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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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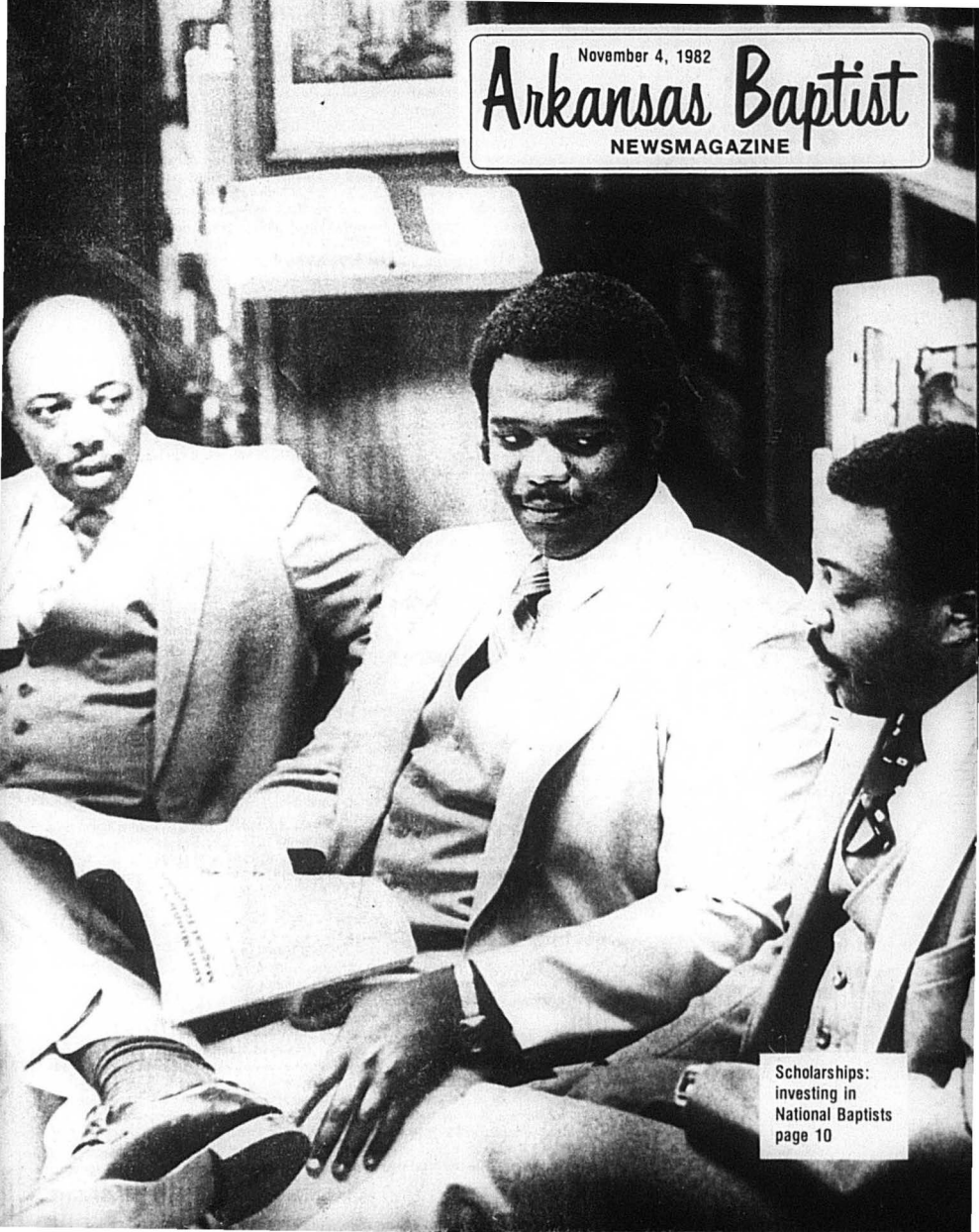
November 4, 1982

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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A black and white photograph showing three African American men in suits and ties. They are gathered around a desk, looking at a large document. The man in the center is pointing at the document. The man on the left is looking on, and the man on the right is looking towards the center. The background shows office shelves and a framed picture.

November 4, 1982

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Scholarships:
investing in
National Baptists
page 10



O. C. Jones (left) and Dwight McKissic (center) relax before their afternoon class in the Seminary Satellite Program with Johnny Lee Berry, who is in training in pastoral care at Little Rock's Baptist Medical Center. Jones is another National Baptist pastor studying through the scholarship program provided by Arkansas Baptists. McKissic, pastor of a Pine Bluff congregation, and Berry are featured in a story this week on page 10 which explains the scholarships.

Car accident injures Arkansas MK

GWERU, Zimbabwe (BP) — Beth Elliff, 14-year-old daughter of missionaries Tom and Jeannie Elliff of Oklahoma, is hospitalized in Gweru, Zimbabwe, with multiple fractures of the pelvis and burns after an Oct. 21 automobile accident.

The girl, initially listed in critical condition by the hospital, is now doing well, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative Bud Fry reported Oct. 25, but may need skin grafts.

Fry, associate to the director for Southern Africa work, said her only broken bone was her pelvis but her legs and thighs were burned when the car engine fell on her after she was thrown from the vehicle.

Fry also reported that the mother, Jeannie, suffered a mild concussion but appears to have recovered. Mrs. Elliff is staying with her daughter in the hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital. Her father, Tom Elliff, has taken the couple's other three children (who suffered only sprains, bruises and bumps) to the family home in Bulawayo so they can return to school.

Mrs. Elliff reportedly lost control of her car en route from her home in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to Harare (formerly Salisbury). She was taking her four children to a retreat for Southern Baptist missionary children. Her husband was attending a church development conference in White River, South

Africa. Beth and Jonathan, age 6, were reportedly thrown from the car, which rolled over several times. Amy, 12; Sarah, 7, and Mrs. Elliff remained inside.

Missionaries in Harare sent a small plane to Gweru, Oct. 22, to fly Beth to Harare for hospitalization and consultation with an orthopedic specialist and with missionary physicians Giles and Wana Ann Fort.

Missionary nurse Pam King, of Marlin, Texas, will provide personal nursing care for Beth as long as she needs it. Though stationed at the Sanyati Baptist Hospital, King had traveled to Harare before the accident to meet with officials of Zimbabwe's ministry of health.

Elliff was in South Africa attending a conference at the time of the accident. He is the brother-in-law of former SBC president Bailey Smith and was pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., before the couple's appointment in 1981.

She is the former Jeannie Thomas of Little Rock. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ray B. Thomas, members of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Elliff are graduates of Ouachita Baptist University. He is the son of J. T. Elliff, former director of the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

In this issue

5 For you

Executive Secretary Don Moore takes his first opportunity to share his thoughts with Arkansas Baptists through the pages of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine".

8 Bold talking

The keynote speaker at the 1982 Church Training Convention in Little Rock urged pastors and lay leaders to take on the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust. Church Training workers reported that many of the Bold Mission strategies for the next three years rely on Church Training for implementation.

