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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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December 23, 1982

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Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

SPECIAL

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FOUR WEAR

SPECIAL



Warming Christmas
for children
page 8



ABN photo/Blair J. Kennedy

"Warm hands, cold heart," is the old generalization, but members of Little Rock's Second Church will tell you it doesn't always apply. The church had an opportunity to invest \$8,000 into the warming of hands, feet and bodies of needy children with an hour-long shopping spree at the North Little Rock K-Mart and received for themselves a sensation of warmth that comes from within. Christmas came early in Little Rock.

In this issue

8 Christmas spirit

Christmas began Dec. 11 for members of Second Church of Little Rock when they received the season's greatest gift — the opportunity to give to others. A total of 141 children were clothed in a Saturday morning shopping spree, the first of an annual project to be funded from a bequest from the estate of a former member, and were treated to a time of fellowship at the church afterward.

10 Down to business

Executive Board members divided into committees and elected their vice president for 1983 at a meeting in Little Rock Dec. 14.

288 graduate from Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. conferred 290 degrees on 288 graduates during winter commencement Dec. 17.

The 288 graduates, which include Dilday's son, Robert, who was the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine's intern in 1981, was the largest winter graduating class in the seminary's 75-year history.

The 10 a.m. commencement at Travis Avenue Church marked Dilday's 13th since becoming president five years ago. More than 20,000 persons have graduated from Southwestern, the world's largest seminary.

Ben M. Elrod, president of Georgetown, Ky., College and a Southwestern trustee, delivered the commencement address.

Graduating students with Arkansas ties include:



Hall



Rogers



PanKratz

— Kenneth Hall, a master of religious education from Pine Bluff. Hall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hall of Pine Bluff. His home church is Forrest Park Church at Pine Bluff.

— Faron G. Rogers, a master of divinity student from Paragould. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Grayson Rogers of Paragould, Rogers' home church is First Church in Paragould.

— Karl H. PanKratz, a master of divinity student from Fort Smith. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. K. PanKratz of Fort Smith and a product of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith.

First ABN intern takes reporting post

Robert H. Dilday, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine intern for 1981, will begin work as a reporter/writer for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs about Jan. 15.

Dilday, 27, received the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth Dec. 17. His



Dilday

internship with the ABN was part of his degree work under an arrangement with the seminary and the ABN. Dilday was the first student to work for one year with the publication, gaining experience in Baptist communications while getting credit toward a degree.

As a staff member with the Baptist Joint Committee, Dilday will cover Congress and Capitol Hill to keep Baptists informed on church/state actions and issues.

Dilday joins Arkansas Larry Chesser on the BJCPA communications staff.

Unwelcome visitor at Tech BSU

It was the highlight of the year for the Baptist Student Union at Arkansas Tech at Russellville — an installation banquet. About 30 students and eight sets of parents enjoyed the first part of a program Thursday night, Dec. 2, then it came.

It was backwater from a heavy rain which rose to the door of the 10-year-old building and intruded around the feet of the guests. Of course, the party was over.

Students spent about five hours trying to save furniture and other items as the water depth increased to about a foot. By 2:30 a.m. the water had receded, and the stu-

dents went home.

At 3:30, police woke BSU director Steve Masters to tell him the water was back — six inches deeper than before. By 9 a.m. the unwelcome intruder left for good.

Masters says it is uncertain how much damage the water did to the Russellville BSU. Attempts were being made to save carpets. The heating and air conditioning units both took on a lot of water, but Masters was unsure if they were damaged. Doors and tables were warped and a soft drink machine was shorted.

No issue

Since the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine publishes 49 issues a year, skipping three weeks, there will be no issue Dec. 30, 1982.

This issue includes Sunday School lessons for both Sunday, Dec. 26, and for Sunday, Jan. 2.



Christmas should be a time of great joy, because in human flesh, our Lord came into the world. However, the day set aside to commemorate this great event will be celebrated in many different ways. Some will seek joy through the commercialization of the day. Others will pursue joy by the purchase of extravagant material possessions. Still others will try to find joy through the consumption of alcoholic beverages. But true and lasting joy can only come through a personal knowledge of the Christ who came to Bethlehem.

The failure of the commercial hopes for Christmas has been well illustrated in the last few days by the drop in the stock market. Investors supposed that video games would be one of the brightest sellers again this year. But when it became evident that these games were not selling as expected, the market dropped substantially. Lasting hope can not be attained in the buying or selling of material possessions.

Even more tragic are those who seek to find joy through the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Not only does this method of celebrating desecrate the name of Christ, but it, also, produces human suffering and misery.

It is only as a person turns to Christ that he can find lasting joy, because earthly joys fade and are temporary. But because Christ came incarnate, as the perfect union of God and man, we can know eternal joy. Sin had separated God and man, but Christ's atoning work during the days of his flesh made possible the bridging of the gulf between God and man.

The incarnation is a prelude to the atoning sacrifice. For every Christian this is a cause for great joy since we can know that God's own Son stands in our place and has borne our own sinful doom. Since God has taken man into intimate union with himself, there is cause for great joy.

This joy is offered to everyone. It is available to the rich and to the poor. God originally delivered this message of joy to the shepherds, the poor and forgotten ones. Jesus in announcing the purpose of his ministry said, "... he (God) has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor..." (Luke 4:18). Christians should have the same interest that Christ had in preaching and providing healing for the poor.

We can have joy because Christ knows our problems and temptations. One would think that, if God's own Son

were coming to earth, he would have chosen the riches and most luxurious palace on earth. But instead he chose a humble stable for his birth. In so doing he forever identified with man and his problems.

We can know joy because the incarnation means that "grace and truth" dwelt among us (John 1:17). The word "grace" means that which is completely undeserved and unmerited. Jesus through the incarnation provides opportunity for us to have that which we could never earn or deserve — eternal life with him.

The grace of God is always adequate to meet our needs. When our needs are great God's grace is greater. The grace of Christ is triumphantly adequate to deal with any situation.

In the incarnation is, also, found "truth." Most of us can not grasp abstract ideas. We must be able to see before we can understand. Jesus came to demonstrate the truths of God.

The wise men who came to worship the infant Christ desired to lay at his feet the noblest gifts which they could bring. Surely, when any man realizes the love of God in Christ, he will wish to give his best. We, as Southern Baptists, have an opportunity to give to Christ through the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The timing of the Lottie Moon offering is excellent, since it reminds us of the greatest gift that was ever given.

Finally, the incarnation is tied to the Lordship of Christ. The entire New Testament presents Christ as Lord in every area. He is Lord because of his pre-existence with the father. He is Lord because of his unique birth and Sonship. Since this is true, our greatest joy can be found in giving to him complete control of every area of our life.

Christmas should be a time of great joy. There should be the joy of being reunited with loved ones, the thrill of exchanging gifts, the excitement of children as they view their new possessions. But all of this should be secondary. Our greatest joy should be experienced because the virgin born, miracle working, sinless, atoning, living and some day returning Christ took upon himself human flesh and came to Bethlehem. As we capture the significance of Christ's birth we will know the true joy of Christmas.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 49

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 Cressler, Carlisle; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Leroy French, Fort Smith; Mrs. Jennie Garner, Trumann; Merle Milligan, Harrison; Hon. Elisha 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.

