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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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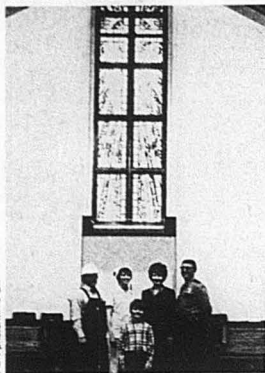
April 7, 1983

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Involving all members
in missions support:
Cooperative Program Day
page 2





ABSI Photo/Mike Gill

While Arkansas churches have a commendable record of participating in the Cooperative Program, as shown by a report on this page, it's essential that each new generation of Southern Baptists know and appreciate the plan if Southern Baptists are to meet the missions support challenges of the future. Persons of all ages and all walks of life in our churches must be taught how the Cooperative Program works and what is being accomplished through it.

In this issue

5 Front and center

The Southern Baptist Convention seems to be returning to the middle ground, a former SBC executive says. Albert McClellan sees the denomination "coming back from the extremism of the right".

8 Servant song

An El Dorado pastor set the tone for the annual national seminar of the Christian Life Commission of the SBC with his message advocating servanthood for Christians. Don Harbuck called servanthood the basic style and thrust of Christian living.

9 Social Security set

Ministers will be paying significantly more in taxes to the U.S. social security system under a compromise measure passed by Congress, but it could have been worse.

88 churches set giving pace

Forty-one churches in Arkansas gave more than \$41,000 each through the Cooperative Program during 1982 according to records from the convention's business office. Gifts ranged from \$276,733 by Immanuel, Little Rock to \$41,184 from First Church, Osceola.

According to the 1982 church letters, 47 churches voted to give 20 percent or more through the Cooperative Program. Since the church letters were compiled, some churches have increased their percentage for 1983.

The church listed below, along with hundreds of others, are worthy of commendation for their world vision. They serve as worthy examples for all churches as we observe Cooperative Program Day, April 17.

Churches with over \$40,000 contributed to Cooperative Program in 1982:

Immanuel, Little Rock, \$276,733; Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, \$222,141; Fort Smith, First, \$184,064; West Memphis, First, \$144,260; Geyer Springs, First, \$124,196; Crossett, First, \$119,334; Park Hill, No. Little Rock, \$114,144; Blytheville, First, \$105,760; Little Rock, First, \$102,750; Central, Magnolia, \$90,191;

Pine Bluff, First, \$78,325; Calvary, Little Rock, \$74,371; Searcy, First, \$73,434; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, \$73,395; Hot Springs, Second, \$70,385; Central, Jonesboro, \$69,323; Springdale, First, \$68,569; Camden, First, \$66,908; Beech Street, Texarkana, \$62,699; Immanuel, El Dorado, \$62,231;

Heber Springs, First, \$62,223; East Side, Fort Smith, \$59,997; Rogers, First, \$58,627; Cabot, First, \$51,277; Paragould, First, \$50,425; Hope, First, \$50,400; Stuttgart, First, \$49,837; Mountain Home, First, \$49,333; El Dorado, Second, \$49,148; Russellville, First, \$47,882;

Wynne, \$47,877; Harrison, First, \$45,979; Jacksonville, First, \$45,535; Fayetteville,

First, \$44,718; Jonesboro, First, \$44,430; Brinkley, First, \$43,930; Life Line, Little Rock, \$43,617; El Dorado, First, \$43,307; Smackover, First, \$42,218; Baring Cross, North Little Rock, \$42,068 and Osceola, First, \$41,184.

Churches committed to give 20 percent or more to Cooperative Program:

Fulton, 75 percent; Sparkman, First, 40 percent; Almyra, First, 39 percent; Hazen, First, 38 percent; Crossett, First, 29.5 percent; Des Arc, First, 28 percent; Dermott, First, 25.5 percent; Blytheville, First, 25 percent; Elaine, 25 percent; Holly Springs, Little Rock, 25 percent;

Lonoke, 25 percent; Stephens, First, 25 percent; Woodland Heights, Harrison, 25 percent; Maple Avenue, Smackover, 24 percent; Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, 23.5 percent; Calvary, Batesville, 22 percent; Carlisle, First, 22 percent; Earle, 22 percent; Oregon Flat, Harrison, 22 percent; Paragould, First, 22 percent;

West Memphis, First, 22 percent; Wilmot, 22 percent; Mena, First, 21.5 percent; Camden, First, 21 percent; Dardanelle, First, 21 percent; Immanuel, Little Rock, 21 percent; Osceola, First, 21 percent; Searcy, First, 21 percent; Temple, Searcy, 21 percent; Ashdown, First, 20 percent;

Cabot, First, 20 percent; Central, Bald Knob, 20 percent; Cross Roads, Loann, 20 percent; England, First, 20 percent; Fairfield Bay, 20 percent; Gentry, First, 20 percent; Hartford, First, 20 percent; Hope, First, 20 percent; Immanuel, Fort Smith, 20 percent; McGehee, First, 20 percent;

Mt. Olive, Heber Springs, 20 percent; Nashville, First, 20 percent; Pea Ridge, First, 20 percent; Pickles Gap, Conway, 20 percent; Piggott, First, 20 percent; Trumann, First, 20 percent and Waldron, First, 20 percent.

Saturday Evening Post reprints of SBC article offered for sale

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (BP) — An article on Southern Baptists, featured in the April edition of the *Saturday Evening Post*, is being made available to SBC churches in a special reprint format.

"The Southern Baptists: Not Just Whistling Dixie!" explains the current status, history, make up, theology, organization and scope of the 13.9 million member denomination in a way a non-Southern Baptist can understand, Wilmer C. Fields, director of public relations for the SBC Executive Committee, who wrote the article, said.

"The article is an excellent statement about a diverse and dynamic people," James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church in Euless, Texas, and president of the SBC, said. He sees the reprints, which cost 20 cents each, as "useful in evangelistic efforts."

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said the reprints, "can generate widespread interest among our own people as well as in the communities where they live and work."

A copy of the reprint and information on ordering them have been sent to all SBC pastors by the *Saturday Evening Post*.



The vast majority of our society today places material possessions above people. As a result our society has inverted values. Things are loved and people are used. Carnal man seeks possessions, power and self-pleasure, but spiritual man respects the value, worth and dignity of all men everywhere. In order to place people first, a person must be controlled by the Holy Spirit, rather than by material possessions.

Christians are not automatically exempt from a materialism which leads to using people rather than loving them. The Bible teaches that there are three classes of individuals. First, there is the lost person. This is an individual who has never had an initial saving encounter with God through Christ.

The second type has been saved by grace through faith but is controlled by his carnal nature. The Bible describes the carnal nature as the sin nature which was inherited from Adam. In salvation, a person receives the Holy Spirit, which indwells in him, but he is not freed from his carnal or sin nature.

It is because of the power of the carnal nature that a struggle persists in the life of every Christian. Paul describes the struggle in his own life as he said, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" (Rom. 7:15).

Paul knew quite well the things that were wrong, but he was unable to do right. He was like a doctor who could accurately diagnose a disease but was completely powerless to find a cure. Jesus is the only one who has a cure for our carnal nature.

The third type of person is one who is Spirit-controlled. To be Spirit controlled is not a once for all process. It is a daily experience. None among us would dare to say that he has the same commitment of the apostle Paul. If Paul had a continuing battle, each of us do also. However, by God's help, it is possible to place people first. Paul, the apostle, placed people above everything.

The question arises, "How can a carnal person be recognized?" The carnal man may attempt to exploit and manipulate others through fear. Such an individual may indicate that if his leadership is not followed, calamity will occur. Fear is a mighty influence and has been used to con-

trol churches, denominations and nations. The threat of the enemy may be real or imaginary. The intent always is to produce a particular result by the manipulator. The spiritual man knows that the victory is assured through Christ Jesus.