10 A double blessing

A scholarship fund set up through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists is a double blessing for two black Baptist ministers seeking degrees in the Seminary Satellite Program in Little Rock.

New writer for 'lessons for living'

Maurice L. Hitt begins this issue as the new writer of lesson comments in the International (Convention Uniform) series in the ABN's "lessons for living" Sunday School lesson commentary section.

Hitt will write the next four lessons based on the International curriculum.

Hitt has served three Arkansas churches as pastor, with five of his nine years pastoral experiencing coming in a bivocational role.



Hitt

He served in public education seven years as a teacher and principal. Currently, he is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and is interim pastor at First Church of Castle Hills in Azle, Texas.

Until recently, Hitt served as pastor at Smithville Church in Smithville, Ark. Prior to that, he was pastor at Westvale Church in Jonesboro and Rivervale Church in Riverdale.

He has earned the bachelor and masters degrees from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. He is married to the former Sandra Osment of Harrisburg and is the father of two daughters.

Ouachita BSU plans 5K run

ARKADELPHIA — The Baptist Student Union at Ouachita Baptist University is sponsoring the Ouachita Classic, a 5K (3.1 mile) race through the city streets of Arkadelphia, on Saturday, Nov. 6 beginning at 9 a.m. at A. U. Williams Field on the OBU campus. A 2K Fun Race is also on the day's program of events, according to Dwight Magnus, coordinator of the races.

There are eight age divisions for the 5K run: 15 and under, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over. Trophies will be awarded to the top finisher of

each sex in each age division. T-shirts will be awarded to the top three finishers of each sex in each age division.

Deadline for entering the 5K race is 8 a.m. on Nov. 6.

Proceeds from the races will be used to support missions projects through the University's Baptist Student Union.

Additional information concerning the races and application forms may be obtained by contacting Magnus at OBU, P.O. Box 783, Arkadelphia, 71923, or by calling (501) 246-4531, Ext. 583.



We, as Americans, need periodically to stop to thank God for our freedom. This freedom was not easily acquired. Our future religious liberty depends upon our constant effort and vigilance.

The price our forefathers and others paid for freedom of worship is illustrated by the arrest of John Clark, Obadiah Holmes and John Cardnall on July 13, 1651. They were charged as being Anabaptist (meaning to baptize again). Finally, Holmes received 30 stripes at a public whipping for his refusal to follow the form of worship prescribed by those controlling the area in and around Boston.

The battle for the right to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience was long and hard. The struggle finally ended with the writing of the First Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment reads, "Congress shall make no law regarding an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

We must continually work to maintain our freedom of religion. To do so we must remember and appreciate certain principles in our society today. First, we must remain faithful to the Bible as our anchor. We must remember that it is our only source of authority. It is only as we remain true to God's Word that we will be able to maintain our freedom and integrity.

Secondly, we must not become entangled with the government. In Mark 12:13-17 we read of a strange coalition between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Pharisees, meaning separatists, adhered strictly to the law or the Torah. They believed that they should be totally separate from all Gentiles and really that they should keep themselves separate from other Jews for they, and they alone, lived up to the absolute letter of the law.

The Herodians, on the other hand, were close friends of Herod. Herod, of course, was able to rule the area because of his close friendship with the Roman Caesar. The Herodians not only condoned but encouraged the presence of foreign troops and the payment of tax money to Rome.

These two groups came to Jesus and said, "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" If Jesus answered in the affirmative, the tax money should be paid to the

Roman government, the Pharisees would say this man is recommending the overthrow of our ancient traditions and under the Old Testament law should be stoned. On the other hand, if Jesus said, "No, it is not right to give money to Caesar," the Herodians would go immediately to Herod saying that, "This man is recommending insurrection against the Roman government." Either way it appeared that Jesus would lose.

To their amazement Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." From this we have developed the doctrine of separation of church and state. The principle is that the state shall not exercise authority over the church, nor the church over the state.

If, however, we take money from the government for our churches or institutions, we can easily come under control of the government. As citizens of the United States of America, we expect our government to control the money we provide for any endeavor. So, if Baptists are to remain free, we must steadfastly refuse to accept money for any of our causes. In other words, a Baptist church must pay its own bills.

We do not wish to be misunderstood at this point. Each of us who are Christians are citizens of two worlds. This means that we have a responsibility both in the spiritual realm and in the realm of government. As citizens of the United States it behooves each of us to help in the election of the best people for government we can possibly find. It is our observation that the best people we can place in government are dedicated Christians. But we must never allow our church and state to become entangled.

Finally, the best protection that we have for maintaining freedom of worship is through a truly redeemed population. People who have had an experience with Christ are anxious for every individual to have freedom of worship according to the dictates of their own conscience.

This coming Lord's Day let us pause to thank God for our freedom of religion; but also, to pledge our efforts to retain it in the future. As we, under God, truly commit ourselves to this task our freedom of religion is secure.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 42
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Betsy Kennedy Managing Editor
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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

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

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

How modern should China become?

Everywhere I went in China last summer I found great emphasis on "The Four Modernizations," a program of national development to achieve certain goals by the year 2000. Wall posters, street banners, factory entrance signs, and other media devices all encouraged the Chinese people to work together for the four modernizations. These four broad goals have to do with (1) agriculture, (2) industrialization, (3) science and technology, and (4) national defense. It seemed to fit in well with their strong criticism of "The Gang of Four" and their "Cultural Revolution" that they now say wasted 10 years in the life of almost one billion Chinese people. Chinese leadership is calling for dedication and sacrifice to catch up with the modern world, and it is obvious to a tourist on even the most superficial visit to their country that modernization is needed.

Much of Chinese farming is still done the

way it was done many decades ago, with simple hand tools. Many so-called factories are simply larger buildings where operations continue to be done by hand by larger groups of people. In science and technology their school system is far behind that of the major industrialized nations of the world. Transportation seems almost hopelessly behind that of the western world and Japan.

Few would deny that China needs modernization, but just how modern should China become? Unfortunately, American modernization seems to have brought with it some negative elements that all of us would be glad to do without. Although the Chinese themselves readily talk about their "backward" nation, they are justifiably proud of their clean unlettered city streets, the near absence of crime, and their very low divorce rate. To these I would add the friendliness of their people, that was a constant joy to our American touring group.

The scandalous American divorce rate, the frightening threat of crime against persons and property, whether in the city or in the country, and the growing ugliness of our littered landscapes, are certainly a part of modern America, but I cannot wish them on China as they struggle for modernization.

I simply refuse to believe that all the negatives must inevitably follow the positive benefits of modernization. A little more leadership and vision, a little more civic training and self-discipline, and perhaps a little more willingness to accept reasonable restraints on our freedom in a democracy, are all critical requirements for a healthy change of direction for modern America. If a non-Christian Chinese society can achieve this, how much more should Christians in America be able to achieve such goals.

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

Crucial questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, is it a sin for a Christian to get angry?

