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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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May 29, 1986

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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ABN photo / Millie Gill

Ernest and Evelyn Ward (center) and representatives of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas listen to Harry Trulove, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, explain the details of a \$10,000 endowment from the Wards on behalf of the Christian Civic Foundation. The Wards, members of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, gave the money to help defray expenses of the foundation's annual meeting.

In this issue

5, 8 new faces

Two vacancies in the Baptist Building have been filled by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. The new associate executive director, Jimmie Sheffield of North Little Rock, is profiled in a p. 8 article.

14 statement issued

With the denomination's annual meeting approaching, the SBC Peace Committee has released the second of two statements on the convention's strife, this one on political activities. Chairman Charles Fuller notes "progress with promise."

Correction

In the May 22 issue of the ABN, the three-month planning calendar in the "Helpline" section listed May events instead of June. A corrected calendar for June appears on p. 10.

ABN's Kennedy resigns; Kelly named successor

Betty J. Kennedy, managing editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, has resigned, and the ABN board has named staff writer Mark Kelly to succeed her.

Kennedy served in the capacity of managing editor for 16 years. A native of Hot Springs, she is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. She will move to Dallas, Texas, where her husband, Bill, already is serving as director of



Kelly

patient accounts for Methodist Hospital.

Kelly joined the *Newsmagazine* staff as an intern in 1983. A year later, he was added to permanent staff.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and attended The University of Chicago and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Kelly served terms in the Home Mission Board's US-2 and Mission Service Corps programs before attending Southern. He also edited the *Skiatook (Okla.) Advocate* and Southern Seminary's campus newspaper, *The Towers*.

Kelly is a deacon in the Otter Creek Church in Little Rock. He and his wife, Cheryl, have a daughter, Megan.

Faith helps believers who drill for water

MORETAN, Togo (BP)—Amid scorching heat and ridicule from non-believers, a faithful group of Baptist well-drillers in Togo kept drilling and eventually reached water.

Baptist mission well-drillers already had drilled two dry holes in a village called Igboloudja. They decided to try once more.

The Christians in the village prayed that on this last try, the much-needed water would be found. The non-believers made fun of their prayers, saying there was no water and refusing to help carry the water needed in the drilling process.

The Christians worked alone, walking more than two miles with water-filled tubs balanced on their heads. They made many trips in scorching heat.

Then water gushed up from the third hole, proving to be one of the most productive wells in the region.

"Pray for these faithful Christians as they share physical water with fellow villagers," said Southern Baptist missionary Marsha Key, "and that in so doing, their act of unselfish love will introduce these unbelievers to the 'Water of Life.'"

Former missionary new Bread for the World liaison

WASHINGTON (BP)—A former Southern Baptist missionary and Georgia pastor has been appointed to work with United States Baptist churches by Bread for the World, a Christian citizens movement focusing on world hunger issues.

Charles C. Worthy, who from 1969 to 1977 was a representative to Israel under appointment of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will speak in Baptist churches about the importance of public advocacy as a strategy for feeding the world's hungry and preventing famine.

The Alabama native, a graduate of Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, most recently was pastor of The Rock Church in Rex, Ga. Earlier he was pastor of congregations in Kentucky

and West Germany. He is a former president of the European Baptist Convention.

Upon assuming his new position, Worthy, 51, noted U.S. Christians in recent years have demonstrated their willingness to respond generously to acute hunger brought on by famine and natural disasters.

"But we are not as comfortable helping shape public policies that address the causes of hunger," he said. "It's not enough for us simply to respond to disaster; we must also do what we can to help prevent disasters. I believe that Bread for the World is helping Christians do that."

Bread for the World was organized in 1974 with the purpose of rallying American Christians to pressure the U.S. government to assist the hungry.

Isolated church in Africa remains strong in faith

MORETAN, Togo (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary journeyed to an isolated church recently and found believers still strong in their faith, despite little encouragement.

Michael Key of Perryton, Texas, is a general evangelist responsible for 30 churches and preaching points in central Togo. On a recent Sunday, he was asked to visit a church in another region where he had worked.

Since the church is in an isolated area, it had not been visited by a missionary in several years, said Key's wife, Marsha, of Houston. The road to the church is in poor

condition, and at one point Key spent an hour driving six miles.

But at the church, he had joyful hours of worship with Christians who had received little outside encouragement over the years. Key baptized 13 new believers.

"What a privilege to see visible fruits of their faithful witness," Marsha Key said. It was reassuring, she said, to know that even in places where a missionary seldom can visit, "any believer, no matter where he may reside, has the Holy Spirit as his teacher and comforter. . ."



The openness of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is shown by the regional listening sessions the organization is currently conducting. The most recent of these was held in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, this spring. It may be that the openness of the BJCPA is the key to the organization's effectiveness in Washington, D.C. During a recent briefing session in Washington, D.C., we were extremely impressed with the organization, effectiveness and knowledge of the matters currently transpiring at our nation's capital.

As one would expect during the listening session held in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas, church-state issues ranged from abortion to private prisons. Specifically, four key church-state issues were raised. These were Bible chairs at state universities, clergy confidentiality, state definition of private and home schools, and church zoning laws.

The Baptist Joint Committee serves Baptists in the area of government relations, research and legal services, denominational services, and information services. For the last quarter of a century, Baptist state paper editors have depended on the Washington bureau of Baptist Press for accurate and fair coverage of all the activities of the federal government that would touch the life of Baptists. Not only does the Baptist Joint Committee provide state papers with accurate and dependable new releases, but it also serves to provide information and interpretation of possible legislation which is on the agenda.

Perhaps the most important and effective area of the Baptist Joint Committee is in the area of government relations. This simply means keeping in touch with officials who are entrusted with the functions of government. During our recent briefing in D.C., we were impressed with the good relationship the Baptist Joint Committee has with a wide range of government officials. Employees of the Baptist Joint Committee are on a first name basis with many of our legislators.

An example of the effectiveness of the Baptist Joint Committee in the area of legislative relations is shown in the passage of the "equal access" legislation. This legislation had as its major architect the Baptist Joint Committee, our own Senator Dale Bumpers, and Republican Senator Mark Hatfield. The legislation provides for both secular and religious non-school sponsored groups to have equal access to any limited open forum created in a public high school where students meet on their own initiative, without official encouragement or sponsorship. Simply stated, this legislation means that high school students can meet to have free

exercise of religion (pray and read the Bible) in any school that has such things as a Young Democrats club, a Young Republicans club, or a stamp club. This legislation was successful, and, although it has been challenged in the court, the Baptist Joint Committee is confident that it will stand as legal legislation.

Through research and petition, the Baptist Joint Committee has saved Baptist pastors untold amounts of money. Darold Morgan, president of the SBC Annuity Board, observes, "The Annuity Board has had a unique and essential relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee. This partnership has resulted in exciting and helpful victories through congressional action relating to tax, annuity and Social Security matters. The committee's staff expertise, knowledge of 'the Hill,' and sense of timing are absolutely essential to us in our work at the Annuity Board."

R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, says, "The Baptist Joint Committee's knowledge of how things work in Washington has saved Southern Baptists missionaries over a million dollars each year in overseas income taxes. . . and has helped us gain stronger reassurance that the CIA will not allow CIA agents to act under the cover of missionary identity overseas."

Baptists believe that the scripture teaches that government is ordained of God as the authority for ordering society and protecting behavior and justice. Baptists have, also, maintained that government should not control the church, nor should the church control the state.

The effort to establish separation of church and state was extremely difficult at the time of the inception of our country. Baptists led this fight and won it. Today there are forces that would destroy separation of church and state. The Baptist Joint Committee feels that the future in church-state relationship is rooted in the past. Even today, we link hands with the Baptists of the past. Such individuals as Roger Williams, Isaac Bachus and John Leland have provided for us religious liberty.

Senator Mark Hatfield said, "I am grateful for the Baptist Joint Committee. It is an indispensable and highly effective Christian witness in Washington, faithful to the gospel, expert in advising the free exercise of religion, trustworthy interpreters of the separation of church and state."

Southern Baptists need to pray for and support the Baptist Joint Committee as they assist Baptist churches across the land in maintaining religious freedom. The small amount of money that Southern Baptists provide for the Baptist Joint Committee returns manyfold dividends.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 21
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Letters to the editor

Against God's anointed

I have for some time read on too many occasions the letters from individuals seemingly filled with indignation toward some of God's anointed men and women. I am concerned that some are slowly but surely bringing about certain judgement upon themselves for lifting up their voice against God's anointed. We would do ourselves alot of good to listen again to James 5:9: "Grudge not one against brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold the judge standeth at the door."

