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May 1, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

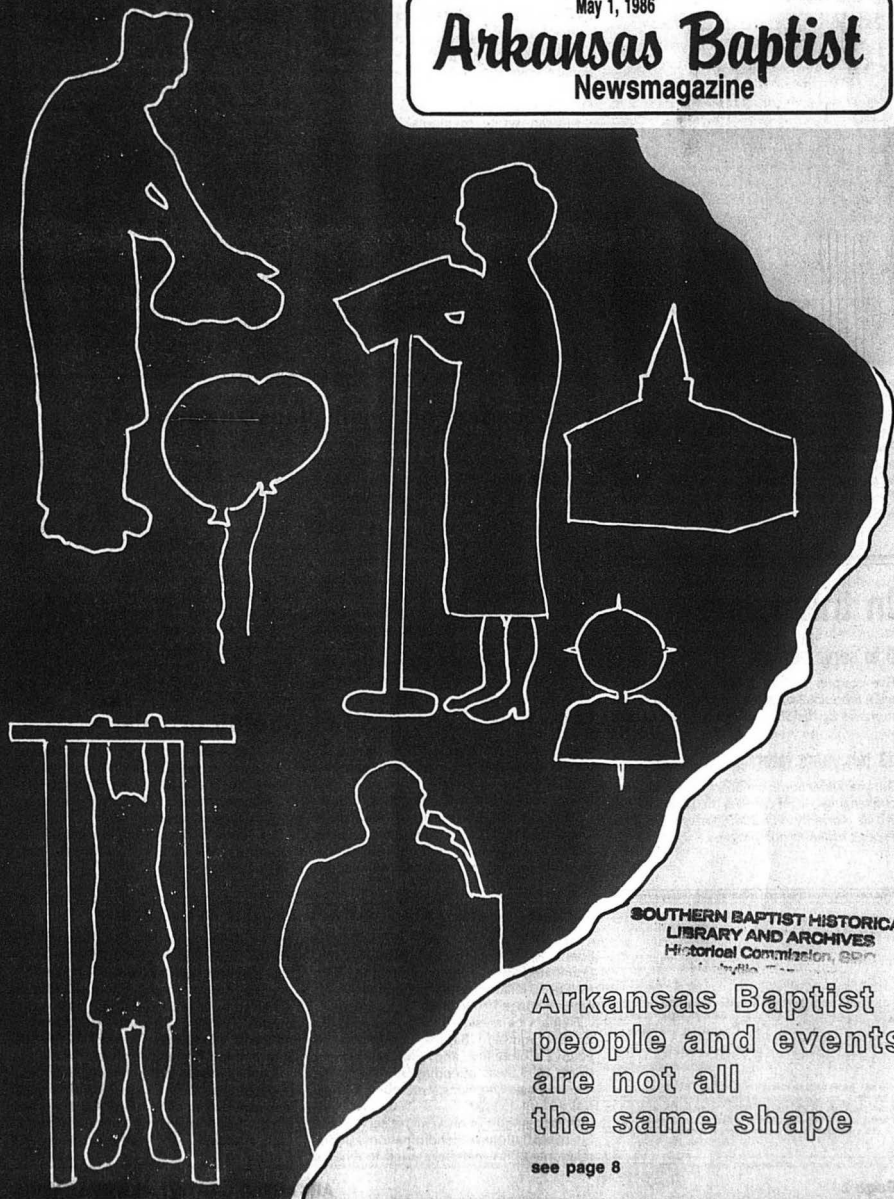
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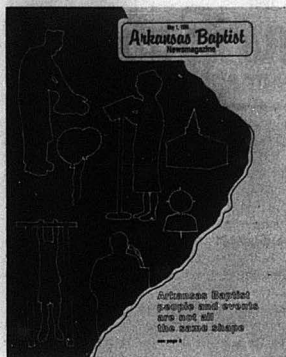
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC

Arkansas Baptist
people and events
are not all
the same shape

see page 8



ABN art / Betty J. Kennedy

Recognizing Arkansas Baptists are many different kinds of people serving in many different roles, the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine makes a special effort to meet many different kinds of needs for news, information and opinion. The 1986 Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine is Sunday, May 11 (see p. 8).

In this issue

9 to serve abroad

Five couples with connections to Arkansas were among 69 persons recently named missionaries by the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

13 ten years later

Ten years after Southern Baptists adopted the challenging goal of carrying the gospel to the whole world by A.D. 2000, foreign missions experts evaluate our progress.

Annuity Board steps up opposition to tax bill

DALLAS — "The new tax bill is making Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees give up the best retirement option they have," Annuity Board president Darold Morgan said.

Morgan wrote members of retirement plans maintained by the board to encourage them to ask their senators to oppose the adverse pension provisions in the bill, which is now being considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

The Tax Reform Act of 1985 would severely and adversely affect 403(b) annuities, the pension plans designated for non-profit organizations like the Annuity Board, Morgan said.

The House-passed bill places a 15 percent penalty tax on any money withdrawn from the retirement plan before age 59½; limits yearly retirement contributions to \$7,000;

and includes any IRA contributions in the \$7,000 cap.

"Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees simply cannot afford the radical changes Congress is about to impose on their retirement plans," said Morgan.

"Congress has grouped 403(b) annuities with the retirement plans of profit-making corporations," said Morgan. "But church workers don't have employee benefits such as profit sharing or stock options as do secular employees."

The Church Alliance, a group of leaders from 29 mainline religious denomination, has been working to make sure Congress considers the unique facts and circumstances of ministers and denominational employees. Morgan serves as president of the alliance.