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The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

Look upon the fields

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Those words of our Lord are no less compelling today than they were in February of 1873 when Charlotte Lottie Moon volunteered for missionary service in response to a sermon on that text.

In late 1887, having served in the Shantung (China) Mission since 1873, Miss Moon wrote an appeal for mission support to Baptist women in the south suggesting that they set apart the week before Christmas as a week of prayer and offering for world missions.

In 1888, Dr. H. A. Tupper, corresponding secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, pressed Miss Moon's appeal for a week of

prayer and offerings upon the newly organized Woman's Missionary Union.

Annie Armstrong, the corresponding secretary for the WMU, was moved by the challenge and sent handwritten letters to 1,500 societies suggesting a goal of \$2,000. That first Christmas offering of 1888 exceeded the suggested goal, reaching \$3,315 and providing three additional missionaries. The appeal of Charlotte Lottie Moon that Baptists set aside the week before Christmas as a week of prayer and offerings for foreign missions has produced \$541,804,527 for world missions since 1888.

The 1982 goal of \$58,000,000 will help the Foreign Mission Board maintain on the field the largest Protestant missionary

group in the world — 3,200 missionaries in 96 countries.

As we approach the Christmas season, it is not enough that we ponder the incredible growth of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and marvel at the mission program it helps to sustain.

It is enough only if our hearts are touched deeply by those compelling words of Jesus: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the harvest; for they are white already to harvest." Only then will we be in the proper spirit to determine personally what our gift should be to the 1982 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

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

Letters to the editor

Baptists, stand up

If Paul had not spent his whole life fighting false doctrine, we would never have heard the good news: "Born again"! A new creature in Christ Jesus: kept by the power of God! If our descendants hear the true gospel we must stand up!

I believe that Richard A. Norris misunderstood us: belief in the eternal security of all "born again" believers has always been a Baptist distinctive. We base all our doctrine on the Word of God. To all true Baptists, it is a very grave matter that we have a teacher in our seminary who does not share our belief of eternal salvation through Christ Jesus. Without eternal security we would be nothing. — **Rosalie Carter, Crossett**

Help from Baptist Men

The devastating tornado and excessive rain that continues to flood has damaged hundreds of millions of dollars of real property in Arkansas in particular. In conversation with Conway Sawyer Dec. 8, 1982 we do not know how many Baptist churches were damaged or how much. One good we feel that could come from such disaster is a response of Baptist Men who can hammer, saw, paint or lay a block to recondition God's houses of worship. Baptist Men need creative helpful experiences. I have spoken more than once with Neal Guthrie, director of Brotherhood, and C. H. Seaton his predecessor and they share an interest of enlist-

ing men to lower the cost of construction of church buildings. Out of the need due to catastrophe could arise men on mission for the master.

I am pastor of a church built 16 years ago. We need educational space if the church is to grow. We were encouraged by the concept of Baptist craft men on missions enabling us to build without indebtedness. Also, I have met monthly with Otter Creek Baptist Mission committee. We have a golden opportunity to grow a good church in a better community, but they need assistance to cut construction in building in inflation.

I feel I not only have vested interest in encouraging men but a double vested interest. God is able to use men who are available to his glory out of storm or high water.

— **John S. Ashcraft, Pastor, Brookwood First Church, Little Rock, Ark.**

Local authority put aside

I have been a Southern Baptist for over 38 years and I have watched local church authority be put aside while committees and boards rule. Brother Moody does not believe as Baptists believe. But no church authority can remove him from teaching. Southern Seminary trustees can not take action until April 12-13 and this is what happens when local church authority is put aside.

Bro. Moody has the right to believe what

he wants. But when Baptists give to support a school we expect the school to teach Baptist teachings. When a man teaches for 37 years his teaching will be believed by his students. I have noticed how many of his students are coming to his defense.

After I was saved on a Sunday morning the following Wednesday the church withdrew fellowship from a brother that was teaching apostasy in his Sunday School class. That was 38 years ago but this is what will happen when a local church over sees the work of the Lord and not committees, messengers, boards and etc.

When men in our school teach apostasy their students go out to our churches and teach what they have been taught. That is why we need more Bible school like Criswell's in Dallas, Texas.

I Corinthians 5:6 . . . "know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

I Corinthians 5:13 . . . "put away from among yourselves that wicked person." — **Bert Walker, Route 1, Mulberry**

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.

by Don Moore

You'll be glad to know . . .

... That a team can be developed. In any competitive team sport, a wide assortment of sizes, skills, and abilities may be needed. The large guard or tackle is not resentful and ugly because he is not as fleet footed and agile as the halfback. The ends on a football team do not feel threatened by the fact that they cannot pass like the quarterback. And take the defensive players, they are so often the unsung heroes who take a backseat to everyone.



Moore

Isn't it amazing how so many people in so many roles are able to subjugate their own desires, preferences and egos so that they work together as a team. Apparently the personal pride, ego, and vanity are all buried under one great objective — *TO WIN*. What a thrill to see individuals blend their strength into a smooth running team that does win.

... We have a greater objective. We too can bury our vain ambitions, personal prejudices and pride and work together toward those greater objectives. I do not know a single Arkansas Baptist who does not claim to be committed to the same thing every other Arkansas Baptist is committed to — glorifying Jesus Christ, winning the lost at home and abroad, and growing into his likeness. Shouldn't these common goals be great enough for us to respect and appreciate the part each one on the team plays in reaching that goal. We will not all be quarterbacks, halfbacks, pass receivers or place kickers, but we can all do our part to make the team strong and effective. Do I hear some folks saying, "Yea, Don, that's what I want to see happen!"

... These things will really make it happen. A commitment to helping others on the team succeed will go a long way. Another thing that will help tremendously is for us to believe that every other team member is as sincere as we are. We may have different backgrounds, schools, types of ministries, and spiritual gifts. However, none of these in themselves should cause a person to be rejected, suspicioned or otherwise judged. Let's believe everyone of our brothers and sisters are committed to the same thing we are, fulfilling the great commission. If they aren't, that isn't our problem, it's God's. If they are, they have our heartiest support.

... We can be a team!

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

Spring registration at Ouachita Jan. 11

ARKADELPHIA — Registration for the 1983 spring semester at Ouachita Baptist University will be held Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Evans Student Center and Lile Hall at OBU, according to Mike Kolb, registrar.

Classes on the Arkadelphia campus for the spring semester will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 12. The last day to register or add a course is Wednesday, Jan. 26. The last day to drop a course is Thursday, March 3.

Computer science program at OBU

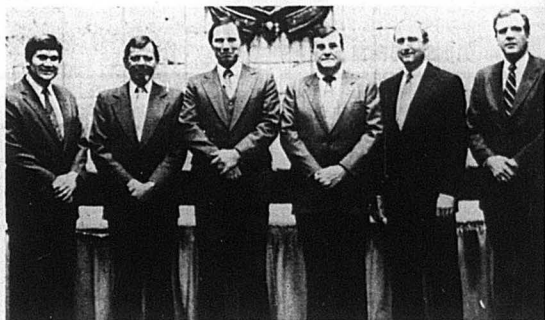
ARKADELPHIA — Students at Ouachita Baptist University next fall will have available a major in computer science, according to Dr. Daniel R. Grant, president of the school.

