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May 19, 1983

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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May 19, 1983

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



Pittsburgh



Some Arkansans will be soon Pittsburgh bound, but other Baptists need to be informed about the business to be conducted and the meetings to be held in connection with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention there. The time is June 11-16.

\$125 million Cooperative Program budget recommended

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A \$125 million Cooperative Program budget for 1983-84 featuring nearly 70 percent to home and foreign missions, will be recommended to the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

The budget, an increase of \$19 million above the 1982-83 budget, was approved without opposition by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee during its February meeting.

The budget includes \$114,500,000 in the basic operating budget; \$3,340,385 in the capital needs section and \$7,159,615 in a two-phase challenge portion.

That compares with the current budget of \$96,635,000 in the basic operating budget; \$3,365,000 for capital needs and \$6,000,000 in the challenge section.

Committee members also approved a 1984-88 capital needs budget of \$31,740,000.

Under the Cooperative Program budget, the Foreign Mission Board will receive \$57,250,000, compared with \$47,839,300 in the current year. The Home Mission Board is allocated \$22,634,400 compared with \$19,000,000 in 1982-83.

The six seminaries will receive \$23,605,000 compared to \$20,520,600 in the current year. Golden Gate will receive \$2,312,316 (compared to \$1,917,049); Midwestern, \$2,002,209 (compared to \$1,775,896); New Orleans, \$3,967,340 (compared to \$3,437,840); Southeastern, \$3,707,795 (compared to \$3,201,053); Southern, \$5,040,915 (compared to \$4,497,014) and Southwestern, \$6,574,425 (compared to \$5,691,748).

The SBC operating budget will receive \$1,635,300 (compared to \$1,422,000). The other agencies are allocated:

Annuity Board, \$918,000 (compared to \$478,000); Southern Baptist Foundation, \$243,400 (compared to \$213,450); American Baptist Seminary Commission, \$227,850 (compared to \$203,450); Brotherhood Commission, \$848,900 (compared to \$758,100);

Christian Life Commission, \$710,000 (compared to \$562,800); Education Commission \$423,800 (compared to \$378,400); Historical Commission \$393,600 (compared to \$328,000); Radio and TV Commission \$4,813,350 (compared to \$4,229,000); Stewardship Commission \$396,150 (compared to \$344,500) and Public Affairs Committee \$400,250 (compared to \$357,400).

The capital needs portion of the 1983-84 budget includes:

Midwestern Seminary, \$786,690 for a multi-purpose building; New Orleans Seminary, \$201,295 for a student center and cafeteria; Southern Seminary, \$1,335,000 for a student center; Southwestern Seminary, \$699,000 for renovation work, and the Radio and Television Commission, \$318,400

for equipment.

Phase one of the challenge budget includes \$1,175,000, of which 63.83 percent or \$750,000 will go to the six seminaries and 36.17 percent, or \$425,000 will go to the Radio and Television Commission.

Phase two — \$5,984,615 — includes: SBC Operating Budget, \$125,000 for Baptist World Alliance (2.09 percent); Foreign Mission Board, \$3,001,700 (50.16); Home Mission Board, \$1,505,500 (25.16); SBC seminaries, \$1,302,415 (21.76) and Brotherhood Commission, \$50,000 (.83).

Any overage of the \$125,000,000 will be distributed to all agencies according to the percentage they will receive in the basic operating budget.

The 1984-88 capital needs budget of \$31,740,000 compares with the current, six-year capital needs budget of \$16,705,985. Chairman John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., said noting that \$83,343,400 was requested for capital needs funding.

In the budget, 14 of the 20 SBC agencies are represented. Included is \$8 million for funding a new building to house the SBC Executive Committee, Seminary External Education Division and five SBC agencies. It is the first allocation of capital needs they have received. All of the funding for the SBC Building will come during 1984-85 and 1985-86.

The Executive Committee will receive increments of \$1,800,000 and \$1,400,000 for a total of \$3,200,000. Others include: Stewardship Commission, \$495,000 and \$385,000 for \$880,000; Historical Commission, \$720,000 and \$560,000 for \$1,280,000; Education Commission, \$225,000 and \$175,000 for \$400,000; Christian Life Commission, \$630,000 and \$490,000 for \$1,120,000 and Southern Baptist Foundation, \$180,000 and \$140,000 for \$320,000.

The SEED allocation will be divided equally between the six seminaries in increments of \$75,000 and \$58,333 or a total of \$133,333 each. The composite amount will be \$450,000 and \$350,000, a two-year total of \$800,000.

Also receiving capital needs funds are the Home Mission Board, \$2,400,000 for church loans for churches with limited resources and purchase of potential church sites; and the Radio and Television Commission, \$2,025,000 for a master control center, post production center, Studio A equipment and mobile field units.

The seminaries also will receive additional capital needs funds: Golden Gate, \$2,900,000; Midwestern, \$2,812,000; New Orleans, \$3,208,000; Southeastern, \$2,570,000; Southern, \$2,525,000, and Southwestern, \$4,100,000.

In this issue

16-21 Convention preview

Meeting agendas, the theme and some of the issues and new procedures for the coming Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh are detailed in a special six page subsection of your newsmagazine.

22 Convention trends

T. B. Maston, emeritus professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary, writes about some of his continuing concerns for the Southern Baptist Convention, listing some problems and suggested remedies.



The 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has the potential for being the calmest and most cooperative convention in several years. Every messenger should prepare himself for the convention both through prayer and by acquainting himself with the issues. In this editorial we will look at three important issues which will be considered at the upcoming convention. These are: election of the 1984 president, the election of the members of the boards, agencies and commissions, and the role of resolutions — particularly the resolution on Israel.

Jimmy Draper has provided excellent leadership to the SBC during the past year. He has kept his pledge to appoint people who are supporting the denomination, especially the Cooperative Program, and who are not affiliated with any particular power group. He has encouraged the committee on boards, agencies and commissions to release its nominees early and the committee has done so. Draper deserves the traditional second term as president.

Draper has been a force for mediation in the SBC at a time when wounds needed to be healed. Unquestionably, the numerous dialogues sponsored by Draper have clearly shown that our points of unity outweigh our differences. Draper has proven that Southern Baptists can and should work together to reach the world for Christ.

The committee on boards, agencies and commissions headed by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, Ga., released its nominees last week. The committee is to be commended for this act. Every name nominated should be scrutinized closely by the messengers before voting. The following procedure has been recommended by Stanley. Anyone who disagrees with particular nominations is requested to come before the committee prior to the convention stating the reasons why the individual in question should not be nominated. Such procedure can avoid embarrassment and polarization of the convention.

Many of the resolutions are certain to be hotly debated at the convention. Debate and disagreement can be worthwhile, provided the value of the issue is kept in perspective. All messengers would do well to recognize that resolutions are simply the opinion of those messengers present and voting on a particular issue. Resolutions have no binding effect on

anyone. The convention has changed its mind on certain issues from time to time. Since this is true, less time should be spent on resolutions and more on matters of greater importance. Southern Baptists should also remember that it is not necessary or even wise to speak on every subject at hand.

An announcement has been made that a resolution of strong support for Israel is to be presented at the 1984 convention. Even the discussion of such a resolution could be harmful to our mission work. It should be the goal of every Southern Baptist to reach people of every nationality for our Lord. It is probably impossible for most Americans to identify with the feelings of either the Jews or the Arabs. The problems are complex and neither side is completely right or completely wrong.

A missionary in an Arab country recently wrote to this editor: "The approval of this resolution, even the discussion of it on the convention floor, will cause highly negative and hostile feelings toward Christians and Christian missions among Arab peoples throughout the world. Are not the 'sons of Ishmael' a part of God's eternal plan of redemption? Southern Baptists are committed to world missions, including millions of Muslims and Arabs who would be deeply offended by this resolution."

It is believed by some of our missionaries in Arab countries that what has already been written and said by certain Southern Baptists has harmed our mission work. Already one missionary in an Arab country has been expelled and entrance into certain countries by new missionaries has been denied. Since some Southern Baptists do not understand the meaning of resolutions, it is certain that people in another country would not understand. The posture of Southern Baptists should be one of love for both Arab and Jew. It should be our desire to see all men everywhere come to Christ.

We believe that the 1983 convention will be a good one if we seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit and properly inform ourselves. A good convention will do several things for Southern Baptists: (1) It will enable us to do a better job in accomplishing the Bold Mission Trust (reaching people for Christ and establishing churches); (2) It will raise the trust level among us; and (3) It will assist us in returning to our historic position of working together, even though there is some diversity of opinion.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

Encouraging honest indecision in vocational choice

A "withdrawal from school notice" that recently came across my desk makes me think it is confession time for a lot of us adults. The student gave as the reason for withdrawing from school: "I don't know what I want to do with my life so I'm dropping out of school to think about it."

That leads me to believe it's confession time for college presidents, college professors and admissions counselors, as well as for high school teachers and guidance counselors. And perhaps most of all it's confession time for parents of teenage children. All of us tend to build up unbelievable pressure on young people for early decisions on their vocational choice and major field of study in college. Without a doubt the questions most often asked of high school seniors and college freshmen are: (1) What is your vocational choice (or, what are you going to do when you finish school?), and (2) what do you plan to major in? As

one of the chief offenders, I must confess that these are the wrong questions to ask high school seniors and college freshmen, and the cumulative effect of so many of us asking these same questions can be harmful and even dangerous to the emotional growth of young people.

One of the greatest values of a college education is to open up the whole panorama of vocational choices in relation to the talents and interests of the student. In more than three decades of observing young people move through four or more years of college life, I am convinced that more students change their vocational choice and major field of study (and often more than once) than actually stay with their original stated purpose. That is the normal thing and we need to encourage young people to see it as normal.

The unique value of the Christian college

is to help the young person move toward the choice of a major and the choice of a vocation in the context of what God's will is for his life, whether in a church vocation or other area of service. There may be that rare time when someone needs to drop out of school to discover God's will for his or her life, but in the great majority of cases, it simply makes good sense to attend a Christian college for the specific purpose of discovering God's will for one's life.

Knowing myself as I do, I probably will continue my conversational habit of asking high school students their vocational choice and their plans for a college major, but I hope we can all encourage them to answer without embarrassment or shame, "I'm going to college to find the right answer to those questions."

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.



Woman's viewpoint

Kay Young

A single view

The question most often asked this single lady about herself is, "Why aren't you married?" It's much like the "how are you?" people ask not really wanting to know.

A friend and I spent a day thinking up silly answers to be included in a book, *1,000 Answers to "Why Aren't You Married?"* It could be a bestseller!

Frivolity aside, I don't think of myself in terms of being a "single." I think Christian first, then person, then secretary. Still, this woman's viewpoint is a single one. Some years ago when "Christian" was not the first

thing I was concerned about being, and when "Mrs." seemed very important, an older single friend shared this thought with me: "If I had known when I was 21 that I would always be single, it would have bothered me. But, since the Lord has led me every day, looking back, I don't feel bad about my life at all."

The beautiful spirit of this person assured me that this was true for her; and her words came back to me as I decided what my priorities would be.

Paul reminds us in his writings that our

status in any part of our lives is not important to God. We are all very precious to him; and Paul also passes along a goal for every Christian, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11).

Kay Young is 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.

OBU student senate elects officers

ARKADELPHIA — Twenty-four new student senators and executive officers have been added to the rolls of the Ouachita Baptist University Student Senate as the result of elections held recently on the Arkadelphia campus.



Glover

The Student Senate at Ouachita acts as the representative body for the students.

Those elected for the executive positions include Phil Glover, a junior from Pine Bluff, president; Barb Griffin, a sophomore from Alton, Ill., vice president for internal affairs; Rusty Hart, a sophomore from Hope, vice president for external affairs; Latenia Beed, a sophomore from Texarkana, Ark., secretary; Judi Holcombe, a

sophomore from Yorba Linda, Calif., treasurer; and Bruce Green, a junior from Tulsa, Okla., vice president for the Student Entertainment and Lecture Fund.

