

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

12-16-1982

**December 16, 1982**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn\\_80-84](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn_80-84)



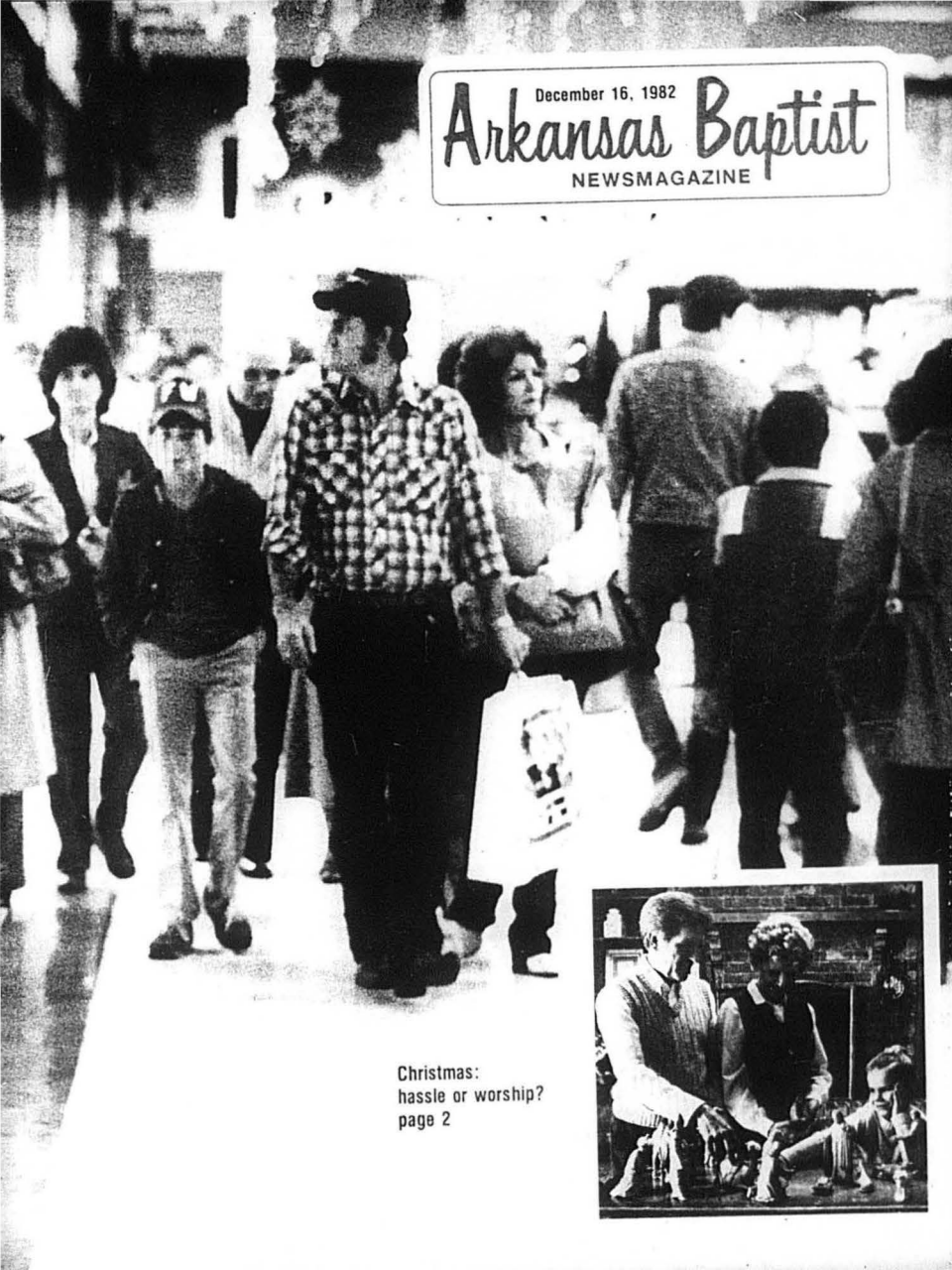
Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

---

December 16, 1982

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



Christmas:  
hassle or worship?  
page 2





ABN photo/Mike Gill

Is Christmas worth celebrating? Enmeshed in the hassle and hustle of the season Christians vow to find ways to avoid the burdens of more and more buying. In spite of good intentions, Christ almost gets elbowed to the edge of life at Christmas, obliterated in the sparkle and twinkle, and lost in the mountains of wrapping paper. Yet the celebration of the advent of Messiah, the breaking in on history of God's redemption renews His people. There's the uplifting side: worship, wonder, commitment afresh, hope for the future, heightened perspective on God's plan. Could we continue without celebrating Christmas? — BJK

## In this issue

### 8 Bouncing back

Arkansans sent reeling by severe storms and flooding the first two weeks of December are rebounding quickly, aided in part by the quick and generous response of Arkansas Baptists.

### 11 SBC sampler

Increasing support to the Cooperative Program and opposing government directed prayers and tuition tax credits were the most common themes as the 34 conventions of the Southern Baptist Convention met.

## Baptist named to head Civic Foundation

John Finn, formerly of Harrison and for the past year pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Roseville, Mich., has been named executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas Inc., effective Jan. 1.

Finn's election by the executive board of the foundation to succeed Ed Harris was announced this week by Erwin L. McDonald of North Little Rock, who is foundation president. Harris, a Methodist minister, is retiring Dec. 31, after more than 10 years in the chief administrative post of the organization.



Finn

Finn, 55, is an ordained Southern Baptist minister. He is a native Arkansan, born at Colt (Cross County) and educated in the public schools of Wynne. He received his higher education at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, and at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia.

Former pastorates include Carson Lake Church of Osceola, Gordon Street Mission at Harrison; First Church at Cotter, and Calvary at Hope.

From 1967 till last February, he was director of missions of the North Arkansas

Baptist Association at Harrison.

Long active in denominational affairs, Finn served two terms (1980 and 1981) as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Other denominational positions he has held include moderator for White River Baptist Association, president of Arkansas Baptist State Convention Pastor's Conference, member of the Executive Board of ABCS, and co-chairman of Steering Committee of Baptist Student Union Third Century Campaign for Arkansas.

In Michigan, he was moderator of the Macomb Baptist Association at Detroit and a member of the Nominating Committee of the Baptist State Convention.

He served 10 years in the U.S. Navy.

Mrs. Finn is the former Betty Crawford of Harrison, a graduate of Valley Springs High School of that city. The couple has a son, Rodney, 24.

The Finns will be moving to Little Rock Dec. 27.

The Christian Civic Foundation, now in its 26th year, is an inter-denominational organization that concerns itself with problems caused by drug addiction, beverage alcohol, pornography, and gambling. It succeeded an organization known as the Arkansas Temperance League, which was the successor of the Arkansas Anti-Saloon League. Its offices are located at 1007 Donaghey Building in Little Rock.

## New writers for 'lessons for living'

Two writers begin this issue units for Sunday School lesson commentaries in the ABN "lessons for living" section.

Robert Nodell Dennis, pastor of First Church at Trumann, begins this week as writer for Units I and II of a five-unit study in the Life and Work series, "A New Kind of Righteousness." Dennis will write six lessons for Sundays Dec. 19-Jan. 23.

Dennis has served as pastor of Trumann First since 1971. He has served other churches at Atkins and Stuttgart, and is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board six years, of the Arkansas Baptist Christian Life Council and is currently on the State Advisory Committee of the Student Department of the state convention.

He is a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi (Texas), and has received the M.Div. and the D.Min. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is married to the former Carol Sue Doyle of Corpus Christi and the father of two daughters.

Jack J. Bledsoe begins lesson comments for Units I and II in a four-unit study in the Bible Book curriculum of Romans. Bledsoe will comment on six lessons, dated consecutive Sundays Jan. 2-Feb. 16, 1983.

Bledsoe is pastor of First Church of Des



Dennis



Bledsoe

Arc. He has held full-time pastorates at Waldo, Danville, Monticello and Marianna in Arkansas and part-time pastorates at Camden and Sardo, Ark. He did supply and interim work in Georgia and Alabama during a commission in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954, and worked in churches at Wills Point and Arlington, Texas during seminary.

Bledsoe is a native of Benton, graduated from Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with the B.D. degree. He was enlisted in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946.

He is married to the former Myrta Ann Thomasson of Paris, Texas. They are the parents of two adult sons.



One of the most devastating sins which can befall a believer of Christ is to become convinced that he is a super Christian. One may believe himself to possess special knowledge, or feel more pious than others. Some believe themselves to have an unusual filling of the Holy Spirit. The end result is always the same — a spiritual pride which causes a person to become puffed up.

Satan sometimes uses dedicated Christians against themselves and the Kingdom's work. This ideology can lead a person to tragic extremes. Spiritual pride always provides a fertile ground for erroneous concepts and actions.