"Going to a computer science major will keep Ouachita on the cutting edge of college and university education," said Grant. "Our commitment is to maintain a strong liberal arts education and keep up with all levels of employment in the outside world of work."

The department of mathematics has had

its name changed to the department of mathematics and computer science.

Eleven new courses are to be introduced in the fall to the curriculum as the major is developed and as new faculty members are added in the area of computer science other courses will be added. Presently the University is undergoing a search for a new faculty member with a doctorate in the field of computer science to join two other Ouachita faculty members now teaching in the field.



ABW photo/J. Everett Sward

The Little Rock division of the Ouachita Baptist University Fund Raising Campaign has a goal of \$1 million. At a banquet held in Little Rock Dec. 7 Harry Erwin, area chairman announced that more than 50 percent of this goal had been pledged. Leadership present at the banquet were (left to right) Doug Jackson and Don Holbert, major gifts co-chairmen; Charles Jackson, general gifts; Erwin and Joe Ford and Jim Gattis, co-chairmen for initial gifts.

Southern Seminary receives \$229,000 Trigg trust fund

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has received a \$229,000 trust fund from the estate of Mary Cofer Trigg of Elizabethtown, Ky.

Income from the undesignated endowment fund will supplement Southern's general operating budget, thus supporting the seminary in perpetuity.

Mrs. Trigg was a member of one of the "old settler" families of Elizabethtown and Hardin County. They had been members of Gilead Church near Glendale, Ky., before moving to Elizabethtown and joining Severns Valley Church.

She married George Allen Trigg, publisher

of a newspaper in Richmond, Mo. The couple lived in Richmond and Kansas City, Mo., before retiring and settling in Elizabethtown.

Mrs. Trigg was an active member of the Severns Valley church and "was there every time the door opened for as long as her health allowed," said her former pastor Verlin Kruschwitz, assistant director of the seminary's Boyce Bible School.

Her gift to Southern stemmed from her appreciation for the seminary and her pastors who had been Southern graduates and "her lifelong interest in learning," Kruschwitz said.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Robert Hutchison has been called as minister of youth at Hurricane Lake Church at Benton. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University.

Tommy Cunningham has resigned as pastor of the Hamburg First Church to become pastor of the Hickory Ridge Church in Memphis.

Keith Evans is serving as youth director of the Immanuel Church in Paragould.

Tim Porter

was recently ordained to the ministry by the Sage Church, where he serves as pastor.



Hutchison

Ray Y. Langley is serving as interim pastor of the Eureka Springs First Church. He served this church as pastor for 14 years prior to retiring in 1978. He now resides in Tulsa, Okla.

Skip Kelley is serving as pastor of the Huntington Church.

Danny Hubbard is serving as pastor of the Temple Church in Waldron.

Mike Pollard has resigned as pastor of the Clark's Chapel at Paragould to become pastor of the First Church of Cameron, Okla.

Jerry A. Kirkpatrick will begin serving Jan. 16, 1983, as pastor of the Heber Springs First Church, coming there from the First Southern Church of Fountain Valley, Calif. Kirkpatrick, a native

of Oklahoma City, Okla., is married to the former Norma Haigler of Pascagoula, Miss. They have three children, Alicia, Shawn, and Ty. Dr. Kirkpatrick is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served five years in the religious education field before returning to Southwestern where he received his master of divinity degree. His doctor of ministry degree is from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona prior to serving in California. His other achievements include a Distinguished Service Award from Oklahoma Jaycees; being named among Outstanding Young Men of America in 1972; five years of service on the Arizona Baptist Convention Executive Board and five years of service as a trustee of Southwestern Seminary where he was appointed to the Executive Committee.

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Earl G. Goatcher, missionaries to Thailand, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 602 Coolair, Dallas, Texas 75218). He is a native of Formosa, Ark. The former Joann Horton, she was born in Carlsbad, Texas, and grew up in Odessa, Texas. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1962, resigned in 1971 and reappointed in 1980.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Garrett, missionaries to Zimbabwe, have arrived in the States (address: c/o Cayla Garrett, 5519 Evergreen, Little Rock, Ark. 72205). He was born in Pocasset, Okla., and grew up near Muleshoe, Texas. She is the former Eloise Sharp of Aztec, N.M. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964, resigned in 1976 and reappointed in 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Johnson, missionaries to Zimbabwe, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box W-197, Waterfalls, Harare, Zimbabwe). He was born in Piggott, Ark., and considers Honolulu, Hawaii, his hometown. She is the former Kathryn Kumabe of Honolulu. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1982.

Mr. Timothy Lindwall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert N. (Ted) Lindwall, missionaries to Guatemala, married Karen Lyon on Nov. 20 in Arlington, Texas. His parents may be addressed at Apartado 1135, Guatemala City, Guatemala. Missionary Lindwall was born in Kansas City, Mo., and also lived in southern California while growing up. The former Sue Francis, she was born in Morrilton, Ark., and also lived in San Francisco, Calif., while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1960.

Richwoods Church at Arkadelphia combined choirs presented the Christmas cantata, "Noel, Jesus Is Born," Dec. 12. Pastor Mark Baber was narrator. Featured soloists were Baber, Brent Powell, Cheryl Bass, Roger O'Neal, Kelly Norton, Rick Briscoe, Christy White, Vicki Taylor, Janie Baber, Johnny Neel, Donny and Larry Manning, Ronnie McMillan and Wesley Berlin.

Alexander Church at Paragould held a commissioning service Dec. 5 for the Conley Williams family who will leave Dec. 27. The Foreign Mission Board has appointed Williams and his wife, Kaye, and children, Mark, Melinda and Leah to service in Uganda where he will be working as an agricultural evangelist. They are both natives of Greene County and both attended Arkansas State University. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Participating in the commissioning service were Hughlen Shatley, J. W. Thompson, Etta Winn, Ronnie Hill, Archie Baxter, Melanie Evans and Stacy Buck. Leroy Sisk, director of Chaplaincy Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker.

Pine Tree Church near Colt Woman's Missionary Union held an Oriental Day Nov. 10 in observance of the Foreign Mission Season of Prayer.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock women recently as a Christmas observance, distributed gifts to the 221 patients at the Oak Hill Manor Nursing Home in North Little Rock and presented a decorated tree to the Dorcas House in Little Rock.

Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village recently adopted its 1983 budget, increasing gifts to both the Cooperative Program and to Central Baptist Association.

Immanuel Church in Little Rock had 1,738 present in Sunday School and an offering of \$193,279.01 was given when "Demonstration Day" was observed Dec. 5. Pastor W. O. Vaught reported that 1982 church gifts will exceed \$2 million as a result of this offering. He also reported that deacons served lunch to more than 1,700 at the observance.

