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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

5-8-1986

May 8, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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SBC Atlanta:
1986 convention preview
pp. 8-11

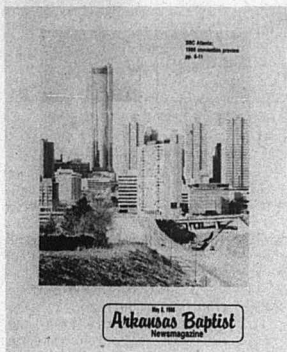


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May 8, 1986

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

On the cover



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Orientations sessions are set for June 21, July 18 and Aug. 7. Each session will follow the same agenda with the student being allowed to choose the day he or she wishes to attend.

Registration for each session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the lobby of Evans Student Center. A general session for students and parents will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Recital Hall of Mabee Fine Arts Center.

The registrants will be served lunch at 12

noon in the Banquet Room of Evans Student Center. The price of the meal for the students is included in a \$5 registration fee. Parents and other family members may purchase meal tickets for \$4.75 at registration.

Students planning to attend one of the sessions will need to have an ACT test result on file or bring the results. A transcript is also required. Ouachita will offer a residual ACT test on the day prior to each Early Academic Orientation date for the benefit of those students who missed taking the test on the national testing dates over the past year.

For more information on the Early Academic Orientation schedule and forms for registration and ACT testing, persons should contact the Dean of Academics Office at OBU, P.O. Box 3755, Arkadelphia, AR 71923 or by calling (501) 246-4531, ext. 196.

SBC commencement to award first B.A. degrees

WALNUT RIDGE—Southern Baptist College will grant the first bachelor of arts degrees in its 45-year history on Friday, May 16, 1986, in commencement activities in the Southernland-Mabee Center.

Twenty-three students will receive the bachelor of arts in Christian Ministries degree. Associate of arts degrees will be granted to 48 students.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church,



Rogers

Memphis, Tenn., will deliver the commencement address and also will receive an honorary citation of "Distinguished Baptist Minister." Thomas Hinson, pastor of First Church, West Memphis, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon.

Also receiving honorary citations during commencement ceremonies will be E. R. Coleman of Cord, "Distinguished Baptist Layman;" Pauline Lillard of Tyrone, "Distinguished Baptist Lady;" and Kyle Cox, missionary to Chile, "Distinguished Alumnus."

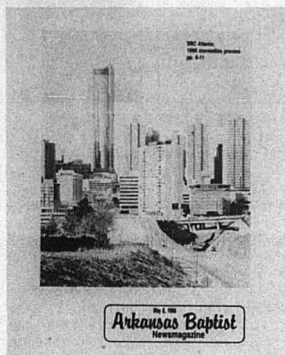
The Christian ministries degree is the first step to senior college status for Southern College. The next four-year program to be phased in will be in business administration.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Volunteers trained—Arkansas hosted its first statewide orientation for persons interested in longterm volunteer mission service April 14-17 in Little Rock. Twelve persons, mostly Arkansans, attended the workshop, which was led by Mission Service Corps staffers from the SBC Home Mission Board. Mission Service Corps recruits self-supporting volunteers who will work for one or two years in fulltime service at home or overseas.

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Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Growing confidence and cooperation may be a part of the revival for which we pray! From all parts of the state we are receiving encouraging news. No, we are not hearing of great numbers coming to the Lord as we had hoped we could be seeing at this time. But we are hearing of record crowds in attendance at Good News America Revivals. An increase in Sunday School attendance and in giving has come as a by-product of God working in our midst. Many churches which had been baptizing not one have had conversions and baptisms. We rejoice with them in this! We have probably worked and prayed for revival to come more quickly and painlessly than it can come. Yet, it could be on its way. So, let's keep calling on the Lord for that special visitation that will thoroughly saturate our churches with his holy life and sovereign power.



Moore

The Key Leader Meeting is only a few hours past. Thanks to the Lord and our faithful directors of missions, we set a new record. Over the weekend 1,100 Royal Ambassadors showed up for their annual RA Congress at Ouachita. This, too, was a record. At the same time, 450 Teens attended an Encounter at Levy church, and had the largest number ever to attend a single meeting in a local church. Without a doubt, the 11.3 percent increase in Cooperative Program the first quarter this year over last year is a record for that time period. Can you see why I am excited about what God is doing with our people in Arkansas? Since these areas of work are headed by your denominational workers, it brings an added delight to me to see God use them like he is, and to see you rely on them like you are. They love you and work constantly to try to provide the best help possible for you.

Two other real encouraging highs bless me as I reflect on recent weeks. The World Missions Week at Ouachita concluded with a great rally and many volunteering for mission service, and a visit to Southern Baptist College to speak in chapel and share a luncheon with the faculty; both lead me to believe our schools have never had a higher spiritual commitment than now.

Thank you, Lord, for the great ministries you allow us to share.

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

Letters to the editor

What measures revival?

Much thought has been put into the simultaneous revival and Good News America concept. I wonder what our results will be. How will we measure differences in ourselves and in our communities?

One way of measuring the results is to measure against what we need. The need? Who can disagree with the response: our need is a moral and spiritual renewal that touches every sphere of our lives, inside and out.

The problems that challenge us are essentially moral and spiritual, are they not? World hunger, all manner of injustices, the threat of war, poverty; at the core of each of these lies the need for a change of heart, individually and corporately. Where there is greed, there must come some sacrifice. Where there is indifference, there must be some compassion.

I am embarrassed at how much more concern there comes from those we label as secularists than from the Christian communi-



The Southern accent

Jackie Burton

BSU: servanthood and missions

It was a lively, exciting and enthusiastic meeting, and the topic of discussion was a semester break mission trip to Colorado. Decisions had to be made about travel time, cost per student, total number of students that were needed to meet the needs of the church we were to serve, and time allowed on the schedule for skiing. (I did say we were going to Colorado.)

This was a BSU council meeting in the early part of September. This was also the meeting that the BSU council committed themselves to an involvement of learning more about servanthood. This emphasis was to become a part of the total BSU program for the entire year. The excitement and enthusiasm of these 12 students became the pulse beat of the total BSU for the entire year.

I believe this became evident in student response to the yearly challenge of the summer missions committee goals for missions offerings and applicants. The challenge became not to either pray, give or go, but to become involved in all three.

Student leaders challenge my faith as they continue to set high goals and meet these goals for summer missions and world hunger giving (\$5,100 for 1984-85 and \$6,500 for 1985-86). They seem to ignore all the logical facts that Southern Baptist College has an enrollment of less than 500 students and that it should not be possible to meet these goals.

ty. Take, for instance, the Hands Across America campaign organizing to address world hunger. At last count, Southern Baptist (after a record year of world hunger offerings) are showing a decrease in the pace of giving to world hunger concerns.

Somewhere our priorities have gotten off base. While people are dying for lack of food, we are arguing over who believes the first 11 chapters of Genesis more. One question I want to pose is, when do some of the other passages get included, for Isaiah 1:11-18; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5-7; James 2:14-26?

I am bothered that even the communication of "Good News America" we are using a curious logo, the U.S. flag and Cross merged. It represents the clearest case of a symbol for civil religion at which anyone could arrive.

Many will take exception to that last remark. Yet, I feel some sense of having to draw attention to the matter that we must be careful not only of the goals of our

They pray, decide on the amount, start to work, meet the challenge, and reach the goal.

Twenty-eight students will be serving in mission areas this summer in Brazil, the United States and Canada. This is the second consecutive year that Southern's BSU had the highest number of students appointed to missions by the Arkansas BSU Summer Missions Committee.