Such folly is not new. This was one of the major problems in the church at Colosse. Some felt that they had special knowledge from God. These people, called "gnostics", proclaim that all matter is evil. Thus, they said, the body is evil. For this reason, Christ who was sinless, only appeared to have a human body. They further maintain that all matter is eternal. So they denied the Creation account. They were certain about these assertions since they were the only ones provided with this special knowledge. In his pointed answer to this and other false teachings Paul said, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility . . . vainly puffed up in his fleshly mind." (Col. 2:18).

The Apostle Paul is saying that a religion which is based on ritualism and legalism is only a shadow of true Christianity. A real relationship with Christ is founded on a continuing fellowship with our Master.

False humility is not only harmful to an individual, but also to the cause of Christ. The marvel of Christianity is that the way to God through Christ is open to the simplest and poorest individual. When an individual demonstrates a false humility, it can be a stumbling block for others.

Spiritual pride is sinful. The truth is, that the closer an individual comes to Christ the more he recognizes his own inadequacy. Someone has said that if an individual's hands are completely covered with grease another spot will not show. But if one's hands are spotless, a single spot of grease will become visible. The closer we come to Christ the more his Holy Light will reveal the sin spots in our life.

There are several contemporary events which have produced an over emphasis on personal revelations and spiritual pride. The first was a sterile approach to Christianity in the late fifty's and in the early sixties, which almost completely denied that God deals with man in our present age. This rationalistic method almost ruled out all emotions. In reaction to this approach, some have moved too far in the opposite direction basing Christianity almost entirely on emotions and feelings.

A second factor in developing the present day problem is an emphasis made by existential theologians who maintain that there is no truth apart from personal experience. Often the result of this philosophy is to place personal experience above the scriptures. While it is true, that truth becomes relevant to an individual when he experiences it, the truth exists whether an individual has experienced it or not.

To combat this over-emphasis on emotions one should carefully study God's Word. When one is truly close to God, he will recognize the presence of sin in his life. The Apostle Paul said, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." If Paul felt that he was the foremost of sinners certainly no one today has a right to boast of his goodness or spiritual achievements.

The sad truth is that the best among us are continually confronted by the sins of the flesh. The carnal nature of man is always at war with the new spiritual nature that he receives through Christ. Paul expressed it thusly, "For that which I do I allow not; for that I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." (Romans 7:15).

Finally, great care should be exercised to not over-emphasize or exaggerate any Biblical doctrine. Any time a single teaching of the scripture is continually over-stated in one's thinking, this should serve as a danger signal. It is exceedingly important that we keep the doctrines of the Bible in balance.

Each of us should recognize the awesome effects of spiritual pride. As we see Christ in his Holiness and sinlessness, we can observe ourselves as we really are.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 81

NUMBER 48

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor  
Betty Kennedy . . . . . Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. . . . . Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Tommy Robertson, El Dorado, president; Charles Chesser, Carlisle; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Royer French, Fort Smith; Mrs. Jimmie Garner, Truman; Merle Milligan, Harrison; Hon. Elsjane Roy, Little Rock; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; and Jon M. Stubblefield, Magnolia.

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space 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.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (USPS 031-260) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Inc., 525 West Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$6.36 per year (individual), \$5.40 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.00 per year (Group Plan) and \$15.00 per year (to foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203



## Woman's viewpoint

Nancy Sisk

### A gift is 'something given'

During this time of year many people are using their "gift" or "hobby" to make Christmas presents. The ability to make things with our hands is a gift from God. There are over 40 different arts and crafts mentioned in the Bible. Probably the most noted comes from the ideal woman mentioned in Proverbs 31:13: "She seeks out the wool and flax and works with willing hands to develop it." (Amplified Bible.)

For years I taught knitting because I enjoy it and want to help others enjoy it as much as I do. One day a knock came at the door. Our youngest son, who was four, opened it and greeted one of my students, "Are you in trouble again?" The woman answered, "Yes, I am." He did not realize that her many "knitting problems", were really excuses for her to discuss some more pressing personal problems.

Whenever I teach knitting, some of the women often call or come to my home if they "need help". Many times I find that knitting is not the real problem.

For instance, one woman, whom I was teaching while living in Germany, was nervous, depressed, and very negative. She

and her family had been active in church in the States, but had drifted away from the Lord. She obviously was not satisfied with the way she and her family were living and she shared this with me. The knitting became an avenue of communication to help her resolve her conflicts. Before the course was over not only had she and her family become active in the Chapel, but her husband was playing the piano and her son was playing the organ.

In this day when crafts and hobbies are enjoying a renewed interest, have you ever thought about your gift being a means by which you may be able to share your faith in Christ, or help someone work through a difficult problem, or it may be a good time to pray for the one for whom you are making the craft item.

Nancy Sisk is the wife of Leroy Sisk, director of chaplaincy for the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. She is a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, and is an instructor writer for knit and crochet for Leisure Arts, Inc., North Little Rock. She is the mother of two sons and two daughters.



## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

### When the layman outlines the preacher's sermon

Occasionally I hear a teacher say with considerable pride after coming out of the classroom, "I really kept their heads down and their pencils working today!" This usually means at least two things to me — that the teacher lectured fast and furiously and gave the students little time to do anything but take notes for fifty minutes, and that the teacher seems to believe this is the best kind of teaching. It is certainly one kind of teaching, although it would be a terribly incomplete learning process if it were the only kind of teaching.

Recently in Houston I had a friend to tell me about a different kind of note taking. Wiley Caldwell, Ouachita alumnus and senior partner in one of the nation's largest law firms, was accompanying me in a search for dollars for Ouachita from several Houston foundations. He said he has developed the habit of taking notes while the preacher preaches, that is, he tries to outline the preacher's sermon. He then pro-

ceeded to share with me the results of this practice, in terms of which preachers are "outline-able" and which are not. Some preachers' ears should have been burning when he got through with them, and others would have blushed with pardonable pride at his compliments.

It might be a good thing if we had more people in the church congregation taking notes, outlining the sermon, and thus thinking deeply about the content of the sermon. It certainly should serve as self-discipline to keep the man or woman in the pew growing in their faith rather than tuning out the preacher. It ought to motivate the preacher to work even harder on the organization and communication of his message, especially if the note-takers would share with the preacher occasionally — as my friend Wiley does — what the sermon looks like when filtered through the ears and mind of a layman. I can see some problems, too, es-

## Letters to the editor

### Moody a matter for local churches

So far as I can recall, this is my first "Letter to the Editor." However, the latest salvo in the "apostasy controversy" prompts me to express some concerns and to offer a suggestion in the light of anticipated "return fire." I refer to the article in the *Arkansas Gazette*, Sunday, Nov. 28, 1982, which noted that Dr. Dale Moody said that he would not resign.

My concern is that there will be a rush for associations to pass resolutions calling for the [Southern Baptist Theological] seminary to dismiss Dr. Moody summarily. At issue here is the matter of Baptist polity. In Southern Baptist organizational pattern one unit of denominational organization has no authority over a unit of another denominational entity. Thus the association has no authority over the churches of its constituency nor does it have any authority over the agencies of the state or Southern Baptist conventions. Any breakdown in adherence to this practice is detrimental to all relationships among denominational units.

### ABN letters policy

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

pecially if note taking and outlining should become a mass movement. A neat and balanced outline (such as the traditional three points and a poem) is not always a surefire guarantee of a spirit-filled sermon that leads Christians and non-Christians to make much needed decisions and commitments.

And then there is the double danger of what might happen when a layman is attempting to preach. I already have problems explaining to people what I do when I am invited to "fill the pulpit" in churches. As a layman, unordained, and untrained in homiletics, I just talk or testify, and smuggle in as much as I can about Christian higher education and how we are continuing to grow at Ouachita Baptist University. However, if Wiley Caldwell were in the audience, I believe I could squeeze it into three points and a poem.

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

At the Convention, several expressed to me, "But we support the Seminary." It would be clearly noted that the state convention does not support the seminary. The support of the seminary, and any other denominational agency, comes from the churches. It is at this point where any expressions of concern should come in such matters as the "apostasy controversy."

My suggestion would be that each local church make its own expression of concern in this matter. Twelve hundred letters will make a vastly greater impact than one letter even though it is from an association or a state convention.

Nothing in what I have said above should be construed in any manner as agreeing to or condoning Dr. Moody's position. Jesus said, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish" (Jn. 10:28). Here I stand! — Carl M. Overton, Director of Missions, Central Association, Hot Springs

## A little confused

I read with interest the Baptist Press article in the Nov. 18 issue of ABN re: the revival that is sweeping government schools in Zimbabwe's bush. It appeared that the people at Baptist Press were excited about it too. I'm a little confused. . .