Otter Creek Chapel has reached 178 percent of its Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal. Their goal of \$1,000 has been exceeded by \$784.25. Additional funds will be added before the final Jan. 1, 1983 count. Max Deaton is pastor of the mission, located in Southwest Little Rock.

HMB approves 52 for mission posts

ATLANTA (BP) — Fifty-two persons were appointed to home mission assignments by the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during its December meeting.

Included were three missionaries, 13 missionary associates, two US-2ers and 34 who will receive pastoral assistance.

briefly

Cooperative Program report: November

1981		1982
\$ 669,511.50	Budget for November	\$ 759,888.73
726,296.82	Gifts for November	727,845.15
56,785.32	Over (under)	(32,043.58)
\$7,364,626.50	Budget year-to-date	\$8,358,776.15
7,524,916.94	Gifts year-to-date	8,179,603.71
160,290.44	Over (under)	(179,172.44)

Look at what Arkansas Baptists are doing in world mission support. Gifts this year are 8.7 percent above those of one year ago. We have attained 97.86 percent of the 1982 budget goal. With one good effort, we can exceed budget requirements this year. — James A. Walker, director

Cooperative Program giving up 16.59 percent

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Financial support for Bold Mission Thrust continues to increase according to the latest report on Cooperative Program receipts from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

For October, the first month in the committee's fiscal year, the 34 state conventions which make up the Southern Baptist Convention contributed \$7,972,260 to the national and worldwide mission and educational causes of the SBC.

That reflects an increase of 16.59 percent (\$1,134,449) over donations in October 1981.

Due to differences in the payment schedules of the different states, percent increase

and decrease figures are not very meaningful after one month of the fiscal year. However, the 18 conventions which sent at least \$50,000 to the Cooperative Program in October all showed increases over 1981 as did 26 of the 34 conventions.

Five conventions contributed more than \$500,000 each to help underwrite Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC effort to present the message of Jesus Christ to the entire world by the year 2000: Texas \$1,350,650; North Carolina, \$630,161; Georgia, \$623,421; Alabama, \$619,093 and Tennessee, \$548,976. Designated contributions (in addition to Cooperative Program gifts) from the states jumped over the \$1 million mark for October to \$1,016,879 — an increase of 5.17 percent over the same month last year.



Mr. and Mrs. Ronald P. Baker

Arkansas couple among 62 new missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. — Mr. and Mrs. Ronald P. Baker were among 62 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Dec. 7 at First Church of Charlottesville, Va.

The Bakers will work in Indonesia, where he will be an agricultural evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he attends New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and works as a sales representative in New Orleans. They are members of Metairie (La.) Church.

Born in Lee County, Ark., Baker is the son of Ruth W. Baker of Brinkley, Ark., and the late Paul T. Baker. While growing up he lived in Brinkley and he considers that city his hometown and Wheatley Church his home church.

He received the bachelor of science in agriculture degree from Arkansas State University. He has worked as a field representative for a farmers' cooperative in Stuttgart and as a farmer in Belzoni, Miss.

Born in Fort Smith, Mrs. Baker, the former Debbie Rogers, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Rogers of Van Buren. She grew up in Van Buren and considers that city her hometown and First Church there her home church.

She received the bachelor of science in education degree from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia. She has worked as a home economics director in Stuttgart; teacher and salesclerk in Belzoni; and secretary-receptionist in New Orleans.

The Bakers have one child; Joshua Paul, born in 1982. The family will go to Pine Mountain, Ga., in January for a 12-week orientation before leaving for the field.



In a country where the lions are not all in the zoo, Bill Probasco, pastor at Conway First Church, finds the "King of the Jungle" being used to reach children with the gospel message. John Otieno (left) explains to Probasco how he uses Simba, the lion, and other puppets. Two weeks in Kenya were part of the Arkansas pastor's month of mission travel that included stops in Orleans, France; Nairobi, Kenya; and Johannesburg, South Africa. Probasco visited churches, preached, consulted with missionaries, and spoke at a convention in South Africa. The trip was in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Christmas project warms needy children as church members join to reach out

It was an appropriate day for buying shoes and warm coats. Snow was falling with the rain as the 141 children, their parents and volunteers from Second Church made their way to the church building in downtown Little Rock.

The children, all under age 15, had been accompanied to the North Little Rock K-Mart store that morning by folks from Second Church. The store opened an hour early for the special shoppers to try on the clothes that would insulate them against the cold.

When each child had spent his or her allotment, the church paid for the clothes and shoes from a gift from the estate of George Edward Dame of California, who died in 1981.

The bequest from the Dame estate (\$8,000 this year) also bought canned and other staple food for each of the needy families to have Christmas dinner. Each family's box also contained a few toys, which had been lovingly wrapped by the Keenagers (senior adults) of the church.

Besides the obvious meeting of needs of the children, the project had lots more rewards. The volunteers, who picked up the families, helped with fitting and keeping track of expenditures, and came to the church gathering with them, found themselves receiving. Paul Parsons noted that he had gotten much more than he had given.

Pocket calculators in hand, the church members helped keep an eye on price tags as the families shopped. But they also got to see the wonder in the eyes of the children at boots and warm coats and brand new jeans.

As the families sang Christmas songs and ate cookies back at the church's fellowship hall, members of Second Church considered their own blessings from the project. Several were pleased that the church had grown closer over the short time of the project and that so many volunteered their time and personal involvement.

That willingness to get involved came as a pleasant surprise to Barbara Long, the church's minister of education. "This was the first venture in a church where I asked for volunteers and did not have to call and call," Long said. And the church had only a short time to get the project in gear. Though they had set Dec. 11 several months ago as the date for a shopping trip, the amount of this year's gift became known only the week before the event.

Long had only Sunday, Dec. 5, to appeal for members to help the families and had to come up with enough recipients on short notice. Both were easy, she reported. The church people's response was overwhelming, but so were the needs, she found. Long said the church could have gotten several times the number of people to be helped from schools, teachers, local help agencies and church members.

Besides the members who went with individual families, lots of other church people had a part. Long and Bob Rollins and Mary Helen Parsons planned the project with the goal of involving the whole church.

The senior adults gathered Friday afternoon to wrap presents for the children, while others bought food, packed boxes and served the refreshments on Saturday morning. Even Pastor Larry Maddox was drafted; he entertained the children at the after-shopping gathering with magic.

But the children and families found the church concerned for their spiritual needs as well. Back at the church they heard music and stories telling of Christ's birth. And, the people who helped them meet physical needs were inviting them back to the church for spiritual nourishment.

The project is an extension of a role the church has chosen for themselves. Pastor Maddox says their understanding of mission and ministry is based on Jesus' proclamation of his role of serving and giving in Matthew 20:28. It's from that verse that the church has taken a theme for 1982-83: "to serve and to give."

The serving and giving role has led the church into programs for children, such as the Lake Nixon Day Camp. Maddox describes the commitment as ministry "to the whole person and the whole community, regardless of race, color or creed."

So, when two oriental families and two black families who were helped on Saturday came to Sunday School and worship on Sunday, the church met another goal of the Christmas help project. They had successfully reached out to offer spiritual help.