Next year's class presidents will be: seniors, Todd Lee, a junior from Hazen; juniors, Thomas Radelmiller, a sophomore from Hope, and sophomores, Don Cobb, a freshman from Hot Springs.

You'll be glad to know . . .

... Baptist physicians and dentists are making a great contribution to our Southern Baptist foreign mission work. Henry Love, of the Brotherhood Commission, recently reported to me that there would be between 200 and 300 doctors and dentists go to our overseas mission station for short term service this year. Isn't that great! They pay their own expense, provide invaluable assistance, seeing as many as 200 patients a day, and come home strong supporters of what we all are trying to do — fulfill the great commission. I recently met with Dr.'s Harold Hudson, Glen Burton, and Aubrey Hough to discuss the possibility of our Arkansas dentists and physicians forming a state group who would enter into this great work. I would like the privilege of convening such a group. What do you think? I would like to hear from some of you on this matter.



Moore

... **Honors from men!** It has been a most overwhelming thing to be honored by our two institutions of higher education. The administration and trustees of Ouachita voted to confer the Doctor of Divinity degree, and those of Southern Baptist College voted to name me Distinguished Baptist Pastor of the Year. God has been so merciful and gracious in enabling me to serve him the past quarter of a century. It has been a joy to try to be a friend and helper to all of our Baptist people and Baptist work. There have been rewards enough in just the doing of the work and in the relationships shared. I never dreamed or expected that such recognition could or should be made. My debt to Arkansas Baptists for all they did in preparing me and accepting me in the ministry has not nearly been paid. I've wanted to say to Dr. Grant and Dr. Nicholas, "I owe you!" Nevertheless, the action has been taken. I pray that I will never be an embarrassment or anything less than a friend to all of you. My thanks to all who have expressed such confidence and to those who have entered into the joy of the occasions with me and my family. — **Don Moore, executive secretary**

Arkansan nominated

Jewel Morris, a layperson from Grand Ave. Church in Ft. Smith, is an additional Arkansan who has been nominated by the Committee on Boards to serve on the Radio and TV Commission Board.

She replaces Jess Odum, a layman from First Church, Maumelle.

Letters to the editor

Consider resolution

It has been proposed that Southern Baptists approve a resolution in Pittsburgh supporting the Israeli government. It would seem wise to think carefully about the implications of such a resolution **before** we vote. It seems to imply:

- * that Southern Baptists generally think that God approves of a nation/society/government which, by its own admission, rejects Jesus Christ, his Son.
- * that Southern Baptists generally think that God approves of a nation/society/government which, by its own admission, rejects Jesus Christ, his Son.
- * that we believe that God has a double standard of morality and that what is wrong for other nations is approved by God for Israel, thus justifying immoral acts in the name of Holy God and implying further that we believe that the end (fulfillment of prophecy) justifies the means (war and the acquisition of territory by force, including the destruction of lives and property).
- * that we do not mind the killing of thousands of civilians in Lebanon, nor endangering the lives of our missionaries and national Baptists in Beirut, nor the damaging of Beirut Baptist School, nor the deaths of two precious children who attended it who were killed by American-made bombs dropped from American-made planes.
- * that Southern Baptists agree on a single view of eschatology which appears to be more closely related to Old Testament Messianism than to the teachings of the New Testament.

Let us condemn all violence and terrorism wherever they occur. Let us agree that all people are lost without repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and let us do nothing to hinder the proclamation of that message to all the world. — **David W. King, missionary to Lebanon since 1960**

Not enough

This is the first time I have felt an occa-

sion to write you concerning any matters of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, or of the Southern Baptist Convention.

However I felt that I must reply to the letter by Ben Fried, of Mena, Arkansas.

I too, have felt that at times we are asked to contribute more heavily than was practical, but in thinking over the necessities for our contributing I have come to this conclusion.

Regardless of how much we contribute to the Cooperative Program, it just isn't enough to take care of all the ministries of the state and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Where would our Child Care and Family Services be if we did not make special offerings?

Where would our state mission program be if we did not have the special offerings?

Where would our foreign mission program be if it were not for our special offerings?

As hard as it is for me to contribute to these special causes I consider it a great privilege to make whatever contribution I am able to make.

Also consider this, we have a world wide mission of taking the gospel to the whole world. Our mission activity has increased in the last two decades to such an extent that we must add to our support of each cause.

— **John D. Baker, Searcy**

Proud of seminary

I must praise the Lord and express how proud I am of the Southern trustees to vote to end Moody's tenure. I know this must have been hard and very difficult to deal with but we must remove those from our fellowship who teach false doctrine. The Baptist Faith and Message adopted by SBC in 1963 should be believed by every teacher in our schools and seminaries. Keep up the good work, trustees. Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 5, "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" and "not to keep company etc." Our churches should do the same. — **Ray R. Hawfield, Mulberry**

Southern names PR director

Pat Looney of Jonesboro has been named to the position of Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs at Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge.

A graduate of Arkansas State University, Mrs. Looney received her B.S. degree in journalism in 1970.



Looney

Since graduation she has worked as editor of a trade publication, copywriter for an advertising agency, in television sales and in employee relations.

At the school she will work on public relations through brochures and slide presentations, as well as alumni functions and publications. In the past, these duties were performed by Jim E. Tillman, a member of the Southern Baptist administration for the past eight years. Tillman will now devote full time to being Vice President for Development.

Washington SBC site plans are postponed

WASHINGTON (BP) — Plans to present the nation's capital as an alternate site for the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention apparently have been scrapped after officials of the D.C. Convention Bureau filled the available dates with another convention.

Vernon Davis, pastor of First Church of Alexandria, Va., told Baptist Press he planned to present Washington as an alternate to Las Vegas, which will be proposed to messengers at the 1983 annual meeting by the SBC Executive Committee.

Both the general board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (state convention) and the executive body of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention voted unanimously to extend the invitation.

While the move to present an alternate site has some denominational political overtones, Davis said it was being presented because some Southern Baptists — fundamentalists and moderates alike — do not wish to go to Las Vegas because of gambling and the city's image as vice ridden.

Davis said he had a verbal agreement with the D.C. Convention Bureau to hold the second week in June 1989 for the SBC. However, the bureau made a commitment to allow another organization to have the 20,000 seat hall on those dates.

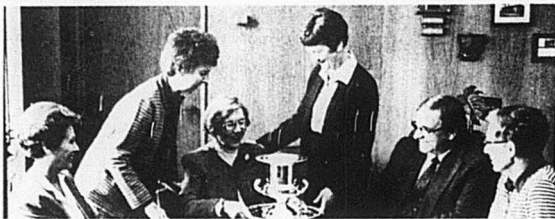
"It would have been a wonderful year for Baptists to come to Washington," Davis said, noting 1989 is the bicentennial of the proposal of the Bill of Rights.

Davis said he also believes the move would have brought the convention back into the East, which is the area of the greatest Baptist strength. He said two-thirds of church members and 60 percent of Cooperative Program giving come from east of the Mississippi, "yet we continue to go outside the heart of Southern Baptist territory" to hold the conventions.

"We will not make the invitation for 1989, now. It appears the idea died," he said, adding the proposal may be made for 1991, which also would be a good year, "since that was the year the Bill of Rights was ratified and added to the Constitution."

While the proposal to substitute Washington as the site has died, reports indicate Louisville, Ky., will be presented as a site for the 1989 convention. The city was proposed as a possible site to the February, 1983, meeting of the Executive Committee, but was turned down because it does not meet current guidelines for a convention city.

Current guidelines call for a hall capable of seating 16,000 persons, 50,000 square feet of exhibit space, and 6,000 hotel rooms within two miles of the meeting hall.



Alumni of North Little Central College recently presented a gift of silver to Mrs. Irving M. Prince of Brinkley (seated second from left) as a memorial to her late husband. Prince, who died Aug. 21, 1982, was the first and only president of the college which was previously owned and operated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Presenting the gift to Mrs. Prince were (left to right) Bette McCutcheon of Little Rock; Betty Sue Moore of Cotton Plant, alumni secretary/treasurer; Ruth Frierson of North Little Rock, vice president; Willis Crosby of Little Rock and J.B. Thompson of North Little Rock.

ABN photo/Gil



The Pulaski Association pastors' conference gave W. O. Vaught, recently retired Immanuel Church, Little Rock, pastor, a plaque in recognition of his 38 years' membership and service in the group. Making the presentation is association moderator Bill Lewis, pastor of First Southern Church in Bryant.

ABN photo/Jones



London First Church celebrated homecoming April 10 with a noteburning service, marking liquidation of the \$75,000 indebtedness on a nine-year-old sanctuary. Guest speakers were former pastors, Ralph Rains, now pastor of the Camden Elliott Church, and Erwin L. McDonald, editor emeritus of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" and religion editor of the "Arkansas Democrat". Burning the note were (left to right) Leonard Price, building property donator, James Staggs, a building committee member, and pastor Dick Cayce.

Photo by Erwin L. McDonald

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Ron Berry

is serving as pastor of the Gassville Church in White River Association.

Lajuana Terrell

is serving Hughes First Church as interim music director.

Benny Foster

was ordained to the ministry May 21 at the Quitman Church. He serves as pastor of the Post Oak Church at Heber Springs.

Nathan Wiles

was ordained as a deacon May 1 at the North Maple Church in Stuttgart.

Tom Baker

has resigned as minister of youth/activities at El Dorado First Church to join the staff of the First Church of Bowling Green, Ky.

Charles A. Bowen

has joined the staff of Crossett Temple Church as minister of music. He and his wife, Debbie, are both Pine Bluff natives. They are 1983 graduates of Ouachita Baptist University.

Leland Worlow

is serving as pastor of the Freer Church at Trumann.

Nodell Dennis

has resigned as pastor of the Trumann First Church to become pastor of the First Church of Quanah, Texas.

Larry Harper

is serving as pastor of the Waldenburg Church. He was ordained to the ministry April 10.



ARKANSAS ADVISOR — C. Michael Anders (center), pastor of the First Baptist Church, Clarendon, met recently with the national Alumni Advisory Council of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. As Arkansas' representative, he met with seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt (left) and national alumni president James C. Cammack, pastor of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N.C.



Kansas City, Mo. — Chapter presidents of Midwestern Baptist Seminary state alumni associations recently visited the campus for their first annual meeting. Arkansas president Allen Thrasher and Geneva Carpenter Weiler, a third year divinity student from Elkins, Ark., are shown visiting with Milton Ferguson, seminary president. Thrasher is pastor of First Church in Booneville. Mrs. Weiler is a graduate of the University of Arkansas.

Oak Grove Church

at Van Buren was in a revival April 17-20 led by evangelist Rex Easterling. Pastor Wayne B. Davis reported 27 professions of faith, with 22 baptized.

Montrose Church

held a deacon ordination service May 1 for Tommy Hetland. Pastor John Williams was assisted by Bobby Eubanks, Odus Lawrence, Robert Lee, Wash White and R. D. Selby.

buildings

Big Flat Mission

dedicated an auditorium April 10.

Altus First Church

held dedication services April 27 for their "Elijah House," built as a home for the pastor and his family on weekends and for visiting evangelists and speakers. The building was dedicated as a memorial to a deacon, the late Smiley Fred Buck. George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, was speaker. Pastor Ron Clark assisted with the service.

Family problems effect Baptists

NASHVILLE (BP) — The crises confronting families in America today are also problems that threaten Southern Baptist churches and the denomination as a whole, warns Douglas Anderson, secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Citing the skyrocketing divorce rate and numbers of parents rearing children alone, Anderson said, "I think it can be documented that what is occurring nationwide is occurring at almost the same rate in our churches."