Recently there was a great deal of publicity about college students and "Spring break" recreation on resort beaches in Florida. The news media does not often report, however, about those students who give their spring breaks, semester breaks or summers in mission involvement on those same Florida beaches, to sharing and answering the cries of inner city Houston or New Orleans, and the sharing of their faith in areas around the world.

I am happy to know that Southern's BSU students (and students from other campuses) are answering the call to servanthood and are involved in mission action in our world.

It was a lively and exciting meeting, but this time it was April. The "new" BSU council for 1986-87 was meeting to set goals and make plans for missions giving and going. The call to servanthood continues.

Jackie Burton is dean of women and BSU director at Southern Baptist College.

evangelistic thrusts, but we must be careful about the means we use to reach those goals. — William M. Tillman Jr., Fort Worth, Texas

A clearer understanding

Too seldom does anyone recognize the service of our denominational workers in the Little Rock Baptist Building. Let me do so.

Conway Sawyers of the Missions Department spoke to our Little River Baptist Association Executive Board on Monday night, April 21, at FBC, Lockesburg. He came at our request to share with us concerning associational missions development. During the course of the evening, it became even clearer to us that our questions and concerns are very basic in our recent attempts to clarify and establish purpose and goals for our association.

Brother Sawyers did an outstanding job in the meeting. He shared with us something which we will be doing very soon. He will be leading us a study course on Saturday, May 17, on the book, *A Baptist Association: Churches on Mission Together*, by J.C. Bradley.

Brother Sawyers has said he has no "magic answers," and we expect none. However, he is providing something for us which we (and quite possibly, other associations) have needed. I am looking forward to the study session on May 17. — Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro

Peace candidate

Surely a host of other Southern Baptists are nauseated by the controversy that has gripped (and griped) our convention for the past seven years. How refreshing to me was the advancement by Winfred Moore of a four-point plan for peace.

Each of Dr. Moore's suggestions addresses a critical source of tension with an effort to guarantee fairness in the process of conducting our business. Surely nobody on either side of the controversy would want to admit that fairness is distasteful. Perhaps we can all together embrace this proposal by this one who is avowedly and obviously a biblical conservative.

The article I read says Dr. Moore may be nominated by somebody to the office of president of the SBC. He brought a spirit of peace to the convention at Dallas when God orchestrated Dr. Moore's election as first vice-president. Dr. Moore helped us avoid a possible nasty scene on Thursday morning when he made an appeal to the messengers to be patient and show Christian restraint despite their frustration. I see him as the Peace Candidate.

We're never going to be free from the politics of this controversy until we elect a leader who is a peace-making lover of his denomination. Because he is undoubtedly conservative and fiercely loyal to his Lord and his denomination and because he

demonstrates the spirit of a peacemaker, Dr. Moore seems to be God's man for our crisis. I sure hope he is nominated, for electing him is another positive thing we can do together. — Clyde Glazener, Little Rock

Point two

I see nothing fair about point two of Winfred Moore's peace plan. According to his plan, the president and officers of the SBC would be compelled to make committee appointments from names submitted to them by only four persons from each state. If this plan were in force this year, then 466,459 Southern Baptists of Arkansas would be eliminated from the appointment process. (Figures are from our 1986 State Diary.) Also, Moore's plan would mean that 99.94 per cent (literally) of the Baptists of Arkansas would never in their lifetime be able to submit a single name for appointment.

Furthermore, Moore's appointment plan would lean heavily in favor of the state executive secretaries. Given their continuous input into the process year after year, the power of these men in this area would become awesome. I love and appreciate my executive secretary, but it does not seem fair to give him or anyone else that much control over such an extended period of time.

The persons named in Moore's plan certainly should suggest names to the president and officials of the SBC, but host of other concerned Baptists also should be allowed to have input into the appointment process. Moore's plan would concentrate power rather than distribute it fairly. — C.A. Johnson, Jonesboro

Time has come

When I read several weeks ago that President Charles Stanley of the Southern Baptist Convention had requested state convention leaders to suggest persons for possible appointment to the Committee on Committees, I wrote to commend him. If appointees are from the list of persons suggested by these officials, there will be less factionalism, I think.

With our commitment to local church government and maximum involvement in decision-making, we Southern Baptists do not believe in centralized ecclesiastical power.

The Convention has experimented with various ways of staffing its nominating committee so as to avoid centralized authority. In the early-1940s it provided for messengers to the SBC to meet in state caucuses for selecting persons for the nominating committee. The procedure proved unworkable. But the instinct was meritorious—namely, that members of the nominating committee should enjoy the respect and trust of Baptists in their respective states.

In two ways the Convention now limits the president's power in the nominating process.

First, it places the Committee on Committees between the president and the committee empowered to nominate persons to serve on its governing boards, thus keeping the president a step away from direct influence over nominations.

Second, the Convention requires the president to appoint the Committee on Committees "in conference with the vice-presidents" (Bylaw 21)—not "in consultation with vice-presidents," as some may think—thus keeping absolute appointive power out of the president's hands. "Conference" is a formal proceeding; "consultation" is an informal proceeding.

Perhaps the time has come for the Convention to specify that the officers shall serve as a committee in making appointments to the Committee on Committee and to decentralize the process further by requiring appointments to be made from lists of prospects suggested by elected (and perhaps administrative) officials in state conventions. I think that such procedure would lessen factionalism and the distrust and suspicion which factionalism fosters. — Hugh Wamble, Kansas City, Mo.

Yes, they will

Will the real Southern Baptists please stand up? They do! Every June at a convention somewhere across this land. They come as messengers from thousands of our Southern Baptist churches. They come in droves, even hordes when there is "something a brewin'." They elect their own leaders and make their own policies. They can make you jump for joy, or they can break your heart. They defy prediction. They are boisterous, prayerful, extreme and conservative.

They do not hesitate to let you know how they feel on any issue. They endure hours of debate and then go ahead and vote the way they come to vote anyhow. They elate and bewilder their leaders. They will take the responsibility for their actions even when their actions are irresponsible.

I never expect to see the day when they will be willing to let anyone but themselves make their decisions for them. They are noisy, but I love the noise of democracy, especially Southern Baptist style. If you prefer the smooth running of a well-greased hierarchy, there are many that can accommodate you, but give me the excitement of 50,000 men and women who have come to do the Lord's bidding. Hang on to your seats, you may never sit in them again!

Others decry our rumble, and predict our demise, and look with envy at our people who will go anywhere, do anything and give any amount to accomplish our mission.

Will the real Southern Baptists please stand up? Yes, they will, and God have mercy on anyone who tries to do it for them! — Staton Posey, El Dorado

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Bryan Faus has joined the staff of Cabot First Church as minister of music and youth, coming there from Central Church in Italy, Texas.

Jim Box will observe his fifth anniversary as pastor of Bald Knob Central Church May 11.

Mike Hamilton will join the staff of Des Arc First Church May 18 as director of youth activities.

A.D. Corder has resigned as pastor of Harmony Church at Perryville.

Mike Bradley was ordained to the preaching ministry May 3 at Knobel First Church, where he serves as pastor.

Mrs. A.V. (Gertrude) Smith has resigned as missions education leader at Tennessee Church in Texarkana, following 19 years of service. She has served a total of 32 years in four churches in promoting missions and mission offerings. Smith also has served for 35 years as a Sunday School teacher.

Stanley Jones has joined the staff of Shiloh Memorial Church in Texarkana as music director.

Doyle Lumpkin of Little Rock has been named as a new regional consultant for the Little Rock area by Mission Service Corps.

David Johnson is serving as pastor of Horseshoe Bend Church.