I, like many Southern Baptist pastors (and concerned individuals), realize there are obvious and apparent differences among us; and there is a need for change. With that in mind, allow this small church pastor to offer his peace proposal: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye (we) may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Ja. 5:16).

If we would but stay on our knees, stay in the Book, and stay after souls, I feel we would regain the "peculiar people" status that God would desire of us. — **David L. Drake, Cedartown, Ga.**

Bold faith needed

Apparently, the God we Baptists worship is not big enough to create this world, Adam and Eve, and the human race, perform miracles, stay the Red Sea for Israel, make an axe head float, sustain Jonah through being swallowed by a fish, protect Daniel in the lions den, enable David to slay a giant with a slingshot, stop the sun in its orbit for Joshua, have Jesus born of a virgin and raised to life three days after being buried. Why, he is not even big enough to have a book written that is not full of saga, myth, lies and tales.

Are these statements false? Read again our Peace Committee report. We think the creation story, Adam and Eve, miracles and Bible events didn't really happen. Over 20,000 of us opposing Dr. Stanley, said, more clearly than any words could, that we believed neither the Bible is true nor that God was able to have a true scripture written.

How can we people use the Bible at all to preach and teach from? Is the portion we are reading not also a lie? Why not read the Koran or Book of Mormon? They contain truth, too. I issue a flat challenge to each of us. No one can doubt the sincerity of our belief that we are following God's will. If so, why not prepare a list of events, happenings, and miracles that we do not believe are true, and then publicize it to all our members? Fellow members have a right to know just how big our God is. And, as we preach and teach in the church and witness to the lost, let's be sure to make it clear that our God can save them for eternity but he can't work miracles or write historical events correctly

or commission a true record to be written about him.

Talk about Bold Mission Thrust with all piosity; methinks that we of little faith need more preachers and members with a Bold Faith Thrust. — **Preston Cooper, Benton**

Reaping the whirlwind?

I am a layman 68 years old. I have been an active part of Southern Baptist churches over 50 years.

I have been a member of churches from Arkansas to Texas. In all the years of membership in these churches, there was never a time a messenger to any convention was questioned as to his or her vote. Never was there reference to an issue or a personality that would dictate to that messenger his or her action at those conventions.

I assume these churches were willing to trust the leadership of God's Spirit in their messengers.

In recent years, a few have not been satisfied with the workings of God's Spirit. These felt God's wisdom needed a little help and began to manipulate the business of the convention. We have now reached the point where the working of the convention is a cut and dried process.

The Scripture tells us, if we reap to the winds, we will reap the whirlwind. I wonder if this is not where we stand, in the very center of this whirlwind. — **Ford R. Falkner, Benton, Texas**

Concentrating power?

I read with interest the letter from C. A. Johnson concerning the plan presented by Winfred Moore to appoint trustees for our seminaries and agencies. I agree with C. A. that I am not certain this is the best plan. However, I think it is better than the one being presently used.

Let me illustrate. I know C. A. Johnson well, having served as chairman of the search committee that called him to be director of missions for Pulaski Association. It was through that relationship that he let me know that Johnny Jackson, pastor of Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock, was his dearest friend in the world.

In 1982, C. A. Johnson, an ordained minister and then member of Forest Highlands Baptist Church in Little Rock, and Johnny Jackson, an ordained minister and pastor of Forest Highlands Baptist Church in Little Rock, both served on the Committee on Committees.

Since then, Johnny Jackson has been appointed to serve as a trustee for the Home Mission Board and C. A. Johnson has been appointed to serve as a trustee for the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary board.

Since then, in 1984, C. A. Johnson again was appointed to the Committee on Committees, Johnny Jackson has been appointed

to serve as a trustee of the Home Mission Board, and C. A. Johnson this year is being appointed to serve as a trustee for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (by the Committee on Boards on which Johnny Jackson serves).

I may be wrong, but this pattern seems to be the fear that C. A. referred to in his letter with these two statements "Given their continuous input into the process year after year, the power of these men in this area would become awesome." And, "Moore's plan would concentrate power rather than distributing it fairly."

"Anyway, it is just something for Arkansas' 466,459 Southern Baptists to think about. — **Phil Lineberger, Richardson, Texas**

Pearls of the gospel

As a student at one of our six seminaries I feel compelled to write in response to the article, "teaching of false doctrines," in the May 8 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

The men and women who teach in our seminaries are some of the most godly people I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

They believe the Bible is the Word of God and hold it in high esteem. They do not discount its teachings as some would have us believe, but teach the Bible is the authority in matters of faith and practice.

They teach the sound doctrines of our faith, and seek above all else in their teaching to bring honor to Jesus Christ.

Southern Baptist professors think more of their students than to feed them "slop." They love their students. I know, because I have received nothing but the pearls of the gospel from my teachers.

As for Winfred Moore, he too is a Bible-believing Southern Baptist, and one of the very few who seem to be striving for fairness and peace in our convention. — **Tim Cybert, Fort Worth, Texas**

12 million of us

If there are half a million Southern Baptists who are pro-fundamentalist and a half million who are pro-moderate, that still leaves over 12 million of us who are not pro either way, but just plain old conservative, like the Bible is true, etc. The problem I am having is finding anyone in the seminaries, universities, pulpits and mission fields who believe any differently from that.

I am now inclined to believe that, if the "take-over" theme continues and if all of us had a vote, the fundamentalist would lose the presidency by about 12 million votes. It is a shame, but fundamentalists started it and that is the way it is. (Remember) J. Frank Norris? Similar.)

It is my opinion based on some firsthand knowledge and association's reports that we have more fundamentalists who have become so in error due to morals than we

have moderates who have become so in error due to theology.

I have a suggestion. Help us Texans get our Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler out of the limelight. Those two are breeding the Lee Roberts of the convention and as some have already said have "hit spiritual slop!" If there are teachers of error, tell us where they are, then if the Patterson/Pressler "take-over" theme raises its ugly head again, 12 million of us can bring our wrath down on it and hold it in abeyance for another 50 years. — Peter Morris, Arlington, Texas

Enough

I am a conservative, Bible-believing, preacher of God's word. But I must say my heart aches when I see the hostile and unchristian-like attitudes which are being displayed by some people bearing the name Christian. If we run political machines, sling mud, and do the work of a politician, are we not politicians? That is not the calling God has given us. Jesus commissioned us to win the lost, not the election.

It is up to the church to call a preacher who preaches God's word. Just because

someone does not think exactly the way I do, so long as they believe and preach the gospel of Christ, they are still my brother. The autonomy of the local church is one of the greatest strengths of our convention. Let us not lose sight of this. In Luke 9:49-50 Jesus tells his disciples, "He who is not against us is for us;" when the disciples make this same mistake.

Some Southern Baptist churches are more liberal than others. Should we then cut them loose? I think not. The Bible again says, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Are we, God's adopted children and students of his word, so consumed with hatred and bitterness that we cannot heed the very words we preach? I hope not!

Matthew 5:9 says: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." If peacemakers are God's children, who then are those who will not live in peace? I challenge every child of God to stand up and say, "Enough." Let there be peace! Pray for God's leadership. Vote as God leads, and let him take care of the rest. He has never failed us nor disgraced us. Let us do the same for him. — Bill Harris, Royal

State convention fills two staff positions

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has employed two persons to fill key administrative positions.

Jimmie Sheffield, administrator of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, began serving May 19 as associate executive director, a position vacant due to the death of L. L. Collins earlier this year.

Dan Jordan, director of business and support services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will begin serving June 2 as director of business services. Jordan fills a vacancy created by ABCS staffer Phil Copeland's return to Southwestern Seminary.

The associate executive director's job description has been revised in an administrative reorganization. Responsibilities for business affairs have been transferred to the director of business services. Another position, director of support services, remains to be filled. No new positions were created in the reorganization.

Sheffield is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary. He has served church



Sheffield



Jordan

in Louisiana and Texas and been active in associational and state convention activities. He has led conferences for the Baptist Sunday School Board and authored three books (see related article, p.8).

Jordan is a graduate of Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, and is completing a masters degree at Southwestern Seminary. He came to Southwestern Seminary as director of purchasing in 1981 after extensive experience in business. He became director of business and support services there in 1983.

HMB appoints Arkansas couple

An Arkansas couple has been named Christian social ministries missionaries by the SBC Home Mission Board.

Bernard and Edna Ford will serve in Gary, Ind., where he will direct Christian social ministries centers for Black Oak Church, where he has been pastor since 1982.

