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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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4-28-1983

**April 28, 1983**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Developing a new  
strategy for teaching  
and winning  
page 9

April 28, 1983  
**Arkansas Baptist**  
NEWSMAGAZINE





A new Sunday School program was introduced to Arkansas Baptists in a Little Rock meeting April 9. Lawson Hatfield, state convention Sunday School Department director (center), and Freddie Pike, associate director (left), discuss "Teach, Win and Develop" with Don Moore, the state's executive secretary.

## Southern trustees vote to end Moody tenure

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Dale Moody will remain on the payroll but not in the classroom at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Moody, the focal point of theological controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention for more than six months, was granted a one-year leave of absence by the Southern Seminary board of trustees who determined that Moody's current contract with the seminary will expire July 31, 1984. Moody will be paid full salary until that date, but his teaching responsibilities at Southern will be completed this June at the end of the current academic year.

Several churches have cut off financial support from Southern Seminary and the Arkansas Baptist Convention passed a resolution last fall asking for Moody to be terminated for his teaching on apostasy — a doctrine that a person can lose his "salvation" or "fall from grace."

Ironically, Moody said he had prepared a letter requesting retirement on July 31, 1983, "because I've gotten tired of the creedalism . . ."

Moody had publicly criticized Southern's Abstract of Principles, part of the seminary charter for 125 years and the oldest statement of faith among Southern Baptists. A copy of the document is signed by every person who teaches at the seminary as a commitment to teach "in accordance with and not contrary to" its 20 doctrinal statements — one of which says that once a person is "saved" by the grace of Jesus Christ his salvation is eternal.

Moody has requested the 1983-84 leave of absence early in 1982, before criticism of his views became an issue with the trustees. The trustees considered the matter in executive session. Reportedly, Roy Honeycutt, seminary president, was the only salaried Southern employee in the meeting.

Moody reached regular retirement at age 65 in 1980 and had been teaching under a series of short-term appointments since that time. He told Baptist Press he had been under the impression, "and nobody ever corrected me," that he was under a five year contract that would expire when he was 70.

However, Southern spokesmen said the personal policy limits to one year at a time the length of contract for a person over 65.

The board also heard a report from a committee on academic policies on its review of the way former president Duke K. McCall and Honeycutt had handled ques-

tions about faculty commitment to the Abstract of Principles. Specifically, the committee said the two administrators had "fulfilled their responsibilities required under the charter and bylaws" with reference to the Moody controversy.

In a related action, the trustees adopted an official statement on "Freedom and Responsibility in a Denominational Seminary." The document reaffirms the contractual nature of the abstract which was termed a doctrinal consensus, officially approved, within which academic freedom for every professor is guaranteed. It said the abstract seeks to guarantee "the continuation of historic Baptist emphases on the primacy of scripture and liberty of conscience, while maintaining theological continuity with the cardinal principles which Baptists hold in common."

Moody, 68, holds earned doctorates from Southern and from Oxford University in England. He has been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Theological Studies in Jerusalem, and studied under noted theologians Paul Tillich, Karl Barth and Emil Brunner.

After the trustee action Moody insisted his position is consistent both with Baptist history and the Bible. "I believe the scriptures are inspired and authoritative in every matter . . . and when things contradict the scriptures I reject them — I don't care how hoary they are with antiquity." He said the Abstract of Principles contradicts the Baptist Faith and Message (adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963) at three points.

But, "the abstract doesn't have a statement on biblical inerrancy and the Baptist Faith and Message does — and I accept the Baptist Faith and Message totally," he said. "I will walk to Nashville to debate the historical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and the reality of a Second Coming (by Jesus)."

Noting, "my people have been Baptist of some kind or another for 14 generations," Moody said he would remain a Southern Baptist because, "I'm not about to leave the people who nurtured me in the faith."

He said any literal application of the abstract would cause everyone at Southern to have to resign because the abstract says the Lord's Supper should be observed using wine and because it says "we are to have no worldly amusement" on Sunday which would exclude watching football games on Sunday afternoon.

at Furman University. Reared a Presbyterian, she was the first person her newly ordained husband baptized. Survivors include four sons: Duke Jr., who is an attorney in Greenville, S.C.; and Douglas, a dentist; John Richard, an attorney and a member of the SBC Executive Committee, and Michael, a physician, all of Louisville.

## In this issue

### 4 the month of May

Events and emphases in Arkansas Baptist life for May are listed in "Next month in Arkansas", a regular ABN informational feature.

### 8 lacking boldness

Southern Baptists have converted many more persons than we have disciplined in the past decade, records show, but a plan is at hand and it is being introduced in Arkansas now.

### Next week in ABN

We invite you to tear out and save a section of the May 5 issue of the ABN for reference. It will be a guide to the work of your state convention and those who labor together with all other Arkansas Baptists.

### Mrs. McCall dies

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Marguerite Mullinix McCall, 68, wife of Duke K. McCall, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Easter morning of a stroke.

She was a native of Greenville, S.C. and met her husband while both were students



Many churches list car allowance of the pastor and staff as a part of salary benefits. A legitimate car allowance can in no way be considered as income. All too often, the car allowance is too small and the church staff workers must use their own salary to supplement travel.

It would be just as realistic to count the gas that a part-time farm worker burns in a tractor or combine as a part of his salary as to count the car allowance of the church staff as salary benefits. When the church staff member visits the sick, contacts prospects, or does anything that relates to the work of the church, his mileage should be paid by the church.

There are many things which should be counted in determining the car allowance. Obviously, gas, oil, and maintenance are closely related to the number of miles travelled. It may be less obvious that the higher the mileage, the lower the trade-in on the next car. Most church staff members will have higher than average mileage. This means the old car's trade-in value will be reduced dramatically, as much as \$800 to \$1,000.

The most important question is, "How much mileage should be paid the church staff workers?" Of course, the driving needs vary in different situations and the higher the mileage, the bigger the allowance should be.

Among the factors which affect the mileage of the workers is the size of the church field, the number of resident members, and the distance he must travel to visit hospitals.

A pastor serving a rural community may have a higher mileage if his members and prospects are scattered over a wide geographic area. The community may also be located some distance from the hospitals.

The church staff worker of an urban church may also have increased car expenses. When the hospitals are near, the staff will visit almost daily. In slow, congested traffic, gas and wear are increased.

In most full time situations, the staff worker will drive

a minimum of 20,000 miles a year on church business. Currently, the Internal Revenue Service is allowing 20 cents per mile for business travel. Some estimates run above 27 cents per mile. If we take the government figure for the worker who drives 20,000 miles, a minimum allowance of \$4,000 should be budgeted for car expense.

Most staff workers can give an exact figure on the church related mileage because that portion which is not reimbursed by the church is deducted when federal income tax is filed. (They are able to retain only a small percentage of the money actually lost.) This figure should be considered in the annual budget.

Even the part-time staff worker who spends only one or two days on the church field usually drives hundreds of miles each week. In many instances, part-time staff, especially students, have very tight personal budgets. Churches should care for the mileage expense of the part-time workers, also, so that salary paid is truly salary.

If a church worker doesn't have a proper car allowance, the church staff worker's salary may be much less than the budget claims. Suppose the church budget lists \$15,000 as salary, \$1,000 as car allowance, and the pastor drives 20,000 miles each year. In reality his mileage lacks \$3,000 covering his car expense. So his salary is actually only \$12,000 annually.

Some churches today are saying, "We have a fixed amount for a total compensation for the pastor or staff member. Each person can arrange the benefits to suit himself. For example, he can have health insurance, car allowance, and housing allowance as he desires!" But, as has already been noted, unless the total package is adequate he will not be properly compensated. Car expense in no way can be considered salary.

Money can be spent only once, so careful consideration should be given to the staff car allowances. Churches love their staff and want to care for their needs. So budget committees will want to carefully consider car allowances.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 82

NUMBER 16

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Betty Kennedy . . . . . Managing Editor

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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## The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

### TV, the taste-maker

My last article quoted extensively from a study by Robert and Linda Lichter and Stanley Rothman which found that the writers, producers, and executives of successful television programs as a group are far less religious than the general public and diverge sharply from traditional values. According to the authors, very few of these writers, producers, and executives have their roots in "middle America". It was noted by this writer that "middle America" is bombarded by the values of this relatively small but highly influential group who write and produce the TV fare of the nation.

This becomes very disturbing when it is considered how profoundly powerful television is as a "tastemaker" and a shaper of attitudes and opinions. A medium that commands the attention of so many people so much of the time has to be taken seriously, especially when that medium so fre-

quently makes mockery of such institutions as marriage, the family and the church, and holds up to ridicule the time honored values cherished by most Americans.

Professor Dennis T. Lowery has reported that in an analysis of the handling of drinking on prime time television, he found almost four drinking incidents an hour, which computes to approximately 13,000 drinking incidents per year, portrayed on television, mostly by beautiful, rich, successful people. Lowery reports that there were 16 drinking incidents for every drink refusal which communicates that drinking is a normal, typical, and desirable social behavior. He reported that drunkenness, automobile accidents, and other negative consequences of drinking are rarely portrayed on television.

Analyzing the extent and nature of sexual behavior shown on network soap operas, Lowery reports that some sort of sexual be-

havior occurs every nine minutes and that programs contain more than three instances of sexual behavior between unmarried partners for every one instance between married partners, conveying the message that sex is more for unmarried partners than for marrieds. Again the pain, anguish and heartache left in the wake of such behavior is not presented.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the television programming featured on the three major networks is shaping the moral attitudes of our society by undermining traditional values and advocating more liberal views.

It is vital that parents and pastors and churches recognize the magnitude of this threat and respond with appropriate measures to counter its influence.

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

JANUARY 1983	FEBRUARY 1983	MARCH 1983	APRIL 1983	MAY 1983	JUNE 1983	JULY 1983	AUGUST 1983	SEPTEMBER 1983
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## Next month in Arkansas

**May 1, Senior Adult Day,** suggested day for local churches to recognize senior adults and reaffirm the church's commitment to ministry to and with senior adults.

**May 1-8, Christian Home Week,** suggested time for churches to begin to strengthen families by encouraging them in "Opening the Word Together." A time for families to commit to family worship is suggested for the closing Sunday.