Other family-related problems Anderson listed included difficulties among blended families of remarried persons, grandparents separated geographically and by divorce from their grandchildren and low self-esteem of persons attempting to rebuild their lives from broken relationships.

Anderson believes church leaders want to help family members in crises, but many simply do not know what to do.

Anderson did praise churches which are providing ministries to members and nonmembers in counseling, marriage and parenting enrichment and which are emphasizing the importance of family Bible study and worship in the homes.

On the one hand, Anderson said, "If we don't articulate the difference the gospel makes in our homes, non-Christians can legitimately question what the gospel offers. If we're not able to point to people with changed lives, we're going to have difficulty."

On the other hand, the breakup of Christian families is affecting key leadership in churches, including the clergy, deacons and Sunday school teachers. For example, he said the rate of divorce among ministers appears to be approaching the rate of the general population.

Rogers First Church marks 100 years

Rogers First Church held a centennial celebration on May 1. The celebration featured a number of special guests including JoySong, a singing group from John Brown University; John Sampier, mayor of Rogers; and J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. A plaque of recognition was presented to the church in commemoration of the occasion after State Representative Dick Barclay had taken the lead in having the commemorative resolution passed by the House of Representatives.

The auditorium was decorated with flowers which will be planted in a centennial garden. A centennial birthday cake also was presented during the service with deacons and older members participating in blowing out the candles.

Pastor Ben J. Rowell preached from Judges 6 encouraging the people to recognize that they are nothing apart from God.

The church was organized in 1883 with seven charter members and John Dunnegan served as the first pastor. Since the congregation had no building, they worshipped in the facilities of another congregation for several years until Wade Sikes gave the land upon which the first church building was erected and dedicated in 1887. It was about the turn of the century that the building was sold and the church moved to the corner of Second and Cherry which served the congregation until 1967.

During the leadership of Pastor Dean Newberry Jr., the congregation moved to a new 10-acre location at the corner of Eighth and Olive Streets and erected a new building which was dedicated on June 18, 1967.

Under the leadership of the present pastor of the church, Ben J. Rowell, the congregation has erected and finished a youth activities building and constructed an \$800,000 sanctuary. The church also started a mission which is now the Lakeside Church. In the past seven years the church has baptized 466 people and received 658

by letter.

Pastor Rowell reminded the people, "In the past 100 years we have come from the little frame building on South Second to our beautiful facility here on Eighth and Olive. All of us know that it is impossible to live in the past. We must live and serve the Lord now. Yesterday's victories will not suffice for today. In order for us to properly serve the Lord we must commit ourselves to him as Saviour and Lord and place our emphasis on winning as many people as possible to Christ before he returns."

Pastor Ben J. Rowell, of Rogers First Church, receives a resolution from deacon Perry Butcher on behalf of State Representative Dick Barclay which had been passed in the House of Representatives commemorating the church's centennial. The celebration Sunday, May 1 was carried on channel 29, Fayetteville for half an hour longer than the church's usual broadcast.



Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, our 18 year old daughter has rebelled against us and her Christian upbringing. How can we restore a loving relationship without compromising our convictions?

Your question is both frequent and frustrating. Church staff persons often assume that although parent-child conflict is widespread, it will not happen to them. The truth is that it does happen in church-staff families and it happens frequently. It is frustrating because continuing acceptance of the child "feels" like a compromise of convictions.



McGriff

Parents often feel personally responsible for the behavior of their adult children. It is sometimes difficult for parents to recognize that their 18 year old is an adult. This complicates an acceptance of the parent's limitations. Parents feel that they ought to be able to control their "child." If they cannot control by coercive force, they should be able to control by convincing logic.

There is perhaps an almost universal recognition among Christians of parental responsibility for spiritual and moral training of children. Most Christian parents do a good job in communicating their beliefs and values to their children. However, when those values and beliefs are being tested by a son or daughter, something close to panic is experienced by the parents.

Christian parents need to let their children know that they live by the values they teach. When an adult child refuses to respect those values it may indicate that time has come for an attempt at independence. The person can be lovingly accepted without any alteration of family values. When parents alter their values to accommodate an insistent youth, they may remove the very security for which the struggling youth is searching.

Glen McGriff is director of the Ministry of Crisis Support, 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, AR 72205.

SBC datelines

Lottie Moon tops \$50 million but falling short of goal

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts have passed the \$50 million mark but are expected to fall short of the \$58 million goal.

With \$50,567,643 given so far and only seven weeks to go before the May 31 closing of books on the 1982 offering, Carl Johnson, Foreign Mission Board treasurer, told the board at its April meeting the shortfall could be as much as \$3 million.

But he said an increase of 8 to 10 percent over the 1981 offering would show that "Southern Baptists are still conscious of the world's spiritual needs" despite financial hardships imposed by high unemployment.

For the last few years, all of the offering goal has been budgeted in response to requests coming from the mission fields. If the offering does fall short this year, items will have to be sliced off the capital portion of the 1983 budget so field operating needs can still be met.

Helms holds court bill

WASHINGTON (BP) — Citing certain "assurances from the White House," Sen. Jesse Helms backed away from offering a series of federal court jurisdiction amendments to bankruptcy legislation passed by the Senate April 27.

The North Carolina Republican had announced earlier he would offer amendments limiting federal court jurisdiction and providing for congressional review of federal judges. Among them were amendments to remove Supreme Court and lower federal court jurisdiction in school prayer cases and to limit federal court authority to enforce school busing actions. Another would have established a congressional committee with authority to review the conduct and decisions of federal judges and recommend impeachment when a federal judge's conduct failed to meet a standard of good behavior defined in the amendment.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory B. Meeks, missionaries to Taiwan, may be addressed at 372 Chien Hsing Lu, Taichung 400, Taiwan. He was born in Arkadelphia, lived in several other states and considers Hot Springs his hometown. She is the former Jackie Hunter of Paragould. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981.

Martha Hairston, missionary to Brazil, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 2, Box 407-A, Warren, Ark. 71671). A native of Warren, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1951.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Alvin Hatton, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for

Other than a letter from President Reagan expressing administration concerns about reducing federal court jurisdiction, Helms did not spell out what specific White House assurances led to his decision not to call up the amendments. He advised his colleagues, however, they "undoubtedly will come before the Senate another day."

Reject prayer amendment

WASHINGTON (BP) — Warning President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment would lead to prescribed rather than voluntary public school prayer, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn asked a Senate Judiciary panel to reject the measure.

Dunn cited a paper released by the White House when the amendment was originally proposed stating state governments and local school boards would be free under the amendment to compose their own prayers. "If groups of people are permitted to pray," the White House document explains, "someone must have the power to determine the content of such prayers."

Gifts top 50.8 million

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist support of the Cooperative Program continues at record levels but the present pace is behind some budget projections.

As of March 30, halfway through the Southern Baptist Convention fiscal year, the national Cooperative Program had received \$50,825,754. The unified giving program, which is voluntary at all levels, supports the mission and educational programs of the 14.9 million member denomination. This is the first time contributions have passed \$50 million just six months into the fiscal year.

If giving continues at the same rate the last half of the fiscal year, the \$100 million basic budget would be surpassed but the \$6 million challenge budget would fall approximately \$4.2 million short.

missionary notes

furlough (address: Rt. 1, Box 297, Warren, Ark. 71671). He is a native of Abilene, Texas. The former Catherine Jordan of Arkansas, she was born in Dermott and also lived in Helena and Hot Springs while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1947.

Donna Fay Rye, Baptist representative to Mexico, has arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Apt. 5-959, Guadalupe, Jalisco, 45050 Mexico). She was born in Little Rock, Ark., and considers West-bille, Okla., her hometown. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Draper says year as president tiring

by Robert Hastings

EULESS, TEXAS (BP) — "How pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

That verse, Psalm 133:1, in big letters on an outdoor sign, greets visitors to the First Church, where Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr., is pastor.

"And I hope that verse will set the tone for our annual convention in Pittsburgh," Draper said in an interview in his office less than two months before the June meeting.

"I'll be disappointed if I'm opposed for a second term as president," Draper explained, "for we need another year of openness and for me to demonstrate that I want all segments of our Baptist life to be heard and represented.

"I've made some mistakes this first year, either doing or saying something I shouldn't. But remember — no one trained me to be president. Another year will give me a chance to be a better president."

Draper said he doesn't know how he could have been more open to suggestions from all quarters, or demonstrate a greater willingness to do what is right.

"I conferred with the vice-presidents, as well as state denominational leadership and others, in making committee appointments. And I released them well in advance through Baptist Press. In fact, they would have been released earlier, but I bent over backwards to check out each nominee, to make sure of his denominational loyalty, especially as reflected in the Cooperative Program gifts of the church where he or she is a member."

Draper said he'd hoped the Committee on Boards would have released its nominations 60 days prior to Pittsburgh. "But I told Charles Stanley of Atlanta's First Church, 'Don't release names until your committee has verified that you know who you're nominating, and that you can verify his loyalty as a Southern Baptist.' I reminded him that otherwise, the committee's report likely would be challenged."

In reviewing the first 10 months of his presidency, Draper admitted, "I'm tired, but it's been a good year. I've had fantastic support from men like Harold C. Bennett, W. C. Fields, Dan Martin, John Dunaway and Tim Hedquist of the SBC Committee. None of these men gave any evidence of a hidden agenda or efforts to manipulate me.

And it's been a good year in our church. Although I've been away three to four days every week, the average weekly attendance has increased 200 persons — and this on top of a 285 average weekly increase last year. Gifts and baptisms are at an all time high, and each of our two morning services attract right at 1,800 persons."

Draper, noted for his evangelistic zeal, said he "grew up on revivals" under the ministry of his father, who died at age 52. "I was saved in a revival from the preaching

of C. E. Matthews and like him, I've majored on soul-winning. If there's anything that bothers me, it's a theology that will make a pastor lose that zeal."

Draper said he was asked almost a year in advance of the 1982 convention in New Orleans if he would consider being nominated. "Four pastors here in Tarrant County took me to out to lunch and asked if I'd accept a nomination. I gave them a list of 25 persons across the country, and asked if they'd call and sample their opinion. All 25 were positive. I shared this with our deacons at their May 1982, meeting. I told them it was not to be 'my' decision but 'our' decision. These deacons then sent me home from that meeting.

"For an hour and a half, they prayed over it. Then they gave me the green light, assuring me of their support. And they really have. My church has been fantastic, it's been a maturing experience for them.

When I went to New Orleans in 1982, I felt I'd be nominated. I didn't play 'surprised.' But I also made it clear that I was to be my own man, that I was 'owned' by no one."

Draper, who makes no apology for being conservative, wishes grassroots Baptist would understand one thing about the conservative movement in the denomination. "For the most part, conservatives want to be heard, to have a voice," he explained. "We're not out to dismantle, destroy or take over anything. I think a lot of so-called moderates are really conservative, but they're shy of us out of mistaken fear that we're out to destroy.

"For example, some think that we conservatives want to stifle academic freedom and liberty. All we want is to be heard and not be ridiculed. Some liberals have been doing all along what they now accuse us of doing — and that's insisting on only one viewpoint in the classroom. A classroom should give a student the tools to study and make his own decision.

For example, I studied eschatology at Southwestern Baptist Seminary under Ray Summers. I didn't agree with his position on the millennium. But he didn't ridicule my belief, nor try to force his interpretations on me. Yet some liberal textbooks categorically take a stand and leave no possibility of any other viewpoint. I call that narrow, whether it's in a 'conservative' or a 'liberal' textbook."

Draper admitted some conservatives shy away from fellowshiping with any who disagree with them. "I think this is unfortunate," he said, "I can disagree with a brother on his theology, but still fellowship with him as a Christian."

"Inquiry is helpful," he said, "whether in a church or the denomination. Let's give folks a chance to speak up, to ask questions, to challenge, and not intimidate them as being 'uncooperative' or 'fundamentals.'"