Ford, a native of Weiner, has served as pastor of Blytheville Emmanuel Church,

Mountain Pine Church, Black Rock First Church, and Norfolk First Southern. He also has served as pastor of churches in Arizona and Nevada. A graduate of Southern Baptist College, Ford also attended Ouachita Baptist University.

Edna Ford, a native of Sidney, was appointed for church and family work by the board.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

Anytime is a good time to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord! He is sovereign. To be sovereign is to be "supreme in power;

possessing supreme dominion," according to Webster. Baptists believe this about our Lord. Our understanding of salvation, sanctification and all other doctrines grow out of our conviction that he is Lord. The book of Proverbs tells us the heart of the king is in the hand of God and he turns it as easily as the river.



Moore

It is especially good to acknowledge his lordship as we approach our annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. In salvation we must depend totally upon him. In sanctification we must depend totally upon him. When we go to the convention we are tempted to take a different approach from our basic beliefs. We are tempted to believe and act as if it all depends upon us. We end up in the flesh when we get away from his sovereignty.

We are responsible for actions and influence, of course, but our chief act is to face our responsibility and use our influence "in the spirit" and not in the flesh. "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident... strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions... and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21).

"But I say, walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). "But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another" (Gal. 5:15).

Walking in the spirit does not weaken convictions. It gives him the privilege of controlling us so that his will is done by us in godly ways. If we really believe he is sovereign, we can trust him to work in us and through us to accomplish his will. We don't have to make anything happen by ugly accusations, degrading demonstrations or devious manipulations.

Can't we obey the Bible we proclaim and count on God to vindicate the truth and provide himself a victory through his people? Sure we can!

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

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Mike Keen has resigned as minister of youth and activities at Gosnell Church, effective June 8. He has accepted a call to serve as youth and family life minister of First Church in Purvis, Miss. Keen received the family life ministry/church recreation degree from Ouachita Baptist Church in 1985. His wife, the former Mary Minor of Brinkley, also is an OBU graduate.

Kenny Daniel has joined the staff of Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock as music and youth director, coming there from Mayflower First Church.

Joe Skaggs has resigned as pastor of Light Church.

Jessie McKee has resigned as pastor of Shell Lake Church at Heth. D.C. McAtee is serving the church as interim pastor.

Charles Bradley has resigned as pastor of Brickeys Church to enroll in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ron Malone has resigned as pastor of Turner Church to become a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jack Emery of Blytheville died May 7 at age 72. He was a member of Blytheville Calvary Church and was a retired automobile salesman. Survivors include his wife, Ethel Mae Williams Emery of Blytheville; two sons, J.W. Emery of Louisville, Ky. and Charles Emery of Fort Smith; two brothers; five sisters; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

John Holston resigned as pastor of Nashville First Church May 18 to become pastor of Batesville Pilgrims Rest Church, effective May 28.

Douglas Duncan is serving as pastor of Central Church in Mineral Springs, coming there from Crawfordville First Church. He and his wife, Linda, have three children.

Jim A.D. Nelson has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Southern Church in Central City. He graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree.

Gary Hill will serve Sherwood First Church as summer youth minister. He is a senior at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Brenton Powell has resigned as minister of music and church programs at Calvary Church in Texarkana to continue his seminary education. He is a 1983 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Powell and his wife, Linda, have two sons, B. Craig II and Micah Justin.

Steve Kelley has resigned as pastor of Brumley Church at Conway to work on his doctorate at Baylor University.

Bill Platt resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Church at Conway May 18.

Lucille Little was honored May 11 by Little Rock Immanuel Church for 50 years of service as a worker with older and preschool children.

Nan Owens has resigned as minister of education and outreach at El Dorado Second Church, effective June 30.

Craig Campbell will serve Wynne Church as summer youth director for the second successive year. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University.

Dave Daily has resigned as music and youth director at Murfreesboro First Church, following three years of service. He and his wife, Catherine, were presented with a gift by pastor Rick Hyde and chairman of deacons Gary Turner.

Don Settles recently completed five years of service as pastor of Kensett Church.

Lucie Hagins is retiring as secretary of Fordyce First Church, following 21 years of service.

Martha Moore has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the Osceola Chamber of Commerce for her teaching accomplishments, spirit of caring, community service and her Christian example. She is a member of Osceola First Church.

R.W. Goodman is serving as pastor of Mount Pisgah Church at Jonesboro, going there from Bono First Church.

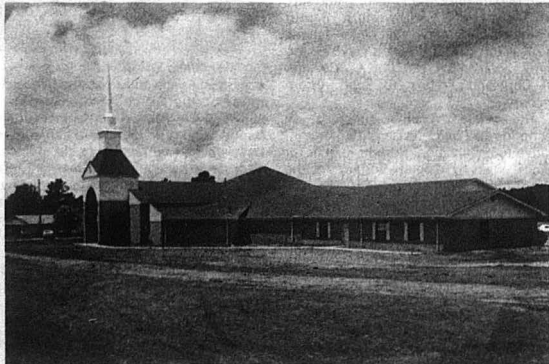
David Jeans is serving as pastor of Egypt Church.

John Brown has resigned as pastor of Lunsford Church. He and his wife, Claudia, have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board for service in Mozambique, Africa.

Robert Hall is serving as pastor of Caraway First Church. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Seminary.

Carter Tucker has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Dumas First Church.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Beech Street Church at Gurdon dedicated an \$800,000 church plant May 18. The 21,000 square foot plant, centered around an auditorium seating 385, includes educational space for 400, a fellowship and recreation area, an office complex, library/conference room, choir rehearsal area and kitchen. Pastor Greg Stanley reported a bond issue and capital fund raising drive provided funding for the building program. Don Moore, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Director, was dedication speaker. L.B. Jordan, director of missions for Red River Association, led the prayer of dedication.

Amy Tucker will serve Dumas First Church as summer youth director. She is a graduate of Baylor University.

Shawn Kinsey resigned as minister of youth at Dumas First Church May 19 to move to Fort Worth, Texas.

Floyd Vineyard has resigned as pastor of Dyer First Church.

Jay Wells is serving as pastor of Shady Grove Church at Van Buren. He came to Van Buren from Fort Smith where he served for 10 years as pastor of the Moffett Mission. He and his wife, Jane, have two daughters, Renee and Melinda.

Wayne Pitkins is serving as pastor of Coal Hill Church. He attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He served as pastor of Beirne First Church and has served as a pastoral intern at Fort Smith First Church. He and his wife, Kathy, have a son, Stephen.

David Burt will join the staff of Gravel Ridge First Church June 2 as minister of education and youth. He is currently serving on the staff of Forest Park Church in Pine Bluff. Burt and his wife, Tunnea, have a son, Caleb.

briefly

Garden Homes Church has re-located at 4004 South Highway 161, Jacksonville and changed its name to **Woodhaven Church**. John Hurd is pastor.

Lake Street Church in Paragould will have a 25-member mission team in Flint, Mich., June 27-29 to assist churches with evangelism outreach.

Fontaine Church at Bono observed homecoming May 25 with activities that included a noon luncheon and an afternoon musical program.

Shell Lake Church at Heth ordained T. Martin to the deacon ministry May 4.

El Dorado Second Church Frances Bumpus Baptist Women Mission Action group recently received coronary-pulmonary resuscitation certification through Warner Brown Hospital. Donna and Jack Slayton were course instructors. Those certified were Estelle Sewell, Mary Elliott, Pancho Padilla, Bettye Thurmon, Nan Owens, Carmen Morgan, Julia Miller and June Murphy. Betty Cook, a registered nurse, took the course as part of her continuing certification.

Victory Church at Jacksonville will hold a June 1, 2 p.m., constitutional service, according to pastor Victor Coleman. Conway Sawyer, director for Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department, will be speaker.

Springdale First Church observed homecoming May 16-18. Activities included a barbecue, special music, worship services and fellowship. Speakers were Dennis Cottrell, Tom Shaw and Cliff Palmer, pastor.

Little Rock Second Church held a church-commissioning service May 18 for David and Martha Miller who recently were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board for service in Peru. Program features included comments by pastor Billy White and Glenda Hardister, a missions volunteer to India; the handbell choir; adult choir and a special parade of flags.

Des Arc First Church will ordain Bill Eagle, Kay Garth, Keith Knupp and Cy Stafford to the deacon ministry June 1.

South Side Church in Pine Bluff ordained Richard A. Couch to the preaching ministry May 18.

Evening Shade Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary June 15 with a family reunion service.