Another technique of the carnal man is to exploit others through prejudice. When prejudice is used to control, the manipulator will call attention to the fact that a person or a class of people is different from the majority. The difference may be in personality, culture, race or anything he finds convenient to mention. The spiritual person recognizes that God is "no respecter of persons" and that God values all people.

The carnal man, also, manipulates others through the use of hate. Hate may be directed at a target group, as Hitler did prior to the second world war. The Jews were portrayed as a dangerous enemy, to be hated and destroyed.

The carnal person, perhaps using legalistic standards, declares that those who do not follow his guidelines are dangerous and contemptible. This method is not new. The Pharisees used it long ago against our Lord. This pharisaical type legalism often leads to attempts to discredit others.

On one occasion the Pharisees asked Jesus, "Which is the greatest commandment in the law?" (Matt. 22:36). The intent was to engage Jesus in a debate over which of the laws was the greatest or most important. The Pharisees had isolated 613 commandments (365 negative, and 248 positive) which were to control the activities of a person's life. It appeared that no matter which of these Jesus chose, he would be challenged.

Jesus, in his response, summed up man's relationship to God and to his fellowman. A proper relationship begins with man's love of God and is issued in love for all men.

How does one recognize the carnal and manipulative man? It is by his lack of love and his fruit of hate. He is one who has a super ego and will do almost anything to have his way.

The spiritual man is one who loves God, and love issues in a love for people. He believes that things are used by people. People are first in his life and material possessions only have value as they help and enrich the lives of people.

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

OBU students selected to study abroad

ARKADELPHIA — Five Ouachita Baptist University students have been awarded scholarships for the 1983-84 academic year to Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan and to the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho, Nigeria as part of an exchange program between the schools.

The three students going to Japan are Bertram Barnes, a junior English major from Benton, who was awarded a full scholarship which includes tuition, room and board and fees; Ruth Williams, a freshman music major from Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Laura Efur, a sophomore communications major from Mililani, Hawaii, who were awarded scholarships for tuition only.

The students were chosen by a 10-member Japanese Exchange committee which includes various students, administration and faculty members.

The three students will leave for the Japanese university in August. They will be the ninth group of OBU students to go to Japan as part of the exchange program in as many years.

The two students to attend the Nigerian university are Scott Stewart, a senior history major from Franklin, and Terry Morris, a junior speech major from Dickinson, Texas. Both were awarded full scholarships which includes tuition, fees, room and board for the year.

Their first semester in Nigeria will be spent at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho and the second semester working for the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Abadan, the capitol of Nigeria.

SB Pastor heads agency

WASHINGTON (BP) — A former Southern Baptist pastor has been appointed to head the Older Americans Volunteer Program of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency.

C. Wade Freeman Jr., former pastor of the Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church, in Washington, D.C. had been special assistant to the director of OAVP since November 1981. His promotion as director took effect Jan. 14.

possibly be coincidental?

Surrounded by unbelievers who are watching and listening to Christian conversation, it is sad to know that 'luck' and 'coincidence' might be listed as part of the believer's platform of faith. Shouldn't we carefully consider our application of words which conflict with what God has promised his own?

— Mrs. Patsy Horton, Little Rock

What responsibility does an academy award winner have?

Richard Dreyfuss, the Academy Award-winning actor, was being interviewed on a national radio network discussion led by a college student, and I listened by car radio. Dreyfuss was asked, "Following your recent arrest for possession of cocaine, do you have any sense of regret or guilt in terms of your responsibility for personal example, especially for American young people?" Dreyfuss replied, "Absolutely not. The only responsibility I have is to my family. Other than that, the only responsibility I have to anybody — young or old — is to do a good job of acting."

I was appalled at hearing such an amoral and irresponsible disclaimer from the lips of such a good actor. "The play is the thing," to be sure, but the overpowering personal influence of Hollywood actors, especially with young people, is also "the thing." Their powerful influence for good or evil in this world is a fact of life that no man can escape, no matter how glib he may be on radio and television talk shows. His moral responsibility is not merely to his family, narrowly defined, but to his family of untold millions who admire his acting performance and look to him as a role

model even in such matters as cocaine and drug abuse.

I resisted the temptation to stop my car and take my indignation out by shouting at passing motorists, or some other emotional outburst. I drove on home in time to hear my own pastor, Lyn Worthen, preach the evening sermon from I Peter 4:5 — "but they will have to give account for it to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." (Williams translation). How prophetic, I thought, and wished that Richard Dreyfuss could be in the listening audience that evening.

The bad scene is not finished. Not many days later it was reported in the press that Richard Dreyfuss "was allowed by a judge in Beverly Hills, Calif., to avoid trial on felony narcotics charges by agreeing to enter a drug diversion program." Apparently the judge agrees with Dreyfuss that he has very little personal responsibility to his admiring world. It is sad to think that neither has yet learned that literary and dramatic cliché so often quoted by sophisticated actors, "No man is an island."

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

New writer for 'Lessons for Living'

Al Sparkman, pastor of First Church at Crossett, begins this week writing the Life and Work Series lessons for living. A native of Smackover, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and holds the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sparkman, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd A. Sparkman of Little Rock, was ordained to the ministry by Southside Church in Pine Bluff. He has been pastor of churches in Arkansas and Kentucky, coming to the Crossett Church in 1978. He has served on state executive boards in both states, and currently is on the board of trustees of Ouachita Baptist University. Sparkman and his wife, the former Bobbie Delores Stephens, are parents of a son and a daughter and have two grandchildren.



Sparkman

Letter to the editor

Words belie faith

Ever assuming that one's vocabulary is evidence of how one thinks, and portrays to the world around us of faith or lack of it, a Christian should carefully weigh, sift or remove some words that might have become an habitual error of thought.

One of these words is 'lucky'. How often we hear the brethren state, "Man, were you ever lucky?" — or, "You are the luckiest per-

son I know". According to God's Word there is no such thing as luck. We experience blessings or temporary misfortune and luck has nothing to do with it.

The other word contrary to God's promises is "coincidence". Again, a bad choice for a Christian to use. Believing that we are personally planned, created, saved, blessed and constantly under protection from evil, how can we believe an experience could

You'll be glad to know . . .

... Students are turning to Christ. During 1982, 11,702 college students were baptized into our Southern Baptist churches. This is a 19 percent increase over the previous year. Isn't that a great reason for rejoicing! This seems to contradict the generally held positions that students are



Moore

“liberal,” “broad-minded” and unresponsive to “religion.” Not only have they joined one of the more conservative denominations in joining our churches, but the top 10 churches in the number of students baptized would be classified as very conservative. Many conclusions may be drawn from this. I only want to draw one. I conclude that students are no different from everyone else in that they want to embrace and relate to certainties. With everything else in life so tentative, they are smart enough to want something sure when it comes to their spiritual life. “We have also a more sure word of prophecy, unto which ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place . . .” (1st Peter 1:19). It does seem that there is a direct relationship between the confidence we have in the Word and our success in reaching others. In addition to the fact that mankind is looking for security, God, it seems, blesses in a special way the ministries that magnify the trustworthiness of his word.

... “The Way of the Cross.” Hallelujah! The reports are fantastic. One pastor said it was the greatest thing they had ever done. Another wrote to thank the Sunday School department and reported, “We set a goal of 385 in attendance for the six weeks; last year we averaged 304. Our average attendance for the six weeks was 393 and we enrolled 18 new members in Sunday School.” (First Baptist Church, Brinkley)

... Our pastors will receive special help at the New Pastor/Staff Orientation, April 4-5; the Pastor's Bible Conference at Ouachita, April 25-27, and at the Pastor's Retreat May 9-11. It is such a good feeling to be able to provide assistance to these men who carry the burden of leadership in our convention.

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

by Bob Allen

LOUISVILLE, KY. (BP) — An ultraconservative mood prevailing in the Southern Baptist Convention the last few years may be giving way to a more moderate viewpoint, according to a seminary professor and former SBC executive.