Many of us have been taking a lot of heat lately from the press (Baptist and otherwise), the Baptist Joint Committee, the A.C.L.U. et al. because we want to see Gideon Bibles in our schools, voluntary prayer reinstated, voluntary Bible clubs allowed on campus, and so on.

This man, Bob Parker, is leading discipleship training programs, preaching from John 3:16 and John 14:6, and leading people to Christ right there in the schools! (I love it!) Are we saying that this kind of evangelism is great for the schools of Zimbabwe but we don't want it here?

I must have missed something here, right? Maybe gospel outreach into the public schools (these are 12 year old kids remember) is fine for the poor natives in the bush, but not in the best interest of our sophisticated, cultural, American youth. Hummm?

Just thought I'd ask. Thanks. — A. E. Maines, Decatur

## The real test: love

Having reflected on the conduct and comments of some of the messengers during our recent state convention, I must confess that I long for the day when Arkansas Baptists will take seriously the section of the *Baptist Faith and Message* which has to do with Christian love, brotherhood, and treatment of others. Some of us might fail to pass the test of orthodoxy! — Jon M. Stubblefield, Magnolia

## No worship with Jews

**Question:** Should Christians worship with members of organized religious groups who do not believe in Jesus Christ?

The answer is found in I and II John. I John 2:22-23: Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

II John 1:7-10: For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Only a few verses of I and II John have been quoted, but further study in both epistles will verify the fact that Christians are not to worship with those who teach that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is not the true Messiah. — Thomas Fleming, Gentry, Ark.

## Grateful for Dr. Moody

My husband and I are missionaries to Uganda, presently on leave of absence and residing in Little Rock. In preparation for Foreign Mission Board appointment, I attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for two years. During that time, I was a student of Dale Moody. I would like to share a personal experience.

In my class under Dr. Moody, there was a very outspoken student who believed strongly in the security of the believer. Most of Dr. Moody's students, past and present, do believe this doctrine, and most continue to believe it even after studying under him. This particular student was much more adamant than most.

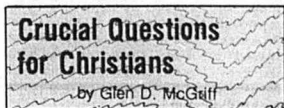
He and Dr. Moody debated almost every day. The student was relentless. Other students, regardless of their own beliefs, became intolerant and angry with the young man for the constant disruption. During the semester, I noticed something. Each day Dr. Moody and this student would leave the classroom arm in arm, continuing the debate. One day I happened to be behind them on the way out. I overheard their conversation and saw Dr. Moody put his arm around the student.

I realized something that day. Dr. Moody loved this obnoxious young man. As I learned more about Dr. Dale Moody, I

learned something very significant. He loves all his students. He loves the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He loves and cherishes his Southern Baptist heritage. He loves the Bible — all of it. And above all, he loves the Lord Jesus Christ. Believe me — it is evidenced by his life.

Dr. Moody makes his students think. He drives them to search the scripture with open minds. He causes them to pray for the Spirit's guidance in interpretation. I am glad he did that for me and for thousands of other ministers. I would not want a pastor who did not think, search, and pray.

I am, and will always be, grateful to have been a student of Dr. Dale Moody. And whether I do or do not believe in apostasy does not change that. — Kathy Manis Findley, Little Rock



Dr. McGriff, could you share the approach to counseling which you consider the best system for pastors to follow?

Your question is a difficult one. There are many philosophical and psychological systems. There are numerous therapeutic approaches that have validity. Research has indicated consistent and competent results gained from such therapeutic systems or approaches.



McGriff

Each pastor engaging in counseling should be as knowledgeable as possible with all therapeutic techniques. However, systems tend to stagnate and stifle growth. God, being the ground of all truth, should be man's primary pursuit.

It is easy for men in their pursuit of God to be deterred by the systems of other men. Systems designed to give perceptions of God can become barriers blocking one from the person of God. It became necessary (in the fullness of time) for God to disclose himself in the Person of Jesus. Precepts and principles which constituted man's systems were only partial — God is only fully disclosed in the person of his Son. Systems make suggestions of God, Jesus is the manifested substance. Systems create articulate religious rationale, Jesus is the authentic reality. Truth is gained in segments through systems but must not become the goal of earnest searches.

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

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

#### Francis McBeth

has received the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers award for 1982-83. Dr. McBeth is professor of music and resident composer at Ouachita Baptist University and composer laureate of Arkansas.

#### Harold L. McConnell

has earned the Certificate of Merit from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute, an arm of the Seminary Extension Department, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries. The certificate was presented to McConnell Nov. 14 at the Fellowship Church in Huntington where he is pastor.

#### Rick Wilson

is serving as pastor of the Chicot Road

Church in Mabelvale. He was a staff member of the Hebron Church in Little Rock.

#### Bobby Christmas

has resigned as pastor of the Sulphur Springs Church in Pine Bluff to become pastor of a church in Wichita Falls, Texas.

#### Jerry Wayne Starnes

was ordained to the ministry Nov. 27 at South McGehee Church in McGehee where he served as a deacon and church treasurer. He is now pastor of the Richland Church in Delta Association. Starnes is married to the former Jo Ann Golden of Dermott. They have two children, Leslie and Stephanie.

#### Hart Moore

has accepted the call to join the staff of Sheridan First Church as music and youth director. He was serving on the staff of the

Rosedale Church in Little Rock as minister of music/education.

#### Randall O'Brien

will receive his doctorate of theology in religion from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Dec. 18. He is instructor of religion at Ouachita Baptist University.

#### Keith Sanderfur

has resigned as pastor of the Anderson Tully Church at Trumansburg.

#### Larry Pendcraft

began serving Nov. 19 as pastor of the Lebanon Church in Harrisburg.

#### Ouida Keck

will receive her doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Iowa Dec. 18. She is assistant professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University.

## briefly

#### Park Hill Church

in North Little Rock will present a "Festival of Carols" for church members Dec. 19. David Doty, minister of music, will direct the 140 voice choir to be accompanied by a full orchestra and handbells. The performance will be repeated Dec. 20 for the public with no offering or admission charge.

#### El Dorado First Church

will honor former pastor Sam Reeves Dec. 26. Reeves, now working with retired ministers on the staff of the Louisiana Baptist

State Convention, will preach both the morning and evening messages.

#### Pulaski Heights Church

in Little Rock will ordain John Heard to the deacon ministry Dec. 19. He serves as Sunday School director.

#### Wynne Church

held a church-wide Foreign Missions banquet Dec. 1. Michael Anders, pastor of Clarendon First Church, was speaker, sharing FMB procedures for persons committed to service as foreign missionaries.

#### Brookwood First Church and Otter Creek Chapel

in Little Rock combined choirs will present the Christmas cantata, "A Night to Remember", on two occasions during the holiday season. David Hanning will direct the cantata to be presented Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. at the Brookwood Church and Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Otter Creek Club House. The public is invited to attend all performances. There will be no admission charge.

## Focus on youth

#### Holly Grove First Southern Church

youth will present a contemporary Christmas drama, "In My Father's House", at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 19. Pastor Kenneth Hodges has invited the public to the performance.

## Bike-a-thon to buy chairs

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello will soon have 215 miles worth of chairs. That's what Charlie Belknap, the home's executive director, plans to buy with the \$526 that represents miles peddled by the Royal Ambassador Crusaders of Yellville First Church. They aimed for raising \$100 with their bike-a-thon. The seven boys overshot that goal quite a bit, with the top rider, Allen Dale Martin, traveling 40 miles, earning \$146. The RAs presented their check to David Perry, Harrison Area Director for Arkansas Baptists' Family and Child Care Services, who noted that the home is now in the market for tables to compliment the chairs in a vespers room.



Hard-riding RAs and their counselors are (top) Counselor Jackson Clark, Geron Stice, Carson Backes, Arthur Hertzler, and Counselors Tom Angel and Olen Gene Ingram. (bottom row) Jason Copeland, Brent Wickersham, Michael Shields and Allen Dale Martin.

## No issue Dec. 30

Since the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* publishes 49 issues a year, skipping three weeks, there will be no issue of the ABN Dec. 30.

The Dec. 23 issue will include Sunday School Lessons for both Sunday, Dec. 26, and for Sunday, Jan. 2.

## Grady Nutt's friends establish memorial fund

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Friends of humorist Grady Nutt, who died Nov. 23 in a plane crash, have begun a permanent memorial fund in his name at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, his alma mater.

Nutt, 48 received the master of divinity degree from the seminary in 1964 and began work after graduation as director of alumni affairs. He was employed by the seminary until 1969, when he turned a hobby into a career and became a professional humorist and public speaker.

In recent years, Nutt's popularity nationwide soared as he appeared weekly on the television series "Hee-Haw." He fulfilled more than 200 speaking engagements yearly.

He and his family lived in Louisville, where they were members of Crescent Hill Church.

Those who wish to have a part in the memorial fund should address their contributions to Treasurer, Southern Baptist Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280.