"Our annual conventions have gotten so big and expensive to attend that many Baptist feel they no longer have a voice, that no one bothers to listen. Maybe a series of regional conventions is the answer. I don't know. But maybe the factionalism we're seeing is largely frustration over how to make input into a denomination as big as ours. Let's face it. The Southern Baptist Convention is a bureaucracy. My church is a bureaucracy. We've got to find ways to let the little fellow speak up."

Asked how he'd like for grassroots Baptists to view him, Draper answered quickly and positively. "If Jimmy Draper couldn't be a Southern Baptist, I don't know what he'd be. Southern Baptists are my life. The second Sunday in April, I preached an entire sermon on the Cooperative Program, and Doug Brown, who is with the Baptist Envelope Service, wrote me that it was one of the finest he'd ever heard me preach. Yes, we're going to see changes, particularly in structure. Some of our by-laws are vague and out of date, written for a denomination of 4 million rather than 14 million members. And I think the fact we've even considered negative designation for the Cooperative Program is indicative of [the fact that there may be] further discussion on the way we support our denomination.

"I think of our struggle like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. History shows that every 40 to 60 years, Southern Baptists have struggled and questioned, but they always emerged stronger."

Draper is convinced that if he's opposed at Pittsburgh, the issue will be "control," not theology. "No one can say I've pushed my theology on anyone. What I want is true freedom — which is freedom within stated boundaries. It is the liberty to believe and preach and reach without being ridiculed — and also the Christian charity to grant the same to others.

"The door's open in Pittsburgh to give a Christian witness in an area where Southern Baptist are relatively unknown. I hope our testimony will be positive, and not marred by factional controversy."

Night school degree offered at NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — For the first time, a student can earn a degree by attending night school at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Master of Divinity, Master of Religious Education or Associate of Divinity degree can be earned in the same amount of time that it would take a student attending day classes.

The program has been in effect for ten weeks, and the response has reportedly been excellent.

Tanzania churches grow

KYELA, Tanzania — After two years of leveling off, growth of Baptist churches in Tanzania took a new spurt in 1982, increasing 25.6 percent to a total membership of 32,442.

The growth centered around 7,229 baptisms and a ratio of one new member for every 3.6 persons who were members at the beginning of the year, according to Evelyn Knapp, press representative for the Baptist Mission of Tanzania.

Nearly all associations of churches in Tanzania reported increases, but the greatest number of baptisms came from several responsive areas.

Kyela, in the southern part of the country, reported nearly 3,000 baptisms and 33 new church starts during the associational year, which ended Aug. 31. The area was the scene of an evangelistic crusade in August led by 10 American pastors who preached in villages. The crusade recorded more than 7,500 decisions to receive Christ.

The Sukuma Project, in the north central part of Tanzania, reported nearly 1,500 baptisms and 32 new churches. The Baptist Mission of Tanzania launched the project several years ago to evangelize the Sukuma, a tribe of four million people unreached by the gospel.

The neighboring Magu Association baptized 1,400 and added 27 churches during the year.

Missionaries in the East African nation are pleased with the return to church growth after two years of minimal growth in 1980 and 1981. Between 1976 and 1979 membership had increased from 10,895 to 23,885.

Georgia aids ministers

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP) — Limited financial assistance to unemployed ministers who have been terminated by local churches has been approved by the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The new program, similar to those in operation in at least six states within the Southern Baptist Convention, is operative immediately. It will give disengaged ministers limited income if churches which terminate them do not provide at least 90 days of severance pay and if the minister's family income does not exceed \$800 per month.

Ministers must have been in a Georgia Baptist church at least 12 months and must be trying to locate religious or secular work. It suggested they accept counseling and/or career guidance. No minister may receive more than \$1,500 in a 12-month period and none may be assisted more than once in a 5-year span.

WMJ available on tape

North Carolina Baptist Men announced a new ministry in the April issue of *World Mission Journal*. As of this month, each issue of the Baptist men's publication is available on cassette tape for the visually handicapped.

The *Journal* will be sent free to any visually impaired person who requests it. It will arrive in a special mailer containing two cassettes. Selections from *Journal* will be recorded on one. Selections of special interest, which will vary from month to month, will be recorded on the second.

Plans are under consideration to make the two Royal Ambassador magazines, *Probe* and *Crusader*, available on tape in the future.

Anyone interested in this ministry is encouraged to contact David Langford, North Carolina Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 26508, Cary, N.C. 27611.

Relief reaches record

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists gave a record \$5.8 million for world hunger and relief in 1982, but the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated even more — \$8 million — for world relief projects.

The allocations, more than double those for 1981, funded 192 hunger and relief projects in 43 countries. The Foreign Mission Board was able to allocate more than it received because of funds on hand from previous years.

In five years Southern Baptist yearly world relief giving has increased six-fold. Because of the board's commitment to use funds wisely, missionaries had to plan carefully to take advantage of the rapid growth in hunger giving.

Jesus slogans not enough

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Despite bumper stickers and billboards to the contrary, Jesus is still obscure in America, insists Jim Wallis.

"His name is known and widely spoken but sometimes all that remains of Jesus in America is his name," Wallis explained, noting Jesus' teachings and example often are not followed.

Wallis, pastor and founder of *Sojourners Community* in Washington, D.C., and editor of *Sojourners* magazine, singled out concern for the poor and for peace as Christian issues which have been ignored, when he addressed the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's national seminar in Louisville, Ky.

Both care for the poor and peacemaking are dominant biblical themes, he said. But instead of listening to the Bible, people

have "ignored the poor... and built walls of hostility, arsenals to destroy one another," he added. He linked peacemaking and concern for the poor by noting defense spending utilizes funds which otherwise might go to help the needy or strengthen the economy so they can help themselves.

Allen is Maryland editor

LUTHERSVILLE, Md. (BP) — W. Fletcher Allen, associate editor of the South Carolina Baptist *Courier* for the past 16 years, has been named editor of the *Maryland Baptist*.

He was elected April 19 by the State Board of Missions of Maryland Baptist Convention, and the announcement was made jointly by John E. Roberts, editor of the *Baptist Courier*, and Kenneth Lyle, executive director of the Maryland Convention. Allen, 51, will move to Maryland in June.

The *Baptist Courier* is the official news-magazine of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. It is published in Greenville and has a circulation of 122,000. Roberts moved immediately to fill the associate editor's position vacated by Allen, promoting assistant editor Donald M. Kirkland.

Roberts reported the anticipated changes to the board of trustees of the *Courier* in their regular meeting April 8, and was given endorsement for his plans.

Allen, a native of Hartsville, S.C., joined the *Baptist Courier* staff as associate editor Aug. 1, 1966. Previously, he was a public affairs officer for Sonoco Products in Hartsville. Earlier, he spent six years as news director for Furman University and from 1956 to 1958 was sports editor of the *Florence Morning News*.

The Maryland newspaper is published weekly in tabloid format and has 18,000 subscribers. The state reports 304 Southern Baptist churches with 106,000 members.

Polish churches get \$75,000 for construction

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$75,000 in its April board meeting to help three Polish Baptist congregations construct church buildings.

Funding of \$25,000 each was approved for Baptists in Katowice, Gdansk and Elblag. Nearly \$120,000 more was released for seven building projects and two building funds in the Eastern European countries of Hungary, Yugoslavia, East Germany and Romania.



Allen

Arkansans appointed by FMB

RICHMOND, Va. — Two Arkansas couples, Mr. and Mrs. Larry L. Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Browning were among 23 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 12 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

The Baileys will work in Togo, where he will be a mission business manager and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. They are members of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth.

Born in Wynne, Ark., Bailey is the son of Mrs. Mary Bailey of Jonesboro, Ark., and the late Lawrence Bailey. He considers Jonesboro his hometown and Central Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Arkansas State University. He has worked as an office credit manager in Trumann and Jonesboro, Ark.; salesman for a lumber company in Jonesboro; and construction project coordinator in Jonesboro. He has also served as a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Indiana and as a church-sponsored missionary in Jonesboro.

Born and reared in Jonesboro, Mrs. Bailey, the former Sheila Forshee, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Forshee of Paragould, Ark. She also considers Central Church in Jonesboro, her home church.

She received the bachelor of science in



Mary Bailey



Larry Bailey



Nancy Browning



Charles Browning

education degree from Arkansas State University. She has worked as a secretary in Jonesboro and teacher's aide in Fort Worth.

The Baileys will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The Brownings will work in Jordan, where he will be a maintenance worker and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. They are members of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth.

Born and reared in Judsonia, Ark., Browning is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Browning of that city. He considers First Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of science degree from the University of Central Arkansas, Conway. He has worked as a construction project manager in Little Rock, Ark.; self-employed contractor in Judsonia; and

carpenter at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He has also served as a Foreign Mission Board summer missionary in Malawi.

Born in Lonoke, Ark., Mrs. Browning, the former Nancy Woodward, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Woodward of that city. She considers Lonoke her hometown and First Church of Judsonia her home church. She has also lived in North Little Rock, Ark.

She received the bachelor of science degree from the University of Central Arkansas. She has worked as a physical therapist in North Little Rock and Searcy, Ark., and childbirth class instructor in White County, Ark.

The Brownings have three children: Ann Elizabeth, born in 1976; Carla Renay, 1979; and Benjamin Charles, 1979. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in September for an 11-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Arkansans appointed as journeymen

Six Arkansans were appointed as journeymen by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission board, and one was appointed as an alternate.

All college graduates (or graduating this spring) age 26 and under, the journeymen candidates expect to work for two years alongside Southern Baptist career missionaries in 52 nations.

Among those appointed from Arkansas were:

Donna Whitley, who has been assigned as an assistant to the associate director for Southern Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa. Most recently employed as a salesclerk in Little Rock, she expects to receive her B.A. from UA Little Rock in '83. She is a member of Geyer Springs church in Little Rock and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne T. Whitley of Fordyce.

Cindy McClain has been assigned as a librarian at Ricks Institute in Monrovia, Liberia. Currently a therapist technician at Tarrant County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services in Fort Worth, Texas, she received her B.A. from Ouachita Baptist University in 1980. She has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and is a member of North Fort Worth Church. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. McClain of Scotland.

Pam Risner has been assigned as an MK teacher in Piura, Peru. Employed recently as a BSU worker at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, she is a 1982 graduate of UCA with a BSE. She is a member of First Church of Mountain View. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Junior Risner of Mountain View.

Mary Coffman is taking an assignment as

a medical technology instructor in Gaza. A research assistant at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, she expects to complete her B.S. degree at the school this spring. She is a member of First Church of Norman and the daughter of Dewey and Norberta Coffman of the city. She was born in Little Rock.

Leslie Fetters is scheduled to teach at a refugee center in Morong, the Philippines. A student at Arkansas State University, she plans to complete her BA in '83. She is a member of First Church, Des Arc, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Fetters of the city.

Gail Gray, assigned as a teacher in Amman, Jordan, was most recently employed as a teacher at 15th Street Elementary School in Texarkana, Texas. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen D. Gray of Wake Village, Texas and is a member of Wake Village Church.

Susan Hughey was appointed as an alternate, with the place of assignment not yet decided. She expects to receive her B.A. in '83 from OBU. A member of Cedar Grove Church in Arkadelphia, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hughey of West Memphis.



McClain



Whitley



Coffman



Gray



Risner



Fetters

International

On trial in Jerusalem

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

Basic passage: Acts 22:30-23:11

Central truth: God would use Paul's Roman citizenship so he could carry his message to Rome.

The Roman tribune examined Paul to determine the nature of the disturbance in the temple. Paul relayed to him his conversion experience and how he had been commissioned to go to the Gentiles. To get further evidence, Paul would be scourged. Here Paul made known he was a Roman citizen by birth. Frustrated, the tribune called the Sanhedrin together to find out more about Paul.

