of the guardianship proceeding that it is often fraught with delay, expense and uncertainty. Nevertheless, for the vast majority of people, guardianship represents the only way in which they and their property can be provided for and managed should mental incapacity strike them. That is a gamble and the stakes can be high.

Fortunately, for the Christian steward there are alternatives to the guardianship proceeding. Major among these alternatives is the durable power of attorney, which will be the topic of the next article in this series. Its proper use can provide as much protection and management as the guardianship proceeding without the delay, expense and uncertainty.

For more information, 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.



Page



SBTS photo

Couple endows seminary chair—Mr. and Mrs. Hill Williams of First Church, Fort Smith recently made a \$500,000 commitment to establish the Donald L. Williams Chair of Old Testament Interpretation at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The gift will recognize their son, who taught Old Testament at Southern Seminary from 1961 until his death in 1983 from cancer. A native of Fort Smith, Williams was a graduate of Baylor University, Southern Methodist University, Southern Seminary and Duke University. Prior to joining the faculty at Southern Seminary, Williams served as an assistant in the English department at Baylor and as an instructor in the religion department at Duke University.

Free gospel concert to feature Jeannie C. Riley

On August 21 at 7 p.m., the Little Red River Association will present a special gospel concert featuring Nashville recording artist Jeannie C. Riley at the Dam Site Recreation Area in Heber Springs. There will be 1,000 chairs provided in an area about 25 yards east of the new pavilion, but Little Red River Association encourages those attending to bring lawn chairs. There will be no admission charged for this event.

Riley rose to national fame at age 22 with her hit recording of "Harper Valley P. T. A." Her testimony relates how her overnight success came close to destroying her life and marriage, until she made a decision in 1972 to put Christ before her success.

Baptists bemoan Libya raid

LONDON—A resolution on terrorism adopted by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland condemned the United States' "retaliatory use of arms" against Libya. The union's resolution decried "individual and state terrorism" practiced "throughout the political spectrum" and urged the British government to oppose terrorism "in concert with the widest possible international community." Retaliation is "ineffective against terrorism," the resolution said, adding, "We believe that all human life is of value in the sight of God."

Shared Ministry brings new trust, involvement to congregation

by Jim Lowry

RUSSELLVILLE (BP)—Sunday morning pew-sitting does not make a person a part of the church. Christians actively must participate in sharing ministry responsibilities, maintains Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville.

"Our thinking is that we want to have a great ministry, not a great church," Davis continues, noting there is a new atmosphere of mutual trust and responsibility at First Church because of Shared Ministry, an emphasis which promotes on a biblical basis the development of healthy relationships between pastors, church staff, deacons and church members.

The emphasis affirms the pastor as the overseer/leader of the church who equips members for ministry. This multiplies the ministry of Christ through persons who lead by example.

Last fall, Davis and the other three staff members realized changes were needed if the church was to meet the community's needs, he explains.

After initial meetings and discussions with the deacons, 15 ministry needs were identified, from which six were selected as the most urgent ones to be included in their Shared Ministry effort. The six areas were prayer, single-parent children, senior adults, crisis outreach, counseling and sick persons. Deacons chose an area in which to work and soon realized help was needed.

"After the first month, the deacons came to me and said, 'We can't do everything. How can the church staff accomplish all that is needed?'" Davis reports they asked him. "We can't," was his honest reply.

(BP) photo by Jim Veneman



Counseling is one of six areas of Shared Ministry selected by members of First Church, Russellville, such as Jim Dickerson (right).

(BP) photo by Jim Veneman



Dick Patton (right) spends time frequently with David Faulkner as part of a ministry to single parent children in the Shared Ministry emphasis at First Church, Russellville.

During the first opportunity to sign up for one of the ministry groups, 153 church members said they wanted to help. In March of this year, church members met for the first time in the ministry groups. Training was led by professionals to give members better expertise for helping people they encounter.

"Sharing ministry generates a sense of value for what the church is all about," Davis explains. "Church members began to understand ministry.

"For instance, communication among our church members has been dramatically improved because the members of different ministry areas must share information to effectively do their work," he says. "The prayer ministry group needs regular reports from all the ministry areas to be effective. And someone in the crisis ministry will often find a person who needs counseling.