**May 2-3, Chaplaincy Awareness Conference,** for all Arkansas chaplains will offer lectures on stress in the ministry, ministering to the oppressed, and ministry to alcoholics. Camp Paron will be the site.

**May 2-3, Church Growth Thrust Conference,** at Central Church in North Little Rock, will train key leaders in associations in their service areas. **May 2-6, At Home Week for Baptist Building personnel.**

**May 6-7 Deacon/Pastor Retreat** for these ministers and their wives. Skills training emphasizes deacons and pastors working together to minister. Will include worship, fellowship and Bible study 6 p.m. Friday through lunch Saturday.

**May 8, Day of Instrumental Praise** emphasizes that 1982-83 is designated the year of instrumental emphasis in the Southern Baptist Convention. The day is suggested for churches to highlight instrumental musicians in worship services.

**May 8, Associational Hymn Sings** are a quarterly event in many Arkansas associations.

**May 9, 10, 11, State Pastors' Retreat** offers practical help, spiritual inspiration and supportive fellowship for the first 100 pastors to register. Site is Camp Paron.

**May 13, Graduation at Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge,** Arkansas Baptists' two-year school.

**May 14, State Music Tournament** at Second Church in Hot Springs offers competition for those who have gained first or second place in associational tournaments, with a minimum ranking of superior.

**May 15, Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine** emphasizes the ministry of the state paper and the importance of individual Baptists having access to information about their state, denomination and world.

**May 16-20, MasterLife Workshop** at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, prepares pastors and others to lead a MasterLife group in the local church. It will be the state's second training session.

**May 16-22, Associational Missions Week** is the suggested time for churches to focus on their part in the family of missions enterprises, including relationships to the association.

**May 17-18 Missions Ministries Workshop** at Camp Paron will present several models of Christian social ministries. Attendance is by reservation only through State Missions Department.

**May 20-21, GA Mother/Daughter Camp** at Paron offers first through third grade members of Girls in Action and their mothers a time away for communication, worship, campcraft and missions study.

**May 26-28, Conference on Senior Adults** on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia is for seniors and those who work with them. A banquet, entertainment, worship, fellowship and sessions on physical fitness are included.

by Don Moore

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

... Great manifestations of God's power are being experienced in many areas. Revivals at Central, Jonesboro; First Baptist, Trumann; and Trinity Association Crusade at Lepanto have seen in excess of 500, 70 and 300 saved respectively. These phenomenal manifestations have followed intense and concerted prayer, the preparation and involvement of many in personal soul winning, and intelligent preparation and promotion. However, none of these can explain what has happened. Only God can effect such results. We should all "rejoice with them that rejoice" (Romans 12:15). We should all work and pray to the end that revival might be experienced throughout our state.

In addition to these thrilling reports, I am learning regularly of churches whose Sunday School is booming. A small church with 68 percent increase in a few months, and a little larger church with a 100 percent increase in two years; these are typical of the reports I receive. "The Way of the Cross" campaign reports are most encouraging.

Folks, every church CAN grow! If they can, then they **must!** We, at the Baptist Building, are committed to helping it all happen. Let's all take heart and go for it — growth in every church this year!

... **Sixty-six new pastors and staff persons and their wives**, who have moved into Arkansas Baptist life from other states, enjoyed the two day orientation we provided for them April 4-5. They were a delight. They are going to provide outstanding leadership in our state. We welcome them and pledge our support of their ministry.

... **4,000-5,000 attend youth convention** on April 1. Our Church Training Department made excellent preparation. Our church leadership responded wonderfully. God touched many lives with lasting impressions and commitments.

**Keep up the good work!**

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

## Contact teams going

ARKADELPHIA — For the 12th year Ouachita Baptist University will send out two "CONTACT!" teams to participate in revivals, retreats, fellowships, and church camp activities across the state this summer, according to Buddy Barnett, OBU admissions counselor.



## Woman's viewpoint

Kay Young

### Weary of well-doing?

When I told one of our most active members that her husband had a committee meeting that night, she smiled and said, "Well, we had just been talking about the fact that neither of us had a meeting to attend tonight." Do you know how she felt, the old "the more I do the more I'm asked to do" feeling?

Growing weary of well-doing, sometimes called "burnout," is not limited to the clergy. Christian burnout can strike anyone, usually those most dedicated to furthering the Lord's kingdom.

We grow weary and feel unappreciated. We cannot see the results of our labors. We feel we are fighting the battle and losing. While all of these feelings are real, they are also deceptive. In Isaiah, the Christian is promised that he "will run and not grow weary," but first he must "wait upon the Lord" and not try to run on his own power

or he'll be unable to recharge himself (Isaiah 40:31). I Corinthians 15:58 reminds us that our "toil is not in vain in the Lord." And, it has been said, "we don't have to win the battle, all we have to do is proclaim God's victory."

When you are weary, remember that God knows your work and your motives. Cheer yourself with knowing that you have the honor of working for the King. Remember Jesus' words, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . . For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28, 30).

Kay Young is a secretary at Park Hill church in North Little Rock and also directs a sixth grade Sunday school department. In her spare time, she loves to read, watch old movies, cook, camp, whitewater float and play with her two cats.

## Letters to the editor

### Extremes vary

In the April 7, 1983, edition of the *News-magazine*, an article was carried that stated, "SBC returning to middle." The gentleman interviewed was Albert McClellan, and he gave his views on the condition of the Convention. It is to his remarks that I wish to address myself.

First, I must ask the question: From what source do we discern an "extreme?" To men, extremes vary. With God, all things remain constant. So, it would seem wise to have the Word of God as our standard, not whether or not we think someone is "extreme" to one degree or the other. The Bible must be the sole authority by which we . . . test the spirits whether they are of God." (I John 4:1).

Second, it is my belief that someone (or some church) does not wholeheartedly support the Baptist Faith and Message, that is their prerogative, but it does not give them the right to call themselves a Southern Baptist. To be a Roman Catholic, one must accept certain beliefs of the Catholic system. To be a Methodist, one must accept certain other beliefs before they can be called "Methodist" in the true sense of the word. So it should be with us. If someone is not willing to believe what we, as the largest non-Catholic free church group in the world, believe, then they should separate

from us. They should not be allowed to continue to call themselves Southern Baptists!

Third, let me assert the basic tenants of the faith. They are: the verbal inspiration of the Bible; the deity, virgin birth, blood atonement, bodily resurrection, and personal second coming of Christ; the fallen condition of all mankind; salvation by repentance and faith, grace without works; and eternal doom in hell for the unconverted and Eternal blessedness for the saved in heaven. Call them the Fundamentals of the Faith if you please, but don't call yourself a Southern Baptist if you don't believe them!

Remember — Robert G. Lee, George W. Truett, L. R. Scarborough, Dr. Carroll, and other great Christians all believed these things! — Todd W. White, Springdale

### ABN letters policy

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

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

**Lester Nixon**

was elected director of missions for North Central Association April 7. A native of Van Buren County, he has pastored Van Buren and Faulkner County churches for 25 years. He and his wife, Faye, are parents of five children.

**Robert Hartness**

began serving as pastor of the Barton Church April 17. He moved there from Wooster where he served as pastor for nine years, leading the church in a parsonage building program. He has also pastored churches at McGehee and Prairie Grove. He is married to the former Juanita Johns of Wilma. They have three children.

**Warren Leonard**

is serving as pastor of Clarks Chapel in Buckner Association.

**Henderson Brown**

has been called to serve as pastor of the Grubb Springs Church.

**Joe W. Davis**

was ordained to the ministry March 13 at Oak Grove Church in Van Buren where his father, Wayne Davis, is pastor. Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and deacons from the Oak Grove Church served as



Hartness



Nixon

council members. They were assisted by Skip Kelley, Ray VanCamp, and George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association. Davis, pastor of the Mount Bethel Church in Arkadelphia, is a student at Ouachita Baptist University. He is married to the former Paula Farrar. They have a son, Joe Paul, age three.

**James Rowdon**

is serving as pastor of Calvary Church in Lepanto. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and resides, with his wife and three sons, in Memphis.

**Jim Conner**

is serving as pastor of the Trinity Church in Rogers.

**Charles Locke**

is serving as pastor of the Lebanon Church.

**Bill Barnett**

is serving as interim music director of the East End Church at Hensley.

**Mark Evans**

is serving as minister of youth at Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. He is a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Noble Wiles**

is serving as pastor of the Shannon Church in Pochahontas, going there from the Northside Church at Batesville.

**Charles Mays**

is serving as pastor of the Bellaire Church near Dermott, going there from the Morton Church near McCrory. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Rose, have two daughters, Tammy and Kimberly.

**Dickie Boyles**

was recognized April 14 for his 10 years of service as director of Baptist Student Union at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway. A love offering of \$1,313 was presented to him at an area wide BSU committee meeting, composed of representatives from Carolina, Little Red River, North Central and Faulkner Associations.

## briefly

**Fayetteville First Church**

had a wills/estate planning emphasis this month led by Harry Trulove, director of Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

**Greenland First Church**

held a noteburning service April 10 to celebrate payment on both an educational building and auditorium. Pastor L. C. Roots was assisted by former pastors.

**Springdale First Church**

is establishing a 24 hour prayer ministry through the addition of a prayer chapel and garden.

**Fair Park Church**

at Russellville has added 48 names to its church enrollment as the result of a 12-month growth program directed by bivocational pastor John Sammons of Little Rock. Eighteen of these additions were on profession of faith.

**Paragould Third Avenue Church**

held an ordination service April 17 for its pastor, Donnie Smith.

**Wilmot Church**

was in revival April 4-10 according to pastor Ken Overton. Rick Wadley of Missouri was evangelist and George Duke of Damascus directed music. Decisions included one profession of faith, one volunteer for Mission Service Corp and 10 rededications.

**Rock Springs Church**

ordained their pastor, Win Callison, to the ministry April 24.

**Calvary Church**

at Texarkana held a deacon ordination service April 10 for R. L. Harris and Al Lotz. Carroll Caldwell, director of missions for Southwest Arkansas Association, was the speaker.

**Pulaski County Association**

is sponsoring a Bi-Vocational Pastors organization that will meet the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Officers are John Lee, president; Glen H. Smith, vice president and John Hurd, secretary.