When the Sanhedrin was together, Paul began to speak to them "man to man." He was not intimidated by their authority because he was acting under one greater than any human authority.

1. Paul's life was consistent with his belief. "I have lived before God in all good conscience to this day." (v.1). There is no greater testimony than that of a changed and consistent life. Paul lived what he believed. His conscience was clear.

2. Ananias was not even recognized as high priest (v.4). There are many theories why Paul failed to recognize the high priest. Could it be that, unlike Paul, Ananias failed to live a life consistent with his calling? His stormy, unruly lifestyle betrayed his office. Would those about you know you are a Christian?

3. Paul's message and ministry rested on the truth of the resurrection (v.6). "With respect to the resurrection of the dead, I am on trial." Elsewhere, Paul clearly stated, "If there is no resurrection of the dead . . . our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." (1 Cor. 15:13-14).

4. Paul receives his direction — he must bear witness in Rome (v. 11). With this commission, there is the admonition to Paul to "take courage." God had a great purpose for Paul. His preaching must be heard in Rome.

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OBU students give grants

ARKADELPHIA — The Ouachita Baptist University Student Foundation (OSF) has awarded 33 scholarships for the 1983-83 academic year as a result of money raised during the past year by OSF members.

The scholarships were given to Ouachita juniors and seniors on the basis of need, campus involvement, scholastic achievement and leadership potential.

The OSF awarded seven endowed scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 and 26 for \$500 each.

Life and Work

Invitation to life

by Al Sparkman, First Church of Crossett

Basic passage: Isaiah 54-55

Focal passage: Isaiah 55:1-11

Central truth: The invitation of God is not to one race, one denomination, one nation, or one generation but is extended to all people of all time if they will respond by repentance and receive by faith the new and abundant life he has for them in Jesus Christ.

It is a shock for us to find someone who just does not have any desire or intention of becoming a Christian. How could one turn down such a gift from God? It is almost as shocking to discover that some of the children of Israel decided to remain in Babylon rather than returning to Jerusalem when the edict of Cyrus made their return to their homeland possible. God not only provided the possibility of freedom, but he also made clear to his people that returning to their promised land was a vital link in his eternal purpose to bring redemption to all the world through them. God indeed gave them a great invitation to life. Their indecision about leaving Babylon provides us with some insights about the importance and generosity of God's invitation to us.

1. The desirability of spiritual sustenance over material wealth. In Babylon, the Jews were not wealthy, for they were a servant people. But over the years of their exile there, many had acquired holdings, property and other entanglements. Now it was hard to leave those behind, even for what God offered in Jerusalem. God called to them, "Pause a moment, you that thirst and hunger for that which really satisfies. Don't spend yourselves for that which cannot fill. Come to me and my purpose for you. This will satisfy forever;" (see Isaiah 55:1-6). How greatly is the truth of this loving invitation needed in America today!

2. The urgency of finding and knowing God. In v. 6 is revealed the urgent necessity of responding to God when his call comes. "Seek ye the Lord . . . call upon him . . ." "When? "While he may be found; while he is near." So God's invitation has an urgency in time, but there is also an urgency in unquestioning faith in the honesty and honor of God. In vv. 8 and 9, God lets us know that in human reasoning and wisdom we may never understand God's total plan, so we are to trust and obey him.

3. The reliability of the word of the living God. God makes it clear that as the rain and the snow fall to accomplish their appointed tasks in the earth, so will God's word "accomplish that which I please." (vv. 10,11). We must trust God's word.

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Bible Book Series

North Kingdom Secession

by Allen D. Thrasher, First Church, Booneville

Focal passage: I Kings 11:43; 12:3b-4, 13, 20, 27-28; 14:7-9a, 16

Central truth: Sin brings ruin and death to individuals and nations.

The Bible states that the "wages of sin is death," (Rom 6:23a). Nowhere in all of the Bible is this truth more clearly seen than in the current series of lessons. The great King Solomon sinned grievously and set in motion a chain of events which would reel and rock Israel to her knees. His son's rival, King Jeroboam, led divided Israel to sin even more grievously, so that God doomed the 11 northern tribes of Solomon's kingdom to absolute and total destruction (14-16). The wages of divided Israel's sin were truly death; she was judged by God and was soon to be no more.

Sin burdens people with its grievous yoke. Solomon's sin brought a heavy yoke of taxation and forced labor upon Israel, which she called upon Rehoboam to lighten (12:13). It was King Rehoboam's unwillingness to lighten this yoke of sin, placed upon Israel by his father, which led to the division of his kingdom. Jesus taught that his yoke is easy, and his burden is light (Matt. 11:30). The way of the transgressor is hard (Prov. 13:15b); the Christian way is easy in comparison.

Ironically, the once wise King Solomon likely originally uttered Proverbs 13:15b. It is not enough to speak or hear the word of God; we must be doers of the word.

The scriptures declare that there is safety in the multitude of counselors (Prov. 11:14; 24:6). King Rehoboam consulted many counselors, old and young, but rejected the wise counsel of the older men and favored the unwise counsel of his peers. Christian leaders should seek broad counsel, but ultimately the counsel of God's word and spirit should prevail. Regarding King Rehoboam's decision (12:13), the abundance of scripture available to him taught that God comes to the aid of his oppressed and heavy laden people, re., the exodus experience.

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Florida editor retires

Edgar R. Cooper, editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness* since 1971, has announced he will retire effective Dec. 31, 1983.

In a signed article in the April 21, issue, Cooper said: "Some people don't like to think about retirement. But if you live long enough the subject of retirement has to be dealt with one way or another. This has happened to men and my decision is to retire from the editorship . . . Dec. 31, 1983."

Your state convention at work

Student Department That young man

It's nice to be called young. In fact, it gets nicer every year.

Dr. John Dunaway of Corbin, Ky., chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, called me "young" recently at a meeting of the executive committee, I'm told. Please don't remind me that he and I have never met. Let me enjoy this moment a little longer.

Our State Student Directors' Association nominated me to serve on the Youth Committee of the Baptist World Alliance last year. That nomination had to be approved by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

After the vote was taken in Nashville, Dr. Dunaway remarked, "That young man will enjoy that job."

I am grateful for Arkansas Tommie Hinson and Rodney Landes, as well as my long-time Texas friend, Ed Drake, for not laughing out loud.

All of which reminds me that the next Baptist World Youth Conference, originally scheduled for this summer, will be held in July of 1984.

The Arkansas Student Department has taken groups to the Baptist World Youth Conference at Toronto, Canada; Beirut, Lebanon; and to Berne, Switzerland.

We are planning to have an Arkansas representation at the Buenos Aires meeting. There will be stops in Central and South America to see Baptist mission work.

If you are interested, please contact the Student Department. Such a trip would be an exciting gift for a high school senior.

Obviously, you don't have to be young to attend, or to work on the committee either. — **Tom Logue, director**

Annuity

Annuity Board cares . . .

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board cares for the 12,000 plus annuitants in our convention, those retired from Southern Baptist service and receiving benefits from the board. You perhaps know some of them personally and know that many of them are receiving adequate benefits.

The Annuity Board has established an endowment fund to help meet the financial needs of these retired servants of God. If you would like to know how you can help, please write the Annuity Board for information.

The month of June is designated by the Southern Baptist Convention for special emphasis on Annuity Board ministries. I hope you will recognize in some way those annuitants in your congregation on one of the Sundays in June.

If you would like a bulletin insert accenting this emphasis on that Sunday, please contact your associational office or me: Nadine Bjorkman, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR, 72203, or call (501) 376-4791. — **Nadine Bjorkman, annuity representative.**

Christian Life Council

Unwary and tragic encouragement

If hope is not a central theme of the gospel witness, hopelessness often takes over. Satan tells today's youth, "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you may die." Epicurean philosophy is by no means dead. The threat of nuclear destruction encourages the "what's the use" attitude. So can well meaning Bible teachers and preachers who improperly interpret eschatology. "End times" are often spoken of as being just around the corner, calendar-wise!

Teachers of the word of God must explain that even the son

doesn't know the father's exact timing for the end. He should also explain that a day to the Lord is as a thousand years and vice versa.

When Christian hope is not paramount, often tempted youth of today more easily excuse drug use and other sensual pursuits of pleasure. The Christian message of hope must encourage youthful planning for a productive career, wholesome marriage and family life by pointing out that God's standard for longevity is still three score and ten.

Christian leaders must temper messages of doom with certain hope through Jesus Christ. Otherwise, the greatest of these, love, is not being stressed. Don't kill youthful potential by improperly presenting God's word regarding "end times." — **Bob Parker, director**

Stewardship

Discretionary funds

An out-of-state church promoted three recreational activities for its members. The first, a retreat float trip, was described as a thrilling experience where members would cook T-bone steaks, trout and delicious breakfasts. The total price tag for 40 people came to \$8,600. The other two adventures added \$7182 and \$3,000 for out of state trips.

Members were asked to pay their own way with the church providing the opportunity for Christian fellowship through recreation.

Did the total cost, \$18,782, reflect Christian stewardship? A part of Christian stewardship is learning how to use discretionary, or extra, funds. Those who participated in the church-sponsored activities felt they received their money's worth. They did not neglect giving to their church's ministries.

Christians, in using their discretionary funds, must establish priorities. One cannot use resources without thinking of such things as family hunger, mission projects and local human needs.

Family budgeting is important in establishing priorities. Contact the Stewardship Department for guide books on family budgets. — **James A. Walker, director**

Evangelism

Future CWT seminars

We are having delightful results from the CWT process in Arkansas. Pastors and lay people are very positive about what it is doing to their own personal lives and the life of the church. The training process greatly enriches the life of each participant. This involves equippers, apprentices, encouragers and prayer partners in an ongoing process.

This all begins as the pastor and a staff member or lay person attend a national training seminar. They learn the total process and then establish it in the local church.

The next CWT seminar in Arkansas will be Sept. 26-29, 1983, at East Side Church in Fort Smith. Trueman Moore will be the host pastor. Joe Atchison, pastor of South Side Church in Pine Bluff, will be the visiting pastor.

The Home Mission Board will send a national leader and I will be privileged to teach in this seminar. Several pastors, staff members and lay people have already made a commitment to attend the seminar this September. If you have a desire to attend, please write me at your Evangelism Department.

Please be aware that our first seminar will be March 12-15 at First Church in Benton. Tommy Tutor will be the host pastor. Many of our central Arkansas pastors will have an opportunity to be involved in this seminar.

The aim of the CWT process is to fulfill the command of our Lord, "As you go, make disciples." — **Clarence Shell, director.**



Logue



Shell

Rallies, conference bring decisions

SINGAPORE — More than 60 decisions to accept Christ as personal Savior came from the 1,700 people who attended three nights of evangelistic rallies in Singapore. In conjunction with the rallies, 253 Baptist church leaders from all 22 Baptist churches in Singapore registered for a simultaneous urban church growth conference. Baptist church leaders from Malaysia, Taiwan, Bangladesh and Indonesia also attended. As a result of the conference, several Baptist churches in Singapore decided to begin

extension churches in unreached areas of the city-state.

Workshop draws varied instruments

DAVAO CITY, Philippines — More than 150 Baptist musicians brought guitars, wind instruments, Philippine native stringed instruments and a hand-made violin to the first Philippine Baptist music workshop. Missionaries and Filipinos taught classes in choir and orchestral directing, composing and hymnology.

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Vacation Bible School

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Campers On Mission Arkansas Spring Rally

June 2-4, 1983

Place: Spring Lake Camp,
Lonsdale, Ark.