Your question is one of significant importance. Believers need to understand that human emotions are healthy. God created man with the capacity for strong feelings. Emotions are therefore an intentional dimension of the human personality.



McGriff

While emotions are a healthy human capacity, the manner in which they are expressed can be dysfunctional and destructive. It is not profitable for one to deny anger, but it is necessary to accept responsibility for it. Anger, like other emotions, belongs to the individual experiencing them. Therefore the person must be accountable for what is done with them.

The three following suggestions might be helpful in accepting and handling one's anger: First, make an accurate identification. Many Christians have difficulty telling it like it is in regards to anger. It is good to remember the Bible says "be angry and sin

not." Many Christians are angry and deny it. They often say they are "upset", "concerned", and a host of other denial techniques. It is not necessarily bad to be angry. Christians should become angry when human dignity is destroyed and injustice is done. It is difficult to effectively deal with an emotion that is not accurately identified.

Secondly, exercise objective consideration. Impulsive reaction is often the destructive factor when anger is experienced. An objective consideration of circumstances that initiates anger will enable the third suggestion.

Thirdly, act with appropriate expression. Anger can be an important motivation for progress and change. It is not usually the anger that creates problems. It is rather the impulsive, irresponsible expression of an emotion one refuses to accept.

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

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

THE
WORLD MISSION
CHALLENGE
FOR
OUR CHURCH



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

ASSOCIATION

1983 1984 1985

1983 1984 1985

The Stewardship Department has provided placards for Arkansas Baptist churches to encourage mission giving goals and support. Churches are asked to consider a two to five percent increase for Cooperative Program ministries and an increase in associational ministries according to goals suggested by the association. The placards and numbers are available through associational offices.



Woman's viewpoint

Juanita Hatfield

My home

"Oh, next to my home, I love you Siloam..." is a familiar melody to thousands of Arkansas Baptists. It has cut a deep groove in my mind for during the past 15 years I have spent many, many weeks at the assembly. My husband is the director and our permanent home is in Little Rock.

I work 10 months as a counselor in the public schools, and spend six weeks at the assembly. Is it boring? Am I comfortable? What is it like?

The best answer is, Siloam is like a second home. At first, we lived in a one-room family unit. Admittedly it was a little small for three weeks. We were then promoted to a two-room family unit but it also became too close when we expanded to four and five weeks of camp program. Now however, we live in a nice seven room house during six and seven weeks of camp.

This house was reconstructed from the shells of four unused dormitories from girl's hill. The den is paneled with sub-flooring from the old dorms. Before use the oak planks were given a bath at the car wash. When I look at the den walls I wonder how many ladies, in years past, have walked on these walls.

It has been fun furnishing our summer house. I have added to my collection of

"things" many items from yard sales, farm auctions, and gifts. We have two old wood stoves that serve as end tables, a spool cabinet, a wash stand, a Kraut cutter, Globe Warneke book shelves, school desks, a wagon seat and some gray granite table ware. For practical use we found a good dishwasher for a song. "Oh, next to my home..." Then we have also provided items classified as junktiques, or early cheap including chest of drawers, dressers, and chairs.

No, it isn't boring. Some of my treasured friends are those ladies who have attended my afternoon adult crafts class. Next column I will share other joys. "I love you, Siloam."

Juanita Hatfield is a guidance counselor at Henderson Junior High, Little Rock and a member of Parkway Place Church. Her husband, Lawson, is director of the Sunday School department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

They have three children, Gracie Hilton (Mrs. Jerry), whose husband is a dentist in Arlington, Texas; Jerry, minister of music at First Clarendon at Arlington, Va. and Stephen, pastor at First Church, Grandview, Texas and Ph.D student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. There are four granddaughters.

Executive Secretary writes

We're here

... for you

by Don Moore

Thank you! What a warm and wonderful reception I have received from all of you as I have come to the Executive Secretary's office. The personnel of our Executive Board programs, our agencies and institutions have been so supportive and cordial in these early days. A genuine bond of mutual support is developing so quickly. The letters, calls and personal words from so many of our Baptist family have been most reassuring. The prayer support being given to this office cannot be measured, but it is tremendous. How grateful I am!



Moore

This office and its multiplied ministries were brought into existence by you. We are supported by you. We exist for you. Our ministries are directed toward helping you do a better job. The work of our institutions and agencies is work we do for you. Most of it is work you could not do as an individual church, but you know it needs to be done, so you have asked us to do it for you. Each year the Convention gives instructions of things you want done. We do them for you. Since the highest level of redemptive responsibility has been given to the local church, we are committed to doing what we can for you in the local church. God wants and we want a state full of growing churches and happy Christians.

We are sometimes limited by personnel, finances, schedule or ability, but we are never limited by desire. We desire to make our churches "glorious, without spot or wrinkle." (Eph. 5:27)

For me
"I am among you as he that serves." (Luke 22:27) I covet your prayers, patience and help in carrying out the assignment God has placed upon me. The greater the place of influence, the greater the warfare we experience. No part of this task can be accomplished with true spiritual significance apart from heaven's blessing. Surely you want more to happen in this office than men can accomplish. I do! Then join me in seeking God's direction, protection and anointing to that end.

All of our needs will be met. He will prevail. The kingdom will be extended and he will be glorified. Amen!

□ About 30 percent of all deaths in the world each year are of malnourished people who die of "nonterminal" diseases, such as measles and pneumonia.

Letter to the editor

SBC proposal was studied

As one who served as a member of the Special Study Committee, the Program Committee, and the Executive Board, I wish to respond to Dr. W. O. Vaught's opposition to the Executive Board's proposal that Southern Baptist College be permitted to move to four-year status. It needs to be pointed out to Arkansas Baptists that the issues raised by Dr. Vaught were carefully and extensively considered by not only the Special Study Committee but by the Program Committee and the Executive Board before each, in turn, voted approval of the proposal.

The actions taken by the Study Committee, the Program Committee, and the Executive Board were not done impulsively, carelessly, or prayerlessly. We had reams of information and materials to study, and I am convinced that the members of the Study Committee, the Program Committee, and the Executive Board gave their best

judgment to the matter and endeavored to carefully discern the Lord's will.

As a member of the Study Committee, I would have to say that I found the Baird, Kurtz, and Dodson study highly biased and prejudiced against Southern Baptist College. It seemed to me that they took the available data and gave the most pessimistic and worst possible interpretation to it. It is my feeling that the Southern Baptist College feasibility study was far more objective.

Although I have long held a deep appreciation for Southern Baptist College, I made every effort to function as a member of the Study Committee as objectively as possible. After prayerful study of all of the information on all the issues raised, I was led to support the SBC proposal in the Study Committee, the Program Committee, and the Executive Board. I also plan to lend my support at the Convention meeting. — Guy Whitney, Rector

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Jesse Holcomb

has resigned as pastor of the Leonard Street Church in Hot Springs. He and his wife, Irene, are living in Benton.

Larry Barecky

is serving as full-time pastor of the Calvary Church at Huntsville. He has been serving the church as interim pastor.