Albert McClellan, visiting professor of church and denominational administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., who retired in 1981 after 32 years with the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the current extreme right stance of the SBC is not permanent.

“Extremes are never permanent,” McClellan explained. “We will resume the middle ground. There was a time when we were more middle road than we are now but I think I see signs that we are coming back from the extremism of the right.”

McClellan said there are several signposts pointing to the reform:

— A “definite withdrawal” from a movement to “make the Baptist Faith and Message statement a creed.” Ultraconservative leaders are talking less about “change” and more about “understanding,” McClellan claimed.

— The way SBC President James T. Draper Jr. made appointments to key committees for the 1983 convention at Pittsburgh, McClellan said, “indicates a desire to come short of the extremism of the last few years.” (Draper made a pledge to announce his appointments prior to the 1983 SBC to give Southern Baptists time to study and react to them. He has done so.)

— A recent public apology by evangelist James Robison of Hurst, Texas, to SBC leaders. “If it were sincere,” McClellan said, “it is a sign he is among the others receding.” (Robison, who has leveled verbal attacks against “more liberal” Southern Baptists, wrote a letter to SBC leaders and met with Baylor University professors to ask forgiveness for the assaults.)

— McClellan also noted “a disenfranchising of extremists among themselves.” “I don't mean we are off it yet,” McClellan said. “I can say more emphatically the pendulum swings. I think we are swinging toward a more middle of the road position. But I don't think we ever will be what you would call ‘liberal.’”

McClellan reacted to use of the term “liberal” by certain groups to identify other factions in the SBC. “The word liberal has no meaning to me. The word has been posted around to mean so many things it means nothing. It's a catch word.”

He categorized Southern Baptists into five groups.

“Fundamentalist with a capital ‘F’ and fundamentalist with a small ‘f’ form two categories,” he said. “The majority of Baptists are conservative, or middle of the road, and so-called liberals also settle into two camps, ‘liberal and extreme liberal.’”

The extreme liberals are those who disagree with the extreme right, but other than that have no common base of agreement among themselves, McClellan said. “Fundamentalists,” on the other hand, embrace five basic tenets — verbal inspiration of the Bible, substitutionary atonement, bodily resurrection, virgin birth of Christ and dispensational millennialism.

The extreme liberal wants everyone to share his view, McClellan said, while “an extreme ‘F’ fundamentalist wants to make everyone believe like he believes.”

The vast majority of Southern Baptists would accept the tenets of substitutionary atonement, the virgin birth and a bodily resurrection, McClellan predicted, but some depart at the points of dispensationalism and verbal inspiration. He contrasted the concept of verbal inspiration with “a communication of the Holy Spirit.”

But he emphasized, “Baptists absolutely believe in the absolute authority of the Bible, whatever they think about the way God gave them the Bible.”

McClellan scorned attempts to apply the “liberal” label to Southern Seminary. “By any measure Southern Seminary is a conservative seminary. If you don't believe it, go to some of the other denominations’ and interdenominational seminaries to compare loyalty to biblical authority. “You cannot live by this seminary’s Abstract of Principles and be a liberal.”

Last year McClellan surveyed 631 persons, both clergy and laypersons, about their perceptions of Southern Baptists. On a horizontal scale gauging theology from extreme right to extreme left, respondents placed SBC pastors just to the right of the true middle. They placed their state denominational leaders to the left of the pastors but still to the right of the true middle of the road. They placed Southern Seminary just left of center, but with the exception of “extremists,” said this is where it belongs. For thought and freedom, McClellan said, those surveyed indicated the seminary should be “on the cutting edge.”

Eighty percent of those interviewed said they were either “very happy,” “reasonably happy” or “happy” with the seminary.

“I stand on the Bible,” McClellan said, “I’m a conservative. What I resent is extremists way over there (to the right) saying ‘We are the true conservatives. You are the moderates.’ In doing so they ‘change the center to crowd many true conservatives out of the middle.”

“Too many loyal Baptists are being shoved out of the middle by extremists who are unwilling to accept traditional Baptist norms,” McClellan concluded.

Allen is a student at Southern Seminary and staff writer for the “Western Recorder,” newjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a former ABN intern.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Tracy Tyler

has joined the staff of East Main Church in El Dorado as youth pastor. A native of Springdale, he is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Wayne E. Ward

will begin serving as interim pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock April 24. Dr. Ward is Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was appointed by the pulpit committee of Immanuel Church as they seek a permanent pastor to succeed retiring pastor, W. O. Vaught.

Barney Larry

has resigned as minister of music/youth at the Mountain Home First Church to join the staff of a Mountain Home building and loan association.

Johnny Jackson Jr.

joined the staff of Calvary Church in Clearwater, Fla., as minister to single adults April 1. Jackson is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Seminary. He was serving as music director of radio station KITA in Little Rock and is a former pastor of Nichols Road Church. He is married to the former Tanya Beverly of Little Rock. They have three children, Jerusalem,

Jemimah and Joshua.

George Wormington

is serving as pastor of the Gillham Church, coming there from the Center Grove Church in Linden, Texas. He and his wife, Pat, are parents of two children.

Ed Brennan

joined the staff of Trinity Church in Texarkana March 30 as minister of education/outreach, going there from the Texarkana Calvary Church. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College of Marshall. Brennan and his wife, Carolyn, have two sons, Jimmy and Stephen.

buildings

Desha First Church dedicates new facility

"The people of this church are to be commended for their commitment and dedication during our building program," declared Paul Huskey, pastor of First Church, Desha. The new 17,600 sq. ft. facilities were erected at a cost of approximately \$135,000 including furniture. This was made possible through donated labor. There will be some additional cost in completing the 7,000 sq. ft. second floor.

The new facility has an auditorium which will seat 250 people and has an additional choir loft for 30. The educational facilities consist of 10 classrooms, a pastor's study, a choir rehearsal room, and a fellowship hall and fully equipped kitchen which will adequately serve 100. The entire facilities are carpeted throughout.

The second floor, when completed, will have 13 additional classrooms. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$8,000 to complete the second floor.

The new facilities were entered by the church the first Sunday in January. Attendance has increased from 85 to 120 in Sunday School and from 70 to 100 in Church Training. The church has baptized 14 since Jan. 1, and has had 20 conversions.

Special guests for the occasion included J. D. Passmore, director of missions for Independence Association, who prayed the dedicatory prayer; Lehman Webb, director of Church Extension for the Missions Department, who brought the dedicatory message; and J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, who delivered the morning message. Webb spoke on, "The Glorious Gospel," from 1 Peter 1:1-16.

The Building Committee consisted of Chairman Max Edwards, Keith Richardson, Lowell Stephens, Jack Patterson, Doug Presley and George Kealer. — J. Everett Sneed

Little Rock Second Church

held ground breaking ceremonies March 12 for a 1,300 square foot expansion to its present Lake Nixon lodge. The additional space will include dining rooms and a large conference area. The structure, used to lodge day camp staff during the summer months, will provide retreat/conference accommodations throughout the remainder of the year.

Waldron First Church

dedicated an educational building March 13 housing adult, youth and preschool departments, a library, restrooms, and a mechanical room. It was dedicated debt free, according to Pastor Nelson Wilhelm.

Cabot First Church

recently voted to adopt the recommendation of the growth planning committee to begin construction on phases one and two of a building program.



Celebrants of Desha Church's completion of a new building found the structure's likeness captured on a cake served to the crowd.

Prairie Grove First Church

ordained its pastor, Jim Hogan, to the ministry March 27. Dave Bloesch, pastor of Sequoyah Hills Church in Tulsa, Okla., was speaker.

Fort Smith Trinity Church

has purchased a grand piano. Memorial gifts and special offerings were used toward the purchase.

Grand Avenue Church

in Fort Smith has planned a deacon and yokefellow retreat April 29-30 according to pastor James W. Bryant.

Fayetteville First Church

was host to the University of Arkansas Baptist Student Union Choir April 3. Mike Rush directed the presentation of "Lightshine."