Blytheville First Church Baptist Men's group assisted Blytheville Memorial Church May 23-24 with interior finishing work on a new sanctuary. First Church sponsored Memorial Church when it was a mission.

Morrilton First Church is involved in conducting a worship service for campers on Petit Jean Mountain as a summer ministry. Services include a Bible lesson and music.

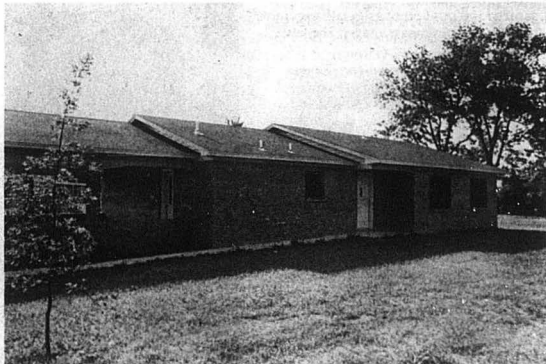
Springdale Elmdale Church celebrated Christian Home Day May 18 with a church-wide luncheon that provided a time for parents to become acquainted with those individuals serving as leaders in children and youth activities.

Clarksville Second Church recently voted to construct a new sanctuary that will seat 270. Marvin James is pastor.

Searcy First Church youth and counselors will assist with Day Camp activities at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga. June 10-12. Sidney Jackson, minister of education, is coordinator.

Goshen Mission has begun home Bible study and fellowship meetings, according to pastor Farrell Ard.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Black Oak Church in Mount Zion Association recently completed a parsonage. Building committee members were Fred Finch, Donald Rodgers and B.A. Grisham. Decoration committee members were Camille Rodgers, Doris Dunkerson and Betty Rodgers. The church currently is without a pastor.

New associate executive director

Careful planning, organization keys to program success, Sheffield

by J. Everett Sneed

Jimmie Sheffield, who was previously the administrator for Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, has been elected associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Sheffield, who started his services with the state convention May 19, has been involved in virtually every area of organizational and administrative activity in church and denominational life.

In college, Sheffield was a part-time music and youth director in several different churches. As he entered Southwestern Seminary, he continued as a part-time music and youth director.

During Sheffield's last semester in seminary, he became the minister of education and music at First Church, McKinney, Texas. From there, he moved to Calvary Church, Lubbock, Texas, in a similar position. Sheffield was then employed as a consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

Immediately after leaving the Sunday School Board, Sheffield helped start a computer business for churches. After a brief period of time, he went to the president of the company, Joe Cleveland, and said, "I have enjoyed working with your company, but I really belong in church work. So I will be leaving your company."

Cleveland said, "If you are going to leave my company, you are going to serve my church." As a result, Sheffield went to the Plymouth Church, Irving, Texas, as minister of childhood education and administrator.

Executive Director Don Moore has reorganized the position of associate executive director and business manager. The late L.L.

Collins supervised much of the business services of the state convention. Sheffield's primary responsibility will be coordinating programs within the Executive Board.

Sheffield was one of the individuals who assisted the ABCS Executive Board with long range planning last year. The group, composed of Executive Board staff, selected pastors, selected church staff, selected laypeople and selected associational directors of missions, worked with personnel from the Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board to establish long range objective goals and action plans for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. These long range plans will be presented to the messengers at this year's state convention.

In the new division of responsibility, Sheffield will assist Executive Board personnel in their budget planning. The convention's new business manager, Dan Jordan (see article, p. 2), will be responsible for the overall budget.

Sheffield will also be responsible for promotion of the Cooperative Program and will keep a ministerial file to assist churches who are seeking pastors and church staff members. Both of these responsibilities were a part of the job description of Dr. Collins.

Sheffield also will be available for pulpit supply, to assist churches in promotion of the Cooperative Program and to assist congregations in planning. He is a trained consultant for Shared Ministry and for Planned Growth

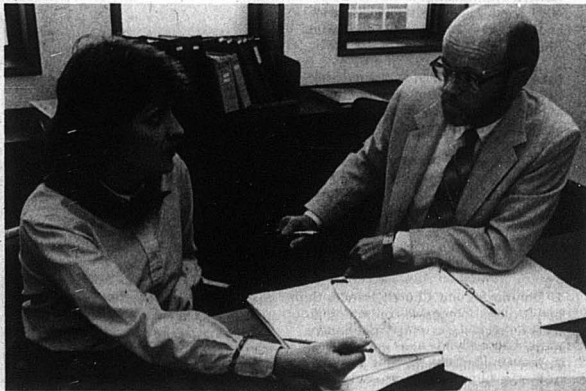
in Giving. He has also had extensive experience in leading conferences on Sunday School organization and development and on secretarial management.

Sheffield said, "I will be pleased to help any church I can. I will come to any church as time permits."

Sheffield believes planning and organization are extremely important. He said, "This has been the dominant theme in my church work across the years. I believe the better a



ABN photos / Millie Gill



Like all of us, ABCS Associate Executive Director Jimmie Sheffield has many involvements. At top, he is pictured with his wife, Annette, setting out plants in a flower bed at home. Above, he consults with his office assistant, Jan Kelley, as they begin the process of setting up his office. And, at left, Sheffield warms up for a Park Hill Church softball game.

field believes

Jehovah's Witnesses differ strikingly from Baptists

by J. Everett Sneed

church plans, the more likely it is to succeed."

Sheffield believes that in planning for an event one should establish a date and work backward from it, planning each event with a definite completion date. He has developed a "Promotion and Planning Sheet," which has been a very useful tool. He has two dates on it for each event. One is what he calls "a tickler date," to remind him of the upcoming event, and the second is the actual end or completion date.

Sheffield, however, uses an entirely different process for church program planning. He starts with the needs and opportunities, rather than the dates. After needs and opportunities are clearly set forth, goals are set, action plans are developed and dates are calendared. It is only then that a budget is developed. Sheffield said, "The budget is the end result of a long series of planning meetings."

As associate executive director, Sheffield will work with various departments in the Baptist Building as a consultant in each stage. His job will be to fit everything together as far as calendar and budget for the Executive Board are concerned.

Both Sheffield and his wife, the former Annette Anderson, are graduates of East Texas Baptist College (now University). It was while in college that the two of them met. Sheffield was a year ahead of his wife, and after they married and family came along, it slowed down his wife's graduation.

Mrs. Sheffield is currently a first grade teacher in the North Little Rock School System. She has been in the same school since the Sheffield's came to North Little Rock nine years ago.

The Sheffield's have two daughters. The oldest, Jamie Lynette Hefner of Shreveport, La., is married and teaches the third grade. Her husband plans to enter religious work. Their younger daughter, Kellie Lynn, is a senior at East Texas Baptist University. She plans to teach math after graduation.

Executive Director Don Moore said, "Professionally and personally, Mr. Sheffield is recognized by those who have known him as a man of Christian integrity and rare administrative ability. His writings are being published by Convention Press. His contributions to the field of church administration, staff relationships, dealing with stress, long range planning and secretarial skills are recognized nationally. We feel God has raised up Jimmie Sheffield for this time in history. We are humbled that he would give us such a man to join in the work of our convention."

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

Recently Gary Leazer, Morris Smith and James Boling of the Department of Interfaith Witness, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., held a workshop at First Church, Monticello. Leazer discussed the differences between Southern Baptists and Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. He said, "The Jehovah's Witness doctrines are strikingly different from Southern Baptists when properly understood."

Leazer said the Jehovah's Witnesses are unitarians. They believe there is one God and his name is Jehovah. Baptists believe there is one God, but we are trinitarian (that is, the godhead is said to be composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are eternal beings).

Since God is one, according to Jehovah's Witnesses, he cannot have any being equal to him. So they make Jesus a son of God. By this, they mean there was a time when only God existed. God created Jesus as the archangel Michael. Jesus existed as Michael until his earthly existence. Jesus was born as a perfect man, not as the God-man or as God himself. Jesus was good, just like Adam was before he sinned. Leazer pointed out, "This means Jesus is a created being. The Jehovah's Witnesses deny his deity on earth."

Although the Jehovah's Witnesses often refer to the Holy Spirit, in reality they deny his existence. They maintain God sent out his power to work in the world. Leazer said, "We can use electricity as an analogy. God is the dynamo, and the Holy Spirit is the electricity that comes out and lights up the lightbulb." The Jehovah's Witnesses do not see the Holy Spirit as a person. He is only a power."