Gene Stacks

is serving as pastor of Star City First Church, having served there as interim. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Helen, are parents of three children.

Lewis Branson

is serving as pastor of Rankin Chapel Church at Dumas.

Rev. and Mrs. Elmer F. Cox

of Harrison will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Nov. 5. They will be honored Nov. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. with a reception at Lakeland Church, two miles north of Omaha, where he is pastor. Hosts will be their children, Mrs. Wayne Littleton of Lee's Summit, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gene Cox of Omaha and Doris Ann Cox of the home. Cox pastored Arkansas churches for more than 48 years and served seven years as state missionary for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

A. W. Upchurch Jr.

is serving as interim pastor of the Pine Bluff Second Church.

Phil Brown

has joined the staff of Hot Springs First Church as youth director. A native of Nashville, he is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University. He has been active in youth work, participating in Backyard Bible Clubs, mission trips and singing groups.

Kenneth Huff

has resigned as pastor of the Shibley Church.

Julia Ellis

is serving as music director of the Fairdale Church at Hot Springs.

Jim Taylor

was honored Oct. 23-24 by East Camden Calvary Church in recognition of his 25 years in the gospel ministry.

Al Major

was in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 11-15 to participate in a Church Growth seminar sponsored by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Major is pastor of the Elaine Church.

Price Neal

is serving as pastor of the Parks Church in Buckner Association.

briefly

Park Hill Church

in North Little Rock has begun a media center ministry at Riley's Oak Hill. Peggy Land, media director, is coordinating the effort, assisted by church members. They will visit the nursing home twice each month, distributing books to patients from a library cart.

Hamburg First Church

ordained Doyle Lawrence and Donald Wayne as deacons Oct. 24.

Warren First Church

ordained Freddie Mobley as a deacon Oct. 24.

Waldo Memorial Church

held a deacon ordination service Oct. 10

for James Cooper, Arthur Miner, Ronald Mitchell and Edward Winberry. Leaders for the service included Pastor Roy McLeod, Mervin Polk, Harold Hambrick, Harold Barr, Grady Brown and Travis Pike.

South Side Church

at Fort Smith has presented Arkansas Baptist State Convention with a \$362.50 gift from the memorial fund of a member, the late J. Walker Raymond. Mrs. Raymond presented the funds to the church, designated to be used for work with the Hopi and Navaho Indians. Her late husband served these two tribes for more than 40 years as a school teacher and missionary.

Gary, Ind. work doing well

Bernard Ford, formerly pastor at Emmanuel Church in Half Moon, Ark., reports that things are going well at his new work in Gary, Ind. In the two months he has been in Indiana, Ford has seen Sunday School enrollment at Black Oak Church increase from 109 to 145 and attendance from 32 to 65. Three persons have been saved and five have moved their letters to the church.

Neal Stevens of Friendship Church in Osceola helped the church in the "Action Program" Sept. 8-12. Black Oak Church's revival was scheduled Oct. 31-Nov. 6.

Eudora congregation active in Indiana

Pastor Jimmy Wallace, of Eudora Church in Eudora, Ark., one of the first congregations to become involved in the Arkansas/Indiana linkup in 1979, says their support of work in Brown County, Ind. has been a boon to his own church, increasing their

awareness of missions and in turn their mission giving.

Groups have gone to Indiana for construction and Bible schools yearly since the summer of 1980, with a total of 40 of the church's 175 members making at least one trip. Their financial support has been in the neighborhood of \$12-\$15,000, Wallace said, with a pastor's salary and literature for the Indiana work a part of the budget.

The church has furnished funds and labor to convert a garage into a sanctuary, to furnish the new sanctuary and sent a \$1,500 love offering for other church needs.

Since the church became involved in the Indiana linkup, Wallace said, gifts to the Cooperative Program have also increased. "I think that is because we have gotten our feet wet being directly involved in the mission work in Indiana. It has helped us financially to support missions and it has helped us in a physical sense to be closer to missions than we have ever been before."

Heber Springs First supports Richmond work

Bill Moxley, minister of music at First Church of Heber Springs, recently worked in a weekend revival at Trinity Mission in Richmond, Ind. The Heber Springs congregation is linked with the Indiana mission through the Arkansas/Indiana linkup. Eleven families are involved in the mission, located in the northeast quadrant of a city of 40,000.

Woodland Heights begins support

Woodland Heights Church in North Arkansas Association voted recently to sponsor Southern Baptist work at Yorktown, Ind., where former Arkansas Vern Falk is serving as pastor. The new work will be known as Westside Baptist Chapel.

Doctor of ministry program begins in LR

Arkansas Baptists have begun a new seminary doctor of ministry program, in Little Rock at the Baptist Building. The program is sponsored by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

According to Midwestern's Academic Dean N. Larry Baker, the Arkansas D.Min. program, which began Monday, Oct. 25 will have Midwestern Seminary faculty leading all the seminars. The initial seminar is "502 The Ministry of Administration" led by Bob Johnson, assistant professor of religious education and church administration.

This initial seminar will be held for eight consecutive Mondays. The second seminar will begin in the spring.

Baker notes that persons may enter the program twice a year, prior to the beginning of each seminar. For this first seminar, 12 D.Min. candidates from throughout Arkansas are enrolled in the program. This group includes pastors, a Baptist Student Union director, a minister of education, and a state convention department director. Five of Southern Baptists' six seminaries are represented in this first group.

"This is really a high quality, capable group of ministers that we have in this initial seminar," says Baker. "They come from virtually every area of Arkansas."

Besides Midwestern faculty leading the seminars, Larry Maddox will serve as the D.Min. "peer-group" supervisor in Little Rock. Maddox, pastor of Second Church in Little Rock, received his D.Min. degree from Midwestern.

Baker says that the new Arkansas D.Min.

program "is encouraged and undergirded by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

A post-master's level program, the D.Min. "develops, deepens and enhances the minister's skills in ministry, and the effectiveness in which he ministers," Baker says of the program begun in 1972 at MBTS. "It is designed to help the minister become the very best minister he can be."

Baker explains that the D.Min. program

is designed in three phases — seminar phase, supervision phase and ministry project phase. The seminar phase focuses on five functions of ministry that are central to every minister's work: mission of the church to society, preaching and worship, pastoral care, biblical interpretation and teaching, and administration. Each of these five functions of the minister are developed through the seminars.



Bob Johnson, assistant professor of religious education and church administration at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, leads seminar at Baptist Building.

ABN photo/Mike Gill



Attention Arkansas Baptists —
we request your participation in
the 5th annual statewide
**Interfaith Hunger
Ingathering**
Saturday, Nov. 20, 1982
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Arkansas State Fairgrounds,
Little Rock**

- mini-conferences on hunger
- handicraft booths
- clowns
- foods from around the world
- worship service

Arkansas Baptist World Hunger
Committee/Christian Life Council

Cooperating conventions offer witness conference

An inter-faith witness conference focusing on Islam, Black cults and Jehovah's witnesses, sponsored as part of Arkansas Baptists' Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, is scheduled Dec. 3-4 at Camp Paron.