Marshall Boggs resigned as pastor of Mayflower Church May 4 to become pastor of First Church in Leary, Texas. He and his wife, Celia, and their daughter, Terri, will begin serving the Texas church May 11. Two other children, Resa and Darrell will remain in the central Arkansas area.

briefly

Union Avenue Church in Wynne ordained Donald Cox, Charles Owens and E.G. Neiswander to the deacon ministry April 6. Pastor Shelby Bittle served as moderator.

Pleasant Hill Church at Bauxite will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a 1:30 p.m. service May 18.

Benton Trinity Church hosted a May 4 reception, recognizing 10 years of service

for pastor Harold Stephens and his wife, Shirley.

Dardanelle First Church held its Good News America revival April 13-16. Ty Berry of Bettendorf, Iowa, brother of Pastor Tony Berry, was evangelist. Joe Morris of Bettendorf, a former staff member at Dardanelle, was music director. There were seven professions of faith and 12 re-dedications.

Newport First Church launched a ministry to senior adults April 24. Bill Huddleston of Arkansas Department of Human Services was speaker. "Senior Adults Loving Together," was selected as name for the group which will meet for a monthly fellowship. They also will share in the worship services and a grandparent-grandchildren program, according to pastor Gene Crawley.

Fayetteville First Church music ministry presented "Spring Sing '86" May 4 at 7 p.m. Featured were five childrens choirs, the ladies handbell choir, the sanctuary choir and the brass ensemble. Mark Short is minister of music.

Independence Association opened a counseling center May 6. Weekly services will be provided by Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services in cooperation with the association. Clint Morrison will serve as counselor with office hours on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., according to Eddie L. McCord, director of missions.

Combs Church celebrated its 20th anniversary May 4. This was also the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the church as a mission by Huntsville First Church. Walter Jesser is pastor.

Valley Springs First Church and Everton Church youth and their sponsors recently visited Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello for the purpose of delivering athletic equipment to be used by children residing there.

Woodland Heights Church in Harrison recently planted 500 pounds of seed potatoes for Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello for the ninth consecutive year, according to pastor J.A. Hogan.

ABN / Millie Gill



Windsor Park Church in Fort Smith dedicated an educational building valued at \$859,000 April 27. The 23,000-square-foot, two-story building houses office suite and music suites, a chapel, conference room, parlor, kitchenette, library, and a science lab for Fort Smith Christian School, plus Sunday School space for 650 adults which doubles as seven high school classrooms. It connects a worship center/education building and education/fellowship building. Construction costs are being funded through a three-year stewardship campaign. Dedication speakers included Pastor Bill Sutton; Ivan Hoffman, building committee chairman; Ferrell Morgan, Concord Association director of missions; Frank Reput of Memphis, architect; Gary Crawford, contractor.

Arkansas City Church held a service April 27 to commission Pastor and Mrs. Ken Overton and James Kolb for service in Maraba, Brazil, May 18-28 as a part of the AMAR project. Tom Darter, director of missions for Delta Association, gave the charge to the volunteers and Gene Gregory, pastor of Halley Church, preached the commissioning message. A financial gift of more than \$2,900 was presented to the trio for trip expenses

from the congregation. Mrs. Overton also received a gift of clothing for her trip.

Lake Village Church will observe its 125th anniversary June 1 in conjunction with the Arkansas state sesquicentennial celebration. Plans have been made to unveil a church bell that has been dormant since 1931 and to toll it 125 times to mark the beginning of the anniversary celebration. Other activities will include

the placing of a bronze plaque on the county library to commemorate the location of the original church building. Former pastors and members are to be special guests.

Hurricane Lake Church at Benton will observe homecoming May 18 with activities that include a noon fellowship luncheon and afternoon music program. Speakers will include pastor John S. Ashcraft and former pastor Mac Gates.

Pleasant Grove Church 3 near Waldron observed homecoming with "Old Timers Day" April 27. Special guests included Elva Adams, former director of missions for Buckner Association; Herman Highfill, Howard Laneer and Paul McDaniel, all former pastors; Johnnie Darr, Buckner Association director of missions, and ABN Editor J. Everett Sneed. Vernie Eugene Heydenreich, Mary and Nancy Sparks, Lee Langston and the Glen Dale Sparks family were guest musicians. V. W. Simpson is pastor.



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Campers

Many of us throughout the USA are campers or RVers. Like the terrapin, we take our roof with us, in the form of a trailer, motor home or tent. This summer, campgrounds on the many Arkansas lakes and rivers will again be occupied by all sorts of people such as young families, young people, retired couples, fishermen and others. Last year in northwest Arkansas, I saw a sign in front of a small country church stating, "Welcome Traveler. Come as you are." More churches need to find ways to serve the wandering nomads that have become an American way of life.

A number of campgrounds have notices on bulletin boards about local Sunday services and Bible study groups. Invitations are extended to children and youth to attend Vacation Bible School. Sometimes there is a pavilion where Sunday worship is conducted for visitors. One place that we visited had a group of college students who came each Sunday afternoon and did a puppet show with Bible study for the children.

It's fun to meet new people when stopped for a night or two at a RV park. Sometimes we combine our supper with a neighbor's and have a meal together. It is gratifying to have a new friend say grace for the group.

This month our recipe is for a favorite "traveling food," spaghetti. The sauce is made at home and frozen. You might want to share this meal with new friends. It's good for home use too.

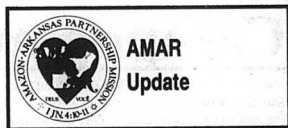
Spaghetti

1½ - 2 lbs. lean ground beef	1 tsp. garlic powder
1 onion, chopped	1 tblsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 - 1 lb. cans tomatoes	2 tsp. oregano
1 - 8 oz. can tomato sauce	salt to taste
1 bell pepper chopped (optional)	1 - 12 oz. package vermicelli spaghetti

Brown meat in large skillet. Add onion and bell pepper. Saute. Add tomatoes, tomato sauce, garlic powder, oregano, Worcestershire sauce and salt. Cook over low heat for about an hour, stirring frequently. Add extra tomato sauce and water to prevent dryness if needed. Cool and package for freezing. When camped, cook spaghetti according to package instructions. (Be sure to carry a large kettle.) Drain the cooked spaghetti and add thawed and heated sauce. Heat and stir together.

Simple food is best for campers: sauerkraut and weiners served on hot buns; brown beans and ham cooked overnight in a crockery pot; chili (from a can), heated, and served over corn chips; chicken pieces baked overnight in a crockery pot with half a bottle of Italian dressing poured over chicken; canned and fresh fruit for dessert, with bought cookies when the homemade ones are all gone.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.



AMAR
Update

Hope Calvary Church recently sent a mimeograph machine to missionaries Richard and Bea Walker for their work in Santarem.

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

Pine Bluff BSU holds first spring revival

The Baptist Student Union of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff held its first spring revival April 7-10 under the theme "In Times Like These..."

Robert Willingham Jr., pastor of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock, served as evangelist for the services, which were held in the BSU chapel. BSU Director Franklin Scott reported two students made decisions for Christ.

Pastors

ATLANTA (BP)—“Jesus... Author and Finisher” will be the theme of the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors’ Conference, June 8-9 in the Georgia World Conference Center in Atlanta.

“God just put it on my heart for us to simply preach Jesus at this Pastors’ Conference,” said Morris Chapman, chairman of the annual gathering, one of the meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12.

Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said he believes Southern Baptist “pastors have great needs and there is nothing more thrilling or inspiring than lifting up Jesus. I know Jesus is the answer to every need. I am just hoping it will be a time that our hearts as a people of God can be refreshed and renewed and revived.”