Focus on youth

Conway First Church

was host for a youth Bible conference March 11-13 with churches from the Conway/Little Rock area participating. Hollis Huff, chaplain of the Pittsburg Steelers football team, was speaker. Dennis Agajanian was guest musician. Conference leaders were from Arkansas and Alabama.

Hail Mary:

A Defense of the Public Schools

by H. Leo Eddleman, Ph.D.

- How many Roman Catholics signed the Declaration of Independence? Is this good or bad? (Ch. 5, p. 62ff; p. 121)
- Is it time to consider taxation for all religions? (p. 56ff)
- Has any religion been restricted by the Constitution or government in America? (p. 5f)
- The constituents of what religious traditions prevailed in authoring the U.S. Constitution? What was their posture concerning Mary, the most famous of all women? (p. 8-11ff)
- Would a basic change in the Constitution be wise in view of the United States' achievement, leadership and influence? (pp. 1-7)
- What is the only advice Mary offered others in the Source Book of the Christian faith (Bible)? (p. 44)
- Is there documented evidence that a pope has ever attempted to determine the composition of the United States' population? (pp. 45-49; p. 52; p. 116)
- What type of church or state is conducive to social well being, intellectual vigor, and industrial creativity of people; democratic, autocratic or theocratic, in light of history? (p. 116ff)

These questions and more are dealt with in Leo Eddleman's *Hail Mary: A Defense of the Public Schools*.

Price: \$4.00. Order from: Exposition Press, 325 Rabro Dr., Smithtown, NY 11787-0817

EUREKA, Calif. (BP) — If Southern Baptists are going to be successful in reaching people for Christ, more bivocational pastors will be required to do the job, two long-time, dual-career pastors say.

Gilbert Thornhill and Larry McCain are pastors of churches in California's North Coast Baptist Association which covers an area 50 miles wide and almost 200 miles long. The 19 Southern Baptist churches in the association have a combined membership of fewer than 2,000 persons. Yet in this two-county area, some 90,000 have no church affiliation.

Thornhill, a bivocational pastor by choice since 1955, rises at 2:15 a.m. each day to prepare for a job as distribution clerk at the U.S. Post Office. He is at work by 3:45 and devotes time to community and church work when he leaves the post office just after noon.

Fellow pastor McCain has a more traditional schedule since he teaches fifth grade at Eureka's Marshall Elementary School.

Thornhill is pastor of First Church of Manila, a small community on the edge of Eureka. With a membership of 25 and a Sunday School enrollment of 52, the congregation is struggling against poor economic conditions and low morale. With the closing of area lumber mills, many persons in the community are on welfare, said Thornhill. "There is not a lot of motivation," he observed. "The real weak spot for us is workers. The people aren't real consistent in attendance."

At Trinity Church, Arcata, where McCain is pastor, resident church membership is 316 and Sunday School enrollment is 343. For 17 of his 25 years as a pastor, McCain has taught school. He attributes much of his church's growth to members who assume responsibilities.

"I see my role as pastor as an equipper of the saints," he said. "I'm not asking my people to do anything I don't do. When we visit, I go visiting."

Despite the differences in the congregations they serve, Thornhill and McCain share similar views of their bivocational status and the need for persons who are trained to serve in such capacities.

McCain said he finds "an advantage in coming in contact with people in the working world. You see how they live and what their workday problems are.

"What I have found in Christ works in my life and my family's lives," he continued. "I see people's lives coming apart all around us. I want for other people what I've found, and I'm committed to that."

The bivocational pastor's finances can have a substantial effect on the church he serves.

"How many pastors do you know who earn a year's salary for 175 days of work?" McCain asked in reference to his teaching job. "I am free to put money back into the



by Charles Willis

church's work because I teach and my wife, Betty, teaches. There is a joy in giving. You can set an example in giving. Bivocational pastors give the churches more financial freedom to grow."

Thornhill, likewise, contributes much more to the church than he receives financially. Last year, he and his wife, Ruby, who works part time for the association office, contributed more than half the church's financial support. He receives no cash salary from the church, but does have modest life insurance premiums and SBC Annuity Board contributions paid by the church.

Having a small church financially dependent on the pastor can also present a big problem. Thornhill, 62, can retire from the post office if he chooses in order to give more time to the church. But he feels reducing his tithing ratio to his anticipated retirement income will cause the church to "go under."

Time, also an important consideration for the bivocational pastor, must be well-organized when two full-time jobs must be done well.

McCain cites a shortage of "study time and praying time," but he supplements scheduled hours for these activities by listening to sermon and Bible study tapes in his car.

Thornhill is a director of the local community service district which oversees water and sewerage policies. Because this gives him additional community visibility, he feels the investment in time is beginning to pay off for the church. His day off from the post office each week is devoted to visitation and other church business. In order to attend any evening association activities, he must sleep in the afternoon to accommodate his post office schedule.

"I get a fairly liberal vacation from the post office which gives me time to attend conferences," Thornhill said.

Recalling that the bivocational pastor is "very much a part of our American heritage," McCain hopes to see more persons prepare themselves educationally in serve in two jobs.

Ethic of servanthood advocated at national seminar

from Baptist Press Sources

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Christian living in the modern world means getting "back to basics" of servanthood, an Arkansas pastor declared in the keynote address at the annual national seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Don Harbuck, pastor of First Church, El Dorado, Ark., spoke on the seminar theme, "Discipleship and Ethics."

"What is the basic style and thrust of Christian living?" Harbuck asked. "We are to be servants. Servanthood and submission belong to a whole circle of ideas in the New Testament ethic."

He cited the example of Jesus, who "lived among us as one who serves," noting Christ

thetically than rejoicing," he countered.

The next stanza is "reconcile others," he said, for "the most embracing biblical term for Christ's saving work is 'reconciliation.'"

"Jesus is in the business of bringing wholeness to peoples' lives in a broken world and eventually of healing the brokenness of the world itself," Harbuck said. "The work of reconciliation can be carried forward only by servants who practice the difficult business of forgiveness — forgiveness offered and received."

He blamed the "sickness and shallowness of both the world and the church" on the "trivializing of forgiveness." And he said forgiveness is necessary for understanding both sin and redemption.

But Harbuck cautioned against concentrating on reconciliation to the extent that the fifth stanza of the song — "resist the enemies of the people" — is forgotten.

"The Christian lifestyle of servantship or submission is not another word of spinelessness," he insisted. "Meekness is no synonym for weakness."

Harbuck challenged conference participation to stand up for those who are oppressed and defeated. He noted that even Jesus drove moneychangers from the temple in a defiant act against wrongdoing.

And the final stanza of the new servant song is "reveal to people their destinies," Harbuck concluded.

He reminded Christians that their name and their identity was received from Christ, and he challenged them to "be the servants of others by revealing who they are."

However, this should not be done through judgments and condemnation, he advised.

"Jesus has forbidden us to judge one another," he explained. "Though our criticisms may be technically correct, they are never redemptive. They are counterproductive."

Consequently, the process of revealing destinies should be done through affirmation, Harbuck claimed.

"The servant," he said, "sees beyond what people think and say and do and sees even beyond what they are — to what they can become."

Other speakers echoed the servanthood theme but varied widely in their approaches to specific ways Christians should answer Jesus' summons to be a servant.

— Donald Shriver, a Presbyterian theologian and president of Union Theological Seminary in New York, challenged seminar participants to make sure their ethics are Christian ethics and not just those of western civilization. He called for Christians to be advocates for the powerless and to love even people our country views as enemies.

— Jim Wallis, founding pastor of the Soujourners community, called for Chris-

tians to realize that nuclear warheads would fall not just on the "godless Communists" but on women and children and thousands of Russian Christians with whom we share a common faith and Lord.

— Robert Schuller challenged theology that "glorifies the mortification of the self," claiming that a reformation is needed by churches. He confirmed his belief in a person's need for salvation from sin and hell while advocating that theology needs to fulfill the "human hunger for the divine dignity that God intended to be our emotional birthright as children created in his image," which he calls "self esteem."