Later, when contributions have been tallied, the fund will be applied to an appropriate permanent memorial, such as student aid scholarships, a visiting professorship or a capital project on the campus, seminary officials said.

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

... Revival has broken out in Zimbabwe. Southern Baptist missionaries have been leading weekly discipleship training programs in the schools of the bush country. More than 5,500 have accepted Christ in these meetings. This phenomenon continues to amaze observers in this Marxist-led country. Missionaries have not been able to get to all of the schools where souls are being saved.

... Great returns on investment are being received through our Foreign Mission work. Our foreign missionaries won and baptized over 127,300. This means there were 41 people saved and baptized for each missionary. If our pastors had done that well here at home, we would have baptized 1,476,000 people. We actually baptized 405,000. Our ratio was 40 church members for each baptism. In hard, cold reality, the Foreign Mission dollar produced a greater return than our dollars spent at home. Yet, we keep wanting to spend more on ourselves and less on others. In two-year-olds it is expected. In those of us who have received God's greatest gift, it is reprehensible. Friends, you need to guard your budgets lest they reflect a loss of faith and inconsideration of our missionaries. I have yet to see a church do really well over the years who secures itself while slighting the rest of the world by neglect of mission support. Think it over! I'm praying each of our churches will set new records in Lottie Moon giving and Cooperative Program giv-



Moore

ing. You also need to know that Lottie Moon gifts make up 46 percent of the total Foreign Mission budget. We have to do well in this matter.

... You may have your finest day in Sunday School attendance this spring. But, you need to order your materials and make your plans now. You can get all of your instructions and materials to help you at a very reasonable price, \$7.40 for materials for 100 people. The finest features of attendance campaigns have been included in our program, "The Way of the Cross." Isn't that a great theme for the campaign? You can do a first class job of leading your church to its highest hour with these materials and the blessings of God on you. Why don't you plan to begin the campaign around Feb. 27 and close it on Easter Sunday? You recently received an order form showing the items you will get to help you promote "The Way of the Cross Campaign." If you have lost it, contact our Sunday School Department for another and get your orders in soon. God will richly bless a ministry like this. Your vision and joy will be multiplied by what you see happen.

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

## Thailand Seminary celebrates 30th year

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary in Bangkok celebrated its 30th anniversary in October. The seminary which has graduated 117 students, was started just three years after Southern Baptists began work in Thailand.

## Newsmagazine Board Elects officers

Tommy Robertson, Director of Missions for Liberty Association at El Dorado, was elected president of the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* Board of Directors at the group's November meeting in North Little Rock.

Robertson succeeds Jon Stubblefield, pastor of Central Church at Magnolia. Re-elected as vice president was Federal Judge Elsjane T. Roy of Little Rock. Charles Chesser, pastor at Carlisle First Church, was elected to a third term as secretary.

Messengers to the annual meeting of the



Robertson



Roy



Chesser

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, who compose the ABN's corporate membership, named three board members to second terms. Elected for terms to expire in 1985 were Stubblefield, Lyndon Finney of Little Rock and Mrs. Jimmy Garner of Trumann.



## Missions bulletin

The Sitka, Alaska, First Church is in need of a bi-vocational minister of music/youth. Bill Branch, the church's pastor, describes the location as "a beautiful township" on the Island of Baranof in Southeast Alaska, population of approximately 8,500. He says the area's major industries are commercial fishing and lumber products. The pastor also thinks that there is potential for doubling the church's current attendance of 65-80.

Resumes and inquiries should be sent to Branch at P.O. Box 847, Sitka, AK 99835.



# Bouncing back

## Baptists rebuild, respond in aftermath of weather disaster

Arkansas Baptists patched, built, waded, swept, carried, donated, distributed, cooked and carried in the aftermath of the worst weather disaster in the state's history, pulling together to meet their own needs in some areas and turning to help their communities in many more.

Two churches reported flood damage early in the week following tornadoes and torrential rains hitting nearby statewide. White River Church in Oil Trough, a town of 500 on the White River, had water more than a foot deep in the auditorium and fellowship hall floor, said J. D. Passmore, director of missions for Independence Association. Damage was estimated at \$7,500. A crew of about 15 cleaned out the building the day the waters receded, Passmore said, and the congregation, which averages 50-60 in Sunday School, planned to hold services in the building the following Sunday.

The town of Oil Trough was hard hit, Passmore said, and the White River church will have a tough time bouncing back. The congregation is already heavily indebted from a recently-completed remodeling project, he said. Passmore feared the church's piano, the only instrument in the building, was ruined. "I'm sure it will take several weeks to get things back in a normal condition," Passmore said.

Jacksonport Church was reportedly under water to its eaves when the White River flooded the town of Jacksonport, near Newport. Cleanup crews from associations and churches in various areas, as well as locally, waited for the waters to recede so damage assessment and cleanup efforts could begin.

Other towns downriver braced in expectation of record or near-record crests.

A mobile disaster relief unit owned and operated by Baptist Men of Arkansas based at First Church of Diaz, a small town adjacent to Newport on the White River. The crew worked a feeding and clothing distribution center at the church and coordinated a volunteer cleanup effort with churches and associations across Arkansas.

A group of 30 men from Mount Zion association and Cabot moved into Imboden, where floodwaters from the Spring River damaged homes in lowlying areas. The crew worked with about 35 families, Imboden pastor James Newnam estimated, aiding in cleanup efforts and a search for a missing man.

The church at Imboden, meanwhile, spearheaded a community effort to feed displaced families and workers. Dorothy Woodson, a teacher of a young adult Sunday School class, said Tuesday, Dec. 7 women had been feeding 200 people per meal since dinner Sunday at the Imboden

community center. The church building served as a child care facility for relief workers and as a headquarters for furniture distribution. Pastor Newnam said mattresses and pillows were the most requested items.

More workers were being sought for the towns immediately downriver to move in as the flood subsided later in the week. Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood Director Neal Guthrie said groups from churches in Little Rock, Mountain Home and Searcy were planning to work when needed.

Oklahoma Brotherhood officials notified Guthrie that their disaster relief unit would be available if necessary. Guthrie placed them on standby as Clarendon anticipated a crest down the White River due Saturday.

Funds from the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention were being distributed even before the floodwaters went down, Pete Petty, director of missions ministries for the state convention, said. Petty said matching funds for state convention dollars are available from the Home Mission Board for emergency relief. He estimated a total of \$10,000 had been released to Pulaski and Black River Associations, with more requests likely to be acted upon later.

"That's just a drop in the bucket," Petty described the relief, "but it's not meant to be permanent disaster help. It's strictly emergency." Petty said the money is distributed through associations for families to buy items such as underclothes or bedding that cannot be obtained from other sources.

Early December storms causing two dozen tornadoes and subsequent flooding caused damage estimated near \$345 million in 42 counties, according to the *Arkansas Gazette*. Two hundred forty-six homes, 241 mobile homes and 103 businesses were destroyed, while 2,342 homes, 522 mobile homes and 378 businesses sustained severe damage.

The disaster served as a baptism by fire for the Baptist Men's disaster relief unit. Guthrie said he had hoped to hold a disaster relief workshop or a mock disaster to iron out rough spots noticed when the unit responded to its first emergency last spring when a tornado struck in Southern Illinois, but doesn't expect he will need it now. "I think we got our feet pretty wet — literally," he joked.

"It's been so much — so widespread," Guthrie remarked of the damage in the northeast Arkansas flood area. "To make matters worse, this was a relatively poor area. They didn't have much to begin with and they've lost everything they had."

The Arkansas Disaster relief unit has

been in operation just over a year. "This is a fantastic ministry," Guthrie said. "This is one way a lot of people are going to find the Lord, I think. Besides that, it's going to help a lot of people."

Men working with the disaster relief crew minister to the needs of victims and workers, Guthrie said, and share their faith as opportunity allows. One can only guess, he added, what the long-term effects might be on people who remember "the Baptists were there when we needed them."

Disaster relief is becoming a pet project of Brotherhood groups SBC-wide, Guthrie said. Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, South Carolina and Illinois all have similar units for disaster relief, and other state conventions have some kind of disaster relief program set up.

"It's relatively new (in Southern Baptist life), however, disaster relief has been around as long as there have been people. People will help people," Guthrie said.

Aside from the witness and ministry aspects, Guthrie said disaster relief bolsters interest in Brotherhood organizations. "It's getting a few more men into a ministry they feel like they can do," he said. "A lot of it centers around the volunteer movement in our churches. If we don't find something for these people to do, they'll find something else."

"Most of the men I talk to are excited about doing something for the Lord and for their church, but they need mobilization."

Guthrie said he would like to set up a network of trained disaster relief workers at churches around the state. Currently there are about 15 men, mostly from the Little Rock and Mountain Home area, active in the disaster relief ministry.