The church will be helped to minister for years to come through the trust fund George Edward Dame set up in memory of himself and his wife. Although it has been more than 40 years since Dame attended the Brooks Hays Bible Class at the church, his gratitude for the church remained throughout his life. Now his concern for the needy at Christmas will live on through the church.



A wide-eyed youngster gets help from mom with a coat selected from the rack at K-Mart.



Shopping help means (inset, opposite page) keeping track of the tab and (inset, left) checking the fit.

Below, Gladys Fisher of North Little Rock, sister of the donor for the project, hugs one of the 141 recipients.



Needs were even more critical for a young mother (right) who lost all in a fire the week of the project. Besides her family's box and clothes bought she received garments shared by a church family.

Executive Board committee nominees approved at December meeting

by Bob Allen

The 93 members of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention received committee appointments at a scheduled meeting Dec. 14, approving unanimously recommendations made in a report from the board's nominating committee.

The five-member committee appointed by the Executive Board president recommended eight names for the board's Operating Committee, 41 for the Program Committee and 42 for the Finance Committee. The board also approved nominees for the Executive Committee — which is made up of chairmen of the Operating, Program, Finance and Nominating committees and the presidents of the Executive Board and the state convention — for the Nominating Committee and for the Christian Life Council directors also appointed by the Executive Board.

In other business, the board elected Jerry Wilson, pastor of West Side Church in Ft. Dorado, as its vice president. The board named Ken Lilly, a Fort Smith layman, to his second term as president of the convention's elected administrative body last month at an organizational meeting following the election of 30 new members at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. At that meeting Lilly suggested that members delay nominations for a vice president until a list of persons serving on the board could be prepared for their consideration.

Wilson, an executive board member representing Liberty Association, was nominated by Jack Bettis and elected by acclamation. Wilson is a member of the Operating Committee with a term set to expire in 1984.

The new committees went their separate ways to hold organizational meetings, coming back together before adjournment to report to the full Executive Board.

Finance Committee chairman Tommy Hinson reported that his committee elected Captain Lovell, from First Church of Harrisburg, vice chairman and Norma Lee Bowers of Hot Springs secretary.

Program Committee chairman Cary Heard said H. D. McCarty was elected vice chairman of that committee and Harold Elmore secretary. They also heard reports from the pastors' retreat committee and the Ouachita centennial study committee, Heard reported.

The Operating Committee handled routine business, chairman Kerry Powell reported, reflecting Frank Lady vice chairman and naming members of missions and personnel advisory subcommittees, and some out of the ordinary. Powell reported that two executive Board accounts will apparently be overdrawn, and that deficits estimated at \$2,700 for Church Training and \$1,500 for Brotherhood will be covered

from department reserves. The convention account, Powell said, will be overdrawn by \$10,000 due to unexpected expenses from called convention and Executive Board meetings and search committee expenses. The deficit will be paid from contingencies.

The Operating Committee also brought a motion to the floor asking the Executive Board to spend \$6,000 for a piece of property to be donated to the Student Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The property is valued at \$150,000, Executive Secretary Don Moore told the board, and is willed to the convention as part of the estate of a couple wishing to remain anonymous. By paying off a \$6,000 debt on the property, the convention could take ownership now, Moore said. The board approved the request unanimously, but only after playfully prodding Moore — unsuccessfully — into revealing the identity of the donors.

In the last item of business, 1983 meetings dates for the Executive Board and board committees gained approval.

Executive Secretary Don Moore reported to the Board that the state convention has donated to date \$16,000 for disaster relief to four associations. The Home Mission Board will match the funds distributed through the Missions Department, Moore said. Moore also reported that he has begun weekly executive staff meetings at the Baptist Building, because the size of the monthly staff meetings make them "a little unwieldy." He reported that work is underway on a program to help baptism-less churches and that he recently attended a meeting of executive secretaries in Nashville, Tenn.

The meeting, the fifth and final one of 1982 for the Executive Board, was held at Baptist Med Center in Little Rock.

The committee appointees were:

Operating Committee: Elmer Grier Jr.,

Frank Lady, Nina Hamilton, Bill Milam, Kerry Powell, Jerry Wilson, Bernard Beasley and Eddie McCord.

Program Committee: Joe Campbell, George Domerese, Harold Elmore, James Evans, Roy Gean Jr., Bruce Holland, H. D. McCarty, Carel Norman, Charles Osborne, Mary Palmer, Murray Smart, Bill Roach, Gerald Taylor, Jim Adams, Leonard Baker, Charles Barfield, Winfred Bridges, Bill Burnett, Clytee Harness, Jerre Hassell, Cary Heard, Milton James, Earl McWerther, Maxine Murphy, John Robbins, Johnny Ross, Paul Sanders, Guy Whitney, Mark Baber, Jack Bettis, Jimmy Burks, Ron Cox, Pete Crager, Rick Erwin, Bill Ferren, Bill Lewis, Jerre D. Mitchell, Walter McNew, Janet Osmon, Melvin Thrash and Emil Williams.

Finance Committee: Tyrone Berry, Don Harbuck, Harrison Johns, Doris King, James Newnam, Ben Rowell, James E. Swafford, Don Stallings, Harold Stephens, Nelson Wilhelm, Tate Woodruff, James Shults, Michael Anders, Norma Lee Bowers, S. Mikael Carrier, Jimmy Garner, Lawrence Harrison, M. M. Hill, Tommy Hinson, John Holston, Norman Lewis, Herman McCormick, Ed North, T. J. Richardson, Joe Statton, Bob Stender, Daniel Threet, Ron Ford, Darwin Anderson, Betty Gibson, Bill Gresham, Bill Hammons, Helen Henson, Carl Kluck, Captain Lovell, Ray Meador, George O'Neal, Ron Raines, Jack Ramsey, Jerry Smith, Bob Wilson and James Wilson.

Executive Committee: Ken Lilly, Dillard Miller, Eddie McCord, Cary Heard, Tommy Hinson and Kerry Powell.

Nominating Committee: Harold Elmore, Gerald Taylor, John Holston, John Robbins and Eddie McCord.

Christian Life Council: Emil Williams, Harold Stephens, Norma Lee Bowers, Lawrence Harrison, Joe Statton, Mark Baber and Jim Burks.



Don Moore (center), executive secretary/treasurer for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, discusses a point with convention president Dillard S. Miller while Joy Faucett, administrative secretary, takes minutes of the Dec. 14 meeting of the state Executive Board.

ABN photo by Everett Street

Fitness a lifestyle . . . not a fad

by Jerry Johnson

At one time in our country, and probably in your lifetime, everyone was engaged in work that required some or a great deal of physical exertion. Men worked on the farm, in the factory, in the office with very little automation. Women worked at home, washing clothes by hand or at least with some degree of difficulty such as wringing clothes and hanging them out to dry. Also, cooking required more time and physical effort.