"This effort was not a project of the staff and deacons of the church, but the people's and the Lord's," Davis adds. "The people got a vision of what they can do. Now they don't want to miss an opportunity to pitch-in and help.

"There is no set formula for making Shared Ministry work," he continues. "The different goals, personalities and gifts of members require time to let God work with people. Shared Ministry gives church members a

tangible avenue of expression for their Christianity. These ministries are how we can carry out the mission of our church.

"When the people began to understand ministry, our church also began to benefit financially," he says. "As people see practical places for their money to be spent, they are supportive.

"At first, nothing happened when we announced the Shared Ministry idea, but then it started. The people got their own vision because they had a whole new accountability to the Lord. With this kind of motivation, people are more ready to get involved.

"My role as pastor has been solidified and enhanced by Shared Ministry," he relates. "Church members are excited and challenged to follow me because they know they can make a difference."

Davis, who has been at First Church for two years, says he firmly believes his church is making a difference in its community, because other churches have contacted him to ask about Shared Ministry.

Shared Ministry is sponsored by the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Jim Lowry writes for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

South Highland celebrates, dedicates

ABN photos / Millie Gill



Above, an overflow crowd of 543 and the observance of the church's 70th anniversary highlighted dedication day at South Highland Church in Little Rock Aug. 3. A \$550,000 two-story educational building was dedicated in a 2 p.m. service which featured Don Moore, Executive Director of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, as speaker. Recognized as building committee members were Galen Johnson, chairman, Doug Coney, Emma Lee Creelman, Wanda Linsley, Sandy Pilkington, Bill Rich, Cindy Rogers, Bernard Sharp, George Sims and Orland Henderson. The building houses 18 classrooms for all pre-school age children and two adult adult classes and a fellowship hall with a seating capacity of 450. It was necessitated by a membership growth that began and continues as a result of membership participation in the Christian Witness Training program. Below, dedication participants watched eagerly as (left to right) Bill Hollingsworth and Pastor James E. Hays positioned a birthday cake decorated with replicas of the five buildings used by the congregation in its 70 years of service to the Southern Baptist Convention, Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Pulaski Association. Included in its history was the organization of a Little Rock mission, now known as Ceyer Springs First Church.

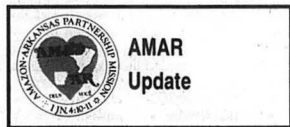


Visitation days for OBU prospects announced

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University director of admissions counseling Randy Garner has announced visitation days during the 1986-87 academic year for prospective students. "These are special days at Ouachita that we feel will be of some significance to high school juniors, seniors, and transfers considering enrolling at OBU," said Garner.

The schedule of visitation days at OBU is: Sept. 20, Preview Day; Oct. 11, Venture; Oct. 19-20, Christian Ministry Forum (invitation only); Nov. 1, Preview Day; Nov. 15, OBU Homecoming; Nov. 20-21, President's Leadership Forum (invitation only); Feb. 12-13, President's Leadership Forum (invitation only); Feb. 28, Day of Play; March 7, Day of Play; April 9-11, Tiger Tunes; April 10, Preview Day; and April 10, Scholarship Banquet (invitation only).

For more information on any of the events, persons should contact Garner at OBU, P. O. Box 3776, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, or by calling (501) 246-4531, ext. 3776.



Pine Bluff Central Church has sent a team composed of Pastor Dennis Davis and his wife, Louise, to Brazil as a part of the AMAR project. They are serving as conference leaders at a camp outside of Manaus for church leaders from the interior.

Crossett First Church held a service Aug. 10 to here reports from James Gilbert and Bob and Greg Bridges on their volunteer work in Brazil. Rev. and Mrs. Warren Rose, missionaries to Brazil, were in attendance, presenting special music and a message.

For information about the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission, contact Glendon Grober, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501) 376-4791.

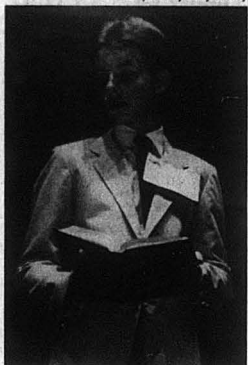
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Drill winner—State Bible drill winner Cliff Jones from Perryville First Church was among state winners participating in a demonstration drill recently at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. The Arkansas winner of the Youth Speakers' Tournament was Melinda Whitford, Beryl Church, Vilonia (not pictured).