Two representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, Maurice Smith of the Interfaith Witness Department and Emmanuel McCall of Black Church Relations, will lead the study. Sessions will be held at 7:30 Friday night, 8:30 Saturday morning and at 1 p.m. Saturday. Registration costs include overnight lodging and three meals. Registration and cabin assignments will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3. Those attending must furnish their own towels and bedding.

The conference is open to men and women, pastors and laypersons. It is sponsored jointly by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and two Black Baptist groups, the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention and the Regular Missionary Baptist State Convention. Robert Ferguson is director of Arkansas Baptists' Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists.

Church Training leaders challenged to Bold Mission

by Bob Allen

Robert Magee, inspirational speaker for the 1982 annual Church Training Convention Oct. 26 in Little Rock, reminded pastors and lay leaders that they serve a God who is in the business of doing "the impossible", including the achieving of Southern Baptist Convention Bold Mission Thrust goals.

Referring to the feeding of the 5,000 as recorded in Matthew 14, Magee, pastor of Temple Church in Ruston, La., said Jesus confronted his disciples with "the impossible task" for three reasons: to test their faith, to deepen their concern and to expand their vision.

"God doesn't expect the impossible of the Southern Baptist Convention today!" Magee asked rhetorically. "Have you read the Great Commission lately?" He urged Church Training leaders to take a serious look at the world's situation and to look to God as "a God who can solve the problems of our time."

"Church Training is a tremendous organization," Magee continued. "It is sound theologically — it coincides with our main business of reaching and teaching. It is sound academically... it is sound evangelistically — the way you reach people is through the education and motivation of disciples."

Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Training Director Robert Holley focused the main thrust of the one-day meeting attended by 202 pastors, church staff members, Church Training leaders, church secretaries and media (library) staff, on Bold Mission thrust objectives for 1982 through 1985 — objectives which will lean heavily on Church Training.

The first of three one-year emphases, the emphasis for the current church year, is "Reaching People," Holley said. The goal calls for enrollment of 8.5 million in Sunday School by 1985 and the establishment of 1,500 new churches.

The 1983-84 emphasis, Holley said, will be "Developing Believers." It will call for the enrolling of 3.5 million church members in discipleship and doctrinal study by 1985. It and the 1984-85 emphasis on "Strengthening Families" will be implemented through Church Training programs.

Holley described seven tools for implementing Developing Believers:

— Dated curriculum, Holley said, is still the basic tool of Church Training. An emphasis in 1983 literature will be on Christian ethics.

— Equipping centers, are one of six "supplements". There are 40 short-term studies available on items of contemporary concern.

— Survival Kit for New Christians is a self-study guide for new Christians. It can be used in group study or individually.

— Baptist doctrinal study is an annual week-long intensive study of selected Bap-

tist teachings. The 1983 adult study is *The Doctrine of Biblical Authority* by Russell Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas. Suggested date for study is April 18-22, 1983.

— MasterLife is a rigorous discipleship course designed to build spiritual leaders in a church.

— DiscipleLife is an approach to Church Training for youth including youth choir, training, worship and fellowship. Disciple-Youth is a discipleship course designed for youth.

— Growth strategies, including the Build-up Campaign, help inject renewed interest into Church Training programs established for some time, but at present on the slide.

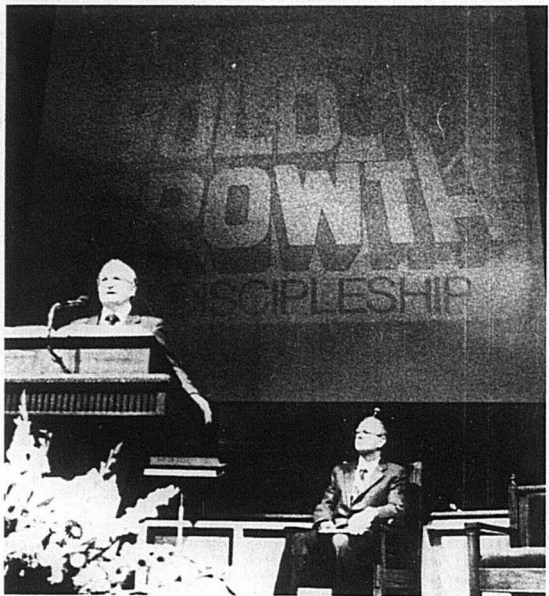
Holley announced a statewide meeting to launch the Developing Believers emphasis scheduled Saturday, Feb. 26, 1983. Three leaders from each association around the state will attend, Holley said, and will in turn lead associational launch meetings in March and April. Individual churches will launch the emphasis on Oct. 2, 1983.

A similar strategy will be used to launch the Strengthening Families Thrust each year, General Jackson, associate in the state Church Training Department, said. He said Strengthen the Family rallies are planned at Jonesboro, El Dorado and Fort Smith on March 7, 1983, at Forrest City, Fayetteville and Arkadelphia on March 8 and at Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Mountain Home on March 10. The thrust will be implemented at the church level during Christian Home Week in May.

The family emphasis for the current year is calling families to Bible study and worship, using the "Opening the Word Together" resource. The thrust in '83-84 will be marriage enrichment, Jackson said, and in '84-85 on parents building a Christian home.

Special interest conferences were held for preschool, children, youth and adult workers, general officers, media/library workers and church secretaries.

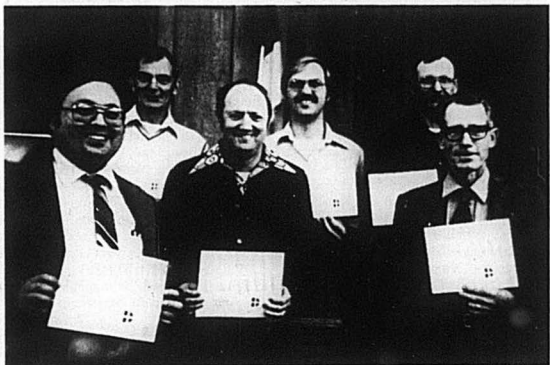
Bob Allen, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is 1982 intern at the Arkansas Baptist News-magazine.



Robert Magee, pastor of Temple Church in Ruston, La., addresses general session of the 1982 Church Training Convention, held Tuesday, Oct. 26 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, with a projection of the convention's theme, "Bold Growth in Discipleship", in the background. Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Training Department Director Robert Holley listens.



Rock Springs Church in North Arkansas Association dedicated a three-bedroom, two-bath parsonage Sept. 19. The land, located across the street from the church building, was donated by Mrs. Pimia Drebenstedt and her late husband, Walter. The church undertook the project by beginning a parsonage fund and purchasing a tract of timber land. The men of the church logged timber, hauled it to a mill, had it sawed to specifications and air-dried the lumber a year. The parsonage fund, gifts from donors, the Revolving Loan Fund from the State Missions Department and labor by the men of the church contributed to the completion of the building for which ground was broken in 1979.