Leazer gave an example of how the Jehovah's Witnesses translated the Bible to conform to their doctrine. Where our Bible says, "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:2), the Jehovah's Witness Bible says, "God's active force was moving upon the face of the waters."

The Jehovah's Witnesses also deny Jesus' physical resurrection. They maintain Jesus' resurrection was only a spiritual one.

Leazer said, "The Jehovah's Witnesses, like the Mormons, believe they are God's only true organization here on earth."

Their doctrine of heaven also is distinctly different from that of mainline denominations. They believe only 144,000 are going to heaven, but an individual can live forever here on paradise earth. The only way you can do this, however, is by becoming a Jehovah's Witness.

The Jehovah's Witnesses maintain most people will be resurrected and have an opportunity to become Jehovah's Witnesses during the millennium. So, most people will have two chances to become Jehovah's Witnesses. If a person does not become a Jehovah's Witness during the millennium,

they will be annihilated (destroyed instantaneously in Hell).

The Jehovah's Witnesses celebrate a "Memorial Meal" (Lord's Supper) only once a year. They usually hold this about Easter time. There are currently approximately 3 million Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. At the time of the Memorial Meal, however, there may be 6 or 7 million people present.

Even so, often a Kingdom Hall (equivalent of our church house) will have no one who partakes of the Memorial Meal. They maintain only those who are going to heaven (the 144,000) are to partake of the Memorial Meal. It is easy to determine how many Jehovah's Witnesses feel they are going to heaven. Around the world there were about 9,600 of the 3 million who partook of the Memorial Meal last year.

Leazer said, "An average Baptist should not invite a Jehovah's Witness into his home unless he is fully prepared to share with him. Prior to an encounter with a Jehovah's Witness, an individual needs to know a little about the group."

"For example," Leazer continued, "the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the resurrection of Christ. A person should study the passages that deal with the resurrection prior to any discussion with a Jehovah's Witness."

Leazer listed a number of scriptures on the resurrection that should be studied prior to any encounter with Jehovah's Witnesses, among them: John 2:19-25; John 20:24-31; Luke 24:33-43; Acts 1:1-11; and Rev. 1:5-8.

Leazer suggested a Baptist might say something like the following to a Jehovah's Witness: "I know you Jehovah's Witnesses believe in seeking truth, and I too believe in truth because Jesus said, 'I am the truth.' Jesus also said, 'The truth will make you free.' We both know truth does not change, so I have some passages of Scripture I would like to share with you."

Leazer suggested that, in a non-threatening way, a well informed Baptist could assist a Jehovah's Witness to look at the resurrection passages. A Baptist could further say to the Jehovah's Witness: "Jesus was a perfect man, so he would not lie. He would not deceive his disciples in any way."

The Jehovah's Witness may respond by saying these were temporary manifestations. But a person can reply that Jesus never indicated any of these were temporary manifestations. Since he did not, he would have been misleading his disciples if they were in fact temporary manifestations.

Leazer said that, in an encounter with a Jehovah's Witness, a Baptist should take the initiative. He suggested an agreement be made in which each one would have a definite period of time in which to share.

(continued on p. 12)

Center for Christian Ministries to broaden, deepen experience

by Paula Abdallah

ARKADELPHIA—Lisa Campbell and Greg McKenzie, both seniors at Ouachita Baptist University, will teach conversational English to school teachers in China this summer.

Another OBU student, Ian Kosh, will spend part of the summer in Africa to help promote media missions on that continent through onsite research while participating in media conferences and working directly with both the media director of Africa and media planners from French-speaking African countries.

Still more summer missions students will be across the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil serving primarily in youth ministry areas, and like Lisa, Greg and Ian, they will be representing "OBU Around the World," just one part of the newly established center for Christian Ministries (CCM) at Ouachita.

According to Dr. Bud Fray, director of the center and professor of religion at OBU, the CCM is an effort to integrate learning with practical experience in ministry on campus, community, state and international levels.

The center officially opened in November of 1985; however, instigators, including Dr. Daniel R. Grant, president of OBU, Dr. Fray, and Mark Baber, associate director of the center and director of the Baptist Student Union at OBU, began drawing up proposals for CCM functions early last year. Several proposals have already been put into action, and a gift of \$15,000 from the Keith Smith Feed Company of Hot Springs was donated to sponsor these CCM events and programs during its first year.

Another dimension of the CCM is the in-

ternship program where students are "actually doing the kind of ministry that they are learning how to do."

Dr. Fray then follows up on their progress with monthly conferences to "make it real" to the internship students. "I quiz them so they can see things like which goals they worked towards that month and what problem areas they had and how they did or are going to deal with them." Dr. Fray said.

Dr. Fray said CCM is also providing follow-up sessions for the 53 students who made commitments to missions during Global Focus Week, an event in which the CCM helped to organize and carry out.

Related to the internship Program are two more functions of the CCM: a ministry request response service and church and pastoral services. CCM workers receive and try to fill requests from churches, associations and institutions for full-time ministry students in cooperation with the BSU and the Religious Activities Placement Service.

Within the church and pastoral services division, the CCM proposes to hold programs and workshop events in the following areas: marriage and the home, parenting skills, emotional growth of teens and parents, conflict management, discipleship, peace in the church, and missions.

Concerning on-campus ministry, the CCM plans to organize workshops, retreats and symposia for ministers and others interested in improving coping skills and enhancing their ministry. Special emphasis will be placed on areas like stress management, burn-out and philosophical and ethical issues.

Establishing a curriculum laboratory and media resource center is another goal of the CCM which they have already begun working towards by obtaining several "equipping" tapes on discipleship and missions.

The CCM will organize this church library of literature and audio and visual aids in cooperation with the several divisions of the Southern Baptist Convention including the Foreign School Board Commission and the Sunday and Home Mission Boards in addition to OBU students, faculty and staff, materials from this lab and resource center will be available to pastors, church leaders, church media center workers and mission directors and staffs.

Besides students who are actually planning to go into mission work, Dr. Fray said one purpose of the CCM is to inform the entire student body of mission needs to promote maximum involvement by not only going into the mission field, but also giving to and praying for the mission cause. Near the CCM office on the first floor of Berry Bible Building at Ouachita will be a world map with all the locations of local and foreign OBU student and graduate missionaries marked. An up-to-date needs and prayer request list will be kept near the map for all students and faculty members to use.

For more information, call Dr. Fray at (501) 246-4531, ext. 520, or write to the center c/o Ouachita Baptist University, Box 3787, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Paula Abdallah writes for the Ouachita Baptist University public relations office.

Corrected

June 3-6, Student Summer Missionaries Orientation. Mills Valley Retreat Center in North Pulaski Association. Annual event prepares summer missionaries and their supervisors for their 10-week time of service in Arkansas.

June 9-13, Royal Ambassador Camp. Paron. First week of missions education plus campcraft and nature skills for

offers missions inspiration, challenge and education for girls in grades 7-12.

June 16-20, Arkansas Baptist Assembly. Siloam Springs. The beginning week of the 82nd year for the state event, which offers Christian camping for evangelism, church vocation promotion and deeper commitment.

June 16-20, Royal Ambassador Camp. Paron. Second week of missions camping for boys in fourth grade through senior high.

June 17-19, Arkansas Campers on Mission Rally. Wilderness Point Campground on Lake Norfolk. Annual event for fellowship among Christian campers and witnessing to other campers.

June 20-22, National Campers on Mission Rally. Wilderness Point Campground. First time this annual event has been held in Arkansas. Arkansas CCM will sponsor the rally and expects 250 to 300 camping rigs.

June 23-27, Arkansas Baptist Assembly. Siloam Springs. Second week of seven of camping for older children, youth and

adults.

June 22-29, Mission Revivals Week. statewide. First-time emphasis, using Jesse Reed as consultant to help churches identify places to start new congregations and reach people through existing churches. Part of Good News America revival emphasis.

June 23-26, Young Musicians Camp. Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia. Annual event to provide music education and fun for children in grades four through six. Emphasis this year is on drama.

June 23-27, Girls in Action Camp. Paron. First of four weeks of camp for missions education, inspiration and challenge for girls in grades three through six.

June 27-28, GA Mother-Daughter Camp. Paron. Second of two overnight events for Girls in Action (grades one through three) and their mothers.

June 30-July 3, Girls in Action Camp. Paron. Second of four weeks of missions inspiration and education for girls in grades three through six.

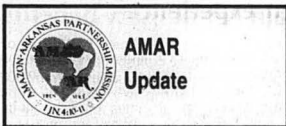
Next Month in Arkansas: June

boys fourth grade through senior high.