He added: “I felt preachers today—individually, in their homes and in their churches—are facing crises and conflict in

unparalleled proportions. My prayer is that this Pastors’ Conference will be an opportunity for many pastors and their wives to reflect on the reality of just what Jesus can mean to them in what they are facing in their lives and ministries.”

The chairman said the meeting has been developed “as a high hour of inspiration. I have invited men who I believe have been faithful in preaching Jesus in a way that has resulted in scores of lives being changed.”

He noted the theme will begin with a message on the pre-existence of Christ and conclude with a sermon on the pre-eminence of Christ.

Preachers and themes include Ed Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, pre-existence of Christ; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., virgin birth; Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Church, Baltimore, Md., identity of Jesus; Jay Strack, evangelist from Fort Myers, Fla.,

Jesus, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow; Harry Garvin, an SBC missionary to Uganda, looking to Jesus; William Tolar, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, the atonement; Bailey E. Smith, evangelist, Del City, Okla., the cross;

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., the name of Jesus; James Reimer, pastor of Second Church, Springfield, Mo., the resurrection; Dwight “Ike” Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga., anointed to preach Jesus; Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas, the ascension and Jesus as advocate;

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., the second coming; David Ring, evangelist from St. Charles, Mo., a testimonial sermon; and Eugene Ridley, evangelist from Dillsboro, N.C., the pre-eminence of Christ.

Campus ministers

ATLANTA (BP)—“The Hope of Our Call” will be the theme for the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers June 8-9 at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta.

Campus ministers from schools across the United States will focus on understanding God’s direction in their lives, said Frank Cofer, president of the organization and director of Baptist student ministries for the Chicago Metropolitan Association.

That examination of God’s vocational calling will be facilitated by two “cluster group” sessions, Cofer explained. In the first, participants will be grouped by the length of their tenure in campus ministry to share how they have arrived at their calling. In the second, they will divide into small groups to study practical subjects ranging from administration to Bible study approaches.

Resource leaders primarily will be drawn from within the group, he added, noting

contributions of colleagues are designed to enhance the spirit of collegiality.

In addition, two speakers from outside the organization will address the meeting. Bill Clemmons, professor of spiritual formation at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will help participants assess their call to campus ministry. Peter Rhea Jones, pastor of First Church of Decatur, Ga., will lead in “celebrating a call to ministry.”

Music

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist musicians will look to the past, present and future when they convene for the 30th anniversary session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Atlanta June 7-9.

“We will be celebrating 30 years of strengthening musicians through fellowship and through spiritual and musical renewal,” said Harry Cowan, president of the organization and minister of music at First Church of New Orleans. The meeting will be held at Wieuca Road Church immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 10-12.

“We are going to take a look at the church musician—the past, present and future,” Cowan said. “We started (as an organization)

in Chicago in 1957. We will take a look at our roots... and come up to the present day. Then we will have six seminary students share performances with us as we look at church musicians in the future.

“We also will observe the 100th anniversary of the birth of B.B. McKinney, Southern Baptists’ best-known writer of gospel hymns,” he noted. “We will have people who have been closely associated with him—W. Hines Sims and William J. Reynolds, both former directors of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board’s church music department, and Robert Hastings, his biographer— sharing some things about his life and the contributions he made to Southern Baptists.”

In addition, participants will focus on the body, mind and spirit of the church musician, he said. Ray Conner, director of the Sunday School Board’s church recreation department, will speak on the body. John Hewett, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C., will discuss the mind and spirit.

The conference also will feature the premiere of an anthem commissioned for this year, “Psalm of Celebration” by composer Mark Hayes of Kansas City, Mo.

Don Fontana, minister of music at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, Calif., and former music conductor at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., will lead three sessions on professional skill development.

DOMs

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of associational ministry from across the Southern Baptist Convention will explore their dreams of combined ministry when they gather for their annual meeting June 8-9 in Atlanta.

"Capture the Vision" will be the theme for the 1986 Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, held in the Holiday Inn Crowne Center.

"The director of missions' main task is dreaming. He is to have a vision of what an

association can do and be with churches working together in fellowship," said Bob Lee Franklin, president of the organization and director of missions for Noonday Association in Marietta, Ga.

Robert Dale, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and author of the book, "To Dream Again," will "try to set the whole pattern for us on the necessity of dreaming," Franklin said. Following will be six "visions"

presented in chapters 7-10 of the Book of Acts, related by people who can be models of the dreams they describe, he noted.

Among the topics and presenters will be "A Vision's Cost—Stephen," by Everett Anthony, director of missions for Chicago Metro Association, and "A Vision of Life—Paul," by Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church of Jackson, Miss., and former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Women in ministry

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist women involved in ministry will focus on the purpose and variety of their ministerial roles during the fourth annual meeting of Women in Ministry, SBC, June 7-8 in Atlanta.

Irene Bennett, program coordinator and minister of education and youth at Evans Church in Evans, Ga., said the June 7 sessions will be held at Second Ponce de Leon

Church, and the June 8 session at the Omni International Hotel.

Theme for the meeting will be "We Preach Not Ourselves." "We Speak Because We Believe" will be addressed by Pam Scalise, assistant professor of Old Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Clista Whitehurst Adkins, former professor of Old Testament at Bel-

mont College, Nashville, Tenn.

Christine Gregory, former national president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and SBC vice-president of Danville, Va., will speak on "We Preach Christ as Lord."

The event also will feature a Sunday morning worship service and presentation of "The Lower Room," a two-act Easter drama.

Forum

ATLANTA (BP)—"Baptist hallmarks" will capture the attention of some 7,500 participants expected to attend the SBC Forum June 9 in Atlanta, one day prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"The Hallmarks of Our Baptist Heritage" will be the theme for the meeting, which will begin at 1:15 p.m. in The Omni in downtown Atlanta, said Charles Wade, pastor of First Church of Arlington, Texas, and chairman of the SBC Forum committee.

"At a time when all Southern Baptists are

looking for a way to unity and peace in our convention, the Forum wants to sound the strong notes of our Baptist heritage," Wade explained.

"There are some great truths that have made us one people across the years," Wade added. "Among those have been our strong commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority of the Scripture, soul competency, mission outreach, evangelism and Christian education.

"The Forum will give many Southern Baptists a place to hear those unifying themes

of Baptist life fervently and effectively proclaimed," he said. "We hope messengers will take in the Forum as spiritual preparation for a great convention."

Speakers and their topics will include Norman Cavender, layman from Claxton, Ga., Baptists and Christian freedom; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC in Birmingham, Ala., Baptists and the role of women; and Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., Baptists and missions.

Evangelists

ATLANTA (BP)—Preachers and singers will seek to encourage fellow Christians to lead more people to faith in Christ when the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists convenes in Atlanta June 11.

The event is scheduled during the Wednesday afternoon break in business sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also scheduled for Atlanta June 10-12. The evangelists will meet at the city's First Church, beginning at 12:50 p.m.

"Our theme is 'Back to Soul-Winning,'"

said Larry Taylor, an evangelist from San Antonio, Texas, and president of the evangelists' conference. The theme relates to the Good News America—God Loves You simultaneous revivals being held across the Southern Baptist Convention this spring, he said.

"Because of the Good News America emphasis, most state convention evangelism directors want to win more people to Christ and baptize more people this year," Taylor explained. "All of us who are evangelists are

trying to win more souls this year than ever before." With those factors in mind, the evangelists decided to coordinate their theme with the SBC-wide evangelistic emphasis, he said.

Featured will be 12 music evangelists or groups and messages from four speakers, as well as greetings from Taylor and SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta. Special recognition will be paid to evangelists George Havens of Fort Worth, Texas, and Felix Snipes of Atlanta.