**Dayton Church**

held a deacon ordination service April 10 for Claude Yancey, Charles Vincent, John Goddard and Jerry Presson.

**James Fork Church**

held a deacon ordination service April 17 for Bob Schlinker.

**Siloam Springs First Church**

men met March 27 for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Mens group.

**Spradling Church**

at Fort Smith held a deacon ordination service March 27 for Rud Mansell and Ted Davis. Pastor Ron Williamson was council moderator, assisted by LeRoy French, pas-

tor of Rye Hill Church, Ferrell D. Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, and Kay Mansell, pastor of Southside Church in Heber Springs.

**Ashley County Association**

churches recently participated in a week's Sunday School revival, featuring Leon Kilbreth as evangelist and Herb Meadows as music director. Norman Lewis, director of missions, and John Johnston, associational Sunday School director, reported an average nightly attendance of 1,000.

**Cedarville Church**

was in a revival April 4-10 led by Rex Easterling of Rogers. Pastor Garland Hobbs reported 16 professions of faith and eight rededications.

**Swifton Church**

children's choir, with 21 members, presented the musical "Babble at Babel" April 10. They performed for area churches and the public April 16.

**Immanuel Church**

in Pine Bluff is sponsoring the Singing Men of Arkansas in concert at the church April 28, 7:30 p.m. The group is composed of ministers of music from Southern Baptist churches throughout the state and this will be one of their two concert appearances this year. Erwin Keathley, music department director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will be conductor.

**Strong First Church**

held a groundbreaking service April 3 for a 20,000 square foot building, estimated to cost approximately \$550,000 when completed. The building program will include construction of a fellowship hall, kitchen and classroom and renovation of the existing educational space with the addition of church offices, library and choir practice room. A new sanctuary will also be built. Members have given \$425,000 toward construction costs and Pastor David L. Wilson has challenged them to move into a debt free building. Building committee members are George Burson, David Meshell, Judy Johnson, Wilson, Faye Durrett, Gene Blevins, chairman, Loyd Meshell and Juanet Gaskin.



ABN photo/Seward

Ground was broken Friday, April 15, for a BSU center at the Southern Arkansas University technical branch at Camden. The 2,000 square foot center, being built with volunteer help, is the first BSU center to include passive solar features. Present for the ceremony were (standing, left to right) Jon Stubblefield, co-chairman of the building committee; Tom Logue, state BSU director; George Brown, president of SAU, technical branch; Tommy Robertson, co-chairman of the building committee and Don Moore, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Kneeling, looking at the plans are (left) Jim Detries, BSU president, and Bill Henley, BSU director at the campus.



Rosie Church dedicated an education building Feb. 27. Don Moore (front row extreme right), Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. Leslie Riherd (pictured next to Moore) is interim pastor.



ABN photo/Jones

Silent singing — A group of youths from Calvary Church in East Camden, who have formed a choir to sign songs for the deaf, visited First Baptist of Little Rock Sunday morning, April 17 to perform for the deaf in the church's chapel. They also signed a series of short testimonies to those present.



# Local church discipleship anything but bold statistics reveal; but remedy is at hand

by Betty J. Kennedy

A Southern Baptist leader in Church Training thinks he has good reason to be concerned that churches consider seriously the "Developing Believers" emphasis.

Roy Edgemon spells it out: "According to the records we receive each year on the ministry of our churches, we have failed to disciple 87 percent of our new converts in the last decade." "This failure may be the greatest scandal of the Twentieth century," he asserts.

Edgemon, Director of the Church Training Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, writes those words of alarm to pastors in a booklet called the *Pastor's Manual for Church Growth*. In an introductory note, Edgemon acknowledges that "we have been exceptionally devoted to evangelism but neglectful in preparing our people for the Christian life." "Recent statistics reveal that we are losing more than 40 percent of the new converts who join our churches," he notes.

The outcome, Edgemon acknowledges, is that, without the development of believers on a vast scale, the power and authority of the Word in the Body of Christ will be greatly weakened.

The program prescribed as an antidote is a part of the denomination's three-year Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on reaching people, developing believers and strengthening families. Edgemon characterizes Developing Believers as a plan of mutual growth for both pastor and people in a covenant relationship.

But the plan is not just for Church Training, Edgemon emphasizes. "Church Training, Sunday School, Church Administration and Church Music are all pulling together to give you a year-long (1983-84) planning strategy to meet this enormous need of our time," he explains.

"One of the real strengths of the plan is that it fits into a church's own timetable," says Robert Holley, Arkansas Church Training Department Director. He explains that Developing Believers strategies require no radical change of the church calendar.

This is the plan:

After the kickoff Sunday, Sept. 25, the church would adopt the Believer's Ministry Covenant between pastor and members to express their commitment to developing believers.

Then Dynamic Doctrines, a three-month study of major doctrinal themes for children, youth and adults, will be provided in regular training literature October through December. Belief and Behavior, for the same age groups, also will come from the Church Training age-graded materials, January through September of 1984. And Baptist Doctrine Study in the spring of 1984 focuses

on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, tying in another strategy for developing believers.

A Pastor's Seminar, for pastors to lead the study of Equipping Center Modules (self-contained study packages) at three times during the year offers direct pastor-pole contact. And the timing and content is flexible.

"The pastor is going to be the one to make it happen," Holley explains. "He really plays a key role."

Interpretation of the plan to pastors has been taking place during March and April as training sessions were conducted in Arkansas associations. This training was led by 65 persons from 30 associations who were prepared at the state's Developing Believers Launch meeting in February. Steve Williams of the SBC Church Training Department and Joe Stacker of the Church Administration Department came to show those trainees/trainers how the plan could aid the local church in improving the rate of disciple making.

These conferences were Arkansas' plan to get the Pastor's Manual to pastors and the association is still the channel. Any pastor who has not yet received this guide can contact his association's office, according to

Arkansas Church Training is somewhat of an exception to the SBC trend in discipleship training. Enrollment for 1982 showed a 4.5 percent increase over the previous year. And, 26 percent of all members of all Arkansas Baptist churches were enrolled in training programs, compared to 29 percent in the two highest states. Robert Holley says that 75 percent of all state churches report having a Church Training program.

Holley.

"The strategies and resources suggested for Developing Believers offer our churches an unprecedented opportunity to make discipleship training a priority," Holley feels.

Boldness is the byword of the time for Southern Baptists. Bold Mission Thrust can't be very bold without strong discipleship, Roy Edgemon knows. He sees the lack of it as a drain on the local church. "The power of your church is tied to the people's growth in discipleship," he tells pastors. And how forceful is a lighthouse with a dead battery?

Betty J. Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

## Believers' Ministry Covenant Between Pastor and People

WE BELIEVE that salvation in Jesus Christ includes a call to minister to people.

WE BELIEVE that God has given to all his children gifts of grace that can be developed and used in ministry.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit of God is our companion in ministry, enabling us to serve Jesus Christ to our fullest potential.

Therefore:  
WE WILL GIVE high priority to develop and support the total ministry of this church, based on the teachings of our Lord and the apostles as stated in Ephesians 4.

WE WILL SEEK to discover, develop, and use together our God-given gifts in ministry.

WE WILL ENGAGE ourselves in a mutual sharing of faith, hope, and love as the family of God.

WE WILL SIT, talk, learn, and work together as we seek to build up the body of Christ.

WE WILL BE HONEST and open with one another in our efforts to improve and expand our ministry.

WE WILL GRATEFULLY acknowledge God's enabling presence in our midst as we share and work together to bring persons to God through Jesus Christ.

ALL OF THIS WE COVENANT to do in the awareness of God's call, commission, and presence in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor's Signature-Line

Member's Signature-Line

Developing  
Believers  
The Pastor's Manual  
for Church Growth  
1983-85

A new program designed to create a more evangelistic climate in Sunday School was introduced to 183 Arkansas Baptists at an April 9 Little Rock meeting.

The "Teach, Win and Develop" clinic featured materials formulated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Clinicians from the board used skits, testimonies and conferences to give local church workers an insight into ways of strengthening their Sunday School program.

These included: (1) understanding the unique use of Sunday School in Southern Baptist life as a means of evangelism; (2) recognizing and accepting leadership roles in creating a climate for evangelism; (3) identifying several climate-setting activities and experiencing at least one activity; (4) exploring ways to lead members to make a commitment to evangelism through the Sunday School; (5) listing names of friends, neighbors, work associates and relatives who need the Christian message; and (6) determining ingredients in developing new converts into Christ likeness.

A surprise at the clinic was the honoring of Lawson Hatfield, state Sunday School director. Hatfield, who has resigned to become pastor of Fordyce First Church, was presented a gift and told by Don Moore, state convention executive secretary, that the Siloam Springs renovated dining hall was being named in his honor.



**"Teach, Win, and Develop" plan helps Sunday schools evangelize**



ABN photos / Millie Gill

# Termination: why does it happen?

by Kevin Jones

One of two things has usually happened when a church terminates a pastor, according to Dr. Glen McGriff, a counselor who leads a ministry of crisis support for church professionals for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"Sometimes a man fails to understand the actual leadership structure when he goes into a church," McGriff said. "There can be leaders that the people accept who are not obvious, who have no official appointed position. If a pastor works through committees for example, but the actual leaders of the church are not on the committees, he may run into trouble."

McGriff said that even the most diplomatic handling of some situations, including trying to enlist those leaders into established positions of responsibility, may not work in some churches at some times, with the result that the pastor is asked to leave through no fault of his own.

"That's extremely rare, however," he said, adding that it's more common for the pastor to be at least part of the problem. "Personalities almost always replace issues," he added.

"There are also pastors with their own personality problems," he said. "Things they've never resolved in their own character that contribute to their inability to relate well."

Some of those problems include a feeling of inadequacy which is expressed in trying to dominate things, and an unwillingness to listen. "Some get into the ministry looking for power," he said. "Men with problems like these don't know who they are in Christ, and are sometimes trying to do the Holy Spirit's work for him instead of reporting the message God has given them and letting the church respond. Many times they bring their defeats on themselves."

"There is also an unwillingness by a pastor to accept poor treatment — he wants to be treated with personal respect, and there are so many more opportunities to serve today that he's not willing to stay if he's treated badly. In some ways he's a victim of his own professionalism."