June 13-14, RA Man and Boy Mini Camp. Paron. Outdoor experience and missions education for first through third grade boys and an adult.

June 16-18, Acteens Mini Camp. Cold Springs Camp in Faulkner Association. The second year for the event which

Helpline



AMAR Update

Jacksonville First Church has a mission team composed of Gene Bowman, Grace Ballard, Zane Hankins, Carl Job, Nancy Gen, Charles Rea, Dude Bishop and Pastor Harvey J. Webb that will work in Brazil this summer.

Geyer Springs First Church mission team is in Belem, Brazil May 25-June 4 as a part of the Arkansas-Brazil mission effort. Team members are Robert and Kathy Johnson, Hunter Douglas, David Bauman, Phil Moore, Dorothy Atchley, Richard Ogden, Jodie Moon, Pastor Paul Sanders and James Burleson, minister of music.

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

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Barham, missionary associates to Japan, have arrived on the ship to begin their first term of service (address: 9-1 Hachiyama-cho, Shibuyaku, Tokyo 150, Japan). He was born in Prescott. The former Mary Kveton, she considers Houston, Texas, her hometown. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Jewel N. Franks, missionary associates to South Africa, are in the States on furlough (address: 5124 Vickie St., Fort Worth, TX 76117). He was born in Union. She is the former Jeanne Sheridan of Cushing, Okla. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

The president speaks Missions, Tidsworth style

For two years, Floyd Tidsworth has been an associate in the State Missions Department as director of church extension. This



Hatfield

means his primary (and only) job is to help establish new congregations. These are mainly church type missions; may become self-supporting churches; some remain mission points. This is not new, but Missions Tidsworth Style is new. This creative director has been a pastor, and an associational director of missions in Kentucky, and an associate state executive director in West Virginia. But he is now back in Arkansas where his roots are.

What is missions, Tidsworth style? It is a plan he has designed, called The Macedonian Mission Plan. You are right in remembering the scriptural basis is Acts 16:9, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." You can remember the plan by remembering the following formula: "three to one for three". This simply means three churches supporting one mission for three years. Three to one for three.

In Acts, Chapter 16, the Macedonian plan was established. The plan had three great mission resource leaders (Paul, Timothy and Luke) for a great Macedonian mission need (later to become many new mission starts) for as long as was required to establish the work, for example, three years in Ephesus. Three to one for three. Good formula, right?

Brother Tidsworth reminds us Arkansas has been starting missions at the rate of about five per year. Without quoting easily forgotten statistics, let us be aware that five per year does not keep up with the growth in population. To keep up, we need 25 new starts each year.

The need then is for 75 sponsoring church-

ches to relate to 25 missions each year. The plan is that one church, preferably near the mission community, will serve as the primary sponsor. This church will hold the membership and serve as the guiding, nurturing body for the mission. Two other churches will become associate sponsors. The associate sponsors will provide prayer support, financial assistance and perhaps people to assist with mission projects. (More than three churches might possibly be needed in some mission sponsorships.)

And, remember, the commitment is for three years. Three to one for three. There are hundreds and hundreds of churches that could become involved in this "direct" mission work in addition to their support of the Cooperative Program.

We all know the law of Sunday School growth that "new classes grow faster than established classes." This principle is also true for new missions and new churches.

In Arkansas we ought to start new churches by the multiplied dozens, by the hundreds. Bold Mission Trust would have no better vehicle in Arkansas that for churches to become involved in The Macedonian Mission Plan.

Our church, First Fordyce, along with many churches, has been involved in the Indiana linkage and in the AMAR project in Brazil. In time, when these highly important mission emphases have been completed, perhaps we need an emphasis for two or three years on doing missions in Arkansas according to The Macedonian Mission Plan. Our state must be strengthened at the home base if we are to realistically support a 50/50 percent mission budget and keep the Arkansas base growing.

The Macedonian Mission Plan could become a "Great Day In The Morning" every Sunday morning for 25 or more new mission starts each year. Three to one for three. Got it? Do it! — Lawson Hatfield, ABSC president

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Jonesboro pastor begins commentaries

S. Mikael Carrier, pastor of Nettleton Church, Jonesboro, begins this week writing commentaries on the International series on the Sunday School lessons in "Lessons for living."

A native of Jonesboro, Carrier is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Carrier served churches in Osceola and Monette before coming to Nettleton Church, where he served previously as minister of youth and education 1970-73. He has been pastor at Nettleton since 1982. Carrier also has on the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and is a past member of the Southern Baptist College board of trustees.



Carrier

Senate tax plan would retain key annuity benefits

WASHINGTON (BP)—A just-released summary of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee's tax reform proposal reveals the committee approved an amendment to the plan's original provisions for 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity contracts, such as those offered by the SBC's Annuity Board.

The committee voted 16-4 to adopt an amendment by Sen. David H. Pryor, D-Ark., to retain current law regarding 403(b) plans, also called retirement income accounts.

The tax reform plan originally submitted by committee chairman Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., called for the same provisions for 403(b) plans as contained in the House proposal approved late last year.

The House version would distinguish between employer and employee contributions

to 403(b) plans and place a \$7,000 cap on annual employee contributions. The House plan also would override a current provision that allows a participant to designate a portion of his salary as a "catch-up" device for years in which he was able to put little or nothing into a retirement plan.

In addition to reversing the contribution cap and catch-up provision, the amendment also differs with a House-passed 15 percent penalty tax on early withdrawals from tax-sheltered annuities.

Still in place in the Finance Committee proposal is a provision that would stop individuals covered by a tax-favored retirement plan—such as a 403(b) plan—from deducting their contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts.

Alabama church works to 'stamp' out hunger

FLORALA, Ala. (BP)—Alabama pastor Dan Bates and his congregation are doing their part to stamp out hunger—literally.

After witnessing the impact of federal budget cuts on the poor people of Florala, Ala., Bates looked for a creative way to get Westside Church members involved in hunger relief ministry. The answer was postage stamps.

Bates and other church members collect used national and international stamps which are processed and sold to stamp dealers. Proceeds then are used to buy food

for needy people in the community.

"It gives the average person a way to get involved," says Bates, a stamp collector since age nine. "Any church can do it."

Recycling stamps takes time, but Bates believes the effort will be worth the anticipated \$4,000 the small congregation will raise in 1986 for hunger relief.

Says Bates: "Collecting stamps may not be the answer for everybody. But there are hungry people all over this country, and it's time for us as Southern Baptists to get off our wallets and do something about it."

Jehovah's Witnesses (cont. from p. 9)

Leazer said, "It is also important that a person not be sidetracked on less important matters. Since the most important thing of all is one's relationship with Christ, a Baptist witness should deal with this subject."

Finally, Leazer said it was important for a Baptist to be kind to Jehovah's Witnesses. He said, "A Baptist should never slam the door in the face of a Jehovah's Witness. This would make it difficult for a well-prepared Baptist witness to deal with him. The Witness also may return to the Kingdom Hall to share with others that he had been persecuted for Jehovah's sake.

Baptists should be aware that Jehovah's Witnesses are some of the best prepared to communicate their ideas of any group in the world. Hence, Baptists also should be prepared before becoming involved in an encounter with them.

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



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SBC employment future bright for 'flexible' seminary grads

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—For the first time in 10 years, the number of persons preparing for ministry in American seminaries dropped last year—down 0.6 percent to 52,794—according to the Association of Theological Schools.

Meanwhile, the number of students in Southern Baptist seminaries has continued to grow, now surpassing 12,000. But that growth may carry with it some problems for the graduates-to-be.

Southern Baptist seminary enrollments still are swelling from an influx of students from the "baby boom" generation. Unfortunately, that increase has not been matched by significant growth in the number of churches in which they can serve. Other factors in the enrollment equation, such as increases in women students and in firings of ministers, prompted a recent study by the Southern Baptist Convention Inter-Agency Council.

The results of the study were presented as good news to the SBC Executive Committee earlier this year. "There are currently more

Southern Baptist positions 'in ministry' than there are trained ministers to fill them," the report concluded.

Researchers estimated there are at least 77,476 ministry positions in Southern Baptist churches, agencies and institutions. At least 68,154 people have been trained by Baptist seminaries and colleges since 1950, comprising a pool of qualified employees for these positions.

The report predicted similar patterns will exist during the next 10 years, with ministry positions increasing to at least 97,094. The report did not estimate the number of trained ministers who will be available by that time.

Arthur Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission and one of the researchers, said that figure is difficult to gauge, but added the number of ministerial graduates from colleges and seminaries, now averaging 2,500 per year, will likely drop in the next decade.