WMU

ATLANTA (BP)—Celebrations of historic missions milestones will mark the 1986 Woman's Missionary Union national annual meeting June 8-9 in the Georgia World Congress Center, in Atlanta.

With the theme, "What We Yet May Be," the meeting will focus on the future of missions in light of the past.

Various 100-year anniversaries will be featured, including the centennial of missions literature, missions work with children and Woman's Missionary Union itself.

WMU, the national missions education organization for women, girls and preschoolers, was founded in May 1888. Plans for upcoming centennial celebrations will be revealed at the annual meeting.

Baptist children from Atlanta will perform a special Children's Centennial Pageant in a meeting session designed to feature mis-

sions education for children.

An exhibit commemorating the sesquicentennial of work in China by missionary J. Lewis Shuck will conclude the historic celebrations.

Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., will give her last address as national WMU president, and new officers will be elected during the annual meeting. Recording Secretary Betty Gilreath also will go out of office.

SBC Peace Committee member Christine Gregory will speak on "What Our Convention Yet May Be." Gregory is a former national WMU president and SBC vice-president.

Other featured speakers include Paul Brand, chief of rehabilitation at the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, La., and David Barrett, missions researcher and editor of *World Christian Encyclopedia*, who will

discuss strategies for reaching for Christ a rapidly changing world of the future.

Pre-session music will have an international flavor with performances by Chinese, Laotian and Romanian choirs. The Florida Baptist Singing Men and Women also will perform.

Other events connected with the WMU annual meeting include a luncheon for Women in Professional Ministry, a Prayer Box Supper, a Baptist Nursing Fellowship Breakfast and an Ethnic WMU Members Breakfast. Annual meeting sessions will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center and meal functions at the Omni International Hotel.

Music director for the meeting will be Angela Cofer of Tucson, Ariz. Scott Bennett of Jackson, Tenn., will be organist. Pianist will be Janell Ganey of Louisville, Ky.

R.E.

ATLANTA (BP)—"It Takes Us All" will be the theme for the 31st annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association in Atlanta June 8-9.

"We are going to be stressing servanthood throughout the whole conference," said Dennis Parrott, president of the organization and minister of education at Green Acres Church in Tyler, Texas. Up to 900 religious educators are expected for the meeting, to be held at the Omni International Hotel in downtown Atlanta.

"We feel if we can make a contribution to the spirit of unity within the Southern Baptist Convention, we will have accomplished

our purpose," he said. The religious educators' meeting will be held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, also set for Atlanta, June 10-12.

The first session of the organization's meeting will focus on servant leadership, featuring a message on that topic by Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Parrott noted. Other testimonies will be presented by persons "who have observed servant leadership."

In the next session, Walter Shurden, religion professor at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., will help religious educators "identify in our past those times when we

have had challenges to our unity and describe how we dealt with that," Parrott added. He said Shurden also will present principles for dealing with denominational challenge and controversy in a spirit of unity.

"Then we're going to have a time of prayer where we examine our own spirits and how we can ask the Lord to use us in managing the diversity within the convention," he said. "We're going to seek out how we can contribute to a spirit of unity."

The conference also will feature small-group meetings divided according to vocation that will focus on "practical ways that we can follow up on our meeting," he said.

Peacemakers

ATLANTA (BP)—Joseph Roberts, pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer Church, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Baptist Peacemaker/Baptist Peace Fellowship meeting prior to the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention.

The program begins at 10 a.m. Monday, June 9, and will close with lunch. Tickets are \$5, available from Baptist Peace Fellowship, 222 East Lake Dr., Decatur, Ga. 30030; (404) 377-8423. The program will include a tour of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change.

"Since Dr. King is something of a 'patron saint' for the Baptist Peace Fellowship, and

since our top priority for 1986 is increasing black Baptist involvement in our network, it is especially appropriate we meet at Ebenezer and Dr. Roberts address our constituency," said Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship.

Roberts' topic is "If you want peace, work for justice," Sehested added.

This year's is the third such meeting, which was originated by the staff of the Baptist Peacemaker, a quarterly journal founded in 1980. The Baptist Peace Fellowship, a two-year-old organization attempting to link Baptists concerned about justice and peace issues, joined as co-sponsor in 1985.

Ministers' wives luncheon to focus on fitness, service

ATLANTA (BP)—"Ministers' Wives: Alive-Fit-Serving" will be the theme for the 1986 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon in Atlanta Tuesday, June 10, at 12:15 p.m. in the Omni International Hotel in Atlanta.

Ministers' wives will focus on physical and spiritual fitness during the luncheon, said Betty Dilday, president of the SBC Conference of Ministers' Wives. Keynote speaker will be Millie Cooper of Dallas, who wrote "Aerobics for Women."

Tickets are available in advance for \$13.50 from Joy Rust, 324 White Falls Drive, Columbia, SC 29120. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be enclosed.

Program

ATLANTA (BP)—“Love never fails,” a Scripture reference from I Corinthians 13:8, will be the theme of the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 10-12 in the Georgia Congress World Center in Atlanta.

“Our hope is that love will be the prevailing atmosphere of our convention,” said Fred Wolfe, chairman of the 1986 SBC Order of Business Committee, which is responsible for planning the meeting.

“We do have honest differences,” said Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala. “But with the convention theme we are saying we can walk together in love.”

The 1986 meeting—similar to the 1985 convention in Dallas—faces the possibility of a record number of messengers, logistical problems and the likelihood of controversy.

Wolfe said the six-member Order of Business Committee “is committed to assisting the president and the messengers to have as easy a time as possible. We want the messengers to be able to express themselves and to feel they have had an ample opportunity to participate.”

Wolfe estimated there will be more than 50,000 messengers at the convention, topping the record 45,519 registered in Dallas. Prior to Dallas, the record was set in 1978 in Atlanta, when 22,872 persons registered.

“I believe we can handle 50,000,” Wolfe said, “although it will push us. Some predict we may have 60,000 but if we reach that it will really surprise me.”

The chairman noted the Georgia World Congress Center—a sprawling facility in downtown Atlanta—“is adequate to handle us, but moving 50,000 or 60,000 people into the meeting hall is going to be difficult and time consuming.”

Convention planners estimate it will take two hours to move that many people from the entrance down two escalators and into the large halls. It will not take an individual messenger that long, but from start to finish, two hours will be required to fill the hall.

It was pointed out it took 90 minutes to fill the Dallas Convention Center with 45,000 people, and that was all on the same level and did not require travel down stairs and escalators.

“This is going to require a lot of patience on the part of the messengers,” Wolfe said, urging people to be “courteous, kind and Christian” in their behavior toward one another and toward ushers and others responsible for assisting them in getting into the convention.

Wolfe said the convention center will be

open Sunday afternoon and all day Monday for preliminary meetings—Woman’s Missionary Union annual meeting and the Pastors’ Conference—and to allow messengers to register.

At 7 a.m. Tuesday, the convention center will open, but admittance will be limited to registered messengers, program personalities and the news media. Persons wishing to register also will be allowed to go to the registration area on the main floor.

“Persons who are not in one of those categories should not even come to the World Congress Center,” Wolfe said. He added there is expected to be no overflow space for the seating of non-messengers, particularly Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Wolfe said non-messengers may be admitted Wednesday night.

Wolfe said getting to the convention center through downtown Atlanta will present additional problems, particularly since the opening times of the SBC coincide with traditional rush hour.

“Messengers should give themselves plenty of time and come prepared,” he said.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the convention will have seating space for 45,000 persons, standing room for another 20,000. On Thursday, 11,000 seats will be eliminated, leaving only 34,000 seats.

Wolfe said the “interest level in the convention is the highest it has ever been. That is good; I just hate it that controversy had to bring us here.”