Petty, also, said a disaster of this magnitude brings to light inefficiencies in the state convention's overall plan for emergency relief. Petty said disasters fall under the Mission Department's special missions ministries. Through contact with associations in affected areas, the Missions Department has urged associations to set up either ad hoc or standing emergency relief committees to assess needs or collect food, clothing, furniture or money for disaster relief. The Baptist Building serves as a communications clearinghouse to match needs to resources as both become apparent.

Petty, who is chairman of the fledgling Arkansas chapter of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, said "Southern Baptists want to be involved with the coordinating. We want to be on the firing line of these things, and I believe we are."

A number of associations, churches and individuals coordinated fund raising and

by Bob Allen

other collection and distribution efforts. Guthrie said a half dozen churches had responded to pleas for clothing and food from his unit.

Glenn E. Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association, said 300 sacks of non-perishable food were collected and prepared for distribution by members of association churches. In addition, churches donated about \$5,000 to be coupled with state convention and Home Mission Board disaster relief aid to be distributed as cash assistance for families suffering loss in tornadoes in Alexander and Little Rock.

Distribution was continuing at three churches where Red Cross emergency relief centers were initially set up — at First Church of Alexander, Hebron in Little Rock and Plainview near the Stagecoach Road area. "It looks like we'll be able to respond pretty well to food and clothing needs," Hickey said. Hebron, Hickey said, took bus loads of surplus food and clothing to flood-stricken areas in Lawrence County in north-east Arkansas.

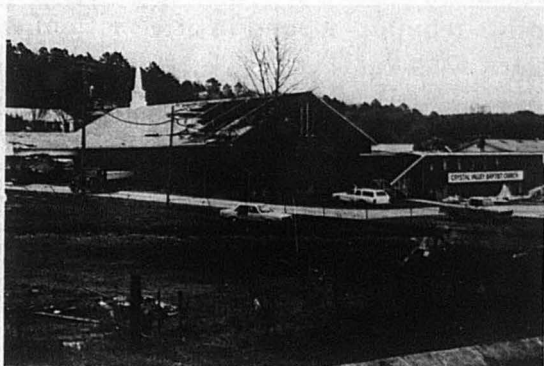
Jim Taylor, pastor of Calvary Church in East Camden, which served as an assistance center for tornado victims, reported that 1,000 were fed at the church on Friday and Saturday (Dec. 3 and 4) after a Friday morning tornado swept through a residential area near the church. About 75 church members assisted in the cleanup, Taylor said.

Ed Walker, pastor of Crystal Valley Church in Crystal Hill, one of two Arkansas Southern Baptist churches reporting serious tornado damage, said repairs got underway nearly as soon as the clouds rolled past. Part of the sanctuary roof was lifted off, as well as all roof over educational and office space.

A congregation of near 400, about average size, sat in folding chairs and stood in the church fellowship hall, Walker said, for Sunday morning and night services less than 48 hours after the storm. Eight Baptist churches and at least one from another denomination had offered the use of their building for either joint services or for the Crystal Valley congregation to use.

Walker estimated damage in the \$250,000-\$400,000 range. The church had applied for increased insurance the day before the storm, and was notified the day after that it was approved.

Crystal Valley's sanctuary is five years old, Walker said. All Sunday School space is less than three-and-one-half years old and some just a year-and-a-half. He estimated it will be five to seven weeks before the church will have full use of the building again.



ABN photo/Bob Allen

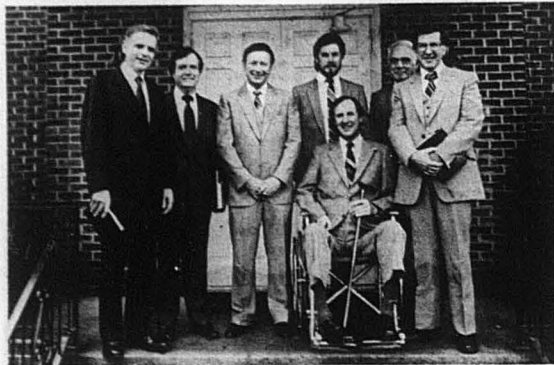


ABN photo/Bob Allen



ABN photo/Mike Gil

Workers begin repair of Crystal Valley Church (top), which received heavy damage when a tornado bounced through the west Little Rock area Dec. 2. (Above) Men from Friendly Hope Church in Jonesboro aid flood victims from Imboden in cleanup efforts. Eleven-year-old Brent Davis (left photo) wanted to give his all to help tornado victims in Alexander and other parts of Pulaski Association. When director of missions Glenn Hickey (left) sent out a plea for food, clothing or cash contributions from association churches, Brent donated a gallon-milk-jug-full of change of his personal savings. The gift amounted to \$53 of an estimated \$5,000 for disaster relief from the association. Also pictured is Bill Passmore, Brent's pastor from Shady Grove Church.



ABM photo/L. Everett Sneed

(Left) Bible conference participants (from left) John Wright, Bill Bennett, Lyndon Jackson, David Jackson, David Miller, Billy Walker and Jimmy Millikin. (Above) Southern Baptist College President Jack Nicholas (right) greets Bible teacher Earl Humble.

## College's Bible conference attracts 200

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, held its annual Bible Conference Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

The program, under the direction of evangelist Billy Walker, featured a number of speakers from Arkansas. The conference had approximately 200 people attending from several states.

Program director Walker said, "this was perhaps the best attended and finest program that we have had."

The conference was concluded with a message by Bill Bennett, pastor of First Church Ft. Smith, who spoke to the student body during the chapel period. In response to the invitation, more than 75 students made decisions for deeper commitment to the Lord.

Next year's conference will be held Dec. 5-7.

### Significant quotes from the speakers

**Earl Humble**, professor at Southern Baptist College, taught I Peter. In commenting

on the theme of the book he said, "there is a balance between theology and practical Christian living. Both dimensions are heightened by the catalyst of persecution. Knowing Christ as personal redeemer, following him in dedicated living, sharing him in devoted witnessing and joy in diversity are several themes that are woven into one."

**David Miller**, director of missions for Little Red River Association, said, "men are lost and they must be saved in order to be saved. This is the foundation of our missionary enterprise."

**John Wright**, pastor of First Church of Little Rock, said, "the reason we are not penetrating the pagan world is because we are not reflecting Christ properly. The purpose of the church, is to make known the invisible qualities of Christ. People are not rejecting Christ, but a false characterization of him."

**Jimmy Millikin**, professor at Mid-America Theological Seminary, said, "in evaluating our ministry we must recognize that there

are three areas of judgment. These are self judgment, the judgment of others and the judgment of the Lord. Paul said that he did not judge himself so we should not judge ourselves because such judgment could either produce pride or cause us to become discouraged. The only judgment that we should be concerned about is the judgment of the Lord."

**Everett Sneed**, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, said, "the bedrock of Christianity is the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The historical bodily resurrection of Christ can be established with absolute certainty. We can just as easily prove that Christ was resurrected as we can that George Washington lived and died."

**William L. Bennett**, pastor of First Church of Ft. Smith, said, "though we must condemn sin, the gospel is good news and it is positive. There is a need for a balanced life and a balanced ministry. We cannot go off the deep end on one doctrine and hope to build a great church."

## Theology, education, ministry to be taught

Three courses will again be offered as Arkansas' Seminary Satellite Program begins the spring semester Feb. 7. Lehman Webb, Arkansas coordinator for seminary external education, says that classes meet each Monday for 10 weeks at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

The course on Acts and Pauline Epistles, beginning at 9 a.m., will be taught by Thomas C. Urrey, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth.

Dr. Urrey is a native of Hope and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and of Southwestern. He has been pastor of churches at Thornton and Stuttgart in

Arkansas.

Ferris Jordan, associate professor of adult education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will teach education of adults. This class will begin at 1:15 p.m. A Baton Rouge native, Dr. Jordan received his education from Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary.

The education class will be an examination of the objectives, environments, organization, curriculum and activities for the education of adults within a Southern Baptist context.

The course in ministry development, taught by Larry Baker, will begin at 6 p.m. each Monday. Dr. Baker, who is academic

dean at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, is a Louisiana native who served as pastor of First Church of Fayetteville (Ark.) from 1975-78. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and Southwestern Seminary.

Dr. Baker's class will study the role and skills of the contemporary minister with special attention to evaluating and strengthening the minister's personal support system and a focus on self-discovery and career assessment.

Information about registration for any or all of the courses may be obtained by writing Lehman Webb at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

# CP, church-state popular at most SBC state conventions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Increasing support to the Cooperative Program and opposing government directed or scheduled prayers and tuition tax credits were the most common themes as the 34 state conventions of the Southern Baptist Conventions met.