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Volunteer service leads to Journeyman work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Winning eight Brazilians to Christ on a mission trip sparked a volunteer's interest in the journeyman program, he said during a journeyman commissioning service.

Kurt Bryant, 23, of Fort Smith, Ark., was one of 57 young men and women commissioned July 25 in Richmond. As a journeyman, he will spend two years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board program as a student worker in the Baptist Center in San Jose, Costa Rica.

His interest came as a result of a last-minute decision to go on a partnership mission trip to Brazil. Bryant, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bryant, was chosen to go in his mother's place after she became ill.

He and other volunteers walked door to door with an interpreter and shared the gospel with Brazilians in the summer of 1985. About 500 people accepted Christ in a week.

"The Lord used me and gave me the opportunity to lead eight people to Christ in one afternoon," Bryant recalled. "I was able to lead more people to Christ in two hours than I had been able to in my entire Christian life of nine years."

Another journeyman and former volunteer who spoke during the commissioning ser-

vice was Phil Nelson, a Rockwood, Tenn., native. He will work as an English teacher in a student center in Bangkok, Thailand.

Nelson, 25, became a Christian at 17. He said his Christian life had been "business as usual" until 18 months ago when he learned of a request from the board for volunteers to Hong Kong.

He spent two weeks of vacation in a mission camp in Hong Kong. Talking to missionaries throughout the trip, "I realized that you didn't necessarily have to be a pastor to serve on the mission field," he said. "God can use ordinary people."

The accountant looked at the journeyman program and wondered if it would take away two years of his career. He decided he would be investing in his career. "I would grow, stretch my horizons and have a new perspective on the world," he said.

He thought of a passage in Acts 8 in which the disciple Philip had developed a good ministry in Samaria. Crowds were there and miracles were happening. Yet God told Philip to take the desert road, he said. There, God had prepared the heart of the Ethiopian eunuch to receive the gospel.

Nelson had a nice job, benefits and good hours. "Yet, I knew the Lord was calling me to take that desert road," he explained.

"What started out as me giving up two weeks of my vacation has since resulted in me giving up my vocation. But it's a new vocation, and it's to do his will," Nelson said. "That's all that matters in this life—to do God's will—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."

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Maasai leaders plan strategy

THIKA, Kenya—Responding to the openness of their tribespeople to the gospel, 52 Maasai Baptist leaders in Kenya met recently for a four-day of prayer, study and planning. "Our time has come" is frequently heard among Maasai Baptists, who have 19 churches, including the five new ones added during the past year.

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International

Courageous convictions

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

Basic passage: Daniel 1

Focal passage: Daniel 1:3-5; 8-13,15-17

Central truth: Faithfulness to the Lord is to be valued over worldly considerations.

The explanation of how Daniel and his friends ended up in the foreign king's court is given in verses 3 and 4. They were the most competent Hebrew youths available and were selected to receive training in the Chaldean language and learning (v.4). One explanation for this training program is that these youths from Judah's royal line might serve Nebuchadnezzar well in future administration of Jewish affairs.

The education program itself did not violate the religious principles of these young men. However, their environment and circumstances soon presented some real tests. At the king's order, the youth were provided with food supplies for their training period. The problem was that the royal food was lavish (called "rich food" in the RSV), and contained food forbidden to the Jewish people by the Mosaic Law.

Would Daniel and his friends compromise or would they stand by their religious convictions? The dilemma faced by these Jewish youths was a supreme test of their faithfulness to their God and his law. Daniel handled this difficult situation by resolving in his heart that he would not defile himself, and by suggesting an alternate solution to the problem. Daniel's decision reflected his faith in God, showed courage to stand by his convictions, and displayed unusual wisdom and common sense. The text also makes it clear the God prepared the way for these young men by bringing Daniel into favor with his supervisor (v. 9).