Johnson

Arriving with the age of automation was the sedentary life style, a life style marked by much sitting and inactivity. Dr. Dick Couey, author of *Lifelong Fitness and Fulfillment for Senior Adults* and a friend of mine, made the statement that "if there is any thing we use in life that requires movement and effort on our part, we put a motor on it." Examples are: the electric tooth brush, electric knife and etc.

This situation has caused our society to be known as the "age of spectators" and a society of obese and overweight people. Also, in this age of space exploration we have discovered that long periods of inactivity cause our muscles and organs to atrophy which means to waste away. This was made very clear to us as we observed the first astronauts returning to earth having difficulty in walking, as a result of weightlessness and inactivity. We now have an exercise program for them on each of their missions.

You may be saying, "Well, how does this affect me?" Stop reading right now

and grab the muscle under your upper arm. What did you find? I venture to say that the most of us found a muscle wasting away. Our muscles, including our heart, were designed by our creator to grow stronger through work and resistant placed on them.

Fitness is not a fad but a lifestyle and it should be the desire of each of us as Christians to glorify God through our temples. I Corinthians 6:19-20 states so plainly that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in us, and we are to glorify God in our bodies.

For and about



senior adults

Wherever you are in life, the middle years, the pre-retirement years or the retirement years, it is important that you remain active physically. You owe it to yourself, you owe it to your family, and you owe it to your future to be the best possible person you can be and that includes taking care of yourself physically. Not a one of you would go days or years without brushing your teeth, yet it is more important that you engage in some sort of meaningful activity that will aid you in keeping physically fit.

Fitness is more than being able to lift heavy weights or to run 10 miles a day. Fitness is a combination of flexibility, strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance (circulatory and respiratory systems), and motor fitness which includes coordination, balance and reaction time.

A regular program of fitness will assist in all these areas and will bring about many benefits. Some of the benefits that have been recorded in our classes over the years are: I have more energy, more endurance; I sleep better; I enjoy better waste elimination and body functions; better posture; less aches and pains; lessened tension and stress; weight control; blood pressure control and I just feel better about myself. These are a few among many.

Where do I begin? First, you should visit your doctor and share with him your desire to become active again. Get his approval and suggestions concerning what you should do and how. Second, begin your own program or locate one near you. It helps to be involved with others. Third, don't get discouraged. Start slowly remembering it has taken years for you to get where you are now and finally, exercise regularly.

Jerry Johnson is Christian Family Life Minister of Little Rock's First Church and is widely used as a conference leader. He has spoken to many groups in the Southern Baptist Convention on the subject of personal fitness.

Questions or comments on this column for and about senior adults should be sent to Senior Adults, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

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- Harrison, First Church
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No evangelism if liberals take over SBC, Draper claims

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP) — If conservatives don't fight to protect Baptists' theological integrity "there will be no evangelism" and "your (evangelism directors) jobs will be abolished," Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. has warned.

During the closing address to the national conference of SBC evangelism directors in San Juan, Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, listed the current SBC controversy and adverse theological winds as one of nine major problems facing the convention.

"The extreme theological stance of the left will absolutely kill evangelism," Draper said. "The churches represented in the 'denominational loyalist group' are not winning anyone to Jesus and are not giving as much to missions as we are," he charged.

Throughout his speech Draper consistently identified himself with the theological conservative faction in the SBC, harshly criticizing SBC pastors and churches that are not conservative.

"It is inconceivable to me that a church can be doing what it ought to be doing in missions and evangelism and have thousands of members and a million dollar budget and go year after year with only five, ten or fifteen baptisms," Draper said.

"We're not trying to make everyone like us but if we don't have theological integrity and if we don't stand firm there will be no evangelism," he said. "Your jobs will be abolished and we will end up like Southern Methodist University in Dallas which has a professing agnostic as head of the religion department."

"Don't believe that all the controversy in the SBC is just a power play for political purposes," he said. "That's not true."

Draper, who had just returned from Israel, also lashed out at religious pluralism

that believes that all religions are all right.

"The Bible doesn't know anything about a kind of pluralism that allows Christianity and paganism to settle down and be at peace with each other," he said. "We are to Christianize the world."

"If all our pastors and churches were busy witnessing, sharing their faith, winning people, going on partnership missions and giving to missions, we'd have no theological controversy," he said.

"As a denomination," he added, "we have become obese spiritually, materially and culturally and we can't win the world with business as usual," he said.

The denomination must also deal with the problem of urbanization since 35 percent of the people live in 22 cities but more than 70 percent of Southern Baptist churches are in rural America.

He warned that the suburbs are becoming "more and more pagan" and Baptist efforts in evangelism must include the suburbs as well as the inner city in dealing with the urban challenge. "It's not the Bible belt anymore," he lamented. "It's the pagan belt."

He expressed deep concern for the

breakdown of the family, citing the need for Baptist efforts to reach and minister to seven million divorced persons in America and a growing singles population.

Echoing an earlier address by American Baptist sociologist Anthony Campolo of Philadelphia, Draper decried the intrusion of secular humanism and secular values into the church saying faith should not be shaped by culture but is to be in tension with it.

"We have become too comfortable and we don't want to lose what we have materialistically," he explained.

Draper confessed he had personally struggled with his own affluent lifestyle, saying he made a "good salary" and lives in a home valued at about \$165,000. "I'm still dealing with my comfort and my affluence," he confided, "and I don't know the answer to that."

He called on state Baptist evangelism directors to provide aggressive, creative leadership, telling them, "don't wait to be pushed. Let us follow you, for you need to be taking the lead."

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Your state convention at work

Evangelism

Witness Commitment Day

Jan. 9 is a very important day in evangelism. This is the day set across our convention to emphasize a commitment to witnessing for Christ. I am praying that each of our Arkansas churches will be very much involved in this important effort.

A call from Christ through our pastors will be presented in the morning message. The challenge from the Word of God will be accepted by our people. In the last words of our Lord before going to Heaven, he stated, "Ye shall be my witnesses." A charge from the Holy Spirit will be experienced by those



Shell

who are willing. In that last statement to his church, Jesus also said, "Ye shall receive power."

Each lay person will seriously consider a commitment to witness, "I will share my faith." Each willing person will feel a deep concern for the lost, "I must tell my friends about the Savior." Each committed concerned person will know the courage in Christ, "I can do the job that God has called me to do." We are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

The results in Arkansas will be victory. Each lost person in our state can be evangelized. Each evangelized person will have an opportunity to be congregationalized. Bold Mission Thrust is a reality in our day. — Clarence Shell Jr., director

Family and Child Care

Too late!

What disappointing words! What a ring of finality!

Each of us can recall important events or opportunities we missed only to hear the words "too late." The last opportunity may be the result of our own doing. Neglect, procrastination, preoccupation with other matters or simply presuming others will wait on us may result in the realization that it is too late.

Whatever the reasons, there are schedules and deadlines that must be observed if we achieve our objectives. Time has a way of catching up and even passing us by.

One very important date that every church must keep in

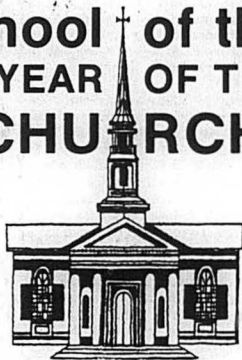
mind, if they want their contributions credited to 1982, is Dec. 31. Each year someone calls to say they sent money to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services but we haven't given credit.