Pastor Brad Rogge (front row, far left) and deacons at Harmony Church near Mayflower display Deacon Ministry diplomas presented to them Oct. 24. The Deacon Ministry diploma is awarded by the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to recognize the completion of six basic books in deacon ministry. Robert Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Training Department, said the Harmony church is the first in Arkansas to have all its active deacons complete the course. The purpose of the study is to help deacons, pastors, church staff, wives and others to have a full understanding of the work of deacons and to be equipped to minister to needs of individuals and families in the church and community. Harmony's deacons are (front, from left) Jim Harris, Charles Sullivan, (back) Larry Lee, Tom Callie, Harry Smith, (not pictured) Loyd Martin, Ron Lynch and Paul Strickland. The deacons' wives also earned the diploma, Holley said.



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Aid is double blessing for ministry students

by Betty J. Kennedy



When Dwight McKissic and Johnny Lee Berry say "thanks" to Arkansas Baptists for scholarship aid, it goes double.

That's because both are now working on their second degree made possible, at least in part, by aid through Arkansas' Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists. Both of the black Baptist ministers credit the scholarships with making their education possible.

Along with 37 others who are recipients for 1982, McKissic and Berry share in financial aid totalling \$9,352, two-thirds of which comes from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention with one-third from the SBC Home Mission Board.

Students are being helped to pay for undergraduate degrees at Arkansas colleges and for theological degrees from Southern Baptist seminaries. And, one is studying family relations in California.

In Dwight McKissic's case, the scholarships saw him through Ouachita Baptist University (and he worked as an assistant to the chaplain at Tucker reformatory). McKissic's father is a pastor in Pine Bluff who has seen his other eight children finish college, and one get a seminary degree through the same scholarship program.

McKissic graduated from Ouachita in 1978. After three years as pastor of St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, he decided he needed more training and again applied for assistance through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Another scholarship enabled him to commute to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth during the summer of 1981.

McKissic took courses in evangelism, church history and biblical preaching during that summer and the regular fall term of 1981 and feels they equipped him with a good foundation for the pastorate. Though he had both emotional and financial support from his church McKissic found the commuting difficult and considered his wife and three children in deciding to shift his work to the Seminary Satellite Program in Little Rock when it opened in the spring of 1982.

The scholarship program for national Baptist pastors still is helping him, this time toward a master of divinity degree.

Johnny Lee Berry is finishing his second degree, the master of religious education, through the pastoral care program of Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

Already the scholarship program helped him get his master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, awarded in 1981. Berry, a graduate of Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia began his studies at Southwestern before he found out about the scholarships. He was granted the aid for the studies and reimbursed for the previous semester. Financial help continues as he works toward the MRE with the internship at the hospital where his wife works as a Registered Nurse.

Berry comes from a family of six boys and one girl and was the first to complete college. He sees the pastoral care training as building on the first seminary degree, for which he gives the scholarship aid credit.

Full-time church vocational workers like McKissic and Berry, and those who study for work in national Baptist churches are eligible to apply for scholarships of up to \$500 per year for accredited colleges and \$600 per year for seminaries.

Applicants must have their pastor's recommendation, then be accepted by the school and register for class. Scholarship recipients must maintain passing grades and conduct appropriate as a Christian.

Robert U. Ferguson, who directs Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists for the state convention, sees the scholarship program as "some of the most productive money we spend for Kingdom causes." Besides preparing capable pastors and missionaries for the future, he feels that the program generates good will among Baptists and will for years to come.

Applicants and those who can contribute to the scholarship fund should contact Ferguson at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, or call (501) 376-4791.

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



Education dollars at work: McKissic (top) with William B. Coble, teacher for his seminary satellite afternoon course, and Berry with Ed F. McDonald, director of pastoral care at BMC.

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International

Into the promised land

by Maurice L. Hitt, First Church of Castle Hills, Azle, Texas

Basic passage: Joshua 3:1-24

Focal passage: Joshua 3:14-17

Central truth: Faith is required to receive God's promises.

Israel faced a difficulty. The river Jordan flowed as a barrier to the promised land. Once the hindrance was overcome, the triumph would become yet another lesson for living — the walk of faith.

The directions were clear: sanctify yourselves and follow at a distance wherever the ark leads. Simply stated, they were to be dedicated and clean before God, and they were to be obedient to his leading. Both the promises and the directions for receiving them are words from God. The word produces faith (Rom. 10:17), and faith is expressed in commitment and obedience.

The Jordans of our lives will not be overcome until we know what God has for us, and how he intends for us to claim it. The key, then, is the study of the word of God.

2. The promised land was reached by the walk of faith that expresses itself in obedience. Human reason would have decried the orders to march toward Jordan, yet Israel believed and obeyed, and God provided the power to overcome the obstacle. Abundant and spirit-filled living is promised unto all believers, but the hindrances of rationalism and doubt keep many from entering.

3. Memorials were erected to serve through the generations as a sign of God's promise and his provision to fulfill it. They were to serve as an opportunity to teach the children of the victory of that day (4:7). New generations need to be taught of what God has done in times past. Older generations need reminders of what God has done in their own lives. Forgetfulness of God's workings is a curse upon Christians; remembering is a great blessing.

Proclaiming the gospel and sharing our testimony are some ways for us to raise our memorials. Even the ordinances are reminders of Jesus' love and God's grace and power. The result is that the "people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty; that ye might fear (honor) the Lord your God for ever" (4:24).

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Life and Work

Looking toward victory

by Tommy J. Carney, First Church, Mountain Home

Basic passages: I John 5:1-5, 13-15, 19-20

Focal passage: I John 5:5, 13, 19

Central truth: Look to Jesus, he is our victory.

The idea running through this passage of scripture is victory. We as believers in Christ have the victory because we have the one who was victorious over death, hell, and the grave. We have the victory because we have him.

"... Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

"... greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb. 12:2).

1. Victory is believing that Jesus is the Son of God. "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God" (v. 5). Our faith in Jesus appropriates his victory. And as a result of this belief we are "more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

2. Victory is knowing that you have eternal life. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life..." (v. 13).

Eternal life comes through faith. "Whoever believeth... is born of God" (v. 1). To deny that Jesus is the Christ is a mark of the antichrist (I John 2:22), while to believe in him is the means of receiving divine life. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believeth on his name" (John 1:12).

The apostle makes it clear, that if you believe in the name of Jesus then you have eternal life.

3. Victory is knowing that you are of God. "And we know that we are of God..." (v. 19). In summary and in conclusion John wants to make his purpose clear: "you are of God."

John says we know that we are in him in I John 2:5. In Chapter 3 and verse 24 we are told that we are in God and God is in us. That is victory!

O Victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever

He sought me and brought me with his redeeming blood;

He loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him,

He plunged me to victory, beneath the cleansing flood.

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Bible Book

An appeal for Christian maturity

by Jerry S. Warmath, Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: II Corinthians 6:11-7:16

Focal passages: II Corinthians 6:14, 17-7:3, 8-12

Central truth: Paul appealed to the people of Corinth to live distinctively Christian lives and to accept his leadership.