— Charles Swindoll, pastor of First Free Evangelical Church in Fullerton, Calif., warned that there is no place in Christianity for a "star system." He challenged Baptists to see that the apostle Paul was not a super star but just an earthen vessel who revealed Jesus to his hearers.

— Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., urged Christians to swallow the "whole Gos-pill," keeping the personal half that changes individuals while also swallowing the other half that leads us to make changes in society.

— Art Simon, director of Bread for the World, said that he viewed the call to discipleship as a call to Christian citizenship, including intervention with governments on behalf of the hungry.

— Eleanor Nutt shared her personal religious journey since the death of her husband, Grady, in a plane crash last year. She admitted that, at the time of Grady's death, both of them were going through the painful yet growing process of "learning to set limits for ourselves and finding a balance between giving and taking."

Glady's S. Lewis, a former missionary nurse and a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, spoke on moral development in the family; Richard Foster, a professor at Friends University in Wichita, Kan., discussed "Fasting — Twentieth Century Style," and Bill Leonard, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, spoke on the treasure of discipleship Christians hold in "earthen vessels."

A special performance of "Cotton Patch Gospel," a musical drama featuring actor Tom Key and music by the late Harry Chapin, was presented to a capacity crowd of seminary participants.

In summary, W. David Lockard, seminar director, told participants the authentic Christian discipleship which had been called for throughout the seminar was the same clear and strong refrain of Matthew 25 in which Jesus says, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these you have done it unto me."



ARL PHOTO BY EVERETT SIMON

El Dorado pastor Don Harbuck set the theme for the conference with his message on servanthood.

"summons us to do the same."

Harbuck explained what it means to be a Christian servant through a "new servant song" comprised of six stanzas.

The first stanza is "respect others," he said, pointing out that the model for this is God, who "respects all people."

True servanthood means respecting other people, because they are the special targets of God's love and because all human life has eternal value, he added.

"Respond to others," is the second stanza, Harbuck continued.

"Jesus did that," he added. "He made our needs his agenda. He took people where he found them and confronted them with saving possibilities." This is the pattern of presenting a "gateway to God" that should be followed by Christians today, he claimed.

Harbuck said "rejoice others" is the third stanza of the song. But he admitted that this use of "rejoice" is "awkward for us... We search for ways to make ourselves happy and end up sad and frustrated. The sadness of our alienation seeps into the spirit and poisons the heart."

Yet "nothing spreads the faith more au-

Hinson leaves Southern

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) — E. Glenn Hinson, a member of the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. since 1959, will join the faculty of Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

Hinson has been on leave of absence from Southern seminary this academic year while being a visiting professor of religion at Wake Forest. He cited the environment of freedom and new opportunities he has found at the North Carolina Baptist university as the primary reasons for his decision. "Real education can take place only within an environment of freedom and Wake Forest has always offered a rather open environment in which one may search for truth."

Employment - resident houseparents for Children's Receiving Home in Little Rock. We need a Christian couple who want to minister to young children. Husband may be employed or in school. Cook/housekeeper provided, plus salary, benefits, and supervision. For details about our ministry, call 376-4791, Ext. 119, or write **Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care**, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

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Ministers' Social Security to go up under compromise

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Social Security taxes for ministers will rise significantly under the compromise reform package passed by Congress to aide the financially troubled retirement system, but not as sharply as they could have.

In resolving differences between House and Senate versions of the bipartisan plan to inject an additional \$165.3 billion into the Social Security system, Congress agreed to continue to exclude from Social Security taxation most employer contributions to certain nonprofit pension plans such as those administered by the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board.

But in a move which will significantly raise Social Security taxes for ministers and other self-employed persons, Congress voted to raise self-employment taxes from 75 percent of the combined employer-employee rate to the full combined rate. The final Social Security package, passed by the House 243-102 and the Senate 58-14, also omitted a Senate amendment which would have given ministers and churches the option of treating a minister's service to a church as employment for Social Security purposes. Under current law ministers participate in Social Security as self-employed persons.

The House version of the Social Security bailout plan would have taxed all employer contributions to non-profit plans such as those issued by the Annuity Board. The Senate bill would have continued to exempt employer payments to these plans, except for contributions made under a salary reduction agreement between the employer and employee.

House and Senate conferees generally

agreed to the Senate amendment on these pension plans but the conference report also included language which defined individually negotiated retirement plans as salary reduction agreements.

Depending on how the Internal Revenue Service interprets this change in the tax law, a number of non-ministerial Baptist employees who have individually negotiated retirement plans with the Annuity Board may be affected, according to the agency's general counsel, Gary Nash.

"The best way to cope with this legislation," Nash said, "is to make sure the employer formally adopts a written retirement plan for its employees."

In an effort to offset the one-third hike in Social Security rates for self-employed persons, Congress provided in the final bill tax credits of 2.7 percent of self-employment income in 1984, 2.3 percent in 1985, and 2.0 percent in 1986-89. The tax credit percentages represent a compromise between lower credits called for in the House bill and higher ones provided in the Senate version.

For 1990 and beyond, the bill as passed would replace the tax credits with a system designed to achieve parity between employees and self-employed participants. The two-part plan calls for the self-employment tax base to be lowered and for a tax deduction of 50 percent of Social Security taxes paid.

Meanwhile, an aide to Sen. Walter D. Huddleston, who sponsored the Senate amendment giving ministers and churches a joint option of treating a minister as an employee for Social Security purposes, indicated the Kentucky Democrat may continue to pursue his amendment through other legislative channels.



Conference on witnessing to other faiths

Learn what these groups believe and how to witness to them.

April 18-19

North Arkansas Assn.
First Church, Harrison

Monday 12 noon-12:45
7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
Tuesday 12 noon-12:45
7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

April 21-22

Concord Assn.
East Side, Fort Smith

Thursday 10 a.m.-12 noon
7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m.-12 noon
7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

Sponsored by the associations, Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Home Mission Board, SBC.

Your state convention at work

Brotherhood

R.A. Congress to mark anniversary

The 30th Arkansas Royal Ambassadors Congress will be held on April 29-30 at Park Hill Church and Northeast High School Stadium in North Little Rock.

On Friday afternoon, a parade celebrating our 75th Anniversary will proceed up Capitol Avenue to the State Capitol steps. Beginning at 1 p.m., the parade will include the State R.A. Band, floats and marching units from R.A. Chapters in Arkansas. Bring your R.A., American and Christian flags. Build your floats around 75th theme, trophies given for first, second and third place. Let us know if you will participate. Every chapter should have something in this parade. There will be an official proclamation of the 75th Anniversary of Baptist Men and R.A.'s in Arkansas when the procession reaches the Capitol steps.

The Congress is for Crusaders, Pioneers and their counselors and Pastors. A picnic supper will be held at Park Hill Church at 5:00 p.m. for Royal Ambassadors. At the same time, counselors, Pastors and Baptist Men may attend a banquet for Arkansas Baptist Men in Gold Room at Park Hill Church. Reservations needed by April 22.

Beginning at 7 p.m., opening ceremonies will be at Park Hill Church. The program is a great one. Included are missionary Gary Swafford from the country of Malawi; David Bazzell, Razorback football player who will share his testimony and help with the track meet; Ron Ballard and Jerry Foshee, Park Hill Church who will present the music.

On Saturday, the Congress will move to Northeast High School Stadium for the annual track and field events: Crusader model car races, speaker's contest, campcraft rodeo, projects competition, judging for Pioneer Mission Project selection and election of 1983-84 officers. — **Neal Guthrie, Brotherhood director**

Student Department

Christianity in the Third World

Three days in Richmond as guests of the Foreign Mission Board has been a good experience for 50 of us State BSU directors and associates. Messages by Keith Parks, Bill O'Brien, renowned missiologist Gerald Anderson of Venter, N.J., were highlights for me; and time with friends like Minette Drumwright and Jan and Wade Berryhill made the trip even more profitable.