‘We do have honest differences, but with the convention theme we are saying we can walk together in love.’

—Fred Wolfe

He noted Atlanta is perhaps the most accessible city for the majority of Southern Baptists and said: “I believe people have strong, strong feelings about what is going on in the convention. It is genuine concern and a desire that we come together and get on about the work God has called us to do.”

“Both sides have strong convictions and both love the convention and want to see it be what God wants it to be.”

Wolfe said the Order of Business Committee has taken several steps to help ensure the meeting is conducted properly.

Basic parliamentary procedure will be printed in the first Convention Bulletin, helping messengers “understand the proper way to go about making motions, resolutions, points of order.”

Some 30 laymen from across the nation have been appointed “microphone

monitors” for the 13 microphones on the floor. In addition, a special device has been designed, allowing the monitors to indicate whether a person is for a motion, against it, raising a point of order or a point of personal privilege. The device will allow the presiding officer to determine the order of appearance and whether a person at a microphone is for or against an action.

“The monitors will find out who is for and who is against and line them up in that order,” Wolfe said. “We have had situations in the past that were not good and we came up with this method of recognition that we think will assure fairness,” he added.

The monitors were “recommended by the state Brotherhood directors,” Wolfe said. Their numbers were augmented by laypersons from five churches in Atlanta, which Wolfe said “were selected right down the middle to assure their fairness.”

Wolfe said six other persons were appointed to assist the Order of Business Committee in the three overflow halls, to help in seating people, recognizing messengers at the microphones and taking the vote, whether it is by ballot or by voice or hand.

The assistants are selected by members of the Order of Business Committee, Wolfe said.

Much of the business of the convention will be conducted during the first day’s session, including election of a president, deliberating on a proposed change of con-

troversial Bylaw 16, and receiving the reports of the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees and the Committee on Committees.

“We wanted a maximum participation of the messengers, and we felt we would have far more people present Tuesday than any of the other days. That is why we put so much business on that day. We felt if we wanted maximum participation, that was the day we would get it,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe noted other highlights of the program include Home Missions night on Tuesday and Foreign Missions night on Wednesday, as well as the convention sermon by Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., on Wednesday morning.

“We also have set aside a time for prayer at the request of SBC President Charles Stanley,” Wolfe said.

Three Arkansans named missionary journeymen by FMB

Three young men from Arkansas were among 64 young adults recently approved for training as missionary journeymen by the Foreign Mission Board.

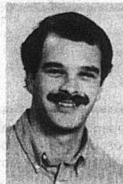
Bryant Pearson of Russellville was assigned as a student worker in Kampala, Uganda. Pearson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Pearson of Russellville, is a spring graduate of Arkansas State University. He has been active in Baptist Student Union, serving most recently as ministries vice-chairman on the BSU Council. Pearson is a member of Central Church, Jonesboro.



Pearson



Bryant



Burgett

Kurt Bryant of Fort Smith was assigned as a student worker at a Baptist Center in San Jose, Costa Rica. Bryant, the son of Dr. and Mrs. James W. Bryant of Fort Smith, is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He has been involved in partnership missions in Brazil under the sponsorship of his

home church, Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith.

Keith Burgett of Huntington was assigned as an elementary and secondary school teacher in Cajamarca, Peru. Burgett, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Burgett of Huntington, is a graduate of Henderson State University. He has served as president of his campus BSU and as a Foreign Mission Board summer missionary in Brazil. He is a former youth director at First Church, Arkadelphia, and is a member of the Richwoods Church, Arkadelphia.

The approved compose the 24th group of college graduates under 27 years of age to go overseas to work for two years alongside career missionaries. Those who receive medical clearance and successfully complete a five-week training session will be commissioned by the board in July.

Arkansans nominated, appointed to positions

Eight Arkansans have been nominated to positions on Southern Baptist boards, commissions or standing committees, and two others have been appointed by SBC President Charles Stanley to the convention's committee on committees.

The following persons were nominated by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees for the approval of messengers at the annual meeting in Atlanta June 10-12:

Executive Committee, Thomas A. Hinson of West Memphis, renominated for second term; Foreign Mission Board, Jack Bledsoe of Des Arc, replacing Mrs. Jewell V. Moore Jr. of Hope; Home Mission Board, Nick Garland of Hot Springs, renominated for second term;

Baptist Sunday School Board, Cecil E. Weller of Fort Smith, replacing Don Fuller of Brinkley; Annuity Board, William A. Willis of Little Rock, replacing Jon Stubblefield, formerly of Magnolia;

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, C. A. Johnson of Jonesboro, replacing T. Shad Medlin of El Dorado; Brotherhood Commission, Angus L. Emerson III of Cabot, renominated for second term; Committee on Order of Business, John B. Wright of Little Rock, replacing Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas.

Two persons—Lamar Lifer of Little Rock and Frank Lady of Jonesboro—appointed by SBC President Charles Stanley to positions on the Committee on Committees are not subject to messenger approval.

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In the first evening session, the preacher dealt earnestly with the joy of salvation. At the conclusion, he invited those who would trust Jesus to come forward. No one responded.

He further extended the appeal by urging the unbelievers to "place your hand in the nail-scarred hand." The phrase greatly impressed McKinney, and, immediately followed the benediction, he wrote it down on an envelope he had in

his pocket.

McKinney had planned to return to Fort Worth after the evening session, but storm clouds had gathered, and this trip did not seem wise. One of the families in Allen invited him to spend the night with them.

He had no sooner reached their home than the storm broke in all its fury and continued for several hours. During the storm, he wrote both words and music for "The Nail-Scarred Hand."

The next morning, after he led the opening hymn for the Sunday School conference, he sang for the first time his hymn, written the night before in the midst of the storm. — William J. Reynolds

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Missionary child undergoes amputation of hands and feet

DALLAS (BP)—Philip Newberry, a Southern Baptist missionary child stricken with meningitis, underwent surgery April 29 to amputate his hands and feet.

Meningitis had caused poor circulation in his extremities, resulting in gangrene. This required amputation of the left arm almost to the elbow, the right hand at the wrist and both legs halfway to the knee.

Philip is the 23-month-old son of mis-

sionaries Randy and Jan Newberry of Gordon, Texas. The child became ill while the Newberrys were attending a furloughing missionary conference near Richmond, Va., in late March. He was transferred to Children's Medical Center in Dallas for the surgery.

He appears alert, Newberry said, adding the child likes for his mother to read to him. "He likes Mickey Mouse stories and Sesame Street. He likes Big Bird." His only word in recent weeks has been "Momma," which he says in her absence.

"We've known this (surgery) was coming for about three weeks," Newberry said April 30. "Looking at Philip's hands and feet, we knew they were no good to him. We knew this was better for him and he'll overcome the physical handicaps. We're doing fine."

The hardest part, Newberry said, has been "just not knowing what God's plan is for Philip's life, how he will bring more glory to God by not having hands and feet."

"I know God's in control and I know he has a plan for our lives and for Philip's life," Newberry said. "Sometimes we see through that glass much darker than at other times, and right now, it's still pretty dark. The Lord gives you the strength you need for every

day, not for tomorrow, just for today.

"If there was any way we could thank everyone for their prayers—I don't know how, but we do. I know God has answered those prayers. We still have Philip."

Earlier weekend, when Philip's condition particularly was critical, "it would have been very difficult to get through that weekend without the support of the (Southern Baptist) Foreign Mission Board staff," Newberry said. "I don't know of anything that would have had me prepared for this except my personal relationship with the Lord."

Newberry expressed gratitude that a top administrator with the board lent his car to them for a week in Richmond and that the administrator's wife washed the Newberry family's laundry.