Please remember we close our books shortly after Dec. 31. We can only give credit for money we have received. To avoid being too late, mail your contribution in time to reach us by Dec. 31. Pastors and church treasurers should be especially attentive to this matter.

Thank you Arkansas Baptists for your generous response. — Homer W. Shirley Jr., director of development

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International

Jesus overcomes temptation

by Jere D. Mitchell, First Church of Fayetteville

Basic passage: Luke 4:1-15

Central truth: It is possible to overcome temptation through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The temptation experience of Jesus is certainly one of the great stories of the Bible. It helps us to see that it is possible to resist the temptation to sin.

Jesus was human just like me. He was subject to temptation. It is encouraging to know that when I am tempted to satisfy my fleshly desires or take matters into my own hands in God's work that Jesus has been tempted in the same way. It is easier to identify with someone who has had similar experiences.

I recently read of a man who was about to commit suicide but was talked out of this by a police officer who said that he had some of the same problems. It makes us feel better to know someone else has felt how we feel. When we find out that someone else has been where we have been, we usually want to know how they dealt with the situation.

Jesus dealt with the situation by being full of the Holy Spirit. We are filled with the Spirit at conversion. From that point on, we either cooperate with his leadership or we resist. Walking in the spirit helps us to overcome temptation.

Jesus had a very deep and compelling sense of purpose. He knew he was on earth to do the Father's will. That meant doing it God's way. That also meant resisting Satan's way. When we are committed to doing the Father's will, the temptation to do "our own thing" pales significantly.

Jesus resisted by saying "no." When it comes to resisting the temptation to sin, that little two-letter word is extremely helpful. In each instance Jesus quoted a passage of scripture from the Old Testament. There are times when I have difficulty in knowing what is right or wrong. In the vast majority of cases, I know what is wrong but just have trouble saying no. The scripture teaches us what is right. We must work up the courage to say "no" to wrong, and do right.

It is possible to resist temptation. Jesus has shown us how.

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that the 17 million children around the world who died from hunger and disease in 1981 could have been saved at the cost of under \$100 for each child.

Life and Work

Affirmation of the Righteous One

by Nodell Dennis, First Church of Trumann

Basic passages: Matthew 3:1-6; 11-17

Focal passages: Matthew 3:1-6; 11-12; 13-17

Central truth: Christ is affirmed through personal experience.

Although John's ministry affirmed that Jesus was that one referred to by Isaiah, there must be personal affirmation that Jesus is the Christ.

One may affirm Christ's presence in his life by three actions.

1. One must respond positively to the preached word. John was divinely called to cry aloud to his fellow men. The words of verse 3 may have belonged to the consoling message given to the Babylonian exiles, who would soon return to their own land as God would reign in peace.

John, the last of the prophets, was now commissioned to preach a similar message. God's reign was soon to be made manifest in Israel in all its fullness in the person and work of the Messiah himself. For that great coming men were to prepare the way in their hearts.

According to verse 2, John called his hearers to repentance. The term means to be converted and turn. Verse 6 then states that many affirmed Jesus as personal Lord as they responded to the preached word or repented of their sins. Every man must, in like manner, personally affirm Jesus as Messiah or Lord.

2. One must be filled with the Spirit. John baptized with water, but he promised that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Jesus would have the power to purge the individual of sin and then empower and enable him for service. The gift of the Spirit is not a special "second blessing" for certain deluxe model Christians, but his presence is that without which there is no life.

3. One must be committed to Christ's mission. Jesus allowed John to baptize him that he might identify with those who responded to John's call, but he also did it as an open commitment to his mission.

Since he is our Savior and Lord, his mission is our mission.

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Bible Book

Pauls appeal for Onesimus

by Jack Bledsoe, First Church of Des Arc

Basic passage: Philemon 1:4-20

Central truth: Christian principles regarding our brothers in Christ take precedence over our own interests.

Simply stated, this passage deals with the fact that Onesimus, the legal property of Philemon, had run away, had been led to Jesus Christ by Paul, and was voluntarily returning to his lawful master. Philemon is urged to accept Onesimus as a brother and not a servant, suggesting that his new relationship in Christ is more important than his relationship to Philemon.

1. Introduction 1:1-3: The apostolic greeting that includes the phrase "a prisoner of Jesus Christ", underlines the fact that because of his Christian commitment, Paul languishes in the Mamertine prison in Rome. The letter to Philemon is recognized as one of the prison epistles of Paul. In spite of his personal restrictions, Paul is actively spreading the good news and communicating his love and concern to a dear friend in Christ.

2. Thanksgiving 1:4-7: Even in prison Paul has maintained a good line of communication with his beloved fellow workers, including Philemon, and is greatly encouraged by the reports of Christian growth.

3. Intercession 1:8-20: At some point of time Paul has come in contact with a runaway slave belonging to Philemon, whose name is Onesimus. It may be that in the process of seeking personal freedom, Onesimus arrives in Rome, discovers that Paul is there in prison, and remembering the Christian love that permeated Paul's personality on those visits to his masters home, contacts him. Paul leads him to Jesus Christ and he becomes not only a Christian, but a devoted servant of Paul, ministering to Paul's physical needs regularly.

After a period of time Paul sends the converted Onesimus back to Philemon, writing to his dear friend a letter of intercession concerning his lawful property. He urges Philemon to accept Onesimus not as a servant, but as a brother and reminds Philemon that his own relationship to Jesus Christ commends a different attitude toward his slave. We do not know the sequel to these events, but it is to be hoped that Onesimus was warmly received as a brother in Christ and treated accordingly.

Application: All men are free in Christ Jesus. There is no place for the master-slave concept. Our relationship with one another takes on a totally new dimension because of our new relationship to Jesus Christ.

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International

Teaching about forgiveness

by Jere D. Mitchell, First Church of Fayetteville

Basic passage: Luke 7:36-50

Central truth: Jesus came to forgive sin.

Forgiveness is the removing of barriers between man and God. These barriers are erected by man's rebellion against God. It is important that we realize we are the ones who create the problem, and not God. It is also important to see that it is God who removes the barriers.

When you sin against God, own up to it. Admission of guilt and rebellion is most difficult for some people. Pride causes us to look for someone else to blame and to make every excuse that we can think of. Many marriages are being hurt because one or both partners cannot admit they make mistakes. Parents often defend their children in the schools or before the law regardless of what they do. Thus, teaching them not to accept responsibility. Our jails are overcrowded with people, all of whom declare their innocence. Don't let your pride keep you from receiving forgiveness. Recognition of and admission of sin is a prerequisite to forgiveness.

Repentance is necessary for forgiveness. Repentance is much more than just feeling bad or saying I'm sorry. I once had a school teacher who said it wasn't what you did that mattered, but what you got caught doing. Some folks are not sorry for their sin; they are just sorry when they get caught.

There is an old saying, "Actions speak louder than words." True repentance is evidenced by a changed life. If you are truly sorry for raising those barriers between you and God, you will do something about your behavior that caused them.