In every age, God's people are faced with manifold temptations to compromise their religious convictions. One of the most prevalent temptations of our day lies in the area of alcohol consumption. Quite often the office celebration or the company get-together turns out to be nothing more than a drinking party with all kinds of loud and lewd behavior. Frequently the serving and consuming of alcoholic beverages is expected of those who would advance in a company or corporation. The stand of Daniel and his friends provides an excellent example of wisdom, faith and courage for all who are tempted to compromise their basic convictions.

Life and Work

Human sexuality

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

Basic passage: Genesis 2:21-25; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Focal passage: Genesis 2:21-25; 1 Corinthians 6:9,11,13,18-19

Central truth: Human sexuality is God's good gift to humanity and he disapproves its misuse.

Our nation has experienced what some call a "sexual revolution." Christians call it an abandonment of moral values. For almost three decades our nation has been assaulted by magazines, movies and television programs that advocate sex as simply another indoor/outdoor sport.

One writer says in pornographic magazines the models "are posed in sexually explicit and undignified ways, as if they were pieces of animated meat on display for male customers." The issue, then, is not one of simple nudity. The Bible speaks clearly to this issue. "You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, . . . It is lewdness" (Lev. 18:17 NASB). Those who advocate the exposition of the naked human body, male or female, are in direct opposition to the Word of God.

God made sex. God saw everything he had made and it was good. This means sex is good. Like everything else, man in his sinful state can pervert it to evil. God intended sex to be holy and pure. It is holy and pure when experienced between a man and woman who are committed to each other.

God said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." This goes beyond the violation of the marriage relationship. "Commit adultery" actually means to make impure. This goes far beyond the common understanding of the word. It covers extramarital sex, pre-marital sex, lesbianism, and homosexuality. It forbids sex outside the marriage relationship.

Paul treated the subject as one of great importance. In 1 Corinthians 6:13-19 Paul says the human body is to be used to honor God. He points out that the Holy Spirit lives in the believer. Any evil done by a believer involves the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:27-28 tell us that God man mankind. He blessed their maleness and femaleness. He blessed sex. He told them to use sex in the context of family and the continuation of the race. Human sexuality is a blessing from God. We must use it as such.

Bible Book

Genuine worship

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

Basic passage: Zechariah 7:1-8:23

Focal passage: Zechariah 7:4-1; 8:18-23

Central truth: The vitality of our faith in God is reflected in how we worship.

Sunday after Sunday we follow the same routine. After all, we like familiarity. There is nothing wrong with that unless we allow sameness to become dullness and ultimately deadness to worship. This was a problem during Zechariah's time. The question was asked as to whether they should continue as they had for many years (7:3).

God's answer to the question was given in questions. They had to do with purpose. Was the worship unto the Lord or was it for themselves (7:5,6)? This deals with the very heart of worship. Genuine worship should result in a refreshing relationship between God and his people. It is a time to acknowledge him, listen to him and respond to him.

The words of God through his prophets were to be heard (7:7). We have much more scripture than they had so we too must heed his words. But there is more. When we hear we become responsible to act accordingly. We are told to execute true judgment, show mercy and compassion to others. We are to refrain from oppression of the widow, the fatherless, the stranger and the poor (7:9,10).

If we practice injustice and harsh dealings with others taking advantage of their condition for personal gain, we have not properly worshipped God. It is one thing to sit through a worship service as a spectator, but quite a different thing to be a participant in worship. Indeed worship is a verb. It requires our full involvement.

God speaks to his people through his word. As it is proclaimed we become responsible to follow his admonitions. When his people refuse to hearken and backslide by stopping their ears and hardening their hearts (7:11-12), they are inviting the judgment of God upon them. Israel's refusal resulted in their being taken into captivity. We can rest assured that if we ignore God's word to us we too shall experience his judgment.

When we express our faith in God through genuine worship and obedience true joy and gladness will be ours (8:19). We will leave the worship service refreshed and reconciled to God.

SBC Peace Committee plans seminary, agency parleys

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee began its second year of deliberations by planning two meetings, one with seminary presidents and the other with leaders of all 20 national agencies of the SBC.

The committee, according to chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church of Roanoke, Va., began its new year by "looking forward" to presenting recommendations about how to solve the seven-year controversy in the 14.4-million-member denomination "rather than backward to the history of the controversy itself."