Early arrivers: Come on Thursday evening if possible

Friday: Trip to Hot Springs
6:30 p.m. — Potluck meal

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Pete Petty
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, Ark. 72203
Phone 376-4791

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Young musicians camp

(grades 4-6)

June 20-23 at OBU



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Calvary Church
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*Elaine Barte
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*Mary Ann Whitaker
First Church
Elden, Mo.*



*Shirley Burleson
Geyer Springs First
Little Rock*

See minister of music handbook for rules, registration form. Registration must be postmarked by June 6, limit 600 participants. Sponsored by Church Music Department

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Mobil
Travel Guide
1983

Southern Baptist Convention ahead

Southern Baptists' annual meeting is less than four weeks away. While relatively few Arkansas Baptists (considering there are more than 300,000 of us) will be attending as messengers with voting power, actions of the Convention are of importance to all who call themselves Southern Baptists. The next six pages offer information on the annual meeting and auxiliary gatherings planned for Pittsburgh beginning June 11.

'Unity of Spirit' theme of 1983 SBC

PITTSBURGH (BP) — "Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace" will be the theme for the 1983 annual meeting of the 13.9 million member Southern Baptist Convention at the Pittsburgh Civic Arena June 14-16.

It will be the 126th annual session for the 138 year old denomination, composed of more than 36,000 churches in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico and America Samoa.

"We wanted this to be the kind of convention which would bring us together in unity," said Bruce McIver, pastor of Wilshire Church of Dallas and chairman of the convention order of business committee. "We felt there are far more things which unify us than divide us."

He added: "The primary purpose of the committee was that the convention experience the theme. It was an underlying purpose all the way through. We have worked to deal fairly with all matters to be presented: business, reports, and, what we consider to be very important, the inspirational part of it."

The three-day program features business, election of officers, reports from the 20 agencies supported through the SBC, a layman's emphasis, plus preaching, praying and singing.

A special feature will be five 15-minute theme interpretations by Joel Gregory, pro-

fessor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"We have given him no direction on this except to ask him to explore the theme and to present biblical messages," McIver said, adding the committee has placed the theme interpretations "in the heart of each session" rather than at the first "when people are still trying to find their seats."

Another special feature will be the Thursday night session. In New Orleans, last year, there was no Thursday evening session, but McIver said the committee decided to return to having the final session.

"We spent a lot of time praying and thinking about the closing session. We decided to have an affirmation of what the Lord can do through laypersons. In that session we will have Russell Newport, a layman from Springfield, Mo., singing; Fred Roach, a layman from Dallas giving a testimony, and Chuck (Charles) Colson will share out of his own heart what God can do through one layman," McIver said.

Colson, a former key staffer in the Nixon White House, spent time in prison for his part in the Watergate scandal. In prison, he was converted and after his release, established a ministry to people in prison.

McIver added that the Thursday evening

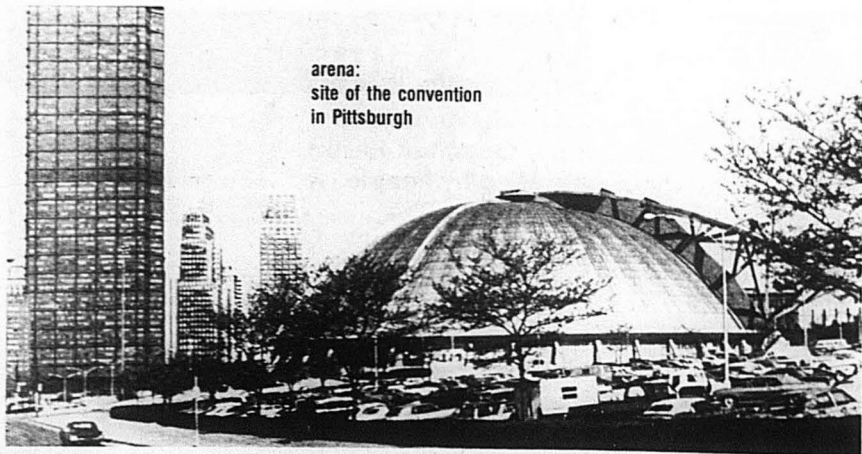
session was planned also "with Pittsburgh area Baptists in mind. We don't have too many Baptists in the area, and we are hoping the service will minister to them... be a testimony and witness there."


He explained many of the other matters to come before the convention "are fixed. The primary thing the committee had to do was to provide the slots and times for them. There is not a lot of flexibility, but our primary concern was to plan the program well and in such a way as to be able to take care of the business, and then to have some variety and some inspiration."

Features of the program include the presidential address by SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, who was elected in 1982; the convention sermon by James Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Church of Dallas, and the reports of the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board.

"One of our deep concerns was that the reports of these two key agencies (FMB and HMB) be presented at the time they are scheduled and not be pushed back by business or other matters. We have given them absolute priority on the nights they are scheduled, so they can be a highlight of the convention," McIver said.

arena:
site of the convention
in Pittsburgh





Pittsburgh, June 14-16

Southern Baptist Convention 1983, preview

Walk through park pastors meet feature

PITTSBURGH (BP) — A walk through Point Park, with evangelist Arthur Blessitt carrying a large cross, will be a featured event in the annual Pastors' Conference June 12-13 prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Blessitt, who made headlines by carrying the cross across the United States, will lead the walk beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday (June 12) which will go through Point Park and end at the Pittsburgh Civic Arena, where the conference will be held.

The Pastors Conference is one of the meetings held in conjunction with the annual convention of the nation's largest protestant denomination, which will meet in the Civic Arena June 14-16.

"We hope the walk through the park will encourage people to come to the conference in the Arena," said Fred H. Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala., and president of the Pastors Conference. "We hope to reach some unchurched people. That is the purpose of the walk."

Wolfe said an art festival will be underway at the park during the walk, and "thousands of people will be there."

"It is our prayer that the walk of the

cross will attract the people to the Civic Arena to hear Arthur Blessitt preach and will result in many coming to Christ in salvation," he said.

"We hope a number of people will come and walk with us and the cross," Wolfe said. "It will be a very low key thing... people mingling in the streets. There is no way of knowing how many people will join us, but we are hoping for a good group."

Blessitt will be one of 14 speakers featured at this year's conference. Of those, Wolfe said, 10 have never spoken at the national meeting before. "One of the criticisms (of the conference) has been that the same people speak over and over again. I believe it encourages pastors of smaller churches to be able to speak at the meeting," Wolfe said.

He commented he believes "the Pastors Conference is a time of inspiration and encouragement for the pastors... its purpose is to inspire, encourage and edify the ministers." Another purpose, he added, is "to set a good spiritual climate for the convention."

"I believe it will be a very positive Pastors' Conference. We have no axes to grind,

we'll just be trying to build a positive spirit going into the convention," he added.

In addition to Blessitt, those who previously have addressed the meeting include Adrian Rogers, former president of the SBC and pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn.; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta and Stephen Olford.

Evangelists Mark Stone from Virginia Beach, Va., and Mike Gilchrist of Shreveport, La., and Charles Campbell, a SBC foreign missionary to Argentina, and James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, and president of the 13.9 million member SBC also will speak.

Others on the program include Fred Lowrey, pastor of New Pisgah Church in Spartanburg, S.C.; Ron Long, pastor of Glenwood Hills Church in Lithonia, Ga.; Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church in Wichita Falls, Texas;

Jim Hylton, pastor of Lake Country Church in Fort Worth, Texas; Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church of Kenner, La., and vice president of the Pastors Conference; Len Turner, pastor of First Church of Merritt Island, Fla., and Edward V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Church of Los Angeles.

Other auxiliary meetings

Evangelists to hear sermons

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — A steady diet of preaching and special music dominate the planned program of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Pittsburgh June 13-15.

There is a fellowship time planned for 10 p.m. June 13-15 following the evening sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention and a breakfast business meeting June 14.

But the focus will be on June 15 beginning at 12:30 p.m. After a 45-minute concert featuring various SBC music evangelists, the conference will hear messages from Michael Gott, evangelist from Jacksonville, Fla.; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church in Atlanta, and Arthur Blessitt, evangelist from Hollywood, Calif.

Between the preaching will be special music by R. O. and Angie Stone from Rome, Ga.; Jerry Swinner from Iuka, Miss.; Lee Castro, Nashville, Tenn., and Alan Celoria, Jackson, Miss.

Following a break for the annual banquet at 5:30 p.m., Rick Scarborough, con-

ference president from Houston, will preach and Lonnie Parsons, music evangelist from San Antonio, will present special music.

All sessions will be at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

Luke 11:9-10 theme for Directors of Missions

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — An introspective look at their jobs and an examination of two key outside relationships will highlight the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, June 12-13.

The group will meet at First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., just prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sunday afternoon there will be presentations on "What In The World is an Association?," "The Association in the '80s and '90s," "What Does a Director of Missions Do?," "What Does a Director's Wife Do?," and "What are the Spiritual Rewards of

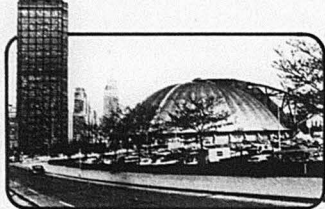
Being a Director of Missions?"

Sunday evening Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak on "The Important Place of WMU in Associational Missions" and Monday morning R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, will talk on "The Role of an Association in the USA in Foreign Missions."

Bill Moyle, director of missions in the Tampa Bay Baptist Association, Tampa Bay, Fla., is president of the conference this year.

Women in vocations meet

Southern Baptist women in church-related vocations will meet June 11 and 12 at the Pittsburgh Hilton for fellowship, worship, and planning for the future. The meeting begins at 4 p.m. Saturday and ends at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Reservations for a Saturday night meal must be made with the SBC Christian Life Commission by sending a check for \$15.



Pittsburgh, June 14-16

Southern Baptist Convention 1983, preview

WMU announces 1983 annual meeting plans

by Carol Sisson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — "Building Bridges" will be the theme for the 1983 Woman's Missionary Union national annual meeting June 12-13 in Pittsburgh, Pa., the city which boasts more bridges than any other in the country.

The meeting of the auxiliary at the Pittsburgh Hilton is one of the meetings prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-16 at the Pittsburgh Civic Arena.

"The theme is what the Southern Baptist Convention needs to remember today," said Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC executive director, adding, "Baptist women can build bridges to make a strong network for missions."

Promoting unity among Southern Baptists around the call of missions will be a major meeting thrust.

The annual meeting general session will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday and continue through Monday morning, afternoon, and evening with the concept of bridge building dominating all activities.

A major addition to the regular format will be WMU's first national prayer conference from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. It is designed for the WMU Executive Board, leaders in state and associational WMU work and women in a five-state driving area of Pittsburgh. Helen Jean Parks, wife of Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks and author of "Holding The Ropes," will be a featured speaker.

Sunday's annual meeting session will feature a special commissioning service for two dozen Home Mission Board church planter apprentices. "This unique service will allow us to feature congregationalizing as a way of building bridges," Weatherford said.

"Journey Home," the premier showing of a new Foreign Mission Board movie about the life of Lottie Moon, will be shown at the Monday evening general session, held in the Stanley Theater.

On Monday, WMU will host another world premier, "A Call To My People," a musical drama commissioned by the Home

Mission Board for the dedication of the Luther Rice Homesite and written by Bob and Esther Burroughs. It will be performed in the morning session by Eastside Baptist Church choir and orchestra from Marietta, Ga.

To accommodate convention goers who cannot get to a Southern Baptist church, WMU will host an international Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. featuring Baptist World Alliance leaders Gerhard Claas, general secretary, and June Totten, executive director of the Women's Department.

WMU will help celebrate the Brazilian Baptist centennial with an appearance in Sunday's session of Charlotte Vaughan, national children's leader, Brazil WMU, Rio de Janeiro.

WMU will sponsor seven meal events, including an Acteen Riverboat dinner and a banquet for associational WMU directors. Advance ticket purchase is necessary for all meal events through: WMU Meal Tickets, P.O. Box C-10, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010.



From a nearby mountain overlook, visitors to Pittsburgh can almost see the action at Three Rivers Stadium, home of both the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Steelers, the professional baseball and football teams that are based in the Steel City.