Philip is expected to remain in the Dallas medical center three to four more weeks and will be able to go home, Newberry said. After some recovery at home, he will begin rehabilitation in a Dallas hospital. He will undergo some skin grafting in a few days.

The Newberrys were appointed missionaries to Brazil in 1982. They have two other children, Amy, 15, and Josef, 13. Philip's second birthday will be June 2.



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"Even so it is not the will of your father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." Matt. 18:14

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Israel's highest court asks Baptists to move

JERUSALEM (BP)—Israel's highest court April 22 asked a Baptist church to leave a heavily Jewish area before it replaces the building destroyed by arson three years ago.

The High Court's three judges, reviewing a case filed by Narkis Street Church to reverse a denial of its building permit, suggested instead the congregation consider moving to another part of the city.

Pat Hoaldridge, acting chairman of Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, said he believed the court was trying to prevent further raising of religious and political feelings concerning the church.

The international English-language congregation of about 350 now meets under a tent-like structure of temporary roofing and tarpaulin beside the chapel ruins.

In their statement, the judges said they would not rule on the case for two months. They said this would give the church and Baptist convention of Israel time to consider their recommendation to trade the property for a site proposed earlier by the city.

The convention plans to discuss the court's recommendation during a meeting in mid-May. Hoaldridge said he is uncertain what the church will do.

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Annuity Board president urges support of annuity proposal

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Annuity Board President Darold Morgan has called on members of Southern Baptist retirement plans to contact their U.S. senators, urging support of a Senate Finance Committee proposal to retain present rules relating to 403(b) tax sheltered annuities.

The rules, which would be included in the

tax reform bill now being studied by the Senate, directly affects the retirement plans for Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees administered by the board, Morgan said.

The proposal removes the \$7,000 cap on 403(b) annuities, reverses the rule that would include IRA contributions in the \$7,000 cap

and eliminates the 15 percent penalty on withdrawal from 403(b) plan prior to age 59 and a half.

The Church Alliance, a group of leaders from 29 mainline religious denominations, supports the proposal, Morgan said. He is president of the alliance.

RTVC 'stabilizing,' Allen tells board of trustees

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Although progress has been relatively slow, trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission were told the RTVC and its American Christian Television System is "stabilizing."

During their April board meeting, RTVC President Jimmy Allen told trustees: "We are not quite stable yet but are moving into a very healthy position. We have a game plan that will work and we are working our plan."

Since ACTS was launched at the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, it has been beset with financial difficulties as staff and trustees struggled to make the fledgling television network viable.

In September of 1985—after six months of study—the SBC Executive Committee approved a \$10 million loan with a 10-year payback and granted permission to launch a 5-year \$10 million development campaign.

The approval carried "very stringent" requirements "designed to help them

develop a definite plan to retire their indebtedness without having to add additional indebtedness."

Following the approval, the RTVC reorganized its staff, naming Jim Edwards senior vice president and chief operating officer, and cut staff and expenses back to bare bones.

In the April RTVC trustee meeting, Edwards reviewed the financial situation and said: "The bottom line is that we are in the black by \$177,000 for the six months ending in March. Our cash flow has improved, we have borrowed \$700,000 less than projected and have paid that back more rapidly. Our expenses are down by \$163,000 and every major division is under budget."

Allen told trustees ACTS currently is accessible to about "3.9 million homes, almost matching our goal at its minimal level. We wanted to have 4 million homes by now. We are not quite there but are making progress."

He commented he is asked if ACTS "is

growing and paying its bills. I find myself wishing we could talk about how many folks are really finding the Lord and how many are being enriched. I am far more interested in what God is doing with folks. I am glad of expansion, not because it is the base out of which advertising (revenues) will come, but because it will be a bigger base out of which we will reach more people for Christ."

Allen said the system has added two full power television stations to its network—one in Birmingham, Ala., accessing 400,000 households and another in New York, with a potential 600,000 homes—and recently put on 212 low power stations serving 80,000 Eskimos in Alaska.

He reported some 240 local ACTS boards are functioning, of which 40-50 are doing some local production, and about "an equal number" are waiting for ACTS to be available in their areas.

HMB sells \$2.8 million in 1st HMB church bond issue

ATLANTA (BP)—The SBC Home Mission Board's church loans division completed the sale of its first church bond issue, selling bonds totalling \$2,850,000 in the "Series A" bond issue which ended March 31.

Funds from the sale of bonds are being used to make direct loans to Southern Baptist churches for building construction and site purchase as a part of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis, said Robert H. Kilgore, director of the board's church loans division.

The bond issue, the first of its kind offered by the Home Mission Board, has enabled the board to go to the general public to borrow money on church bond investments which in turn can be loaned to churches, Kilgore explained. In the past, the board had to get

funds for church loans from insurance companies and commercial lending institutions.

"This means that the Home Mission Board can lower interest rates on loans it makes to churches, because the board is no longer dependent on high interest rates of commercial loans," Kilgore said.

Since the board began selling bonds last December, the interest rate on church loans has been reduced three times, from 13 3/4 percent to 12 7/8 percent. Kilgore said the board is considering even lower interest rates on its loans and is considering a plan whereby churches currently paying higher interest rates can refinance their loans at lower rates.

Depending on maturity date, the bond

issue offered interest rates to investors ranging from 10 to 12 percent, with maturity dates ranging from one to 20 years. Interest is payable semi-annually.

During their spring board meeting, directors of the Home Mission Board approved a second series of bonds, to be called "Series B" bonds, up to \$4.5 million. While Kilgore said the bonds probably would be available about May 15, he cautioned the bonds will be sold only by prospectus and interested investors should rely upon the information in the prospectus.

Kilgore said interest rates on the Series B bonds probably will bear interest ranging from 9 to 11 percent, depending on maturity dates.

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The power of the Holy Spirit

by Winfred P. Bridges, First Church, Paragould

Basic passage: Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-21 12:22-32

Focal passage: Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:1-4, 12-18

Central truth: The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to witness about Jesus.

The Lord granted my wife and me a beautiful daughter. She comes to me from time to time with requests. She can do this. She is our daughter. Christians are given the "power" to ask of God when they are saved. However, the dynamic to be outspoken for God comes with a different "power" from God.

The early Christians became bold for God with this new power. It was needed because, to impress a multi-lingual people, they needed to hear the gospel in language natural to their understanding.

Our first place of witness is in the home. The language of the home is the language of love. This is our "Jerusalem" initially. The dynamic of our personal relationship to Christ in our homes can reach outside our homes to our neighborhood. Through acquiring Bible knowledge in Sunday School, participating in Lay Evangelism schools, and continuing witness training, we can be equipped to share Christ in confidence with other.

Bold Mission Thrust has been adopted with the goal of sharing Christ with the world to every nation. The gift of languages (tongues), not an unintelligible gibberish, will be needed. Only approximately one third of students who study English ever grasp grammar and syntax. The Lord will need to empower special people with special gifts to accomplish our goals in Bold Mission Thrust.

Until Pentecost, the disciples were on "timid mission thrust," but the Holy Spirit gave them new dynamic. They became excited about the gospel. We can do the same. God can empower us.

We need to begin at home literally, making our homes effective witnesses for Christ. Afterward, we need to evangelize our communities, our state, our nation and the world. Jesus Christ indwelling in the believer is the only means for this to occur. Since takes approximately 30 Southern Baptists to convert one lost person, we are losing ground fast. Evangelism must be seen as the privilege and responsibility of every Christian. It cannot be left to a few.

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Life and Work

In Christian service

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Colossians 4:2-17:

1 Thess. 3:1-13

Focal passage: Colossians 4:10-15;

1 Thess. 3:1-4

Central truth: Christians must cooperate to be effective in Christian service.