The 22-member group approved a plan to meet with agency and seminary leaders to seek input from the institutions on possible solutions to the denomination's controversy.

Five members of the committee will meet in mid-September with the presidents of the six SBC-related seminaries.

Peace Committee members scheduled to meet with seminary leaders include committee Chairman Fuller; Vice Chairman Charles Pickering, an attorney from Laurel, Miss., and chairmen of the three subcommittees which visited the seminaries last spring; Jim Henry, pastor of First Church of Orlando, Fla.; Harmon Born, an Atlanta automobile dealer, and William Crews, pastor of Magnolia Avenue Church in Riverside, Calif.

The full Peace Committee will meet in mid-October with leaders of all 20 national agencies at a prayer retreat at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"We are putting a lot of hope into the input and response we will receive at these upcoming meetings with agency leaders and seminary presidents," Fuller said.

"We are looking forward to what they will have to say to us that is fresh and promising as we seek to fulfill the assignment the convention in Dallas gave to us," Fuller added.

The committee, which was appointed at the 1985 annual meeting of the convention in Dallas, made an interim report to the 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta and asked for another year in which to complete its work. The committee must make a final report at the 1987 convention in St. Louis.

The preliminary report, in addition to asking for another year, also reported the group had found "significant theological diversity" in the six seminaries and the convention at large and decried the current level of political activity in the convention as detrimental.

The committee asked that 1986-87 be a year of intercessory prayer and that warring factions declare a moratorium on political-theological position meetings for one year to allow them to work without distraction.

Fuller told Baptist Press the first meeting of the second year was marked by a "forward thrust rather than a backward glance" on the part of committee members, all of whom were present except immediate past

SBC president Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, who reported he was unable to attend because of a family illness.

"In my mind the most significant thing that occurred was the disposition and mood of committee members to move off rehearsing and discussing of old issues that was so often repeated last year," Fuller said. "The disposition was to get on with decision making."

"They seemed to be saying in many ways, 'Let's get on with it!'"

Fuller said that while there appeared to be no disposition to "cycle back and rehash old debates, the meeting featured more frequent candor and confrontation than there has been in previous meetings."

He said the committee has voted to present a preliminary report of the findings and recommendations at the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, and to have the report released for publication in the Book of Reports and for general distribution to Southern Baptists by early March.

"We will make a preliminary report at the February meeting and then with that input, will complete the final report by the first of March, so that the convention at large will have time to reflect on it and what it means. We want messengers to come to the convention informed and ready to act," Fuller said.

"We want messengers to know what the report says rather than what somebody else says it says," the chairman added.

Fuller said he believes the committee will make a report of "substance" to the St. Louis meeting, but warned it "may not be as encompassing as some may have thought it

would be when we were first conceived."

"There are many things people would like for the Peace Committee to speak to. But I do not think the Peace Committee can deal with as many matters as some would like. I think the report will deal with those issues which we believe we can deal and those likely will not be as extensive as some people might want. So, some people may be a bit disappointed with us."

Fuller said he believes it "has become apparent we are going to have to focus our attention on primary matters that are at the base of our controversy."

He said the basic focus will be the "theological parameters under which we have fellowship and can work together to do missions and evangelism. Those basically deal with the Baptist Faith and Message statement, its interpretation and what that means to our agencies."

Fuller previously had said the question which must be addressed is how broad the theological diversity can be without deteriorating fellowship and ability to work together as a denomination.

He added those who are looking for some sort of definitive statement on subjects like abortion or women's ordination will be disappointed because the report of the committee probably will not deal with them.

"Of course, committee members have very definite feelings on these sorts of matters, but we do not believe that is to be the work of the committee," Fuller concluded.

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.



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Sept. 8 a.m., p.m.	First Church, Monticello
Sept. 9 p.m., Sept. 10 a.m.	First Church, Hope
Sept. 11 a.m., p.m.	First Church, Mena
Sept. 15 a.m., p.m.	East Side Church, Fort Smith
Sept. 16 p.m., Sept. 17 a.m.	First Church, Bentonville
Sept. 18 a.m., p.m.	First Church, Mountain Home
Sept. 29 a.m., p.m.	East Side Church, Paragould
Sept. 30 p.m., Oct. 1 a.m.	First Church, West Memphis
Oct. 2 p.m.	Calvary Church, Little Rock

Dry sessions 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Conferences: WMU and BW/BYW officers; Acteens leaders; GA leaders; Mission Friends leaders
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Texas churches battle energy crunch, farm crisis

DALLAS (BP)—In the midst of an energy industry crunch and a farm crisis that have plunged Texas into its worst economic slump since the Great Depression, Southern Baptists in the state are seeking to minister to the unemployed and economically distressed.