"Years ago, most men did not preach for a living, but were farmers or school teachers. The pastor back then did not know the needs of his people as well, and wasn't as likely to preach to their specific problems and get them uncomfortable. There was usually one county seat pastor who ministered to people throughout the county as well as pastors of small churches. A church usually did not want to get rid of him; he was the only one in the area who was likely to be trained."

"Then there are the stresses of contemporary culture — we have so many more transitions, that people feel there is nothing definite, few things permanent. People want

the church to compensate for the outside turmoil, they want to feel safe and protected — they don't want change."

## Things to do

McGriff has acted as a mediator between a pastor and church leaders, helping them to find the roots of the problem. Sometimes, the parties can be reconciled. Other times, even a pastor's defenders come to agree that his ability to lead in the situation is lost and he needs to move.

Six early warning signs that such a defeat is on the way, according to experts in the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, are frequent complaints by church members about the way a pastor does his job, withdrawal from the pastor, drops in giving and attendance, radical changes in lay leadership, adamant stands taken by groups who used to be flexible, and the pastor becoming defensive.

Once the pastor has been fired, he often finds that there are few options open to him. Some conventions, such as Tennessee, have instituted a type of unemployment program, though no such plan is apparently in the works yet in Arkansas. The state executive secretary has a discretionary fund which he

can use to assist pastors in financial difficulties.

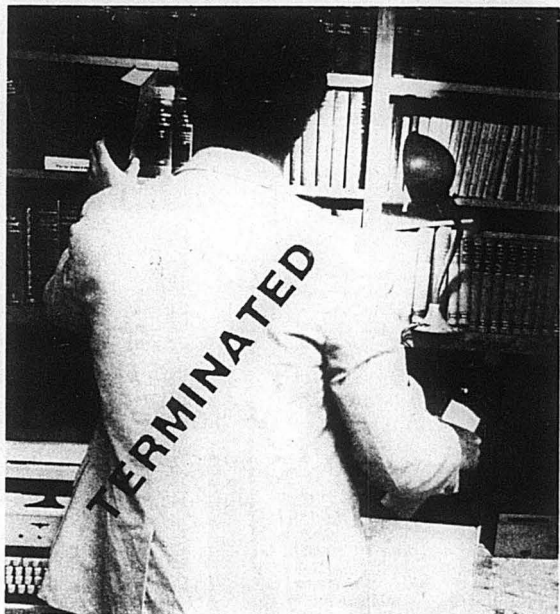
McGriff says that he offers counsel to many of them, helping them to understand not only what has happened, but what habits or parts of their personality need to be changed to keep it from happening again.

McGriff can also refer a terminated pastor to the career assessment program offered by the Sunday School board, where his skills and aptitudes will be assessed. Then he can go on to his next church with a clearer idea of what he can do and things he either needs to avoid or needs help with.

"If a man discovers he is weak in administration, he can ask a layman for some help," McGriff explained. "It can be a liberating thing for that man to be asked to use his gift for the Lord."

A seminar for terminated pastors is in the planning stages for next year according to McGriff.

"Some take termination as a sign that God is punishing them," McGriff said. "Often they need to learn acceptance," he added, "they need to accept their failure without a sense of rejection. That failure is not necessarily bad; it may be the best thing that ever happened to them if they learn from it."



ABM photo / Mike Gill

# Termination causes problems, scars for those involved

by Kevin Jones

It's been six months, and he still doesn't have a church. Living in a rented house on this wife's meager income, he worries.

"I want another pastorate, but I'm beginning to think about getting a secular job," he said. "But I'm not trained for anything else; the church is all I have known."

John (not his real name) is one of a growing number of Arkansas ministers who have been terminated, asked to leave the church he had felt God had called him to serve.

It was hard on him. "All of a sudden you wake up and you're not in the main stream of life," he said. "I felt left out, isolated. When I am around my former fellow pastors, I feel like a failure. I know they tried to help, to reach out to me, but I still feel alone."

Since his termination, churches don't seem interested in considering him for openings. "Churches are skeptical of me," he said. "I can't get before a church. I told one why I was out of a pastorate, and they said they were still interested. But they haven't called again."

Like most of those interviewed, he sees the problem in the church, the people and situation rather than in anything he did. Like the others, he can't think of anything he would do differently.

Jack, another terminated pastor, expressed his view more openly than most. "When a man is asked to leave, it's likely not the pastor's fault," he said. "These are men called to do their best; they are trying to do what the Lord wants them to do. I never felt it was my fault."

Every one talked to said they would be more wary in the future dealings with a church. The person with the most bitterness was the wife of one of these men. Though her husband has found another church, she hasn't been able to leave the experience behind. "I tried to keep from getting bitter," she said, "but it still hangs over me. I saw people I thought were dear friends turn on us."

"I'm not going to stick my neck out again. I'm never going to get so committed to the people in a church again. I couldn't go through it emotionally," she said with a catch in her voice. "It absolutely crushed me. I'm not going to let my heart get broken again. I'll be involved fully in my husband's church, but I won't let it ruin my life."

Ironically, she said that before it happened to her she had been too quick to judge pastors who had been terminated. "I always

thought it happened to someone else. I thought where there is smoke, there's fire; that there must be something wrong with the people. I think differently now."

She says that the Lord has taken away her bitter feelings towards her former friends and church members. Yet she denies that her unwillingness to commit herself again may hurt her husband's ministry. "It won't," she said in response to a question, "I'll get in hands and feet. I just won't let my heart get that involved with the people."

An older pastor who was asked to leave a church several years ago offered another perspective. Paul, who now is pastor of another church, said that his time out of the pulpit was "perplexing." "I didn't understand why the Lord didn't open something else up. But I had to learn some things. I had to develop sympathy for those in the church that either aren't saved or don't act in a Christian way. And maybe I hadn't lived up to my profession, I hadn't communicated as well as I could have."

"But I found out one big thing: God wasn't through with me just because I had made a mistake. He wasn't through with me even if my congregation was."

## OBU dedicates \$4 million PE center

ARKADELPHIA — The dedication of Ouachita Baptist University's new \$4 million physical education center was held Thursday afternoon, April 14 in the arena of the new structure, according to Daniel R. Grant, president of the school.

Those attending the ceremony included Dillard Miller, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, who brought the invocation; the Ouachita Board of Trustees; the Ouachita Development Council; campaign leaders, faculty, staff, students, and special friends of the University.

"The completion and dedication of this new building means far more than a strengthening of our programs in health, physical education and recreation. It demonstrates what can be done when hundreds and even thousands of supporters, individual foundations and other groups work together to strengthen Ouachita as a whole," said Grant.

"It says to the world that we are committed to providing the best in facilities and service to the young people of this region," he added.

The structure is part of Ouachita's Centennial Advancement Campaign, which is designed to raise Ouachita to new levels of strength and excellence between 1981 and 1986; 1986 being the year Ouachita will complete 100 years of service as an institution of Christian higher education.

The Pickens-Bond Construction Company of Little Rock were the contractors for the new structure. The architects were Blass, Chilcote, Carter, Lanford and Wilcox of Little Rock.

In addition to renovating the old varsity basketball facility, 65,000 square feet of new space has been added. The new multipurpose structure features a pool with a movable bulkhead to convert from meters to yards whenever necessary; three new

classrooms; two office suites, one for physical education and one for athletics; and a weight room with hydra-gym equipment, which is a hydraulic exercise system.

Also added to the building are four handball/racquetball courts, a gymnastics room; an alumni lounge, the "Tiger Den," with a window overlooking the arena; and new locker rooms including the renovation of the two varsity basketball locker rooms.



## Better moral climate is goal of Christian Life Council

by J. Everett Sneed

"My job," said Robert Parker, director of the Christian Life Council of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "is to encourage Baptists in the practice of everyday Christianity. As Christians, we are to influence people to make the world a better place to live." It is Parker's hope that Christians will see themselves as the "salt of the earth and the light of the world."

Parker became aware of the need for an organization such as the Christian Life Council while serving as a pastor. "People need someone to remind them of their moral and ethical responsibility," he said. "This is our responsibility," he added.

Parker has a deep sense of calling to the work he is doing. "While I was a pastor I began to see the effects of the contemporary pressures of our society. Someone needs to help provide answers as to how Christians are to cope with these moral and ethical questions. I love being a pastor, but my overriding desire is to do the work that I am doing. My job is to be supportive of pastors and churches as they give emphasis to practical Christian living," he said.

Before coming to his present position, Parker served four churches as pastor and a fifth as associate pastor. He was active in the Naval Reserve Chaplaincy for 21 years and directed the United Christian Action of Florida for four years (an organization similar to the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc.).

Parker has a number of projects to assist in understanding practical Christian living. Each year he goes to a number of youth camps to talk with young people. His camp activities include speaking each week at Siloam Springs and a number of associational camps. "The response of our young people has been very encouraging to me," he said.

Parker, also, conducts church and associational conferences in which he deals with family life human relations, moral issues, economic life, daily work and citizenship. "When I go to a church, I use the Sunday School, Church Training and worship hours so I can deal with the entire family," he said.

On July 1 the Christian Life Council will hold a Citizenship Conference at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock. Another is scheduled at Ouachita Baptist University in the spring of 1984.

Robert Parker also serves as a liaison between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Christian Civic Foundation. "I give encouragement to the organization," he said. "It is my desire to support the Foundation and its Executive Director John Finn

in every way I possibly can as it fights against the evils of alcohol, other dangerous drugs, pornography and gambling. Finn is a licensed lobbyist in these areas. I do not have the time to add this to my responsibilities. I am grateful to God for the work John Finn is doing."

Parker is also a member of the Interfaith Task Force on world hunger, headed by H. E. Williams, president emeritus of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge. Each denomination handles donations to world hunger through its own channels.

The Christian Life Council provides information on a variety of issues concerning practical Christianity. Parker said, "It is my desire to give strong emphasis to Biblical truths that deal with everyday living. We are able to provide individuals and churches materials on a wide range of moral and

social issues."

Parker feels a need for the inclusion of more practical materials on living in the curriculum of our churches. "In the past, we had one Sunday School lesson each quarter on problem areas of society such as the use of alcohol. I feel that the discontinuation of this has had a negative effect. In a time when social pressures are so prevalent, we need a stronger emphasis on Christian ethics," he said.