By the time the final budgets had been adopted 20 conventions had increased the percentage of their collections they will send on to national and worldwide missionary and educational causes through the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified, voluntary giving program.

Noteworthy in the group were the Hawaii convention that approved its first increase in CP giving since 1952 (jumping two percent to 27 percent), Michigan that voted its 12th consecutive yearly increase of one-half of one percent (to 26 percent), Nevada which increased two percent (to 18 percent) and Oklahoma which climbed to 45 percent with a one-percent increase.

Ten states, including the first and third highest percentage states (Florida at 48 and Georgia at 45), voted to fund the national CP programs at the same level as last year and four decreased their percentage support. West Virginia made the biggest cut (three percent to 22.5) while the District of Columbia dropped two percent (to 21.5), Virginia decreased one-half of a percent (to 38) and South Carolina decreased four-tenths of a percent (to 38.31).

Historic Baptist insistence on the separation of church and state was reflected in votes on government involvement in structuring school prayers or prayer time and a proposal to give tax credits to parents who send their children to private schools.

Seven states, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee approved resolutions opposing tax credits.

Opposition to "government directed or scheduled prayers" or statements that the "First Amendment is sufficient" and "the Supreme Court has never outlawed voluntary prayer" surfaced in resolutions adopted by messengers in Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia while calls for separation of church and state were adopted in Arkansas, California and Washington D.C.

Other widespread resolution topics included raising the legal drinking age to 21 (five states), working toward peace (seven states), relieving hunger (six states) and opposing gambling (five states).

Most states reported quiet conventions with little debate.

Louisiana messengers opposed the teaching of "any religious dogma" either sup-

ported or opposed by Louisiana Baptist in public schools (even Creationism), opposed President Reagan's prayer amendment and adopted 12 other resolutions without debate.

Georgia adopted the budget, heard what was expected to be a controversial executive committee report and went through the entire resolution process without any debate and Mississippi tabled two controversial resolutions (one attacking the *Reader's Digest Bible* and another calling for an investigation of Mississippi College) rather than wrangle over them.

The major exception was in Arkansas where messengers waged heated debates over two issues. The first, a call for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville to fire professor Dale Moody because of his views on apostasy (losing one's salvation) passed overwhelmingly but not before name calling and harshness marred the convention.

The second issue, a recommendation to allow Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark. to move from junior college status to four-year status failed by 42 votes, 417-459.

Messengers didn't argue at the Kansas-Nebraska Convention but they did spark controversy when they adopted a resolution critical of James Dunn and the organization he heads, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The resolution said Dunn's outspoken opposition to the prayer amendment and his association with People For The American Way had "embarrassed" Southern Baptists and if he failed to start reflecting the feelings of the majority of Southern Baptists then the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention should terminate the SBC's relationship with the BJCPA (the SBC contributes approximately 80 percent of the BJCPA's budget).

Dunn has responded with a lengthy letter.

North Carolina stood outside the norm for 1982 two ways — it had aggressive debate and it was the lone Baptist state convention to endorse the prayer amendment. North Carolina messengers backed the President's proposal by a 506-308 vote in one of the last items of business considered. North Carolina was also the only convention to adopt a highly restrictive abortion resolution.

That measure opposed abortion except to save the physical life of the mother. South Carolina defeated a similar resolution while messengers in Alabama and Texas repeated traditional Southern Baptist stances opposing "social abortion" or "abortion on demand" but accepting the

need for the procedure "to protect the mental or physical health of the mother or in cases of rape and incest."

The norm of electing a pastor as president was ignored in two states, Virginia and South Carolina.

Christine Gregory, a six-term president of the Woman's Missionary Union and a former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, became the first woman president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Her election was even more unusual in that she was elected without opposition.

South Carolina wasn't as uncommon since newly-elected president B. F. Hawkins was a pastor for 30 years. He retired last year after 10 years as director of stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion for the South Carolina convention.

Illinois elected its first black president, Don Sharp, a Chicago pastor.

Other highlights from state conventions included:

Florida established a debt ceiling for all convention buildings of \$5 million with an annual amortization ceiling of \$75,000;

Louisiana voted to move into partnership with Nevada Baptists and with Zimbabwe.

Maryland adopted a plan to increase its Cooperative Program percentage based on the inflation rate and state convention receipts — for every one percent state receipts increase above the inflation rate, CP giving to the national level jumps one-half of a percent;

Missouri passed resolutions urging that a church's support of the Cooperative Program be considered before electing or appointing that church's pastor to leadership positions within the convention and asking that convention presidents use their appointive power fairly;

Northern Plains made plans to "become the only SBC state convention to dissolve" with final steps approved for Wyoming to split away to form a separate convention, the Montana fellowship being recognized and the encouragement of the establishment of a Dakota fellowship to include North and South Dakota;

South Carolina voted to move into partnership with Puerto Rico and, "by 1984 maybe the Virgin Islands" to help promote Southern Baptist work;

Tennessee became a pioneer among Baptist state conventions in providing for ministers who are forced to resign from their church, funding a plan that will pay the pastor \$100 a week for 13 weeks;

And West Virginia accepted two churches from Virginia and one from Kentucky into its convention.

## Church Training

### Youth-Adult workshops scheduled across state

With almost 55,000 youth and adults enrolled in Church Training in Arkansas' Southern Baptist churches, it is our objective to assist these churches in providing the finest possible training opportunities. During the week of Jan. 17, 1983, 15 area Youth-Adult Church Training Workshops will be conducted to help strengthen discipleship training in our churches. These one-night workshops will provide separate conferences in each location for leaders and members of youth and adult training programs. Pastors, staff members, Church Training Directors and associational leaders are also invited to attend.

The locations of the workshops are as follows:

Monday, Jan. 17: First Church, Fayetteville; First Church, Mt.



Holley

Home; Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro; Calvary Church, Blytheville; Immanuel Church, El Dorado.

Tuesday, Jan. 18: East Side Church, Ft. Smith; First Church, Harrison; First Church, Batesville; First Church, West Memphis, Beech Street First Church, Texarkana.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Second Church, Russellville; First Church, Pine Bluff; First Church, Monticello; First Church, Hot Springs, Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Workshop leaders include Sunday School Board and State Convention leaders from our state and other states. This will be one of the most extensive training opportunities offered for youth and adult leaders, and members who attend these workshops will receive practical helps in the use of dated curriculum materials, Equipping Center Modules, DiscipleLife and DiscipleYouth, and other short-term training opportunities. — **Robert Holley, director**

## Sunday School

### The Way of the Cross

Response to "The Way of the Cross" enrollment/attendance campaign has been encouraging. Participation in this six week campaign, suggested for Feb. 27-April 3, 1983, will enable churches to increase their attendance and enrollment.

On the first Sunday in February members and prospects will be asked to sign a personal commitment card indicating that they will do their best to be present each of the six weeks of the campaign.

Classes and departments will set enrollment and high attendance goals for the six weeks of the campaign. These goals will be combined to form the church-wide goals for the campaign. High attendance day is scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 3.



Rattton

Promotional materials are available on a cost recovery basis. Packages serving 100 persons contain the following items: 14 class posters (space for nine names on each poster), 125 personal commitment cards, instruction sheets, 700 stickers. An order form has been mailed to each pastor in the state. Material should be ordered soon.

This campaign was originally designed by Herbert West, a layman who was outreach director in the Watson Chapel Church, Pine Bluff. Mr. West is presently serving as outreach director in the Highland Heights Church, Benton.

Freddie Pike, growth consultant in our department, was the director of missions in Harmony Association when the campaign was designed and used. He reports that it was successfully used in Harmony Association and beyond. — **Pat Rattton, preschool consultant**

## Evangelism

### Joy Explo '82: our youth in evangelism

At 2:05 p.m. Dec. 28, 1982, over 2,000 young people will be bowing their heads to talk to God about their lost friends. They will pray for five minutes asking God to save these people and to use them in reaching their friends who are without Christ. This small five minute spot on the Joy Explo program equals to 167 hours of prayer before God for the lost young people of Arkansas.

In Little Rock, you will enjoy the music of Roger Copeland of Second Church. We are featuring "Under Construction", a Christian music group. Mike and Faye Speck of Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith, will be singing and playing in both locations. West Memphis will feature in addition to the



Kent

Specks, John Dresbach of Osceola and Silent Friends from Calvary Church, East Camden, Ark.

Joy Explo features some of the finest Bible teaching that can be found anywhere. Our Little Rock Bible teacher is Mike Canady, who is a general evangelist in Malawi, Africa. He is a career missionary on furlough from the Foreign Mission Board. Mike is an outstanding Bible teacher and missionary that our young people need to meet. His life radiates his love for Christ and the reaching of people. He will challenge our young people in their own Christian service. Our West Memphis Bible teacher is Gerald Taylor, who is a native of Arkansas. He is pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock and an excellent teacher of God's Word. We are very happy to have him among our program staff. You will be glad your church group attended Joy Explo '82. — **Wes Kent, Pre-College Associate**

## Stewardship

### The spirit of giving

The Christmas story is summarized in a statement from John 3:16. "God so loved the world that he gave..." In response to God's love gift, Christians give.