"Within the foreseeable future, we're not going to have any more ministers than we have places of service," Walker said. "The problem is getting the people who are available to the places that are available."

The growth in ministry positions will not be in "traditional county seat churches" of the South, but in pioneer areas like the Northeast and Northwest, Walker said. That means graduates will have to be more flexible about where they want to go.

Commenting on the study in a recent alumni newsletter, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday said the results should put to rest concern that SBC seminaries are training too many ministers and that a significant percentage of seminary graduates never find church-related employment.

Research indicated 12 percent of seminary graduates since 1950 have never had ministry positions. Since this figure also includes spouses of employed ministers and graduates who are serving overseas or in other denominations, it was interpreted as a low percentage.

In most cases, the study indicated, those never employed in ministry seem satisfied with their situations, which were most often

the result of personal choices unrelated to their ministry training.

It was noted, however, only 68 percent of seminary graduates since 1950 currently are employed in ministry.

Figures differed for trained ministers who graduated from Baptist colleges but never attended seminary—31 percent have never been employed in ministry and 48 percent are not currently employed in ministry. These percentages were attributed to the college students' uncertainty about their call to ministry and lack of commitment to that call.

Another factor complicating placement of trained ministers, the study observed, is the "informality and ambiguity" of the Baptist "system," which often makes linking of ministers with churches dependent on personal contacts and other factors unrelated to training.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board reports there are now 15,000 Southern Baptist pastors "inactive for a variety of reasons." Even the ambitious church-starting plans that are part of Bold Mission Thrust will not exhaust this "ministerial backlog," reports indicate.

Also affecting the employment picture for seminary graduates is the Southern Baptist tradition of hiring ministers with no formal training. The convention's Inter-Agency Council study noted as many as half of SBC pastors lack seminary degrees (reported elsewhere at 55 percent) and a fourth have no college training either.

If this tradition holds true for other church staff positions, the estimated 68,000 trained ministers could be competing with 20,000 to 40,000 untrained but already-employed ministers for the 77,000 available positions.

The Inter-Agency Council study proposed extensive vocational counseling for those called into the ministry, as well as expanded internship opportunities for seminary students and graduates to compensate for the lack of ministry experience that often makes them less employable.

Other recommendations encourage graduates to seek alternate ministry opportunities, such as church starting, mission pastorates and bivocational positions.

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Meeting featured 'progress with promise,' Fuller says

ATLANTA (BP)—The seventh meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee was characterized by "progress with promise," according to chairman Charles Fuller.

Fuller, pastor of First Church of Roanoke, Va., pointed to the adoption of a statement on political activity, as well as a moving toward a report to the SBC annual meeting in June as progress.

"When we came, there was a feeling of heaviness, the heaviness of responsibility and the shortness of time. But as we got into the meeting, there was an almost immediate sense of making progress and moving toward productivity."

Fuller acknowledged there was some "combative" by committee members, particularly in the subcommittee meeting in which the political activities statement was adopted.

The statement, Fuller said, which is a companion piece to a statement on theological diversity adopted in February, "reflects the attitudes and disposition of the committee in this meeting very, very well."

In addition to adopting the statement, the committee also heard reports from the five visitation subcommittees which had visited 11 national agencies of the SBC to discuss matters of theological concern.

"The Peace Committee members feel the trustees and administrations have satisfactorily dealt with or are dealing with the matters the subcommittees submitted to them," Fuller said, adding there are several questions remaining concerning four of the 11 agencies, but none in regard to the Home Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, Historical Commission, and four theological seminaries, Southwestern, New Orleans, Midwestern and Golden Gate.

"The subcommittee reported there was one question regarding information it needed from the Foreign Mission Board that will be received in June. That was the only item, and it has nothing to do with the foreign missions enterprise and has only to do with information only the Foreign Mission Board has access to," Fuller said.

The chairman said the visitation subcommittee deferred action on the Christian Life Commission because of the announcement a search committee has been appointed to seek a successor to CLC Executive Director Foy Valentine.

"Because of his forthcoming retirement, the committee wanted to leave several items open for discussion until a successor is named. The questions have to do with style and approach and not with materials currently available," he said.

Regarding the two seminaries, Southern and Southeastern, Fuller said officials "have replied to our inquiries, as have the officials at the other institutions, but there remain several of their responses which the subcommittees want to continue to pursue and about which they want to continue to dialogue."

Fuller praised the seminaries and agencies for "having been most cooperative. Their reports, in several instances, have been exhaustive. We appreciate that thoroughness, as should all Southern Baptists."

The subcommittee which visited Southern Seminary, however, expressed "regret the seminary released its report to state Baptist newspapers before we made our response to it," Fuller said, explaining the Peace Committee and its subgroups had kept materials and persons discussed confidential. Now, he added, despite the Southern Seminary release, the "committee will continue our approach of confidentiality."

Fuller added that "although there remain several matters the committee wishes to pursue with agency and seminary leadership, we feel we must emphasize that at this stage in our work we generally commend the work of our agencies and seminaries and believe Southern Baptists should affirm them as well as prayerfully support them."

Political activities statement issued by committee

ATLANTA (BP)—A statement on political activities was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee during its May meeting.

The statement:

The Peace Committee finds that the extent of political activity within the Southern Baptist Convention at the present time creates distrust, diminishes our ability to do missions and evangelism, is detrimental to our influence and impedes our ability to serve our Lord.

Political activity within the convention since the late 1970s has reached a new level. Some inerrantists put together an effective political effort. Some moderates have attempted to match the effort of the inerrantists. A measure of political activity is inevitable in an organization which abides by democratic principles and processes.

Since the Southern Baptist Convention has never before been confronted with this degree of political activity, the convention has never made a determination of what political activity is inappropriate and what measure of political activity must be retained consistent with our Baptist heritage, organization and structure.

Regardless of what short-term measures are implemented, Southern Baptists must face this entire issue. The Peace Committee is continuing to receive input in this regard and to deliberate on the final recommendations in this area.

Charges of political excesses have been made against both groups by the opposite sides. The Peace Committee has not completed all of its investigations into political activities and although indications are that in many instances the charges are exaggerated, the committee finds that many people on both sides deplore the extent of political activity within the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Peace Committee makes preliminary findings as follows:

(1) Some spokesmen on both sides of the political spectrum have used intemperate, inflammatory and unguarded language, i.e., "going for the jugular," "Holy War," "independent-fundamentalists," "flaming liberal" and other pejorative terms.

(2) Some spokesmen on both sides of the political spectrum and the autonomous independent journals on both sides of the issue have labelled and attributed improper

motives to people with whom they disagree.

(3) Distribution of news is necessary in a democratic society. There have been instances when news releases have been altered, distorting the intent of the article and oftentimes creating confusion. In some denominational papers and in some autonomous independent journals, there has been prejudice against the conservative political activists and in some autonomous independent journals there has been prejudice against the moderate side.

(4) Although we have found indications of isolated voting irregularities at previous conventions, our preliminary finding concerning fraudulent voting has revealed no documented evidence of organized misuse of the ballot by any political group.

(5) The continuation of political activity within the convention at the present level will not serve the process of peace and reconciliation.

Roberts reports office burglary

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)—The offices of Lee Roberts, chairman of the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, reportedly were burglarized.

Roberts, president of Roberts Mortgage and Investment Corp., told Baptist Press the only thing disturbed in his offices was his file on the work of the Committee on Boards,

which nominates persons to serve on the 24 national entities of the SBC. Roberts said there was no sign of forced entry.

Capt. Ed McPherson of the Cobb County Police Department said the case is not being actively investigated "because it has no solvability factor. . . . According to this report, nothing was missing. All I can say is that a burglary was reported to us."

International

Called to a difficult task

by S. Mikael Carrier, Nettleton Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Jeremiah 1

Focal passage: Jeremiah 1:4-10,13-14,17-19

Central truth: God will enable persons to accomplish any task to which he calls them, no matter how difficult the task may seem.

When but a young man, Jeremiah (which means "God thrusts") responded to God's call and committed himself to the completion of the task assigned to him. He was called to a task that was awesome in its difficulty and scope. He was called to deliver a "bad news" message of doom and destruction upon everything that he loved.

He began his ministry in the days of Josiah the king of Judah, and for 42 years he preached in Judah, trying to save the nation from the judgment of God. Never did he see any indication that what he was saying had any impact at all upon the people, yet he was faithful to his task. In so doing, Jeremiah left an inspiring record of the greatness of God in his control over the nations and in the power of God in his ability to provide his children with all the resources they need to accomplish the tasks to which he calls them.