Parker is excited about his place of service. "It is a joy to help Arkansas Baptists become more aware of the ethical implications of the gospel. It is my desire to assist in developing the kind of moral and social climate in which the witness of our people for Christ will be more effective."

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



Robert Parker always looks for opportunities to get his anti-drug message to young people, like these Acteans.



Hundreds of people turned out at a reception Sunday, April 17 to wish Dr. and Mrs. W. O. Vaught well on his retirement from the pastorate of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. His 38 years as pastor ranks him among the top 65 pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention in that regard. A chair of evangelism in his name has been established at Ouachita Baptist University, the successful fund drive having been completed only days before the date of his retirement.

## Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, my relationship with my husband has deteriorated to the extent that it is boring and dull. We do not argue and fight, but neither do we talk or relate. Can we ever restore the intimacy we have lost?

Your problem is a very common one. It may even be true that most marital relationships will move through periods of diminished luster or boredom.

Conflict is not the only cause of marital deterioration. It may not even be the most frequent cause. Arguments in relationships are somewhat like elevated temperature in the body; they are a symptom indicating a problem, not the problem itself.



McGriff

Relationships are dynamic and growing. They develop and change. Development and change will be dependent upon a number of factors.

A primary factor for any living thing is nurture. An infant relationship can no more be expected to grow and thrive without nourishment than an infant child. Experience and evaluation indicates that nourishment often ceases soon after the marriage ceremony.

Many couples never discuss the goals they have for their marriage. Neither spouse understands what the other would like the relationship to be. Little can be done to develop a relationship without goals, or when the goals remain secret and hidden.

Relationships can be revitalized and intimacy can be restored. Intimacy is a word that has lost much of its meaning by the way it is used. The word is derived from a form meaning "to know." Growing, changing persons must be willing to disclose to their spouse these "growth edges" of their personality. If this is not done, intimacy cannot continue. It is possible to simply "grow" distance when communication does not occur.

Glen D. McGriff is Director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

*Inquiries, comments or questions to be used anonymously in this column should be sent to Questions, Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Towers Building, Suite 660, 9601 Lile Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72205.*

## missionary notes

**Linda Dillworth**, missionary to the Philippines, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 99, Davao City, Philippines 9501). She was born in Fort Knox, Ky., and has also lived in Germany; Fort Smith, Ark.; Laston, Okla.; and Augusta, Ga. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1977.

**Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth G. Robertson**, missionaries to Senegal, may be addressed at BP 39, Bignona, Casamance, Senegal. They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Pine Bluff and lived in Wilmot, Pickens and Tillar. The former Margaret Howard, she is a native of Clark County. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

## MK Prayer Calendar

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

May

- 7 Vickie Middleton (Transkei) OBU, Box 61, Arkadelphia, 71923  
8 Kay Allison (Botswana) OBU, Box 1137, Arkadelphia, 71923

### Stewardship

## Cooperative Program report: March

### Summary for March 1983

	Year	January-March gifts		% Increase
		Over (under)	Over previous year	
Budget	1978	\$12,149.82	10.81%	
Received	1979	(\$72,131.66)	7.40%	
Over (under) (\$ 7,531.33)	1980	\$ 4,681.33	10.39%	
	1981	\$15,683.00	13.82%	
	1982	(\$47,253.12)	10.29%	
	1983	\$13,952.43	12.61%	

Baptist people continue to minister to world needs through the Cooperative Program. Gifts for March are 16.72 percent above last year and represent 99.10 percent of the monthly budget. — James A. Walker, director

# Tentative 1984 Calendar

## Arkansas Baptist State Convention

### January Make Your Will Month

1	Christian Wills Emphasis
2-6	Bible Study Week (Sunday School)
5-6	Staff Retreat
8	Witness Commitment Day
9	Special Worker Training, Immanuel, Little Rock, (Sunday School)
9-10	Media Library Workshop, Central, North Little Rock, (Church Training)
9	Spring Registration, Southern Baptist College
10	Spring Registration, Ouachita Baptist University
12	State Joint Committee (National Baptist)
12	Associational Faculty Training, Ozark, First; Jonesboro, First; Pine Bluff Matthews Memorial; Hope, First (Sunday School)
13	Associational and District Music Directors' Workshop, Baptist Building, Little Rock, (Church Music)
	Baptist Men's Day
22	Area Preschool Children's Workshops, Fayetteville, First; Jonesboro Central; Texarkana, Beech Street (Church Training)
24	Area Preschool Children's Workshops, Ft. Smith, South Side; West Memphis Calvary; El Dorado, Immanuel, (Church Training)
26	Area Preschool Children's Workshops, Calvary, Little Rock; Pine Bluff, First; Harrison, First, (Church Training)
27-28	Homecoming, Southern Baptist College
30-31	State Evangelism Conference, Immanuel, Little Rock
30-Feb. 3	Associational Training Schools, (Sunday School)
30-Feb. 4	Arkansas Recreation Lab, Glorieta, (Church Training)

### February Baptist Seminaries, Colleges and Schools Month

1	Tax Seminar, Immanuel, (Stewardship)
1-3	BSU Director's Workshop
5	Baptist World Alliance Sunday
6-10	Christian Focus Week, Ouachita Baptist University
7	Vacation Bible School Clinic, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock (Sunday School)
10-11	Single Adult Conference, Park Hill, North Little Rock (Church Training)
12	Associational Hymn Sings, (Church Music)
12	Race Relations Sunday
12-18	Focus on WMU
13	Area DiscipleLife Workshop, Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith; Jonesboro, First, (Church Training)
13-16	Religious Emphasis Week, Southern Baptist College
14	Area DiscipleLife Workshop, Calvary, Little Rock; El Dorado, Immanuel, (Church Training)
16	Area DiscipleLife Workshop, Pine Bluff, South Side; Beech Street, First, Texarkana, (Church Training)
16	Witnessing to Children Workshop, Baptist Building, (Evangelism)

5	North Central District drills and tournaments, Mt. View, First (Church Training)
5	Northeast District drills and tournaments, Jonesboro, Central (Church Training)
6	Central District drills and tournaments, Olivet, Little Rock (Church Training)
6	East Central District drills and tournaments, Forrest City, First (Church Training)
7	State Young Musicians Festivals, Benton, First; El Dorado, First; Rogers, First; West Memphis, First (Church Music)
7	8.5 So Send I You clinic, Life Line, Little Rock (Sunday School)
9-10	New pastors/staff orientation, Baptist Building (Church Music)
13-14	Baptist Young Women Retreat, Camp Paron (WMU)
13-14	Tiger Traks Weekend (Ouachita Baptist University)
15	Associational Music Tournaments
15	Cooperative Program Day
16-17	Interfaith Witness Conference (Missions)
16-20	Baptist Doctrine Study (Church Training)
19-20	Interfaith Witness Conference (Missions)
20	State Youth Convention, Little Rock, Statehouse Convention Center (Church Training)
22	Easter
22	Life Commitment Day
23-25	Statewide Pastors' Bible Conference, Ouachita Baptist University
24	Church Building Conference, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Sunday School)
24	Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, Southern Baptist College (Church Training)
25	Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Church Training)
26	Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, Ouachita Baptist University (Church Training)
26-27	Minister of Education-Youth Seminar (Church Training)
27-28	Acteans Encounter, Ft. Smith, East Side (WMU)
27-28	State-wide Baptist Men's Convention and Royal Ambassador Congress
27-29	Arkansas-Vietnamese Evangelistic Crusade, Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith (Language Missions)
30-May 4	At Home Week, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

### May

1	Church Growth Conference for Associational Officers
4-5	Pastor-Deacon Retreat, Camp Paron (Church Training)
5	Spring Commencement, Ouachita Baptist University

- 18 Youth Choir Festival, Park Hill, North Little Rock (Church Music)
- 19 Baptist Seminaries, Colleges, and Schools Day
- 19-22 Home Mission Study (WMU)
- 20-21 Area Church Administration Workshops, East Side, Ft. Smith; West Memphis, First (Church Training)
- 23-24 Area Church Administration Workshops, Park Hill, North Little Rock; Pine Bluff, First (Church Training)
- 27-28 Pastor and Staff Retreat, Bella Vista, (Ministry Crisis Support)
- 28 LES Training Update, Baptist Building, (Evangelism)
- 29-March 2 Director of Missions Retreat, DeGray Lodge (Missions)

### March Home Missions

- 1 Recognition Banquet for directors of missions, Ouachita Baptist University
- 2- 3 State Handbell Festival, South, Ouachita Baptist University; North, Southern Baptist College, (Church Music)
- 4-11 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering (WMU)
- 5- 8 Area Strengthen the Family Conferences (Church Training)
- 8 WOW Training Day, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Evangelism)
- 9-10 Drama Festival Workshop, Camp Paron, (Church Training)
- 11-18 Youth Week (Church Training)
- 11 Home Missions Day
- 12-15 CWT Seminar, Benton, First (Evangelism)
- 16-17 Volunteer/Part Time Music Leader Workshop, Camp Paron (Church Music)
- 17 Associational Baptist Youth Night (Church Training)
- 18-April 22 The Way of the Cross Sunday School Campaign
- 19 Regional 8.5 Growth Clinics, Spradlin Avenue, Ft. Smith (Sunday School)
- 20-21 WMU Annual Meeting, Benton, First
- 22 Regional 8.5 Growth Clinics, West Memphis, First (Sunday School)
- 22-24 Marriage Enrichment Retreat-Basic, Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View (Church Training)
- 23-25 Leadership Training Conference, Camp Paron (Baptist Student Union)
- 26-29 New Member Training Workshops, Central, North Little Rock (Church Training)
- 30-31 Acteens Encounter, Pine Bluff, First (WMU)
- 30-April 1 Arkansas Baptist Deaf Leadership Conference, Little Rock, First (Language Missions)

### April

- 2 Northwest District drills and tournaments, Huntsville, First (Church Training)
- 2 Southwest District drills and tournaments, Hope, First (Church Training)
- 3 Urban Training Cooperative, Little Rock (Missions)
- 3 West Central District drills and tournaments, Paris, First (Church Training)
- 3 Southeast District drills and tournaments, Warren, First (Church Training)