This spirit captures the mood of Christians during the Christmas season. At no other time during the year are believers more generous. For some it is an opportunity to catch up with good intentions while for others it is the last period to take advantage of liberal policies on tax deductions. The majority, however, are moved by the liberality demonstrated by God's gift.

Believers give! An unending list of causes confront those who want their resources to match real needs.

Families are at the top of the list. In God's economy, family

needs aren't forgotten. Believers have the responsibility to give to family members.

The local church provides golden opportunities for those who want their God-given riches to minister. The church discovers local needs among families who are unfortunate or unemployed. Any church alert to ministry opportunities will uncover areas where finances can expand the witness.

Some churches are behind on budget requirements. December is a good time to catch up. Our attention is focused on world missions. Southern Baptists are looking for \$58 million this year. December's opportunities for giving are not limited. The spirit of giving is giving as God gave. — **James A. Walker, director**

## International

### *Jesus' birth and early life*

by **Jeré D. Mitchell**, First Church of Fayetteville

**Basic passages:** Luke 2:4-7, 22-32, 52

**Central truth:** Jesus is king for all men.

Luke makes a point to tell that Jesus was of the royal line of David. He also specifies the place of his birth, Bethlehem.

Both of these matters would be of interest to a Jewish reader because they are fulfillment of prophecy.

They are of interest to us today because they point out the faithfulness of God to do what he has promised. The fact of God's faithfulness to his word can be both encouraging and discouraging. To those who are obedient to God and love him and serve him, they can be assured of God's continued blessings now and forever.

To those who are disobedient, the fact of God's faithfulness should be a strong warning. God doesn't kid around. He means what he says. Disobedience will be punished.

At the same time that Luke points out the royal line of Jesus, he pictures the broad implications of that with Jesus being born in a cattle stall, with the feed bunk for a baby bed. A strange place, indeed, for a king!!

Jesus is a king for all people; not just of the Jews, nor of the royal class. He is the king of the people. These humble surroundings should help us to see that Jesus belongs outside our beautiful church buildings also. We must tell of his birth.

Jesus' early life as a boy and young man receives little attention as far as the Biblical records are concerned. From the little that we know, we can assume that he received good religious training in his home. These early years were years of preparation for the work for which he came to earth.

Parents today have a very important responsibility for providing religious, moral and social training for their children that they may be used of God. Many of our great leaders today testify of the tremendous influence of their home and of the training they received from godly parents.

The lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian teaching, Uniform Series, copyright by the International Council of Education. Used by permission.

### Child care director

Baptist Church in North Little Rock needs director to supervise and schedule Child Care Division. Approximately 70 hours a month (mostly nights) at \$5.00 per hour. Experience is required and a record of past employment must be submitted. Call 375-2347 for interview.

## Life and Work

### *The birth of the righteous one*

by **Nodell Dennis**, First Church of Trumann

**Basic passages:** Matthew 1:18-23; 2:1-2, 11

**Focal passages:** Matthew 1:18-20; 21, 23; 2:1-2, 11

**Central truth:** Jesus is God's Salvation.

1. Vital to our faith is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. The angel assured Joseph that the child in Mary's womb was, indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit. If Jesus had not been born the perfect Son of God his sacrifice on the cross would not have been sufficient to effect man's salvation.

2. Also, what God did in Mary is a picture of gospel work in man's life. In Luke 1 Mary questioned God about how she a virgin would give birth. The answer? "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Lk. 1:37). Mary could not produce a son, but God could give her one. We cannot produce God's salvation, but God can accomplish it in us.

3. Two things happen when salvation is accomplished in a person's life.

Sin is forgiven. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." The Jew expected this to come in the Messianic age when he would be delivered from Roman rule. This was not God's way. Jesus took man's sin to the cross, and, alongside of him, the sins of the world were nailed. One need only accept this great fact by faith and trust his cleansed life to the hands of Jesus.

A Savior abides forever. Immanuel means God with us. The name does not appear again in Matthew, but the equivalent is seen in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always."

This abiding Savior is a Savior for all men. While his own did not receive him (Jhn. 1:11), wise men came from the East to worship him. It was seen early that he is Savior for Jews as well as Gentiles. These men gave him the most valuable gifts the East had to offer — gold, frankincense and myrrh. A real act of worship is to give the Savior something that is valuable to us.

While Jesus is ignored by some, rejected by others, he is a joy to all who find him just as he was to the wise men.

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

**FIBERGLASS**  
BAPTISTRIES / STEEPLES

LARGE SELECTION - FACTORY DIRECT




FOR FREE CATALOGS  
CALL TOLL FREE  
**1-800-527-8438**  
OR WRITE

**SUPERIOR FIBERGLASS, INC.**  
BOX 1308    ARCADIAVILLE, FL 32826

## Bible Book

### *The birth of the king*

by **Jack Bledsoe**, First Church of Des Arc

**Basic passages:** Matthew 1:18-25, 2:9-12

**Central truth:** Jesus is God himself, come to establish his righteous reign in the hearts of men.

Having established the lineal descent of Jesus from David the king of Israel, who was promised that the scepter (symbol of his divinely appointed right to the throne of Israel) would never depart from his line, Matthew moves in this passage to establish that Jesus is more than just the son of David, he is, indeed, God himself, who has become incarnate in human flesh, to live with us. In verse 21 Matthew establishes God's motive, deliverance from the bondage to sin. The birth of Jesus Christ is truly the birth of the king.

Contemporary studies of Hebrew family life indicate that girls were betrothed (an engagement with legal and moral restrictions), soon after reaching child-bearing age, or approximately 13 years of age. The actual marriage ceremony would be conducted at some indeterminate time in the future. Mary's condition put her at the mercy of her husband to be, and he had every right under the law to dissolve the betrothal.

We are helped by Luke 1, where he records the selection process of the Holy Spirit in choosing Mary, and Luke probably received his information from Mary herself. The appearance and message of the angel in verses 20-21 helped Joseph face the issue squarely. Being a "righteous man", he was willing to listen to divine instruction and submit himself to divine leadership, in spite of appearances. In verses 24-25 he demonstrates that willingness by legally consummating the marriage.

The usurper to Israel's throne, Herod, was not of David's lineage, and in spite of his kingly trappings, was passed over by those who sought the king. Royalty humbles itself only to a greater royalty and they paid homage by their actions and their gifts to him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, incarnate in a little child.

God is with us truly in Jesus Christ, and we need today to acknowledge His royal right to rule in our hearts.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist churches copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### Church bus for sale

1972 Ford — 60 passenger  
361 V-8 engine, power steering  
Phone: (501) 782-5800 (Ft. Smith)

# Bold Ministries presents "Nothing Is Impossible"

**BOLD MINISTRIES**  
3105 Azurite  
Plano, Texas 75075  
214/596-1202



**Dr. Ludwig Otto**  
President and Founder



You may receive any or all of the items listed below by a contribution in any amount to **Bold Ministries**. We request, however, that you return the Video Tape within a seven day period. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE USED TO SUPPORT THE REACHING OF THE LOST FOR JESUS CHRIST. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

## **Book - How To Protect Your Children"**

Written by Dr. Otto. Acclaimed by many:

**Dr. Bailey Smith, Pastor**, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Oklahoma -- "I love the little book, 'How To Protect Your Children.' You will want to have one. Please buy one for your sake and your children's. It is the very thing you've been looking for and didn't know where to find it. It elevates the home and lifts up Christ."

**Dr. Paige Patterson, President**, Criswell Center for Biblical Studies -- "This book should by all means be read. It is much overdue. The conclusions that Lou Otto draws here are not only significant, but they ought to be read by every pastor and every parent."

**Rev. Dale Burris, Pastor**, Willow Park Baptist Church, Houston, Texas -- "May we take the principles prescribed in this volume and tap the untapped resources of childhood faith."

**Dr. Paul Stripling, Executive Director**, Waco Baptist Association -- "It is excellent material and I want you to know how supportive I am of the work you are doing in preparation for this book."

**Ron McGee, Sheriff**, Noble County, Perry, Oklahoma -- "This book has opened me up personally, to the need and has inspired me to take action."

**Dr. James Eaves, Professor of Evangelism**, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary -- "You are writing in a very needed area. America faces a real crisis in the area of children. The churches need to pay the price to minister effectively to children and their families. Your book not only gives a lot of good information, explains and applies the scriptures, but also provides strong motivation. All of these elements are necessary for a book to be useful. I think you have combined them well."