Paul believed relationships in Christian service were vital to the success of the gospel. In most of the 13 epistles he wrote, he recognized the contributions of others who worked with him and mentioned their names to his readers. Cooperation means "to join hands with, to enter into partnership with." Let us consider how we can cooperate together in Christian service.

We must learn to cooperate because Christian service is a shared ministry. Paul referred to Aristarchus, Mark and Justus as "fellow-workers for the kingdom" (Col. 4:11). He called Timothy "our brother and God's fellow-worker in the gospel of Christ" (1 Thess. 3:2). The work is the Lord's. "We are labourers together" (1 Cor. 3:9).

God calls upon all Christians to cooperate to do his work. In the list of names in Colossians 4:7-17, we find at least three different groups. There is a racial group, Jew and Gentile laid aside centuries of racial hatred and learned to cooperate to win the lost. Second, there is a social group. Onesimus, a runaway slave, and Luke, a physician, worked for the furtherance of the gospel. Third, God used men of different skills. Luke was Paul's physician, but we know almost nothing about Justus. These men were willing to cooperate with each other to share Christ with the lost.

Working together in Christian service is a sacrificial ministry. The Thessalonians were aware of the sacrifices Paul had made for them. Most of us will not be required to sacrifice as Paul did. We may need to sacrifice some of our rights and privileges in our relationships with others. Some may need to sacrifice the prestige of large church and serve in a much smaller one. Many may need to make sacrifices which will redirect their entire life-style.

Cooperation in Christian service is a satisfying ministry. There is the satisfaction of knowing we have been instrumental in helping others understand why they are facing afflictions and giving them courage to endure them. The greatest satisfaction is in knowing that through our cooperation efforts untold numbers have come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord.

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Bible Book

Facing opposition

by Roy A. Fowler, First Church, Mountain Home

Basic passage: Nehemiah 2:19 - 4:23

Focal passage: Nehemiah 4:1-2; 4-9, 13-15

Central truth: Great difficulties can be overcome by prayer, good planning, hard work and trust in God.

As long as God's people are not actively moving forward under his will and command, Satan does not seem to bother. When the Jews followed the leadership of God under Nehemiah, the enemy declared war. The status of our warfare with Satan might be some indication of our availability and faithfulness to God. Satan fears our obedience to God. If you have not felt the heat of Satan, you should examine the coldness of your heart.

Denying the presence of the enemy is certain defeat. Nehemiah and his people set before us not only the best, but the only plan of warfare a Christian can victoriously choose. "Hear, O our God" (4:4) was the cry of God's people. They turned first to God for help. The apostle Paul tells us that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but might through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Cor. 10:13). Human strategy was not sufficient for the Jews, nor will it win today's battles with the power of evil.

The plan of God was for his people to rebuild the wall. Without the wall, they were without physical protection from the surrounding nations and would have suffered constant destruction. The temple and altar would be destroyed. Satan and his plan of destruction must always be identified and take seriously.

The wall was built because "the people had a mind to work" (4:6). Nehemiah and the Jews knew the plan of God and knew that God had provided his protection and the necessary materials to build the wall. The only thing God required of them was the will to work. Faith in God had provided the opportunity. Now was the time for everyone to work.

Nehemiah put the people to work by families because a good family will be more careful to help protect each other from the enemy and will try harder to produce the quality of work that will give honor to their name. Nehemiah's plan would strengthen many families and churches today.

Let us remember the great difficulties we face today can be overcome by prayer, good planning, hard work and trust in God.

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Rally speakers criticize teaching of 'false doctrines'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—'False doctrines and destructive heresies' taught by some Southern Baptist professors comprise spiritual 'slap' which is starving their students, a lay leader in the denomination charged.

'False prophets and false teachers preach slop. You can't live on it,' Lee Roberts told about 60 pastors at a luncheon hosted by Park Avenue Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Roberts, an investment banker from Marietta, Ga., is chairman of the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, the group empowered to nominate trustees for all convention agencies. However, Roberts stressed: 'I'm not speaking for the Committee on Boards... I'm speaking for myself, Lee Roberts, a sinner saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. I'm speaking as a layman that's vitally concerned about some things I've come to find out about in the Southern Baptist Convention.'

Citing examples from three pastors, one newspaper editor and faculty members at five Southern Baptist institutions, he expressed concern about the future of the convention, particularly due to "liberal theology." He explained he was "shocked out of my apathy and ignorance" and into action to help lead the SBC toward a more conservative direction.

To rectify the situation, Roberts challenged his listeners to pray for "those people who are teaching false doctrines and destructive heresies" and for "courageous men and women... that will take their stand," to send 10 messengers from each of their churches to the SBC annual meeting, to call "every Southern Baptist you know" and urge them to send 10 messengers from each of their churches and to "go to Atlanta (the convention site) and vote."

He said Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn., would be there as candidate to support "truth, sound doctrine, what Southern Baptists believe in." And he said while the other candidate, perhaps Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church of Amarillo, may or may not "believe in truth," the important factor to consider is the group of persons to whom the president will turn for advice.

Rogers, "will turn to godly men, men who believe this (the Bible) is the perfect Word

of God," he said. "This man over here, whoever he might be, is going to have to turn to those who don't hold this to be the true Word of God.

"So when you go to vote for a man, you're not voting for a man; you're voting for truth or untruth. That's all there is to it."

"The tumor of false teaching is spreading, and somehow, if we're going to have life beyond this century, beyond this decade, I believe we've got to have a transplant and remove it," said Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky.

"I don't believe we ought to take a cleaver and go in and start cutting off heads" of seminary and agency personnel, he added. "I believe that we need to be patient, we need to pray and we need to seek God's will. There's plenty of room for diversity in our denomination. That has always been a distinguishing characteristic of Baptists. But we face a question: When does diversity become heresy?" He noted "false teaching," or heresy, will "spread like a cancer" and asserted, "Heresy has crept into our institutions, and today the disease has eaten to the very core of our Southern Baptist theology."

"Part of our problem today is simply this, that man's wisdom has been elevated over God's revelation," Hancock explained. He traced the roots of the problem to an 18th century "theological shift that began with the arrival of the Enlightenment Period" and a consequent reliance on reason, rationalistic thought and "higher critical scholarship."

He also disputed the notion that missions and evangelism hold the convention together. "I'm convinced that there's something deeper and something more real that holds us together," he asserted. "I believe we're held together by the doctrines of the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God, namely the virgin birth, the vicarious death, the victorious resurrection of our Lord and by what I believe to be someday the bodily, visible return of our Lord.

"If we permit these truths to slip away from us, and if we continue in the diversity we are in to compromise where we are so that we can all be together, sooner or later missions and evangelism will dry up on the Southern Baptist vine."

Falwell predicts Rogers victory

LYNCHBURG, Va. (BP)—Jerry Falwell told an audience of several thousand fundamental Baptist pastors and college students April 23 Adrian Rogers will be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In remarks introducing the Memphis, Tenn., pastor as the closing speaker at his annual pastors conference on the Lynchburg, Va., campus of Liberty University, Falwell said Rogers was speaking for the first time before one of his audiences and called him "the greatest pulpiteer in America today... a special and anointed servant unlike

any other; he has no peer."

Rogers, whose 30-minute sermon entitled "Detours, Dead Ends and Dry Holes" was received enthusiastically, said nothing in response to Falwell's introduction or about the seven-year struggle over control of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis exhorted his listeners not to be defeated by the "discipline of detours," the "dilemma of dead ends" and the "disappointment of dry holes" in every Christian's pilgrimage.

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