It is difficult to appreciate what becoming a Christian meant for the people who first accepted Christ. For the majority of those early Christians it would mean some kind of separation. It could mean a separation from one's work. Suppose a man was a tailor and had instructions to sew clothes for the priests of heathen gods. And what about social life? Could a Christian share in a feast which celebrated the glory of the ancient gods? A Christian life should result in a Christian life style.

So Paul can plead with sincerity for a Christian church that is made up of committed Christians. It is not to be composed of people who are indifferent to Christ and his work and his people. It is not to be made up of people who try to combine Christian faith with any other religion. A Christian life and a Christian church are to be distinctive.

And so Paul could write what might seem like severe words because he was concerned for the welfare of the church. And a part of that welfare depended upon their acceptance of Paul as a faithful proclaimer of the gospel.

The apostle acknowledged that the Corinthian church did have its problems but those problems were to be settled in a way that glorified Christ and brought credit to the church. If they would follow his leadership, whatever trouble the church was facing could be handled in a constructive manner and in a way that lifted up the name of Christ.

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Your state convention at work

Church Administration

Group Career Assessment Conference planned Nov. 29-30

The Group Career Assessment Conference, to be held on Nov. 29-30, has been described as... "a serious pause in the busy life of a minister in favor of looking at interests, skills and abilities. It is a time of affirming strengths and focusing on specific areas of needed growth. The thrust is on helping the minister find more fulfillment in life and work and being a good steward of abilities and talents."

Fred McGehee, consultant in career guidance at the Church Administration Department in Nashville, will lead the sessions be-

ginning on Monday, Nov. 29, at 1 p.m. The conference will adjourn at 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Group Career Assessment is open to pastors, church staff members and other ministers and their wives. There is no additional cost for the wives who attend. Reservations should be made by Nov. 24. To secure additional information or to make reservations, write Group Career Assessment, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. — Robert Holley, director

Evangelism

Tips on fishing for men

In continuation of principles of catching fish, the second is to use the right bait. When you fish for bream, you don't use the same bait you use for fishing for black bass. You use the bait the fish will bite. I want to say very reverently that the only bait we can present to bring people to salvation and prepare them for Heaven is Jesus. There is only one way to Heaven and that is the Jesus way. Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the father but by me."

The third principle in catching fish is time and patience. Every fisherman knows



Shell

that to catch the limit you have to keep on keeping on. This is so very true in helping people come to know Christ. There is a time of breaking ground, planting the seed, watering, cultivating and then one glorious day, it is harvest time.

The final principle of catching fish is that you must be where they are. A person will never catch a fish by sitting in their den or living room and wishing they had a mess of fish. You must go where they are and present the bait to them. This is so true in bringing people to Jesus. We are told that only three percent of the lost people will come to our churches on their own. This means that 97 percent are out there without Jesus and will die and go to Hell unless we go to them and share Christ. Let's go fishing! — Clarence Shell Jr., director

Family and Child Care

Putting the world back together

Let me share with you a story that I recently heard while at a conference in Dallas. The story involves a father and his preschool aged son.

It seems that every day when dear old dad would return home from work that little Johnny would run to meet him. Soon the two would be involved in play. Each day the father wished for just a few minutes to relax in the easy chair and unwind from the pressures of the day. Finally one day he had an idea. That afternoon, like always, Johnny met him at the door. "Today", the father said, "let's do something different." Picking up a copy of *Time* magazine the father noticed a picture of the world on the back cover. He began to tear up the picture until it was in small pieces. Giving the pieces to Johnny he said, "Now you go to your room and put

the pieces back together." In less than five minutes Johnny returned with the map of the world put together. The father was astonished, asking his son how he put the picture back together so quickly. "It was easy", said, Johnny, "On the other side was a picture of a family." "If you put the family together the world will take care of itself."

It is our desire to minister to families. Sometimes circumstances cause removal of a child from the home. Sometimes entire families fall apart. It is our desire to strengthen families and hopefully reunite broken families. Reality forces us to realize that this is not always possible. Then we will minister in other ways. Please join us in praying for families. — David W. Perry, Harrison Area Director

Sunday School

Making the honor roll for growth

Responses from the churches are coming in on the promotion of the Growth Honor Roll. This recognition is related to the 8.5 growth emphasis of Sunday School and is for the year 1982-83.

A list of the honor roll churches will be published monthly in both the Sunday School Newsletter and in the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*. The first list will be published in the November Newsletter and the same listing will appear in mid-November in the *News Magazine*.

What is a growth Honor Roll church? A church that returns a goal Sheet to our department with a stated



Hatfield

goal for eight of the nine growth actions is an honor roll church. The goal sheet was published in the department Newsletter last month and sheets were distributed at the state Sunday School Convention and mailed to members of the executive board of the state convention.

Additional sheets will soon be available through the associational Sunday School ASSIST team leader who is the associational Sunday School director.

Recognition is not the primary aim of the program. Reaching people for Bible study, for Christ and his church is the aim. The recognition is primarily for the purpose of mutual encouragement among the churches to put forth a special effort to grow.

Be a people reacher church. Set a growth goal. — Lawson Hatfield, director

Your state convention at work

Christian Life Council

Unsung heroes-heroines

Recently several hearings held by the Governor's Task Force on Drunk Driving have been attended. This task force is composed of a representative from municipal courts, prosecutors, state police, mental health centers, attorneys, legislators, private citizens and the Governor's office.

A number of people have been heard, including those who have been arrested for drunk driving. Heard most dramatically were those who have lost loved ones in accidents. These unashamedly shed tears while telling of their loss. The reason they have been willing to appear is to prevent others from suffering. These are heroes and heroines who have opened their broken hearts with hopes others might be spared.

We urgently appeal to the Governor, the task force and its support staff to go on public record indicating their commitment to the following pledge

Among other forthcoming recommendations, this would be a positive start about a growing problem. These unsung heroes and heroines deserve at least the above com-

mitment... plus our prayers that drugged drivers somehow be eliminated from our streets and highways. — Bob Parker, director

The Pledge

(The following pledge has nothing to do with whether or not one is a total abstainer and applies to all adults.)

Since scientific tests prove even one drink containing ethyl alcohol affects driving skills, and since accidents, injuries and death involving teens especially are increasing at an alarming rate, in order to help drastically reduce such and to exert adult leadership and example, I join other adults in Arkansas in pledging not to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of ethyl alcohol or any other mind altering drug.

Signed _____

Date _____

Mail to Rep. Judy Petty, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force Against Drunk Driving, P.O. Box 55175, Hillcrest Station, Little Rock, AR 72205.

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'Moderate' pastor withdraws from trip

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — C. Welton Gaddy, one of the few "moderate" representatives on a proposed trip to Israel arranged by Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. has informed Draper he will not participate.

Gaddy was one of 17 Southern Baptist leaders invited by Draper to participate in

the trip in late November under the sponsorship of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish laymen's organization.