In Jeremiah's call experience we hear words from God as to his involvement in the preparation of Jeremiah for his particular task. The words, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; and I ordained you a prophet to the nations" (1:5) are reminiscent of the words written by Paul in Ephesians 1:3-6.

For the present-day believer, even as for the prophet Jeremiah, not only does God call us to ministry in his name but he prepares us for that ministry by his grace. Just as with Jeremiah, God is involved in our genetic make-up, unique temperament, social background, life experiences, basic abilities and spiritual gifts. God desires for us to employ our ministry abilities.

We will make the maximum contribution to God's kingdom and discover the greatest self-fulfillment in our Christian life when we (1) affirm that God called us to ministry in salvation; (2) know ourselves, our strengths, weaknesses and spiritual gifts; (3) allow the Holy Spirit to control us; (4) depend upon God for our strength; (5) look out to the needs around us; (6) be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's speaking; (7) start with something, take a risk; and (8) do the task willfully with diligence and courage trusting God for the outcome.

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Life and Work

With new Christians

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Focal passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Central truth: Mature Christians should encourage new Christians.

The evangelist preached a stirring sermon about God's love for the lost. After the message, a loving pastor stood at the front of the church to receive those who would make a public profession of faith in Jesus. A number of people responded as the congregation sang the invitational hymn. There was an indescribable joy as the power of the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of the lost.

Scenes like this have occurred several times across Arkansas this year during our Good News Revivals. There is a sad note, however. Statistics reveal that a large percentage of new Christians will never be active in the local church. What is the problem? What can we do about this? Paul gives us an insight as to how to address this problem. His method was for mature Christians to develop meaningful relationships with new Christians.

New Christians need to be taught courage to witness. Paul reminded the Thessalonians that even though he had been mistreated at Philippi he still had the boldness to witness to them.

New Christians need to be taught their witness must have credibility. Our message must not come out of false teachings, immoral practices, or insincere methods. God must approve the messenger. The message must please God, not man. It cannot be watered down, used for personal gain, or used for self-glory. Our credibility is directly linked to our character.

New Christians need to learn compassion. Paul uses two illustrations from a home to describe the warmth, compassion, love, and guidance new Christians need. First, they need the gentleness like that of a nursing mother tenderly caring for her children (v.7). Second, they need exhorting, encouraging, and imploring like a father would give his children (v. 11).

When we add the number of new Christians as a result of our revival, let us remember two things. First, let us give the praise to God for how he has moved in the churches across our convention. Second, a new Christian needs a loving and caring relationship with a mature Christian. He is an infant in Christ who needs a mature Christian to pour his heart and soul into his life.

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Bible Book

Rededication of Jerusalem

by Roy A. Fowler, First Church, Mountain Home

Basic passage: Nehemiah 11:1 to 13:3

Focal passage: Nehemiah 11:1-2; 12:27,30-31a,43-47

Central truth: The rededication of Jerusalem shows that the successful completion of a great project for God is an occasion for rejoicing and rededication.

When the Jews returned to their homeland, they did not settle in Jerusalem, because it lay in ruins. Now the Temple had been rebuilt and the walls were restored, but still not many of the people lived there.

Nehemiah ruled that one out of every 10 families had to move into Jerusalem. This was determined by casting lots (11:1). Then, others were asked to come voluntarily (11:12).

The rededication of Jerusalem (12:27) is the crown of Nehemiah's dedicated ministry to God. This was a day of gladness to be celebrated with thanksgiving, with singing, and with praise. Nehemiah divided the people with two companies. He led one group and Ezra led the other group as they encircled the city on top of the wall.

Then they gave thanks for all that God had done in their midst. They sang praises and rejoiced together. They offered great sacrifices to the Lord (12:43) and brought their tithes and treasures to him (12:44). God had given them so much. Now their opportunity to give to him had arrived and they responded with great joy and giving.

It is worthy to note also that this time of rededication of Jerusalem was for the whole family (12:43b). Even with this small mention of the family, Nehemiah recognizes the importance of family and home to God's people. The strength of the home is a real measure of the strength of the church and of our nation. How sad it is to see a mother and children alone at worship without the husband and father. Parents need to realize their need to be in worship as a family.

The study of this experience in the life of the Israelites as they rededicated Jerusalem should help us recognize the need for rededication in our lives. Ask yourself why you live where you do. Examine your life and ask for God's cleansing. Involve your entire family in worship together. Re-examine your giving habits. When you recognize God's goodness and love expressed to you, then your heart will be filled with thanksgiving and singing.

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Moore is willing to be nominated

AMARILLO, Texas (BP)—Saying he believes the primary responsibility of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention is reconciliation, Winfred Moore said he is willing to be nominated for the post when the SBC meets in Atlanta in June.

Moore, 66, told his congregation at First Church of Amarillo, Texas, May 11 he will allow his name to be presented for president of the 14.4-million-member denomination when it meets for its annual meeting, June 10-12 in the Georgia Union Congress Center.

The announcement ended months of speculation as to whether Moore, currently first vice president of the convention, would allow his name to be placed in nomination.

Moore told his congregation: "For a long time now, I have been deeply disturbed about the direction of our convention. At the present we are headed in the direction of making doctrinal agreement a prerequisite for cooperative missions and evangelism. Our Cooperative Program (unified method of support) was established because Baptists were confident that cooperation was the most effective way to reach the world for Christ. History consistently has shown the basic rightness of that decision.

"Knowing Baptists, I am sure that those who agreed to begin the Cooperative Program did not completely agree on doctrine. We have agreed and do agree on the authority of the Bible, but we do not and have not and will not completely agree on the interpretation of the Bible. What we did back in 1926 (when the Cooperative Program was founded) was to trust each other and to agree on the priority and wisdom of cooperative missions and evangelism.

"At this moment, we are at a crossroad in our history. We need to know just how important and grave the decision before us

is. We can choose the path of doctrinal uniformity as a prerequisite for missions, or we can reclaim the path we started on, the path of common commitment to missions, under God, under the authority of the Bible and in the freedom of the Spirit."

The statement continued: "It is because of my deep conviction that this is the path—the original path and the only right and baptistic path to lasting cooperative commitment to reaching the world for Christ—that I am brought to this moment and this statement.

"As cooperative Baptists, we must respect the integrity and freedom of our fellow Baptists. We must seek fairness for all Southern Baptists and join hands in the Great Commission. This is a crucial moment."

Moore said he came to the decision to allow his name to be presented "after much prayer," hearing from church members, and "those who have gone out from our church to serve on mission fields and in other churches, from veteran preachers and other long-time servants of God." He also noted the church "unanimously adopted a resolution of affirmation and support."

"I think God has put me in a place to help us reclaim our original mission and spirit. I do not want to be here, but by God's grace and under his leadership, I am announcing my willingness to be nominated for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention," Moore said.

He added: "I believe that the prime task of the president of our convention at this time is reconciliation, that his role, even as the role of a pastor, must be that of a servant, not a ruler. If I should be nominated and if I should be elected, I will give my best to these goals and to fairness for all of our churches and people."

Editors, writers hear views on Nicaragua policy

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two dozen Southern Baptist editors and writers heard conflicting views on U.S. policy in Nicaragua in a two-day briefing on international and domestic issues in Washington.

Hosted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the briefing featured U.S. senators, administration officials, a renowned television reporter and an evangelical social activist.

During a session at the White House, participants heard a highly-placed military officer assigned to President Reagan's National Security Council defend the U.S. position of aiding Nicaraguan "contras" seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government headed by Daniel Ortega.

The official, speaking on the condition he not be identified by name because he is a target of international terrorists, said U.S. policy in Nicaragua is based on national security objectives. "Any nation that acts out of anything other than its own national interest is wrong," he said.

He claimed Americans are being lulled into a "series of forgetting exercises" about Soviet intentions in Central America, a reference to the Cuban revolution of 1959 which effectively placed the Caribbean island in the Soviet orb. Nicaragua, he elaborated, has become a "massive military structure" that threatens its Central American neighbors and Mexico.

But evangelical social activist Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourner* magazine, disagreed sharply, saying assistance to the contras amounts to "U.S. aid to terrorism."

Wallis said U.S. policy is turning the prophet Isaiah's vision of peace "on its head," adding, "We are beating our plowshares into swords."

He also reviewed what he called the "shameful history" of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua. U.S. Marines invaded the Central American country in 1909 and with one brief interruption ruled it until 1935, when they withdrew, leaving former dictator