- 6 Associational Hymn Sings (Church Music)
- 6 Senior Adult Day
- 6-13 Christian Home Week
- 7 Golden Age Evangelism Conference, Cherokee Village
- 7- 8 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, Camp Paron (Missions)
- 8 Golden Age Evangelism Conference, Bella Vista
- 11 Spring graduation, Southern Baptist College
- 12 State Music Tournament/Ensemble Jubilee, Baring Cross, North Little Rock (Church Music)
- 13 Day of Prayer for the ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE
- 13 Mother's Day
- 14-15 Special Missions Ministries, Camp Paron (Missions)
- 14-18 MasterLife Workshop, Ouachita Baptist University (Church Training)
- 18-19 GA Mother/Daughter Camp (grades 1-3), Camp Paron
- 20 Baptist radio and television Sunday
- 21-23 Pastor's Retreat, Camp Paron (Arkansas Baptist State Convention)
- 23-25 Growing an Evangelistic Church seminar, Camp Paron (Evangelism)
- 24-26 Senior Adult Conference, Ouachita Baptist University
- 27 Associational Mission Day of Prayer (Sunday School)
- 28 Memorial Day
- 31-June 2 Spring Campers on Mission Rally (Missions)

### JUNE Annuity Board Ministries

- 1- 2 RA Camp-precamp training for Staff (Brotherhood)
- 2- 8 Church Recreation (Ridgecrest)
- 2- 8 Church Training Youth Conference (Glorieta)
- 3 Religious Liberty Sunday (Christian Life Council)
- 4- 8 State RA Camp, Camp Paron (Brotherhood)
- 5- 8 Student Summer Mission orientation (Missions)
- 8- 9 Man-Boy Mini Camp, Camp Paron (Brotherhood)
- 8-14 Sunday School I Conference (Glorieta)
- 8-14 Church Training Youth (Ridgecrest)
- 10-11 WMU, SBC Annual Meeting, Kansas City
- 11-15 State RA Camp, Camp Paron (Brotherhood)
- 11-16 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (first week)
- 12-14 Southern Baptist Convention, Kansas City
- 14-19 Ridgecrest Music Week
- 14-20 Sunday School II (Glorieta)
- 17 Father's Day
- 18-21 Young Musicians Camp, Ouachita Baptist University (Church Music)
- 18-22 Boy's Youth Camp, Paron (National Baptist)
- 18-23 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (second week)
- 20-25 Ridgecrest Music Week
- 20-26 Sunday School III Conference (Glorieta)
- 22-23 GA Mother/Daughter Camp (grades 1-3), Camp Paron (WMU)
- 24 Annuitant Sunday
- 25-29 Girl's Youth Camp at Paron, (National Baptist)
- 25-30 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (third week)
- 26-July 1 WMU, SBC Conference (Ridgecrest)
- 26-July 2 Sunday School IV (Glorieta)
- 29-30 Christian Citizenship Conference (Christian Life Council)



**July**

- 1 Christian Citizenship Sunday (Christian Life Council)  
 2- 6 GA Camp (grades 4-6), Camp Paron (WMU)  
 2- 7 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (fourth week)  
 2- 8 Foreign Mission Conference (Ridgecrest)  
 4 Independence Day  
 5 State Joint Committee (National Baptist)  
 8 Christian Literature Day  
 8-13 Glorieta Music Week, Music Men Performance Trip, (Church Music)  
 8-14 Church Training Leadership Conference (Ridgecrest)  
 9-10 Mid Summer Student Summer Mission Retreat (Missions)  
 9-13 GA/Acceans Camp (grades 4-12), Camp Paron (WMU)  
 9-14 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs, (fifth week)  
 9-18 Pioneer RA Mission Action Trip (Brotherhood)  
 12 Large Church Stewardship Conference, Baptist Building  
 13-14 GA Mother/Daughter Camp (grades 1-3), Camp Paron (WMU)  
 14-20 Sunday School I Conference (Ridgecrest)  
 16-20 GA Camp (grades 4-6), Camp Paron (WMU)  
 16-21 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (sixth week)  
 18-21 National Acrens Conference, Ft. Worth (WMU)  
 19-21 Marriage Enrichment Retreat-Basic, Fairfield Bay (Church Training)  
 20-26 Sunday School II (Ridgecrest)  
 20-26 Home Mission (Glorieta)  
 23-27 Music Arkansas Conference for Adults and Youth, Ouachita Baptist University (Church Music)  
 23-27 GA Camp (grades 4-6), Camp Paron (WMU)  
 23-28 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs, (seventh week)  
 26-31 WMU, SBC Conference (Glorieta)  
 26-Aug. 1 Sunday School III (Ridgecrest)

**August**

- 1- 7 Sunday School IV (Ridgecrest)  
 1- 7 Foreign Mission (Glorieta)  
 2- 3 Weekday Early Education Workshop (Missions/Sunday School)  
 3- 4 Pastor/Director Retreat, Camp Paron (Church Training)  
 3- 4 Volunteer Part-Time Director's Retreat, Northwest Arkansas (Church Music)  
 5 On to College Day (Baptist Student Union)  
 6- 7 Youth Evangelism Conference (Joy Explo), Hot Springs, Second  
 7- 8 Youth Evangelism Conference (Joy Explo), Harrison, First  
 7-13 Home Mission (Ridgecrest)  
 7-13 CT Leadership (Glorieta)  
 10 Summer commencement, Ouachita Baptist University  
 10-11 Children's Choir Leader Workshop (Church Music)  
 12 Associational Hymn Sings (Church Music)  
 12 Language Missions Day  
 16 WOW Training Day, Baptist Building (Evangelism)  
 17-18 Volunteer/Part Time Music Leader Workshop, Southern Baptist College (Church Music)  
 17-18 4-State (Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi) RA Camporee, Camp Cordova, Memphis, Tenn. (Brotherhood)

- 25 Area WMU Conference, Wynne  
 26 Area WMU Conference, Wynne  
 26 Area Brotherhood Conference, Russellville, First  
 27 Area WMU Conference, Russellville, First

**October Cooperative Program Month**

- 1 Area Brotherhood Conference, Booneville, First  
 1 Area WMU Conference, Booneville, First  
 2 Area Brotherhood Conference, Fayetteville, First  
 2 Area WMU Conference, Fayetteville, First  
 3 Area WMU Conference, Fayetteville, First  
 4 Area Brotherhood Conference, Mt. Home, First  
 4 Area WMU Conference, Mt. Home, First  
 5- 7 BSU Convention  
 6 Campus BYW Luncheon, State BSU Convention (WMU)  
 6- 7 Interpreter's Retreat, Lake Nixon (Language Missions)  
 7 High Attendance Night in Church Training  
 8-12 Arkansas Senior Adult Chautauqua, Ridgecrest (Church Training)  
 8-12 Associational Annual Meetings  
 14 World Hunger Day (Christian Life Council)  
 15-19 Associational Annual Meetings  
 18-19 Music Men/Singing Women Rehearsal/Retreat, Arkadelphia (Church Music)  
 20 GA Missions Spectacular (grades 4-6 and leaders), Camp Paron  
 20 Tiger Tunes, Ouachita Baptist University  
 21 Baptist Health Day  
 23 Church Training Convention, Immanuel, Little Rock  
 25-26 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Paron (WMU)  
 26-27 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Paron (WMU)  
 26-27 Small Sunday School Pastor/Director Workshop, Tri-County Baptist Camp, Wynne  
 28 Great Day in the Morning, (Sunday School)  
 29-Nov. 1 CWT Seminar, Central, Magnolia (Evangelism)

**November**

- 1 Language Missions Leadership Conference, Southside, Ft. Smith  
 4 Great Demonstration Day (Prove the Tithes)  
 4 Interfaith Hunger Hikes (Christian Life Council)  
 4-10 Royal Ambassador Week (Brotherhood)  
 6- 8 Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith  
 10 Homecoming, Ouachita Baptist University  
 10 RA State Fellowship Luncheon (Brotherhood)  
 11 American Bible Society Day  
 13-15 Regular Arkansas National Baptists Convention  
 13-15 General Missionary National Baptists Convention  
 16-18 International Student Conference (Baptist Student Union)  
 18 Child Care Day  
 18-21 Foreign Mission Study  
 19-21 Literacy Workshop (Missions)  
 21-23 Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention, Hot Springs, (National Baptist)

- 17-18 Associational WMU Officers' Retreat, Camp Paron
- 19-26 Church Music Week
- 20-23 Fall registration, Southern Baptist College
- 20-24 Small Sunday School (Glorieta)
- 24-25 Associational Church Training Leadership Conference, Park Hill, North Little Rock (Church Training)
- 27 Area Stewardship Conference, Russellville, First
- 27-29 Fall registration, Ouachita Baptist University
- 28 Area Stewardship Conference, Harrison, First
- 29 Area Stewardship Conference, Springdale
- 30-Sept. 3 Single Adult Labor Day Conference, Glorieta/Ridgecrest (Church Training)

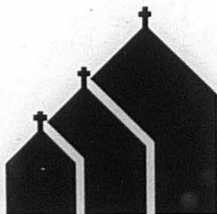
**September Baptist Foundation Month**

- 3- 8 Brotherhood Leadership Week
- 3 Labor Day
- 6- 8 Fall Campers on Missions Rally (Missions)
- 6 Statewide Church WMU Training Day, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 8 Baptist Youth Day, Magic Springs (Church Training)
- 8 Deaf Ministry Coordinators Conference, Immanuel, Pine Bluff (Missions)
- 9 Single Adult Day
- 9 Baptist Foundation Sunday
- 10 Area Brotherhood Conference, West Helena
- 10 Area Stewardship Conference, Central, Magnolia
- 10 Area WMU Conference, West Helena
- 10 Area Evangelism Conference, Central, Magnolia
- 11 Area Brotherhood Conference, Warren, First
- 11 Area Stewardship Conference, McGehee, First
- 11 Area WMU Conference, Warren, First
- 11 Area Evangelism Conference, McGehee, First
- 11 Associational Sunday School Leadership Night
- 12 Area Stewardship Conference, Little Rock
- 12 Area WMU Conference, Warren, First
- 12 Founders Day, Southern Baptist College
- 13 Area Brotherhood Conference, Nashville, First
- 13 Area WMU Conference, Nashville, First
- 13 Area Stewardship Conference, Batesville, First
- 13 Area Evangelism Conference, Batesville, First
- 16-23 Season of Prayer for State Missions and Dixie Jackson Offering
- 17-18 Regional Sunday School State Convention, Fayetteville, First
- 20 Planning Youth Led Revival workshop, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Evangelism).
- 20-21 Regional Sunday School State Convention, Southside, Pine Bluff
- 22 Deaf Ministry Coordinators Conference, Levy, North Little Rock (Missions)
- 22 Youth Choir Day, Ouachita Baptist University
- 23-30 Sunday School Preparation Week
- 24 Area Brotherhood Conference, Walnut Ridge, First
- 24 Area WMU Conference, Walnut Ridge, First
- 24-28 Arkansas Senior Adult Chautauqua, Glorieta (Church Training)
- 25 Band-Orchestra Instrumental Workshop (Church Music)
- 25 Area Brotherhood Conference, Wynne