At the time he announced the participants, Draper said they represented the "full spectrum" of the current SBC political scene, and added he was interested that

"these men from the diverse groups within the SBC have a chance to develop friendships and relationships."

In making public his decision not to participate in the study tour, Gaddy said he has "hesitation" to participate in an event sponsored by the B'nai B'rith.

"Though I am appreciative of B'nai B'rith and the Israeli government for their willingness to host a group of Southern Baptists, I am uncomfortable with that arrangement," Gaddy wrote in his church newsletter. "Many of Israel's military actions and policy decisions within the immediate past are simply indefensible (and reprehensible) in my opinion. I do not feel good about any identification with Israel, overt or implied, which could be misinterpreted as support for such strategies. That is simply a matter of conscience."

Gaddy also cited other reasons for withdrawing, including vacancies in the educational staff at his church, Broadway Church in Fort Worth, reluctance to miss the first Sunday of Advent in church and an opportunity to preach a revival meeting at Broadway's sister church in Brazil.

He said the change in plans does not change his willingness to work with Draper or anyone else to resolve differences and restore unity and cooperation within the convention.

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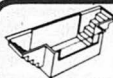
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Sponsored by the Evangelism Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Brotherhood committee to project agency goals

A committee to project the direction of Brotherhood work to the year 2000 has been established by the Brotherhood Commission.

Mission Impact 2000 will look at the Commission's Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador programs in light of current and projected trends in society and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Eight State Brotherhood leaders and eight Commission staff members will spend two years on the study and in 1985 will report to the Brotherhood Commission any recommended changes or revisions.

James H. Smith, the Commission's Executive Director, said seminars have been scheduled for December and April. "Recognized authorities from both the secular and religious world will speak on a variety of topics including education, male and female development, impact of technology, and trends in work and leisure," said Smith.

Lloyd Jackson, Virginia State Brotherhood Director and Impact 2000 Chairman, said, "The study is truly important because it is an effort to go outside our own structure for other viewpoints."

"One of the main goals of the committee is to project the direction of Brotherhood work to the year 2000 in accordance with the goals of Bold Mission Thrust," Jackson continued.

Smith said, "Future trends in our society have a fundamental impact on Southern Baptist mission involvement."

"As the Southern Baptist agency with the task of mission education for men and boys, these trends have an enormous bearing on our ability to lead in mission involvement," Smith continued. "These changes are occurring daily, sometimes at an almost hectic pace. Our program must be as close in step with the changing world as we can make it. And that's what Missions Impact is all about."

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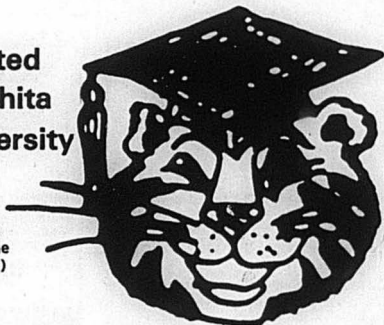
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Nobody loves like 'Efee' does

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A few scrupulously courteous colleagues call her Miss Dawkins. A host of others call her "Efee," an affectionate nickname that stuck years ago.

Co-workers at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board used to tease Edna Frances Dawkins, who retires in December after 35 years of service, about having "1,001 best friends." The joke is now an understatement.

"She knows everything about every missionary everywhere," says Bobbie Sorrell, education division director at Woman's Missionary Union. "If you mention a missionary name, she knows the life history."

Longtime Foreign Mission Board colleague Elmer West insists Efee "knows more information about more missionaries than any other person ever related to this board. She's a computer with compassion."

West has been Efee's boss twice, first in the missionary personnel selection department and now in the ministries and deputation department. There Efee nurtures the Foreign Mission Fellowship, a contact network of retired and former missionaries and returned journeymen which she almost singlehandedly constructed over the last decade. Membership in the Fellowship nears 2,900, only a few hundred short of the total active mission force overseas.

The Fellowship exists not only to meet needs of returned missionaries but also as an informal "think tank" for mission support and a grassroots way of promoting missions in local churches and associations. What's more, the rate of former missionaries returning to active service overseas has roughly tripled since the Fellowship began.

That statistic may in part reflect Efee's one-woman crusade to dispel the stereotype of resigned missionaries as "quitters" and establish their position as invaluable mission supporters on the home front.

"People used to treat you like some sort of pariah if you resigned," said Rudolph Wood, former missionary to Luxembourg and Belgium, at a recent foreign mission fellowship get-together in Fredericksburg, Va. "But Efee helped change that. In her own personality she's been the stimulus that brought about a different attitude."

Efee says she doesn't stop being friends with missionaries when they leave the field. As for the fellowship she says it "just sort of happened." In fact it's the result of a lifetime of carefully cultivated relationships, correspondence kept up and an intense work schedule.

The North Carolina native herself felt a call to missions in China as a young woman, breaking a marriage engagement in the mid-1940s to pursue it. But M. Theron Rankin, then foreign board executive secretary saw her talent for personnel work. She had earned a master's degree in personnel administration and worked as assistant

dean of women at her undergraduate alma mater, Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. He invited her to join the board staff in 1947.

During the early '50s Efee, West and two secretaries handled all correspondence, contacts and missionary applications related to missionary service. As the personnel staff grew she eventually specialized in unmarried and medical mission candidates but her workload didn't decrease.

"It wasn't a healthy life because I worked day and night for years," she says. "I'd take candidates' life histories home to read, maybe three people in an evening." Histories ran 25 to 30 pages each accompanied by as many references. "I don't recommend it but I was privileged that I got to know every missionary."

By the time she left the personnel department 25 years later she knew virtually the entire postwar generation of foreign missionaries — their personalities, strengths, weaknesses, hurts and dreams.

Missionaries say Efee does not use that memory to pry into their lives but to care deeply and specifically about them and their families.

"Above everybody at the board I've felt she cared," says Martha Franks, emeritus missionary to China and Taiwan. She makes you feel you're No. 1."

Retiree Lorene Tilford remembers the major operation she had in 1974 and the special trip Efee made to Atlanta to be with her. "We don't forget things like that," she says.

Helen Jean Parks, former missionary and wife of Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, remembers the vacation time Efee took to care for the Parks children while their parents traveled.

In her book, *The Gifted Woman I Am*, Marjorie Rowden Kelly suggests Efee has used the spiritual gift of friendship by developing "a capacity for sharing herself with others to the total abandonment of her own needs." That intensity occasionally results in exhaustion, but Efee has no regrets.

Nor does she apologize for demanding similar commitment from co-workers.

Bill Marshall, board vice president for human resources, notes Efee is "unthreatened when she feels she is right" — unthreatened by the boss, the president or the chairman of the board.

Neither does she deny the reputation she earned as a "hard" personnel secretary in her early days. She seldom hesitated to discourage a mission volunteer she felt lacked qualifications. Today, she says, some of those she turned down are among her closest friends.

"She'll tell you what you need to hear," Mrs. Parks explains. "It may hurt, but she does it in love. Nobody loves like she does."