Dr. Anderson startled us by telling us that the shift of Christian influence is to the Third World (or southern hemisphere). In 1900, 85 percent of all Christians were in North America and Europe. Today, 55 percent of all Christians are in the emerging nations of the Third World. This should not be considered a threat, Anderson said, but viewed as a fruit of our mission efforts. With this fact in mind, it should not have been a surprise when Bill O'Brien told us that Brazilian Baptists were sending their first missionaries to the U.S.A.

Money for World Hunger is still a pressing need, Tim Brendle said, as the Foreign Mission Board spent 8.1 million dollars last year for hunger relief but received 5.9 million for relief. This money went to 192 projects in 48 countries.

Coming to the Richmond meeting two days early allowed me to visit Arkansans Larry Chesser of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and his wife, Nancy. At First Church, Silver Springs, I was privileged to visit Steve and Jean Hyde and witness my first Haitian wedding, an hour and a half service at the church. The

Royal Ambassadors



75th Anniversary
Celebration

church not only has a healthy Haitian congregation but a 150 member Spanish congregation.

Arkansas Baptists are doing well on the east coast! — **Tom J. Logue, director**

WMU

Acteens event, second version, set at OBU

On April 29-30 Acteens of Arkansas will have their second Encounter. This will be at Ouachita Baptist University and will begin at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 29 and end at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 30. The meeting is open to all girls grades 7-12.

Stacey Melton and David Coad, seniors at Ouachita, will be in charge of the music. Stacey is from Little Rock and has served as youth director for Sherwood Church and counselor for Youth Homes. She will be leading the music. David Coad, son of Norman and Beverly Coad, missionaries in Upper Volta, will be playing the piano and presenting special music.



Melton



Coad

Other MKs (sons and daughters of missionaries), and International students, are planning an International Fair to be presented Friday evening. Linda Anderson, BSU Director at Ouachita will be coordinating this event.

Our featured speaker will be Mildred McWhorter, Home Missionary from Houston, Texas. Her dynamic message and great sense of humor creates a demand for Miss McWhorter as a spokeswoman throughout our convention. Conferences are planned to lead Acteens in developing mission lifestyles. Leaders include two MKs, Barry Burnett and Kirk Bullington; Mrs. Daniel Grant, wife of Ouachita's President; Mrs. Michael Hollingsworth, homemaker from Camden; Carolyn Porterfield, BW/BYW Director, Arkansas WMU; and Linda Anderson, BSU Director at Ouachita. Associational officers will be led by Mrs. Jeff Magee, Associational Acteens Director in Southwest Association.

If you cannot attend Friday evening, you will gain much by attending Saturday. Reservations may be made by writing WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — **Betty Jo Lacy, Acteens director**

Christian Life Council

Remember the Holocaust

Some won't call Jewish friends "brother" except in the sense all are descended from common parentage — Adam and Eve.

We must, however, without biblical excuse, call them "neighbor" because they are among those whom, after God, we are to love as ourselves. Love, respect and willingness to help are illustrated in the parable of the good Samaritan. Jesus even teaches us to love our enemies.

Our Jewish neighbors ask us to join them in observing Sunday, April 10, as Holocaust Remembrance Day. To remember that tragedy is not reserved just for the Jews of our community. Someone has suggested "It is to proclaim that the lessons of history are not futile..."

While remembering six million as the number of our Jewish neighbors systematically killed during and shortly prior to World War II, six million others perished as part of Hitler's scheme to purify the world — Nazi style.

We must not fail to remember and to teach especially our young about the Holocaust tragedy.



Logue

Your state convention at work

Unlike other mass murders such as carried out for instance by godless Marxists in Russia and China, the European Holocaust was initiated and pursued by a highly educated, supposedly Christian nation.

We must never forget that men like Niemueller and Bonhof-fer who dared to speak out against Hitler were not Baptist Christians. We have been told that most Baptists in Germany were neutral during that tragic hour. Let's not be neutral in some way remembering with our neighbors April 10, the Holocaust. — **Bob Parker, director**

Evangelism

Don'ts in personal witnessing

It is very important to know how fast to move with a lost person. It is a good rule of thumb to say, "Don't rush him." We must always move in relation to how God's spirit moves in his life. We do not do the convicting. The Spirit does. We do not do the saving. Jesus does. We need to be spiritually alert to how far to go in the presentation. If God's spirit is moving in a person's life, we should never leave him hanging without a decision.

Don't start frying the fish before he is landed. As others have expressed, don't count the chickens before they are hatched. In New Testament terms, don't try to get the person baptized in the church before he is saved. It is very important to know and practice the New Testament process. In Acts 2:41, "They that gladly received his word were baptized and then added unto the church." A person should be led to Christ and then led to make a commitment to baptism and church membership.

Don't chase rabbits. The witness should not get sidetracked on opinions, doctrines, sins or other issues. He should stay on the Gospel track. We must bring the lost person face to face with Jesus. Remember the time that Paul tried to persuade those by logic. He miserably failed. He came back later to say that he would glory only in the cross of the Lord Jesus. God uses the truth to break down the barriers. Upon the truth we take our stand and upon the same truth we will continue to stand. — **Clarence Shell, director**



Shell

Church Music

Summer music workers available to churches

We are happy to announce that Tina Murdoch and Lisa Nevin will be available this summer to conduct week-long music schools in medium to small churches. They are both well qualified to assist you in establishing or developing a music program in your church.

Tina is a music graduate from Ouachita and is presently serving as a Journeyman in the International Baptist Church of Singapore.

Lisa is graduating from Ouachita this year and served on a summer Contact Team for OBU last summer. She is involved in the children's choir work of FBC, Arkadelphia.

A schedule can be tailored to meet the needs of each church, and might include piano or voice lessons, children's choirs, music reading, song leading and adult/youth choir rehearsals.



Murdoch



Nevin

For more information about available dates, costs and study content, please call the Church Music Department at the Baptist Building, 376-4791. We will be happy to help you arrange a time and the course of study that will be the most helpful to you. — **Ervin Keathley, director**

Family and Child Care

Area offices provide helps for hurting families

The Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services has six area offices which provide a variety of services to children and families needing help with their problems. The services of the area offices include:

1. Evaluation of children referred for help. After a thorough evaluation, our staff considers the resources we have available: Children's Home, foster homes, Group Home for Boys in Jonesboro, Emergency Receiving Homes, counseling services to the child and family in his own home.

2. Counseling services to families of children under our care toward rehabilitation of the family unit.

3. Counseling services to adults, children and families experiencing parent-child conflicts, marital discord, and in need of professional help with their problems.

4. Working with multi-problem families living in poverty who need help to obtain the necessities for living.

The directors of each of our area offices are dedicated Christians who are qualified by professional training in the field of counseling. Our area directors are: Jonesboro, Tom Stafford, P.O. Box 2515, Jonesboro 72401; Little Rock, Doug McWhirter, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203; Monticello Area Office, P.O. Box 180, Monticello 71655; Fayetteville, Gary Gray, 1211 James Street, Fayetteville 72701; Harrison, David Perry, P.O. Box 1213, Harrison 72601; and Hope, Earlene Clearman, P.O. Box 912, Hope 71801. Get in touch with any of us if we can be of assistance to you. — **Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director**

Church Training

Senior Adult Conference for seniors, leaders

"Going and Growing" will be the theme of Arkansas' second annual Senior Adult Conference on May 26-28. The conference will be held on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University and is planned for senior adults and leaders of senior adults. Loren Williams, associate pastor of Grace Temple Church in Dallas, Texas, will speak and lead conferences for senior adults and for leaders of senior adult ministry in the churches. He is a Special Consultant in Senior Adult Ministry and has done studies at the North Texas State University Center for Studies in Aging.

The conference will begin with a banquet on Thursday night. The banquet program will feature entertainment by Beep and Boomer, a clown act. They will make a presentation on Friday morning on the use of clown ministry in working with senior adults.