To be sure, one of the things we need most is to experience the cleansing that comes from knowing that Jesus says to us, "Your sins have been forgiven. . . Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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Life and Work

Temptation of the Righteous One

by Nodell Dennis, First Church, Trumann

Basic passage: Matthew 4:1-11

Focal passages: Matthew 4:3-4; 5-7; 8-10

Central truth: Jesus has overcome temptation.

Hebrews 3:15 informs us that believers have a High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses and who has been tempted in all things even as we are, yet he is without sin. This High Priest is Jesus. Because he overcame temptation, the believer who has the Spirit of Christ residing in him can also be victorious.

Temptation comes to believers as it did to Jesus Christ.

1. We are tempted to take a short cut that an immediate need be met. Jesus had been in the wilderness for 40 days having eaten nothing. Satan tempted him to use his God-given power to turn stones into bread. But Jesus wanted his people to know that man lives by the word of God as well as bread.

Believers are not to attempt short-cuts to having their needs met by scheming and planning, but they are to trust God. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," Jesus said, "and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 5:33).

2. Believers are tempted to try to force God into certain actions for their own good. "God make me well, and I will start going to church," or "God spare my sick child, and I will go to the mission field." These are just some of the common bargains people try to strike with God in an attempt to have their own selfish needs met.

Jesus saw a leap from the temple as tempting God not trusting God as Satan had represented it to him. True faith in God is reflected in a trust of his loving and wise will, not simply trust in his power to provide.

3. Believers are tempted from the standpoint of personal power and prestige. Again, Jesus was tempted to take a short-cut. This time it was for worldly power and glory. Jesus did not desire to go the path of building an earthly kingdom. He was concerned with spiritual power and glory for his Father.

In recent days we have seen men fall because they could not handle personal power and glory. Thank God for a Savior who has overcome, and who gives his children the victory.

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Bible Book

Gentile guilt for sin

by Jack Bledsoe, First Church of Des Arc

Basic passage: Romans 1:16-32

Focal passages: Romans 1:16-20, 24-25, 28-32

Central truth: Sin is universal and the Gentile world is accountable to God for their rejection of God.

God has made himself known to men through the gospel or good news proclaimed to every man, making it abundantly clear that salvation is available to all men everywhere, regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

Theologically, the world of Paul's day was divided into two broad areas, Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles included all of the non-Hebrews, or Jewish population of the world, and included all who were not nor had ever been in covenant relationship with God through the Mosaic Law. To the Jews these people were known as the uncircumcised and were called dogs. The Jews will be dealt with next week.

The Gentile world was the recipient of the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and could not disclaim their guilt before the bar of God. They were then and are now responsible to respond affirmatively to the gospel on an individual basis or forever separated from God.

The verdict of these verses in Romans 1, lays the total guilt trip at the door of that Gentile person who, having received the good news, deliberately turns away from the truth, preferring to live in the cesspools of sin's decadence in its vilest forms rather than accept God's free offer of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Paul concludes that such a person proves himself to be worthy of the spiritual death that he brings upon himself. The guilt for his sin is his to bear with all its consequences, to his everlasting torment.

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WMU headquarters sell for \$3 million

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The national headquarters building of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, was sold Dec. 7.

The purchasers met the asking price of \$3 million and WMU will hold a mortgage for part of the cost. Proceeds from the sale will provide a substantial part of relocation funds.

In September WMU broke ground for a

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new headquarters building on a 26-acre tract of land in Shelby County, Ala. The new site is approximately 12 miles from the present WMU building in downtown Birmingham which WMU purchased in 1952.

WMU staff expects to occupy the new 125,000 foot square building in the early part of 1984. It can continue to occupy the old building for 18 months under terms of sale.

The relocation committee is refining plans for the new building while site development proceeds.

SBC moderates continue organization

ATLANTA (BP) — The "moderate-conservative" faction of the SBC, a group organized to counter the "takeover" of the denomination by inerrantists is not being disbanded.

The announcement came from Cecil Sherman, chairman of the group's steering committee, following its meeting in Atlanta attended by 14 persons.

Sherman, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C., said, "We are not disbanded. We will continue to speak to the issues of Southern Baptist life."

That the group would continue was questioned when one of its leaders — Kenneth Chafin of South Main Church in Houston — announced his withdrawal.

Chafin attended a meeting Nov. 12 in Irving, Texas, of 40 denominational leaders to discuss the future and the state of the denomination. It was chaired by SBC President James Draper Jr., pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas.

Afterwards, he said the moderate-conservatives would no longer oppose the inerrantists politically. Sherman countered that the future of the group was not at all decided and that a decision would be made at a meeting of the 15-member steering committee Nov. 29 in Atlanta.

"It's very difficult to keep from being discouraged on our side," Sherman said at the time. "I understand exactly why Kenneth said what he said. We have been trying to save drowning people who don't want to be saved; trying to alert editors who don't want to be alerted."

Chafin did attend the Atlanta meeting and at its close reaffirmed his earlier announcement, "I will no longer attend meetings of the group." However, he made it clear that he was not disassociating himself

from the group. He said the group had his support and could associate his name with their interests.

The steering committee named Vernon Davis, pastor of First Church of Alexandria, Va., as vice chairman. "We will meet in March and discuss again how we ought to plan for the Pittsburgh convention," Sherman said.

The struggle is between a group of inerrantists who want to turn the denomination to a more conservative stance and those who wish to keep it in the middle of the road.

"There is a political party of inerrantists," Sherman said. "It is the party of (Adrian) Rogers, (Bailey) Smith and Draper. (Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn., was SBC president in 1979, and Smith, pastor of First Southern Church of Del City, Okla., was president 1980 and 1981.)

"Their party has been in control since Houston (1979). I don't know how long they will continue to be in power," he added.

Sherman said the inerrantists are in the "majority position at this time. I am not going to give you a bunch of weasel words to say they aren't. We have only one forum for Southern Baptists and that is the SBC (annual meeting). We only count once a year and for the last four years they have won... fair and square."

He said one of the discouraging things for the moderate-conservative camp is that "what support we have in high places is often vacillating. It often seems the denominational leaders (heads of the 20 SBC sponsored agencies and state newspaper editors) overlook evidence. It seems they are so intent on harmony that it has become the end all."

William Marshall new KBC executive secretary

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP) — William Marshall, vice president for the office of human resources at the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., will be the next executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Marshall

Marshall, 50, will succeed Franklin Owen who held the top administrative post in the KBC for 10 years. Owen will retire Dec. 31 but will remain as a consultant to the con-

vention until June 30, 1983.

Marshall was elected unanimously by the executive board of the KBC Dec. 2, ending a 10-month search to designate Owen's successor. He will begin duties as secretary-elect in February and will officially become secretary-treasurer on May 1, 1983.

From 1969 to 1976 he and his wife, Alice, were under appointment as foreign missionaries working in Cyprus, Lebanon and West Germany. During that time he was completing his doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary, graduating in 1974.

In 1976 he returned to the FMB as director of furlough ministries and assumed his present position in 1980.