SBC 1989: Las Vegas, Nevada?

Yes

The editor requested that I share my rationale on voting for the 1989 meeting site of the Southern Baptist Convention being Las Vegas, Nev. I am serving my first year as one of Arkansas' two members on the Executive Committee. The meeting site of the SBC is not a matter over which I can get very "fired-up."

The Executive Committee is organized into various sub-committees, and most of us never know what their recommendations will be until we are called upon to vote on them, and most of their recommendations are approved after explanation and without debate.

However, when the sub-committee recommended Las Vegas for 1989, there was immediate and spirited debate! I watched and reasoned with interest, something like this:

1. Some (though not all) of those who so vehemently opposed our going to Las Vegas, I had not considered to be a friend to a number of other more conservative issues before the Committee. Inwardly, I feared that their motive was to get the convention site in

their own "backyard" for greater control.

2. Since I live in the second most notorious gambling center in Arkansas, I wondered: "What if this debate were on whether the Arkansas Baptist Convention should come to West Memphis, how would I vote?" That wasn't too hard to solve, because I believe God's business to be far more important than Satan's business anywhere in the world.

3. Those supporting the Las Vegas site selection urged the importance of an evangelistic thrust in that city. The fact that we could (if we would) make a tremendous impact for Christ with the gospel in Las Vegas must be considered.

Care must be exercised, lest sincere enemies of the gambling industry sleepily put right into the hands of those whose primary motive is a geographically beneficial location for a favored theological position they support. Do not take me to be treating the gambling atmosphere lightly; I hate that godless industry with a passion!

tainly we recognize that there is a criminal and vice element present in New Orleans, Los Angeles, Kansas City and every other major convention city in America. However in all other cities that underworld element and ungodly influence is somewhat under control. You are not exposed to it constantly. That is not true in Las Vegas.

Anyone who has ever been in Las Vegas knows that it is Sin City, USA. It is absolutely owned, operated and controlled by organized gambling. Every grocery store, drug store, gas station, restaurant, hotel, etc. has slot machines and other gambling opportunities. It is impossible to escape the presence of this activity. The city is open 24 hours every day with raucous entertainment, pornography, prostitution, gambling and every other moral evil being flaunted continuously as the normal conduct for all residents and visitors. Surely none of us want to be a part of this for several days.

Editor's note: One of the issues which is likely to draw debate during the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention is the location of the 1989 SBC annual meeting. (Currently, it is recommended to go to Las Vegas.) There are two reasons we believe this will be an issue: (1) The debate which occurred during the February meeting of the Executive Committee meeting (the recommendation was passed 32 to 20); and (2) Many of the state paper editors have editorialized against going to Las Vegas.

We have chosen to provide perspective for our readers by asking two individuals to present the two sides of the issue. Thomas A. Hinson, pastor of West Memphis First Church, and a member of the Executive Committee, presents the reasons he believes that the 1989 convention should be convened in Las Vegas. Pastor Johnny Jackson, Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock, presents the reasons he believes this is an inappropriate site for the convention.

We urge our readers to study both sides of the issue and make their own decision.

by Thomas A. Hinson

I'm looking for the great redeemer's return, and it could well be before the 1989 date in question... "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). But in the event that his divine calendar has not scheduled his return that soon, we will need plans for the continuation of his work among the people called Southern Baptists.

The Southern Baptist Convention, in its annual sessions, has changed Executive Committee recommendations before. I will not be the least bit upset if they determine to do so again on this item of business. But I would like for voting messengers to know and vote on the principles, rather than the mere personal motives.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for allowing me to represent you on the Executive Committee. Please pray earnestly for the important annual session in Pittsburgh, June 14-16.

Thomas A. Hinson is pastor of First Church in West Memphis.

No

by Johnny Jackson

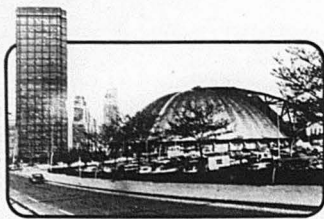
When I first read the report that the recommended place for the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention was in Las Vegas, I could not believe it. Why in the world would any Christian ever want to go to Las Vegas? And to take our national convention there surely stretched my questioning mind.

I have read with interest the various reports of the debate of this issue within the Executive Committee in Nashville. The proponents note the evangelistic and witness possibilities for us in Las Vegas. That appears to be a noble motive, but we all recognize that the SBC annual meeting is a business meeting rather than a revival crusade. It is also a time of great fellowship as friends enjoy this annual get-together in the various hotel eating places.

The undeniable real issue is whether or not the 20,000 Southern Baptists want to contribute several millions of dollars of convention money to the gambling and crime syndicates that own and control Las Vegas. Cer-

I truly hope Southern Baptists will reject Las Vegas as the 1989 convention site. With other cities available there is no reason we should subject our families to the lifestyle of Las Vegas. Our convention is one of the largest annual meetings anywhere in America. Our going there would be tantamount to our saying to the world that we feel Las Vegas is a good convention meeting place for any Christian group. I don't believe Southern Baptists want to witness in this fashion to anyone. Let us hope and pray that our executive committee will reconsider and make another proposal in Pittsburgh. If not, I urge all Arkansas Baptists to stand solidly against the Las Vegas recommendation as a positive vote for civic righteousness and an uncompromising unwillingness to contribute to the prosperity of the controlling element in Las Vegas.

Johnny Jackson is pastor of Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock.



Pittsburgh, June 14-16

Southern Baptist Convention 1983, preview

Baptist Music Conference sets Pittsburgh meeting

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — Views of "The Minister of Music as Educator," "Challenges of a Bivocational Music Director" and "Music Drama In the Church" will provide counterpoint to plenty of music at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

The group will hold its 27th meeting at the First Church of Pittsburgh June 11-13 prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh. Pre-conference sessions and an SBC Handbell Festival will be held June 10-12 at the Pittsburgh Convention/Exposition Center.

Mabel Warkentin Sample, professor of music at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., will speak twice on the minister of music as educator; Rick Coleman, minister of music at Redland Church in Rockville, Md., will discuss challenges of a bivocational music director and Carl Gerbrandt, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will talk on music drama in the church.

Other major program features include presentation of the musical drama "A Gift of Song" and a sacred music drama workshop conducted by Gerbrandt; concerts by the handbell choir of First Church in Gaffney, S.C., the choir of First Church of Pittsburgh, the sanctuary choir of Park Cities Church in Dallas, the combined youth choirs of Peters Creek Church in Library, Pa. and Monroeville Church in Monroeville, Pa., the Singing Men of North Carolina, organist Robert Sutter and by John and Mary Giger of Dallas.

An instrumental ensemble from Monroeville Church and Peter's Creek Church will present a commissioned work to the group; Elaine Brown, director of Singing Cities in Philadelphia, will give two presentations on choral techniques; Mayrene Bobbitt, music director at Florida State University, will present a hymnic monologue; and Quinn Pugh, director of metropolitan missions in New York City will lead the worship times.

Minister's wives plan luncheon

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — The 28th annual luncheon of the Conference of Minister's Wives will be held June 14 in Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The theme will be "The Work of Our Hands." Items of handwork will be displayed on various tables and each woman will receive a representation of local artwork. The keynote speaker will be Robbie Ellis, a former missionary to Brazil, and music will be presented by R. L. and Beth Sigrest from Yazoo City, Miss.

Tickets to the 12:30 p.m. meeting at the William Penn Hotel will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the convention. Seating is limited and reservation deadline is May 31. Reservations and payment may be sent to Barbara Combs, 361 Collinsford Road, Tallahassee, Fla., 32301. Tickets may be picked up at the reservations table during the WMU Convention/Pastor's Conference.

Religious Education Assoc. plans 28th meeting in June

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 28th annual session June 12-13 just prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

The theme for the meeting, which will be held in the Marriott Hotel, Greentree, is "A Disciplined Ministry."

Sunday afternoon will focus on "Strengthening Families" and "A Disciplined Response to God's Call." Robert and Mary F. Bailey, pastor and wife from Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and Paul Thompson, director of church development division, Missouri Baptist Convention, will be the main speakers.

Monday morning sessions will be built around "Disciplined Church Growth Through Reaching and Discipling" (with presentations by Richard Foster, associate professor and writer-in-residence at Friends University in Wichita, Kan.; Lucien Colman, professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Harry Piland, minister of education at First Church, Houston) and "Discipling Communications Technology in Servicing Growing Churches" (featuring a speech by Grady Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board).

At the annual SBREA luncheon Monday, "Celebration of Discipline," the Distinguished Leadership Awards will be presented and humorist Jerry Clower will entertain.

Monday afternoon participants will get to select from 10 enrichment conferences. The closing session Monday night, "Disciplined For A World Witness" will include a

report on Bold Mission Thrust by Wilmer C. Fields, assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, and a joint presentation by R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and William Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

At three of the sessions Albert McCellen, author, seminary professor and longtime program planner for the SBC Executive Committee until his retirement in 1980, will speak.

Seminary offers break

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The "thirst for knowledge" will be given new meaning at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary this summer in a special offer for travelers to and from the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

The Louisville seminary, located within a few minutes of three interstate highways, is offering a free lemonade break for traveling Baptists.



A SPARKLING LOTTIE — Armed with a Bible and umbrella and clothed in period dress, the new Lottie Moon bears a surprising resemblance to the missionary legend Southern Baptists know from old photographs. The new Lottie, portrayed by Sheila Bailey, is from the Foreign Mission Board film, "Journey Home: Lottie Moon of China." Miss Bailey will present four monologues from different stages of Miss Moon's missionary career at sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Pittsburgh. The film premieres at 7:30 p.m. June 13 in Pittsburgh's Stanley Theatre. Because capacity is limited, all seats are reserved. Tickets are available at no charge from state and national WMU offices.

Pittsburgh, June 14-16

Southern Baptist Convention 1983, preview

Campus Ministers set meeting

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (BP) — A list of topics as far ranging as the interests of the college students they work with will be presented to the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers at its annual meeting June 12-13 at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sunday afternoon Sarah Frances Anders, a professor at Louisiana College, will discuss building a "ministry model for the women on our campus" and Sunday night Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio Television Commission will speak on "The Mission Thrust on Campus."

Monday morning Charles Johnson, head of the National Student Ministries section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will discuss the "Strategy of National Student Ministries" and Monday afternoon the staff of SEEDS, a world hunger ministry of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., will

present a world hunger emphasis.

William Pinson Jr., executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be the featured speaker at the association's banquet Monday evening.

All sessions will be in Victoria Hall of the University of Pittsburgh except the banquet which will be in Stephen Foster Memorial Hall on the campus.

Pittsburgh needs SBC witnesses

Messengers to the Pittsburgh SBC convention are being asked to participate in a locally sponsored evangelistic effort.

Forty volunteers are being asked to join with local Baptists with a saturation witness effort in 40 western Pennsylvania towns and cities immediately prior to the convention June 6-12. During the convention, 40 vocational evangelists will preach throughout the area, while after the convention,

June 12-17, 40 volunteers (one for each location) are needed to stay and lead in discipleship training for new converts. To participate in any part of the effort, write Jack R. Smith, Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, 900 South Arlington Ave., Suite 121, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Prayer room to be open

Prayer rooms will be open during convention sessions both at the convention hotel (the William Penn) and at the convention center.

According to Emil Williams, Arkansas prayer coordinator for the convention, three Arkansans will be among those presiding at the prayer room.

Don Nall of Batesville First Church will be in charge of the prayer room at 6:30 a.m. on June 15. Jim Hill, pastor of Central, Hot Springs, will be presiding at 9 p.m. June 16 and half an hour later Dillard Miller, pastor of First Church, Mena, will be the leader.