Sessions will continue until noon on Saturday and will include worship, fellowship, Bible study, interest conferences, and recreation. Jerry Johnson, Christian Family Life Minister at First Church in Little Rock, will lead sessions on physical fitness for senior adults.

A special feature of the year's conference will be leadership conferences for those who work with senior adults, including pastors and church staff members. These conferences will be led by Loren Williams and others who have special training in this field.

For additional information, write Senior Adult Conference, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**



Holley

International Good news for former enemies

by Kerry G. Powell, First Church of Forrest City

Basic passage: Acts 11:2-18

Focal passage: Acts 11:2-15

Central truth: The gospel is not for just a select few, but Jesus died for everyone of every nationality.

1. After the news reached Jerusalem from Caesarea concerning the conversion of Gentiles, Peter arrived in Jerusalem. And the Jewish brethren (probably the "Hebrew Christians" rather than the "Grecian Christians") were concerned because he had eaten with and fellowshiped with Gentiles. (Both the Gentiles and their food were considered ceremonially unclean.) Of course, this meant that he accepted Jews and Gentiles as equals. And the "Hebrew Christians" knew that if the news got out that the leader of the apostles, a "Hebrew Christian" was fellowshiping with Gentiles, then they would suffer persecution from the unsaved Jews just like the "Grecian Christians" had suffered.

2. After Peter recounted his experiences there was no way to refute his arguments. They were convinced that God had acted and they withdrew their criticism and praised God for the salvation of Gentiles.

3. All the first Christians were Jews and it would have been easy for them to keep Christianity to themselves. But God intervened to show them that the good news was for everybody. I'm convinced that this truth has to be rediscovered in every age.

4. Notice Peter took six brethren with him which made a total of seven. In Egyptian law, seven witnesses were necessary to prove a case. In Roman law, seven seals were necessary to authenticate a document, so Peter was backing up his facts with seven witnesses. Not that we can argue anyone into the kingdom... the proof of Christianity is in what it does. It does change men and nations, it does make savage barbarians into respectable citizens. But the facts are there and the case is proved. There is no need to argue, the witnesses have spoken.

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Life and Work A call from the heart of God

by Al Sparkman, First Church of Crossett

Basic passage: Isaiah 40:1-11

Focal passage: Isaiah 40:1-11

Central truth: The restoring of hope and meaning for the dark days of despair in life can come when God's people reaffirm their faith in and proclamation of the true character of God, manifested in his gracious and forgiving love and his limitless power to help.

The proclamation by the prophet of God's care and comfort, when he says "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" (v. 5) and "Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand" (v. 10) and "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd" (v. 11), begins the restoration of hope to Israel. The people languished in Babylon as a desperate captive people so many miles and years removed from their golden city Jerusalem and their temple, both now lying in ruin. Thus began God's people to realize that God is always there, caring and waiting to help, but that there are conditions that must be right in the heart of man.

1. Remove all obstacles between man and God. In Isaiah 40:3-5, the prophet tells the people of the preparations necessary for the arrival of God — "prepare the way", "make a highway", "level the terrain", and "straighten the crooked", and then "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed". All of us need to heed the message and remove the barriers between us and God — of haughty and rebellious pride, of unconfessed sin, of unrighteous living, of empty self-serving religious hypocrisy, of ingratitude and disobedience.

2. Return to a faith that sustains us and causes us to proclaim the glory of God throughout the earth. "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain... life up thy voice with strength" (v. 9). The prophet challenges God's people to be so alive in their own faith that they the redeemed, become evangelists of the good news and they, the comforted, become the comforters of all mankind.

3. Look unceasingly to God. "Behold your God!" (v. 9). As the New Testament says "The foundation of God standeth sure..." (I Tim. 2:19). The one hope for Israel as well as man today is to "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" (Isa. 45:22). The hope for all is expressed in the chorus "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace."

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Bible Book Solomon established as king

by Paul R. Sanders, Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: I Kings 1 and 2

Focal passage: I Kings 1:11-13, 32-34, 2:1-3, 23, 29

Central truth: There is always the threat of the enemy wanting to take the throne of our lives.

Let us think about five words: conspiracy, counsel, commitment, confession and challenge.

1. We need to be aware of Satan's conspiracy to dethrone Jesus in our lives. Adonijah was very self centered, devious and wanted to take over (Matt. 23:12) My rights, my feelings, getting my way, my possessions, my church. We are often not aware of the conspiracy.

2. Verse 12. Counsel from godly people is needed. As Nathan, the prophet, warned Bathsheba of those who were trying to take over what belonged to Solomon, so the Lord wants us to heed warnings of how Satan is trying to take over the throne of our life which really belongs to Jesus (Prov. 11:14). The counsel was to save their lives. God gives counsel to save our lives from the destructive forces of Satan.

3. Verse 13. We need to be reminded of commitments we have made. David was reminded of a commitment he had made to make Solomon king. There are times we all need to be reminded of commitments we have made to the Lord about making him king. Many Christians have made commitments to the Lord during a revival, an illness, or when times were hard.

4. Verse 32-35. We must be willing to make an open and public confession of Jesus as our Lord and King. David openly proclaimed Solomon king by the use of his transportation (mule), his trumpet (to announce him) and his throne. David wanted all to know whom he was making king. People need to know where you stand, and who is king of your life.

5. 2:1-3. What kind of challenge will you give to others? In the closing days of David's life, his desire was that his son would be strong, show himself a man and walk (pattern of his life) in the ways of God and keep God's statutes, commandments, judgements and testimonies in order to prosper.

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Housing problems arise for SBC in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (BP) — Housing may be a problem for the 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to convention arrangements officials.

Part of the problem, according to Tim Hedquist, convention arrangements manager for the SBC Executive Committee, is that there simply are not enough hotel rooms to go around.

Bob Imperata, director of convention sales and services for the Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc., agreed: "The SBC is bigger than what we are accustomed to; we don't try to deal with conventions of this size on a regular basis."

Pittsburgh, which was selected as the site for the 1983 meeting at the 1976 meeting, does not meet current guidelines for host cities, which call for a city to have an arena capable of seating 16,000 persons, adequate exhibit space and 6,500 hotel rooms within walking distance. The size of the hall and the number of rooms are needed because the convention will have an estimated 15,000 messengers.

Hedquist said when the convention arrangements subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee visited Pittsburgh in 1978, the city-operated bureau committed 6,129 rooms, "the most ever committed by a bureau to the SBC."

By the time the housing bureau began accepting applications for reservations for the SBC, however, the number of available rooms had dwindled by nearly 2,000. "Two of the hotels simply didn't exist anymore," Hedquist said.

"The bureau opened with 4,130 rooms. They simply could not deliver what they had promised," he said.

Imperata said there have been problems "which could have happened in any place. One property turned into a retirement home, another was torn down, a third filed for bankruptcy and closed. We have had those problems and have tried to regroup."

Then another factor intruded: the U.S. Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club.

The U.S. Open intensified the crunch for rooms. Hedquist said four hotels notified the housing bureau they would not honor the commitments. "At the first of the year, two already assigned hotels — Viking Motor Hotel, 50 rooms, and Ramada Inn North, 50 rooms — said they would not honor the reservations.

Within the last few weeks, two more hotels — Holiday Inn Parkway and Holiday Inn Monroeville — have made adjustments. Holiday Inn Parkway cancelled the reservations, while Holiday Inn Monroeville re-assigned their 75 rooms to another hotel "40 miles out of town."

According to housing bureau sources, the Parkway hotel gave 100 rooms to an

ABC Sports television crew.

A fifth hotel, Howard Johnson's Monroeville, cancelled reservations for Marian and Marse Grant's Convention Plane, citing reservations for the golf tournament as the reason.

A few additional rooms have been "picked up" at other hotels in the Pittsburgh area. Hedquist said, making about 5,100 hotel rooms available. "We anticipate we will have requests for some 5,500, so we will be about 400 short," he added.