## **Video Tape - "Evangelizing the Young"**

Produced by **Covenant Communications**. Available in 1/2 or 3/4 inch, Beta or VHS. This tape should be viewed by anyone interested in the future of our young people. 22 minutes in length and in full color, this video tape not only challenges us to reach the young for Jesus Christ, but also explains the role of **Bold Ministries**.

Cameo appearances of political leaders, law enforcement officers and Christian educators are included in this vital presentation. Every church should have a copy of this tape in their media library.

## **Cassette Tape - "You Can Change Your Public School"**

This 30 minute tape explains what is taking place in Public Schools throughout our country. Many have acclaimed this concise dynamic tape as one of the clearest presentations of its kind. It concludes by giving you four practical steps to changing your Public School.

# More than CONQUERORS

## **Bold Ministries**

**"Nothing Is Impossible" Meetings**

**National Association of Christian Educators**

**Bold Kids For Christ**

**National Association of Christian Peace Officers**

**Bold Publishing**

For more information concerning any of these five ministries, contact: **Bold Ministries, 3105 Azurite, Plano, Texas 75075 -- (214) 596-1202.**

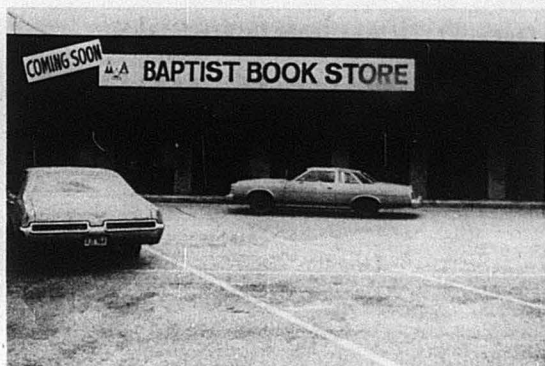
(paid advertisement)

## WMU meets old need with new publication

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — A new monthly missions booklet geared to deaf women and to women whose second language is English is now being published by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention.

Called *Our Missions World*, the booklet is thought to be the first missions material published for these two groups within the SBC. According to Doris Diaz, director of the WMU language department, plans have been discussed for at least ten years.

Ten issues of the booklet will be mission study material adapted from *Royal Service*, WMU's magazine for Baptist women. The other two issues will contain materials for the weeks of prayer for home and foreign missions.



The Baptist Book Store in Little Rock is moving. The move is underway and an announcement of an opening date is expected soon for the store's new location at the West Markham Shopping Center on Markham Street in west Little Rock. The location will be convenient to I-630 and I-430 traffic and will be easily accessible, bookstore manager Bob Barnett says. In the meantime, the Book Store will remain open at its old location, 4418 S. University.

**Park Hill Baptist Church**  
201 East "C" Street, North Little Rock  
invites you to a  
**Festival of Carols**  
Monday, December 20, 7 p.m.  
130-voice choir with orchestra  
and handbells.

## Baptist Book Store new location

9101 West Markham, Little Rock, Arkansas  
(corner Barrow Rd. and West Markham, exit Barrow Road off I-630)

Phone: 225-6009.

For your shopping convenience, open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**BUILDING . . .  
BUILDING . . .  
BUILDING . . .**  
Church Pews & Pulpit  
Furniture, Laminated  
Arches, Decking  
and  
*Fiberglass Specialties*  
Stocking Distributor

BAPTISTRIES  
& BAPTISTRY  
HEATERS

**CENTRAL**  
*Manufacturing Co.*  
P.O. Box 695 - Fifth and Vine  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72115  
(501) 374-6008

HENDERSON  
**CHURCH SIGNS**

Request  
Free  
Color  
Brochure

Excellence in  
Church Signage

Call Collect  
A.C. 318-377-0555

P.O. Box 1114 120 Pine St. Minden, La. 71055

Passenger  
**Van**  
headquarters  
Nice late models  
5 passenger to 15 passenger  
Special prices to churches

**QUALITY**  
AUTO SALES  
(501) 268-4490  
1500 E. Race, Searcy, Ark. 72143

**LOVE PLUS**  
*encounters*

The Keys to  
Successful Family Living  
can belong to  
every church in America  
through our Weekend Encounters.

FOR INFORMATION WRITE:  
13771 N. CENTRAL EXPY., SUITE 711  
DALLAS, TX. 75243

ENTIRE  
NEW  
TESTAMENT  
ONLY

**\$22.50**

**THE BIBLE**  
KING JAMES VERSION  
**ON CASSETTE TAPE.**

- NARRATED BY ALEXANDER SCOURBY!
- ALL CASSETTES CARRY LIFETIME GUARANTEE!
- EACH SET COMES IN A BEAUTIFUL PADDED VINYL ALBUM!

**CHRISTIAN CASSETTE LIBRARY B-A**  
P.O. Box 280-480, Dallas, TX 75228

Please rush me:

12 Cassette Album of New Testament \$22.50  
 36 Cassette Album of Old Testament 69.25  
 48 Cassette Album of Entire Bible 87.25

(All albums mailed same day order received)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



# Angels appearing in Bethlehem again

by Elizabeth F. Smith

BETHLEHEM (BP) — Shepherds in a field near Bethlehem are seeing and hearing angels again.

Twice weekly a "heavenly host" appears to give the glad tidings of Christmas. Four little blond angels leave the host and skip along, leading the shepherds to a stable.

The four, children of Southern Baptist representatives to Israel who live in Jerusalem, are part of the cast of "The Nativity Play of Bethlehem."

The shepherds are Arabs from villages in the Judean hills and the 60 or more other actors in the scene are Americans or Israel-

White House in Washington, D.C. Last year de Araujo and his professional theater company brought the play to Israel along with his original "Passion Play of Jerusalem."

Since they started their angel roles, the true meaning of Christmas has become real to Allison and Tyler Anthony (children of John and Connie Anthony of Arkansas), Melody Burnham (daughter of Jim and Mary Anne Burnham of Georgia and Tennessee) and David Peach (son of Jarrell and Shirley Peach of Texas and Missouri).

All four children agree angels come from God. Tyler, almost six years old, says an angel is "a spirit of God in heaven" who is "in rooms when kids are scared."

"How do we act the part of an angel?" Melody, 10, asked. "We have to be graceful and flowing and not smile." The idea of an angel's not smiling is also hard for eight-year-old Allison. She has looked at many pictures of angels and not found one smiling. "They are so solemn," she exclaimed.

Not smiling is the thing Melody likes least about being in the play. David, also eight, said he has to work hard to keep his younger friend, Tyler, from looking at the audience. "'cause he will get into trouble if he does'."

It was at Allison's initiative that the children tried out for the play when the director came to their school looking for actors.

Allison talked Melody into going with her. Little brother Tyler tagged along for the adventure. All three were chosen and

were asked to bring along a friend who also had blond hair. David was their unanimous choice.

When they finish the play's 20-week season, David and the girls want to be in another play. However, Tyler is not interested. "I didn't ask to be in the play," Tyler explained realistically. "Frank wanted me because of my blond hair."

Many animals are used in the play — horses, camels, donkeys and sheep. The 10 sheep sometimes cause the children problems during the manger scene when they get close enough to tickle them or nibble at their costumes. Their big friend, the angel Gabriel (played by Randy Allen Hill, a recent high school graduate from Maryland) tries to make the animals move away so the children can remain very still.

David described their costumes as "long, and white, sorta like a robe with holes for your hands." Melody added, "When you hold up your arms, they look like wings." A gold belt and sandals complete the costume. David confided they also wear long pants and thermal undershirts. "'cause we would freeze half to death if we didn't'."

When the children leave Bethlehem, they leave their costumes behind. Is their angel-like behavior left behind also or do they act like angels at home? "Not really," David admitted, "I never think of it." Allison answered with an emphatic, "No," and explained, "I act like a little girl, sometimes good, sometimes bad."

## Are you moving?

Please give us two weeks advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address below and send to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

017557  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 5TH A  
NASHVILLE  
SBC  
GCRP  
DATE  
31203

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

lis of Christian, Moslem and Jewish backgrounds.

On Sunday and Wednesday evenings, hundreds of spectators, mostly overseas visitors, sit on bleachers to view the play enacted in a field owned by the YMCA. The "stage" is known locally as Shepherd's Field.

The hour-long play, written and directed by Francisco de Araujo, was performed each Christmas for seven years near the



Four "angels" get ready for their performance in the professional theatrical production, "The Nativity Play of Bethlehem." The youngsters are: front row, Allison Anthony (left) and Melody Burnham. In back are (left) David Peach and Tyler Anthony. Allison and Tyler are the children of John and Connie Anthony of Arkansas. Melody is the daughter of Jim and Mary Anne Burnham of Georgia and Tennessee, and David is the son of Jarrell and Shirley Peach of Texas and Missouri.

BP photo/John Anthony