Integrity not inerrancy SBC's problem: Pollard

by Robbie N. Watson

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Frank Pollard, president of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley Calif., says one of the biggest problems for Southern Baptists today is not inerrancy, but integrity.

Speaking to a chapel audience at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Pollard said Southern Baptists are in danger of being permanently divided. "Sadly it cannot be said of us what the Word declares about the church in Acts: 'And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul...'"

Calling himself a fundamentalist, "if you don't capitalize the word and put the accent on the second syllable," Pollard said he had no problem declaring the Bible inerrant, infallible, and inspired. "When any Baptist institution causes young minds to doubt the Word of God, I believe it to be a tragedy which must be corrected," Pollard said.

He added: "Like many of you I cannot side with the few who do not share those convictions about the Bible. Another great agony is that we cannot side with many who are calling themselves 'inerrantists'. In fact I do not believe inerrancy is all of the issue in our current division. A large part of the issue is integrity."

Implying the integrity problem involves the spread of innuendo and false information, Pollard told of a Southern Baptist church that was providing extensive support for a non-Southern Baptist Convention seminary. The reason given was, "The Bible is not being taught in any of our seminaries."

On the basis of accusations made by one of the members of that church Pollard scheduled conferences with two of his former professors who were named as teaching specific heresies. The member leveling the charges would not accompany Pollard to confer with the professors in question.

Pollard learned that "the charges were untrue...What's more, no one had talked to them about these things." He continued, "When I told that New Testament professor someone had said he [the professor] didn't believe in the virgin birth, he shook his head and cried."

Pollard added, "I fear there has been too much of this kind of slander. Broad, general statements may sometimes contain a half truth, but if they are half true they are also half false." He said there are several steps a Christian must take before he is biblically free to go public with a complaint. "If you really believe the Bible to be God's word,

you need to know it forbids you to slander anyone," Pollard said.

He added, "Calling a Southern Baptist seminary professor 'liberal' is akin to calling a U.S. senator a 'communist'. His life's calling and ministry is at stake."

Reciting another break with integrity Pollard explained why he was raised in what he considered a non-Christian home. "The pastor of my father's church had been an able, powerful, and charismatic preacher, but he built his 10,000 member church and the largest seminary in the world at that time, at least partially on a foundation of slandering everyone who didn't agree with him.

"Especially did he aim his barbs at struggling Southwestern Seminary. My father reacted to that spirit and denied his faith. For more than 30 years he was out of fellowship with God," Pollard said, adding that the seminary mentioned no longer exists in that city and the church in question is extremely weak at best.

Pollard concluded, "Liberalism can kill a church or a denomination, but, an even greater warning for us is that a judgmental, negative spirit can kill a church or denomination, also."

Continuing concerns of our convention

by T. B. Maston

Some of the trends that concern many of us stem from an over-emphasis on a strength accompanied by neglect of something equally important. "Good things carried to excess become evil in their consequences."

1. The **threat of materialism** in our churches, our denomination, and many of us as individual Christians. We tend to measure success in material terms.

2. The **numbers game**: the success of a church or a denominational agency is frequently measured too exclusively in terms of numbers.

3. A tendency to **equate bigness with greatness**. There has arisen recently the concept of the "superchurch." Greatness from God's perspective for the individual, the church, and the denomination is measured in terms of service.

4. Somewhat as a result of the preceding, there has developed a **superficial type of evangelism**. Man-made methods and techniques are too frequently substituted for the work of the Holy Spirit.

5. In many churches there appears to be **little if any emphasis on teaching and training** those who come into the church.

6. The **idea of the homogeneous church** may be helpful in reaching some people. It should be recognized, however, that it may fall short of the New Testament ideal. That

ideal is a closely-knit fellowship of people of different classes, colors, and cultures: all brothers and sisters in Christ.

7. As Baptists have become more affluent or more sophisticated, there has been a distinct **movement away from the masses** or common people. We are becoming too exclusively middle and upper class. This affects every facet of our work.

8. There tends to be more or less prevalent among us a **belief in a hierarchy of callings**: missionary, pastor, other church staff members, and the ordinary Christian. The highest calling for any child of God is to do the will of the Father.

9. In recent years, to a distressing degree, there has been a noticeable **loss of the service motivation**, even among those of us who are vocational religious workers.

10. The **concept of promotion, prestige, and power** is entirely too prevalent among us and particularly among pastors and other vocational religious workers.

11. Too many of us as Christians have **drifted far away from the simple lifestyle** that Christians seem to have chosen in New Testament days and that has characterized churches and their leaders at their best through the centuries.

12. There is a tendency in the contemporary period to **lose the capacity to differ in**

love or to maintain our unity in diversity.

13. Some phases of our denominational structure are **patterned too much after the business community**. Some of this is good but if not careful the denominational agencies may become more efficient from the business perspective but less effective as Christian agencies.

14. It appears that many Southern Baptists are **more concerned with orthodoxy of belief than with orthodoxy of life**. Here there is needed, as in many other areas, the both/and perspective.

15. Some Baptists are **tempted to use the power of the state** to enforce uniformity by people in general to certain Christian beliefs and practices. This violates the nature of man as God created him and is contrary to our historic position regarding separation of church and state.

16. There has been entirely **too much politics** in the Southern Baptist Convention for some years. However, it has become far more prevalent in recent years. There appears to have been attempts to manipulate or use people in order to gain an office or secure a particular position.

We should be deeply grateful for some evidence of improvements in some of the preceding areas!

T. B. Maston is emeritus professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary.

Lay convocation set for New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, La. (BP) — A Lay Convocation has been called Dec. 8-10, in New Orleans, jointly sponsored by an ad hoc committee and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary "to consider the need for and the process of developing a theology for the non-ordained," according to Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., spokesman for the ad hoc committee.

Cooper proposed the development of a theology of non-ordained at the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference earlier this year. He told pastors, "we have divided the people of God into two groups: the pastors, the teachers, the missionaries and others in Christian work being one; another group of lay persons. I find no basis in scripture for this division..."

Cooper, the only living, non-ordained former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told the Mississippi Baptist Record qualified theologians in their respective fields have been assigned to develop the basic theme in six segments.

Fisher Humphreys, professor of theology at New Orleans Seminary, will speak on "Salvation." Herschel Hobbs, former SBC president and chairman of the committee which drew up the Baptist Faith and Message statement, will speak on "Laos — the People of God."

Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will speak on "Gifts;" Richard Broholm, director of the Center for the Ministry of the Laity, Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass., will speak on "The Call." William Clemmons, associate professor of Christian education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., will speak on "The Christian Lifestyle," and William Pinson, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will speak on "Lay Ministry."

Cooper said the speakers will attempt to answer questions such as "Are there classes or categories among God's people?" and, "Is there a distinction between the ordained and the unordained?"

The ad hoc committee, in addition to Cooper, consists of Doyle Carlton, former SBC Executive Committee member from Florida; Porter Routh, retired executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee; Rodney Landes of Arkansas, member of the SBC Executive Committee; Lamar Plunkett, chairman of the Georgia Baptist Convention Board; Fred Roach, president of Texas Baptist Men; G. O. McGuffey Sr., former president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and Lambert Mims, former president

of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

Cooper will be the speaker at the kickoff banquet discussing "The Need" for such a convocation. Landrum Leavell, president New Orleans Seminary, will be the closing speaker with the topic "Challenge for the Future."

Cooper said five lay speakers will discuss their involvement in their individual field of Christian ministry. Two of the speakers have been confirmed; Fred Roach of Dallas, Tex., and Dorothy Sample, practicing psychologist in Flint, Mich. and president of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

A series of four messages are also scheduled during the convocation concerning the need for lay ministers in the local church, the state convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Baptist World Alliance. Also, the six plenary speakers will hold workshops on their individual topics for feedback and discussion.

Tom Kinchen, director of continuing education at New Orleans Seminary, said invitations are being sent to Baptist leadership, but anyone interested in attending may contact him. A registration fee of \$25 is due with each reservation with the final \$50 due on Sept. 1. Kinchen may be reached at the seminary at 3939 Gentry Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126.

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Tuition tax deductions argued in high court

by Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — Proponents and opponents of government aid to non-public schools met again at the U.S. Supreme Court April 19 as the high court heard oral arguments on a Minnesota tuition tax deduction law.

At issue is a 1978 Minnesota law providing taxpayers who send their children to sectarian or other private schools with a \$500 deduction for each child enrolled in an elementary school and \$700 per child attending a secondary school.

But the deduction also may be claimed by parents with children in public schools for expenses incurred in special education programs, summer school and other fees. Since the Minnesota legislature enacted the law in 1978, some \$14 million in deductions have been claimed by parents of parochial school children, \$5 million by parents of public school children. However, less than 10 percent of Minnesota's nearly one million school children attend non-public schools.

While two lower federal courts have already upheld the Minnesota statute, another federal appeals court struck down a similar Rhode Island law in 1980. The Supreme Court's decision, expected by the end of the current term in late June or early July, presumably will settle the matter.

An unusually large number of interested parties have joined the case by filing friend-of-the-court briefs on both sides of the dispute. Among those filing against the law is the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel John W. Baker wrote "When public funds, which are collected from all taxpayers regardless of religious belief or lack of religious belief, are used to aid, either directly or indirectly, elementary and secondary schools which teach religion, all taxpayers are compelled to assist in the support of that teaching of religion."

That theme was expressed during oral arguments by William I. Kampf, a St. Paul, Minn., attorney, who argued the case in opposition to the Minnesota statute.

By providing the incentive of a tuition tax deduction, Kampf argued, Minnesota has offered an indirect "subsidy" to parochial schools in violation of the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion.

But the young attorney ran into a buzzsaw of hard questions posed by at least six of the nine justices, including a challenge by Justice William H. Rehnquist over the true nature of parochial schools. Rehnquist asked if the primary purpose of such schools is religious or if their religious identity is incidental to their main objective of providing education to children.

Justice Byron R. White, who, like Rehnquist, has voted consistently in the past in favor of a variety of plans to aid non-public

schools, compared the tax deduction for tuition paid to the federal income tax deductibility for contributions made to churches. White said he sees little constitutional difference in the two.

Kampf's reply was that parents benefiting from the tuition tax deduction receive the subsidy in exchange for services rendered by parochial schools. Taxpayers benefiting from the deduction for contributions to churches and other charities give voluntarily, he said.

But the answer did not seem to satisfy Rehnquist, White or Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. Rehnquist argued that in receiving the benefit of the tuition tax deduction, Minnesota parents are getting a definite service in exchange, the education of their children. The federal deductibility provision, he went on, gives churches a blank check to spend the donor's money as they choose.

Burger, apparently confused about the facts in a 1970 case over the constitutionality of local property tax exemptions for churches, sought to remind Kampf that in *Walz v. Tax Commission* the high court upheld the deductibility of contributions. But Kampf corrected the chief justice, reminding him that *Walz* upheld the constitutionality of property tax exemption and did not deal with the deductibility question.

The sharp questioning of Kampf contrasted with treatment accorded Minnesota special assistant Attorney General Douglas C. Blomgren. Burger, in particular, gave the young state attorney a kind hearing, entering into friendly dialogue with Blomgren on several occasions.

Blomgren argued that the indirect nature of Minnesota's benefit to parents of parochial school children is "crucial" to the question of whether tuition tax deductions meet the Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion.

He said whereas a more direct form of assistance would indicate "sponsorship" of the religions benefited, the religious benefit present in the Minnesota scheme is "incidental." The Minnesota plan does not provide for the kind of "active" assistance the high court has struck down in other instances, he insisted. The establishment clause, he concluded, does not mean churches must "always come out second best."

Abortion bill to Senate floor

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee has cleared the way for floor debate on a constitutional amendment aimed at overturning the controversial 1973 Supreme Court ruling that the constitution protects a woman's right to privacy in abortion decisions. But the closeness of the panel's action raised serious questions about the measure's chances.