- 24 Interfaith Hunger Ingathering (Christian Life Council)
- 26 "M" Night (Church Training)

**December**

- 2 Associational and Church Carol Sing
- 2- 9 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 3- 5 Southern Baptist College Bible Conference, Walnut Ridge
- 6- 7 Evangelism Workshop, Camp Paron
- 9 Foreign Missions Day
- 25 Christmas
- 30 Student Day at Christmas



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# Your state convention at work

## Church Administration

### An invitation to pastors, deacons and wives

Pastors, deacons, and their wives will have opportunity for fellowship, inspiration, and training when they gather for the annual Pastor-Deacon Retreat at Camp Paron on May 6-7. Dr. Jon Stubblefield, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Magnolia, will be the worship leader and Bible study leader at the beginning of the Friday night and Saturday morning sessions.

James Hightower, editor of the *Deacon Magazine*, will lead sessions to help pastors, deacons and their wives to minister more effectively to families in their church. Dr. Hightower is on the staff of the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board.

Pastors and deacons serve as partners in pastoral ministry in the church and their wives can play an important support role in this ministry to families. The retreat program is planned to help develop much needed ministry skills and to help strengthen the Deacon Family Ministry program in churches.

The retreat begins with supper on Friday night May 6 and continues through lunch on Saturday. The cost (\$20.00 per person) covers registration, lodging, meals, and insurance. Reservations should be sent to Pastor-Deacon Retreat, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203



Stubblefield

## Family and Child Care

### Mother's Day and child care go together

Mother! What a word! It brings to mind many experiences and emotions. From our earliest memories she is in our thoughts.

Her tender touch, her consoling voice, her loving ways, her patient example and numerous other characteristics make her precious to us. Thank God for good mothers.

Mother's Day and Christian Home Week observance have become traditional in many of our Southern Baptist churches. We believe God established the home and wants it to be a place of growth in strong relationships to him and to each other.

Many churches in our convention use the emphasis on the home as a time to express concern for children and families who have needs. They receive an offering to be used by Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services in meeting these pressing needs.

We want to encourage a generous response to this offering. Needs are growing daily. Cries for help continue to pour in.

These needs can only be met as funds are available. We believe Arkansas Baptists will continue to meet these needs.

Please pray about this matter and respond as God directs you. Give children a chance to have a full and meaningful life. — **Homer W. Shirley, Jr., director of development**

## WMU

### GA Mother-Daughter Camp

A precious sight to see will be mothers and daughters walking with hands joined at Camp Paron during the May 20-21, GA Mother-Daughter Camp. This is the first of three GA Mother-Daughter Camps sponsored by Arkansas WMU for girls in first through third grades and their mothers. The other GA Mother-Daughter Camps will be held June 24-25 and July 15-16 at Camp Paron.

The GA Mother-Daughter Camp program is designed to provide quality time where mothers and daughters together share God's Word, meet missionaries, sing, have fun and fellowship with other mothers and daughters from Arkansas.

The camp missionaries for the May 20-21 GA Mother-Daughter Camp will be Dean Preuett of the missions department of the ABCS; Mrs. Patsy Davidson of Botswana; and Carla Carswell, a journeyman to Japan. Music will be led by Peggy Pearson, who works in the music department of the ABCS.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 20 with camp ending at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 21. GA leaders have been sent information and registration forms. Make plans now to attend! Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mothers with their first to third grade daughters are invited to experience missions education in a camp setting. The girls do not need to be active members of a GA organization to participate in a GA Mother-Daughter Camp with their mothers. For more information contact the State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — **Pat Glascock, GA, Mission Friends director**

## Evangelism

### Attitudes that affect witnessing

Many capable Christians let the attitude of feeling incompetent defeat them. Some Christians take this pessimistic attitude of feeling inadequate because of a lack of education or talent. They feel unable to witness for Christ, not to mention drawing the net on a sinner. Their pet phrases are, "I can't," "I don't know how," "I don't have the ability," "I am afraid." It is true that we are incompetent in ourselves, but remember that Jesus lives within us and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Satan is very busy telling the Christian they cannot share and bear fruit for Christ. We need to continually remember that he that is within us is greater than he that is in the world. Do not let your false humility keep you from winning souls.

Another attitude expressed by many church members is "I don't feel led to witness." There are many who are sitting down waiting for God to give them some kind of intense feelings or direction to witness for Christ. This is very foolish because God has already commanded us in his Word to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Feelings should not enter the picture since his explicit command is "Go." Remember the last words of our Lord before ascending to heaven, "Ye shall be my witnesses." In the New Testament, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word. This was the burning speech of evangelists day by day sharing Christ. — **Clarence Shell, director**



Shell

## Christian Life Council

### Credit the Adventists and LDS

Two segments of religious life in America are as a whole more seriously concerned than others about physical health. They are the Seventh Day Adventists and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as Mormons. For instance, UCLA cancer researcher Dr. James Enstrom, who is not a Mormon, in a study of California men wrote that the life expectancy of Mormon white males (there are few black males) who practice their religion is eight years longer than that of other white males in the United States in 1970. 1968-70 death records revealed that the cancer rate in California Mormons was lower by 81 percent in women and 66 percent in men compared to the general population.

Theologically, Baptists are far removed from the above groups. This is especially so regarding Mormonism. Baptists should not, however, differ from them or any others regarding what God's word has to say about the body. It is the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are not to defile it (1 Cor. 3:16-17). Two of the main reasons

# Your state convention at work

for longer physical life by practicing Mormons and Seventh Day Adventists are that total abstinence from alcoholic beverages and tobacco is given tremendous emphasis. "Jack" Mormons indulge like some Baptists.

Pray that Southern Baptists give renewed importance to abun-

dant life in Christ here and now as well as to eternal life stretching into the by and by. Also, join others in a positive effort to abstain from that which so often shortens physical life. — Bob Parker, director

## Housing being given SBC in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — Non-Southern Baptist ministers in Pittsburgh are helping find "homes for the homeless" who want to attend the annual SBC convention in their city.

Publicity over the shortage of rooms for the 15,000 to 20,000 Southern Baptists who are expected to attend the meeting June 14-16, especially stories of hotels refusing to honor reservations they had already accepted, has evoked Christian charity among the Pittsburgh religious community.

"American Baptists and Methodists have really taken the lead in offering assistance," said Tim Hedquist, SBC convention manager. "The local ministerial alliance has contacted the Southern Baptist Convention and is trying to find private housing among its member congregations for Southern Baptist visitors."

The Pittsburgh Baptist Association was already working with the city's 3,500 Southern Baptists to make private homes available and the ecumenical offer will also be handled through the Pittsburgh association's office.

Anyone interested should write to Private Housing, Greater Pittsburgh Baptist Association, 659 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228.

## Non-profit rates stable

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives gave non-profit mailers a potential boost when it approved its first fiscal 1984 budget resolution calling for enough postal subsidy to keep non-profit rates at their current level.

The action signaled that Congress is highly unlikely to approve President Reagan's budget request to sharply reduce the preferred-rate postal subsidy and thereby trigger another round of large rate hikes for non-profit mailers.

## Record SS starts

NASHVILLE (BP) — Sunday school starts are setting a record pace for the first six months of the 1982-83 church year with 563 new Sunday schools reported through March 31.

At this time last year 525 new Sunday schools had been reported, according to James Lackey, growth consultant in the Sunday school department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The goal for the year is 1,000.

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## Give children a chance



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## International

### Breakthrough in Macedonia

by Ronald M. Ford, Central Church, North Little Rock

Focal passage: Acts 16:9-18

Central truth: Many barriers are broken by the gospel.

This passage of scripture is especially exciting when seen as a personal testimony or report by a resident missionary. It parallels the excitement one feels when a missionary visits and speaks in a church.

Notice the use of the personal pronoun "we." This indicates that Luke himself is reporting these events. Luke, the beloved physician, Gentile convert and friend of Paul, is giving us an inside look at some of the very first mission events.

Luke probably never stayed in Philippi because we do not hear the personal pronoun until 20:6 when Paul comes through Philippi again. There one reads, "and we sailed away from Philippi." Thus this passage of breakthrough into Macedonia is especially exciting.

1. Macedonia is the first part of Europe to be visited by Paul. The man of Macedonia beseeching Paul in a vision to come and help has inspired the term "the Macedonian call." In Macedonia, Paul went to the leading city of the region, Philippi. This entrance into Europe represents a geographical breakthrough.

2. Philippi was first famous for its gold and silver mines. It was a Roman colony and the "chief city of Macedonia." No doubt it was a wealthy economic center. Lydia, Paul's famous convert, a seller of purple goods, was apparently well-to-do. The gospel is not stopped by economic barriers.

3. Interestingly, Paul here witnesses to a woman. Lydia was in a place where other women gathered to pray. The Lord opened her heart. She was converted, baptized and began to extend hospitality to Paul. Lydia's help no doubt was one of the primary reasons for Paul's unique relation to the church at Philippi. The gospel was not slowed by the gender barrier. In Christ there is neither male nor female.

What other barriers does the gospel break through?

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## Life and work

### God's purpose never fails

by Al Sparkman, First Church of Crossett

Basic passage: Isaiah 44-48  
Focal passages: Isaiah 44:21-22, 28; 45:1a, 4, 22-23; 48:17, 20

Central truth: Although God has chosen primarily to work his plan of man's redemption and man's acknowledgement of him as the one true God of the universe, through his chosen people who so often fails in their appointed task, God's plan is not defeated because He also uses others as instruments of his will and purpose.