Imperata added some 1,100 requests were turned back in October because the housing bureau did not have space to accommodate them. Many of those have gone directly to hotels not involved in the housing bureau or through travel agencies to get accommodations.

Hedquist said that "every year" there are problems with hotel rooms, as some hotels cancel or other slip-ups occur. This year, however, he said, "the Convention Bureau does not seem to be able to hold the hotels in line... are unable to help us with these hotels which will not honor the reservations."

Hedquist said some 300 people "have not received confirmation from the hotels," a fact Imperata said was being corrected. He said the majority of those should be receiving notification soon.

Imperata added that if people have questions, they should write to the bureau: SBC Housing Bureau, Room 514, No. 4, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.

The convention center official asked people not to telephone either the SBC offices in Nashville or the convention bureau. "That just slows down everything," he said, adding most of those still waiting on confirmations "have been much more patient than I would have been."

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Public funds may taint church's vision, Wood says

WACO, Texas (BP) — Churches today risk "compromising their religious vision" when they seek public funds for their private schools, James E. Wood Jr. says.

Speaking at a Baylor University conference on "Religion, the State and Education," Wood said the most serious issue facing churches today is not whether church schools should accept public funds, but whether the schools should "claim any religious identity" once they do.

It is "foreign to the American experience" to expect public assistance without public controls, he added. It also is "contrary to the guarantees of the First Amend-

ment" for religious schools to expect public subsidy, he said.

Church-related schools have sought public funds for programs which they claim benefit children rather than advance religious goals. These requests have reached "unprecedented proportions" and are not in the best interests of religious education, he warned.

Legal opposition to these requests had led to fear of an official "secular religion," Wood said. The Supreme Court has publicly denied that the state favors a "religion of secularism," he added.

Just as church schools must recognize

the need to maintain their religious integrity, public schools must recognize that religion is a legitimate field of study, he continued.

Public education is not complete without the study of religion, he said. "The times increasingly require that full recognition be given to the academic study of religion in the public schools. Placing the study of religion within the existing curriculum is essential to the integrity of public education."

Wood is former director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. He now directs the J. M. Dawson Studies in Church and State at Baylor.

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Missions conference challenges students

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — "As long as the agenda of the church is softball, ceramics, inerrancy and keeping women out of the ministry, the world is going to hell in a fruitbasket." William R. O'Brien told more than 1,000 college and seminary students.

O'Brien, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, challenged the students to be "a channel of blessing" and to have a "conduit mentality" which directs God's love and redemption to all people, as he spoke at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's 27th annual Student Missions Conference.

"God is a god who delights in making himself known," O'Brien said, as he urged students to remain in the "middle" of the world so they can be available to present the gospel message to all people.

Esther Burroughs, assistant director of special missions ministries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told the students: "We are called to be God's hope in the world, and the world is asking us to be hope and come to them with Jesus."

She told the students they cannot blame lack of perception for failure to take on the task, explaining: "God will change the eyes of your heart when you become hope in the world."

Sam James, director of orientation and development for the Foreign Mission Board, told the students of the goals of Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by 2000 A.D.

Among the goals, he said, is the challenge of placing 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries in foreign countries by the target date. He said the current force of 3,217 appointees is "right on target" but lamented that requests for more than 700 preachers last year were met by only 50 responses.

The conference was concluded by Sam Simpson, a home missionary and pastor of Bronx Baptist Church in New York City.

Simpson pointed to "the greatness of God's power" demonstrated in creation, the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the authority of the church, adding that such power is available to all Christians today. He noted, however, that Christians cannot take the challenge nor the power to attain it for granted. "God can only change the world," he said, "if we make ourselves available to him and his power."

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Committee On Boards to report before SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Committee On Boards, after a two-day executive session, announced it will release its report "at least 30 days" before the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh, June 14-16.

Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, and chairman of the committee, told Baptist Press: "I would like to have it out by the first week in May."

The committee, made up of 52 persons, nominates persons to serve as trustees, directors or committee members of the 20 organizations supported through the South-

ing Daniel Vestal of Midland, Texas, chairman of the committee on boards, followed suit, also declining to make the appointments public prior to the first day of the convention.

In making his announcement, Stanley responded to a request by current president James T. Draper Jr. of Eules, Texas, to make the report available in advance.

FMB named defendant in \$5 million suit

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board now has been named the defendant in a \$5 million damage suit filed by a former volunteer who served in West Germany.

An amended complaint was filed March 9, in United States District Court, Fort Worth, Texas, about a month after the original damage suit named the Southern Baptist Convention as defendant.

Nasser Lotfi of Austin, Texas, identified by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram as a former colonel in the Iranian Air Force and a naturalized U.S. citizen, claims he was beaten by Turkish immigrants on March 27, 1982, while serving in Augsburg, West Germany.

The suit says the beating resulted in permanent injuries to Lotfi's back and spine and a "traumatic neurosis . . ."

Woman's task force plans Pittsburgh meet

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A diverse group of 34 Southern Baptist women has named a task force to plan a pre-Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Pittsburgh for women involved in ministry roles.

The group, which met in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission annual seminar in Louisville, also enlisted the help of the commission to sponsor and promote the meeting.

According to coordinators of the Louisville meeting, the nine-member all women task force will set an agenda for the pre-convention meeting to provide a forum for discussion which will possibly lead to the formation of a steering committee on women in ministry.

Other expected agenda items include the sharing of ideas on ways to improve the role and status of women in ministry, the possible formation of an ongoing professional association or network and ways to encourage SBC agencies to give additional support to women in ministry.

Members of the task force include: Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; Lela Hendricks, special project coordinator for the Christian

Life Commission and the Home Mission Board; Nancy Hastings Sehested, associate minister of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., and Ann Neil, retired missionary and visiting professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Other members are: Jenny Weisz, an attorney from Chapel Hill, N.C.; Ann Davis, associate professor of social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Sarah Frances Anders, professor of sociology at Louisiana College; Evelyn Stagg, freelance writer from Bay St. Louis, Miss., and Reba Cobb, minister to younger youth at Crescent Hill Church in Louisville.

The task force is expected to announce plans for the pre-convention meeting in a few weeks.

Giving drops in February

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Cooperative Program gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention last month failed to surpass figures from a year ago for the first time since November 1980.

The national level unified giving program received \$8,858,267 during the month, a drop of .84 percent (\$75,344) from receipts in February 1982. It was only the third time in the past decade for the monthly figures to show a decline.

Major increases from Mississippi (\$412,845) and Florida (\$132,616) were the bright spots for the month, along with the fact that 20 of the 34 state conventions did give more to the national mission and education programs of the conventions than they did a year ago.

The SBC Cooperative Program is still ahead for the fiscal year. Since Oct. 1 receipts have totaled \$42,415,118 — an increase of 52,426,668 (8.8 percent) from the first five months of the 1981-82 fiscal year.

The Northern Plains convention has increased its gifts 78.01 percent so far this year. Other leaders are: Mississippi (35.46 percent), New York (31.61), Pennsylvania-South Jersey (26.82), Colorado (25.2) and Florida (24.48). Overall 30 of the 34 conventions have given more to the SBC Cooperative Program during the last five months than they did a year ago.

At the same time designated giving to specific agencies or causes within the SBC are up 12.45 percent after five months. Most of the \$41,432,132 in designated gifts has been for the Foreign Mission Board (\$39,827,932) through the special Lottie Moon Christmas offering for missions.

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The committee has been the focus of controversy in the denomination for the past several years, and has been featured in floor fights during the past two annual meetings. Much of the attention has been because of publicly stated aims of one faction in the denomination to gain control of the boards of the various agencies, filling them with persons of a particular theological viewpoint.

The release of the names in advance of the annual meeting became an issue in 1982 when then president Bailey E. Smith of Del City, Okla., declined to reveal his appointments prior to the New Orleans meet-

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