In March, the Baptist General Convention of Texas created a rural economic crisis task force to gather and disseminate information, recommend action by the state convention and study participation in interdenominational responses to the crisis. The task force now is collecting materials for a resource packet that will help churches minister to people in economic crisis.

The Texas Christian Life Commission is working with other religious groups to organize a series of city-wide forums to be held across the state this fall. The forums will examine the economic crisis in Texas and are designed to inform the religious community and social service providers of possible cuts to human services programs.

At its June meeting, the Texas convention's executive board adopted a resolution expressing concern for victims of economic crises and support for those involved in ministering to them.

"We can be inspired and led by the innovative and effective ministries of churches which are already involved in responding to economic crises in meeting physical and emotional as well as spiritual need," the resolution said. "We applaud churches, associations and others for the various kinds of help provided to those harmed by the crisis and encourage other churches and associations as well as the staff of the executive board and of the institutions of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to engage in such ministry."

Throughout the state, Texas Baptists are rising to the challenge of meeting human need in tough economic times.

In East Texas, a Baptist university professor has developed a seminar to help the unemployed of that region who have suffered from the declines in agribusiness and in energy-related industries. Thomas Watson, chairman of the speech communication department at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, created a three-hour course called "Project Job Search."

The course is designed to teach to persons seeking jobs techniques such as assessing their skills, writing employment briefs and preparing for an interview. Unlike similar programs offered by corporate consultants for as much as \$350 per participant, Watson charges no more than \$10 per person, and in some instances churches have agreed to underwrite half that cost.

About 500 miles west, First Church of Lamesa is seeking to minister in a community hit hard both by the farm crisis and the oil

and gas collapse.

In March, the church offered its own version of "FarmAid" by sponsoring the West Texas Farm Family Weekend. About 600 High Plains farmers and their families attended the conference which included sessions on money management, bankruptcy and foreclosure as well as Bible study and gospel singing.

After the weekend event, the church set up a support group for farm families. The group met together for about six weeks, and one-on-one personal support continues. In the near future, the church will sponsor a breakfast meeting for business leaders in the Lamesa area who depend upon agribusiness or oil and gas.

"We want to be able to offer them a time of encouragement and have a chance to deal with them on a spiritual basis," said Pastor C.H. Murphy. An "Oilpatch Family Weekend" similar to the Farm Family Weekend also is being discussed.

A few miles to the southwest in Permian Association, the economic problems are almost exclusively related to oil and gas. In a town where unemployment is epidemic and local retailers are reporting current 30 to 50 percent losses, First Church of Andrews is postponing the fulfillment of its dreams for the good of those who have lost all hope of fulfilling theirs.

The church recently voted to set aside \$10,000 from its building fund and take all of its fifth Sunday undesignated offering which traditionally has gone to the building fund and devote those funds to community benevolence. Of the \$19,000 in the fund, First Church already has distributed about \$5,000, mostly to unemployed persons outside the church fellowship.

In the nearby Midland-Odessa area, several churches are reaching out in ministry to the unemployed. Central Church of Odessa is putting unemployed church members to work at the church facility. In preparation for a homecoming service, the church is remodeling its buildings using labor provided by otherwise unemployed church members. The members are paid hourly wages for their labor, said Pastor Von Dell Drinkard.

Crestview Church in Midland works with sister churches in the city to fund and staff a community crisis center. Crestview also operates a job placement service through the pastor's office, matching job opening leads with unemployed potential workers.

First Church of Midland operates two funds to aid the needy—a family assistance fund created for church members and an ongoing benevolence fund for persons outside the church. Pastor Dan Vestal also is chairman of the Midland Community Crisis Center committee, and the church actively participates in that ministry.