Israel wept in Babylon — slaves in a foreign land, away from their divinely appointed homeland, no song of joy to sing in a nation of false and powerless gods, no temple in which to celebrate the goodness of their God. In their bitterness, God's people forfeited their power as the instrument of God to bring about his holy purpose in the earth. No hope at all! Then God in his mighty power and wisdom reaches out to take the position and ability of a man — Cyrus, king of Persia from 559 B.C. to 530 B.C. — a man who knew not God (Isaiah 45:5), and use him to set Israel free and accomplish his purpose. The message thunders from time unto eternity — our God is able!

1. God's highest call and his highest expectation and judgement is upon his called and redeemed people. In Isaiah 44:21, God said "Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant..." All need to remember clearly that although God can raise up unto himself myriads of instruments to accomplish his bidding, his calling and redeemed and blessed people are his first choice and therefore are accountable to God for failure. In light of God's gracious call and blessing, surely his people will not fail so that God must pass the blessing of service to another.

2. The greatness and sovereignty of God and his unchanging commitment to the accomplishment of his righteous purpose allow him to use both the worthy and unworthy as well as the believing and the unbelieving instruments of this world. In Isaiah 44:28, God calls the non-believing King Cyrus his shepherd. In chapter 45, verse 1, he calls Cyrus his anointed. And God uses him to free Israel back to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple. No child of God can take his place of service for granted.

3. When God promises freedom and restoration, he delivers — to anyone who will believe (45:22, 23), and especially to his chosen people (48:17, 20).

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## Bible Book Series

### Solomon dedicates the temple

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

Basic passage: I Kings 8

Focal passages: I Kings 8:1, 6, 10, 23, 27, 30, 61 and 66

Central truth: God wants us to dedicate our lives exclusively to his presence and purpose.

Dedicating the temple to God was a very important and meaningful time just as dedicating our lives as his temple should be (I Cor. 6:19-20). There must be proclamation (v. 1). Solomon called all the leaders of the people together because it was such an important occasion and they needed to take the lead. We must never be ashamed to take a stand for our Lord (Rom. 1:16). Those who are the leaders in a church need to set the example of commitment.

We must give the Lord his rightful place (v. 6). The Ark was given the most important, most sacred place in all the temple. What place does God really have in your church, its services and activities? What place does the Lord have in your own life or family? Do things like TV programs, ball games or visiting distract you from God's house and worship services?

We need our lives filled with the Lord's presence (v. 10). The presence of the Lord was evident as the cloud of the Lord's glory filled the house. This was symbolic of the Lord's acceptance of the temple. When our lives are being lived by God's plan and design, his presence will be evident.

We must spend time in prayer (vv. 23, 27, 30). Solomon praised God because there was "no God like thee". Solomon thanked God that he would make promises to man. A God whom the world cannot contain is a God that will listen to our voice. Prayerless people are powerless people and they are also cold toward God. Dedicating our life to the Lord means dedicating time to pray to the Lord.

Dedicating our lives means pledging our purity and giving our praise to the Lord (vv. 61, 66). Our heart must be perfect toward the Lord. This means God does not share his temple with the gods of this world. As we live by God's truths, as we obey God's commands, we will indeed have joy.

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## Sunday School director recommendations asked

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Officials of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have requested recommendations for director of the Sunday school department.

The position, which is responsible for leadership of Southern Baptists' 7.6 million-member Sunday school program, was vacated Feb. 28 when Harry Piland resigned to become associate pastor of administration at First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

Ralph McIntyre, director of the Bible teaching division and interim director of the Sunday school department, said recommendations may be submitted by any Southern Baptist and must be made in writing.

Recommendations should include the writer's profile of personal, spiritual, educational and professional qualifications for the position, a biographical sketch of the person being nominated and the reasons for the nomination.

McIntyre said recommendations should be mailed no later than May 2. In addition to the public announcement through Baptist Press, a letter to state and SBC leaders requesting recommendations was mailed April 12.

He said, as part of the continuing search process, all recommendations will be carefully reviewed by executive management personnel. It is hoped a nominee can be presented to the board's trustees at the Aug. 16-17 meeting.

"The enrollment in Southern Baptist Sunday schools has increased by more than 225,000 in the last two years. We are seeing signs in churches all over the country that 8.5 by '85 (SBC effort to increase Sunday school enrollment to 8.5 million by 1985) is being taken very seriously," McIntyre said.

"We need as leader of the Sunday school department a person with a commitment to continuing outreach, growth and quality Bible study through the Sunday school."

Recommendations should be mailed to Ralph McIntyre, Sunday School Board, MSN 148, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

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## Reservations show gain

NASHVILLE, — Confirmed reservations for the 1983 summer conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Con-

ference Centers are 15 percent higher than for the same period last year, according to Robert Turner, director of the conference center division of the Sunday School Board.

## 1983 Arkansas Royal Ambassador Camp Dates:

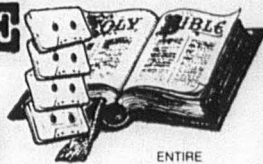
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Observance Proclaimed — Dr. Larry Maddox (left), president of the Lord's Day Alliance of Arkansas and pastor of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, poses with Gov. Bill Clinton after the governor had signed a proclamation declaring Sunday, April 10, to be "Lord's Day Alliance Day" in Arkansas.

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Cliff Allbritton is editor of **The Christian Single** published by The Family Ministries Department, The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.



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# Chafin leaves Billy Graham Schools

by Dan Martin

HOUSTON (BP) — Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Church, has resigned the deanship of the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, a post he has held for 15 years.

In his letter to Graham, Chafin said "the time has come for me to step aside as dean . . . in order to spend more time with the 6,800-member downtown Houston congregation. Chafin, former professor of evangelism at both Southern and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminaries and director of the Home Mission Board department of evangelism, has been pastor of South Main for 10 years.

Since assuming the deanship, Chafin has given at least four weeks each year to con-

education in its best form. It helps ministers who are burned out, discouraged, disheartened and gives them a tremendous boost."

According to John Dillon, director of the schools for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, some 60,000 to 80,000 ministers have participated during the 15 years he has been involved with the schools.

Lewis Drummond, who succeeded Chafin as the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Seminary, said he has "taught in these schools all over the country and in the Philippines, and they are just marvelous."

He said he participated in a school in the Philippines in November of 1978 and when he "went back the next summer to work on the island of Ilo, I found that Baptists alone had founded 70 new churches as a direct result of this school of evangelism. Stories like that could be multiplied over and over."

Graham, from his home in Montreat, N.C., said he was aware Chafin was considering resigning the deanship "but I didn't know he was going to resign quite this soon."

He added: "When we asked him to come with us, I never thought it would be for so long. The relationship just went from year to year. He (Chafin) has been absolutely marvelous; he is the best person we could possibly have gotten. He is a man of God; he believes the gospel; he loves the Lord. He has both an academic and a church background. Kenneth sort of made the job . . . it just grew with us."

Graham said he probably will not make a decision on a replacement for Chafin until "after Amsterdam (The International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists, sponsored by Graham). Then we probably will make it a fulltime job. I have talked with three or four people to see if they were interested."

Although both Graham and Chafin had increasing responsibilities at South Main Church as the primary reason for the resignation, both did say the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention had an impact on the decision.

"There are rumors to the effect that it (the resignation) had to do with a fight in the SBC," Graham said. "I have to admit that was a small factor, but not more than 20 percent."

The issue, the evangelist said, was "not which side he took, but that he might get us into the fight. As evangelists, we don't want to be involved in any fight . . . we want to stay above and beyond church battles. We did not want to become involved, but some of our team and some on the board felt we were being involved."

He added that if the controversy in the nation's largest protestant denomination were the only reason, "I just never would

have accepted Ken's resignation."

Chafin and Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C., have been vocal leaders in a moderate-inerrantist battle in the convention. In the past two conventions, Chafin has played a prominent part in pre-convention activities as well as on the platform.

The controversy has been centered on control of denominational boards of trustees. Inerrantists (those who believe in a literal Bible) claim the denomination has gone liberal and are seeking to control the appointive process in order to fill boards with persons with more fundamentalist concerns. Moderates have claimed the issue is evangelism and missions and that the political efforts are merely a "power grab."

Chafin told Baptist Press: "It has not been any secret that the fundamentalist people have tried to attack all my relationships in the past several years . . . local church involvement, trusteeship at Southwestern Seminary and my relationship with Billy Graham.

I don't think it is any secret that when this group attacked me, they tried to confuse the issue of my debate with Paige Patterson over whether inerrancy was crucial to the survival of the Southern Baptist Convention. They tried to make everybody believe I was trying to prove the Bible was full of errors.

"I sat down and discussed this with Dr. Graham. He acknowledged people had been lying (to him) about me," Chafin said.

Chafin participated in a debate with Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, immediately prior to the 1981 SBC in Los Angeles. Following that discussion, at the annual meeting of the Religion Newswriters Association, Chafin was under increasing fire and rumors circulated freely that efforts were underway to get the Graham organization to "dump" Chafin.

Patterson confirmed that the "nature of the debate was on the question of whether inerrancy was an important issue for the SBC," and not whether the Bible had errors.

Patterson added that while he regrets the resignation "for Ken's sake . . . I would agree that this is the best thing that could happen for the Billy Graham schools simply because I do not think Ken Chafin is in broad agreement with the Graham theological position."

"I also believe that Kenneth has probably lost whatever following he may have had at one time among conservative evangelicals. His rather interperate statements have been one of the causes. It is not that he has been controversial; it is the way he has carried on some of the controversy.

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duct the schools, plus time to recruit faculty members and organize the five-day sessions.

According to the Graham organization, the schools "equip pastors and pastoral staff for the work of evangelization. Specifically, this means both the spiritual and physical preparations necessary to do evangelism, as well as the appropriate discipling of those who place their faith in Christ."

"Chafin, 57, told Baptist Press the schools "indicate the tremendous commitment Billy (Graham) has to the local churches and their leadership. This really sets him apart from many of the people you see on TV. These schools are continuing theological

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