OBU commencement plans announced

ARKADELPHIA—Spring commencement activities at Ouachita Baptist University have been scheduled for Saturday, May 10, at 4 p.m. in the Sturgis Physical Education Center. Approximately 240 students will receive degrees from OBU, according to Mike Kolb, registrar and director of admissions.

Degrees to be given during the commencement ceremony include 124 bachelor of arts degrees, 23 bachelor of science degrees, 56 bachelor of science in education degrees, six bachelor of music degrees, four bachelor of music education degrees, 22 master of science in education degrees and three master of music education degrees.

The speaker for commencement will be Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

Following the senior commencement rehearsal on Friday, May 9, there will be a picnic supper for the graduates at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The baccalaureate service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, in Mitchell Hall Auditorium. The speakers as elected by the senior class will be Randall O'Brien, assistant professor of religion, and Darryl Wayne Norman, a senior pastoral ministries major from Forrest City.

Veneman joins BSSB as photojournalist

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—James R. Veneman has been named photojournalist in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's office of communications.

Veneman, 33, came to the board from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he had been an instructor in photojournalism and telecommunications

and associate director of public relations.

Earlier, he held part-time positions as development associate and photographer at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Arkansas, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern seminary.

Fields, FMB head BPRA award winners

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Although the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board dominated awards competition of the Baptist Public Relations Association, the awards night belonged to Wilmer C. Fields.

Fields, vice president for public relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and a BPRA member since 1959, was attending his last BPRA meeting as a "working" member. He will retire April 1, 1987.

In recognition of his years of service and his contributions to denominational public relations, BPRA members voted to rename

their annual awards competition "The Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition."

During the awards ceremony, however, it was the Foreign Mission Board which stood above the crowd, capturing 33 of 100 awards. The SBC Home Mission Board was next with 11 winners, followed by the SBC Brotherhood Commission with nine.

Joanna Pinneo, Foreign Mission Board staff photographer, led the way with eight awards. Robert O'Brien, FMB overseas news coordinator and senior communications consultant, received six awards for news and feature writing.

Pause to remember us

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The challenge that confronts the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* is to serve a wide variety of churches and people who have many different kinds of needs. Arkansas Baptist churches vary greatly in size and location. Our members, too, are exceedingly diverse. Some are old, some are young. Some are highly educated, while others are less educated. The ABN readers' needs vary also because of church responsibility. Some are pastors, while others are deacons, Sunday School class teachers, WMU leaders, or choir members. Such diversity requires a wide gamut of religious news.

The challenge which confronts the *Newsmagazine* demands constant vigilance as to the needs of a diverse group of people. In order to meet this challenge in recent years, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* has made both content and technical changes. In 1983, the ABN purchased typesetting equipment, and the staff began in-house production of the *Newsmagazine* up to the offset camera work and press work.

Recently, the ABN conducted a survey to determine readership response to the ABN. Most of the readers gave the *Newsmagazine* high marks. But the survey did indicate some changes were needed. As a result, the *Newsmagazine* staff has begun a monthly "Helpline" feature to provide information on the work of the Executive Board staff. This feature has been met with much praise. The survey also indicated a desire for more world religion news. The editor and staff are currently seeking additional avenues to respond to this request.

Like other agencies and institutions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, direct supervision is given by a board elected by the messengers to the ABCS annual meeting. The ABN is fortunate to have a capable and distinguished board to provide direction for the staff. The board consists of preachers, attorneys, businessmen and journalists. Each of these areas are important to the well-being of the *Newsmagazine*. Obviously, a Baptist state paper must deal with matters of religion and denominational activities, but it also should include good business management and must sometimes deal with legal matters. And good communication is absolutely essential in order to receive the desired readership.

To meet the needs of the ABN readership, the *Newsmagazine* carries all kinds of subjects that would be of interest to Baptists. We carry news of events that are transpiring in local churches, in associations, in the state convention and in the Southern Baptist Convention. Some articles tell how local churches are reaching

people, while other features relate the erection of new buildings or historical events, such as the 150th anniversary of a church. But carrying the events and issues not covered by other publications is not enough. It is essential, that in addition to information, we carry inspiration and interpretation.

Inspiration is provided through Sunday School lessons, editorials and special articles, as well as through the contribution of our regular columnists. Inspirational writing is designed to assist our readers to understand the Scriptures and to respond in a Christian manner to the claims of Christ.

The *Newsmagazine* also must provide interpretation of current events. This is accomplished primarily through the editor's page. The charter and bylaws unanimously adopted by the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in November 1980 states that the *Newsmagazine* is to "... interpret events and movements that affect the well-being of the constituency of the convention." It further says, "The editor shall be accorded full freedom with respect to the expression of his opinion, in the selection and use of all printed matter and the make-up of the paper and in all matters incidental to the discharge of his editorial duties, to the end that the rights and privileges of a free press shall be maintained, with the understanding that the editor shall embrace the statement of faith adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963...."

The board and staff of the *Newsmagazine* believe that good communication is essential for every Baptist because of the democratic structure of our denomination. If we, as a people with diverse backgrounds and a variety of spiritual gifts, are to serve the same Lord in reaching the world for Christ, information is absolutely essential. George W. Truett, former pastor of First Church, Dallas, Texas, said, "If you give Southern Baptists the facts, they will do the right thing." Hence, the accurate reporting of the news becomes a vital and sacred responsibility.

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, like its predecessors, struggles to provide both facts and perspective for the Baptists of Arkansas. Since 1858, publications have been influenced by war, fire and private ownership.

With the diverse needs for news, the challenge for the ABN staff is great. It is only possible to meet this challenge as the *Newsmagazine* staff functions under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May 11 is the Day of Prayer for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. The editor and staff sincerely request that you pause to remember us on this day.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 17
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Lane Strother, Mountain Home, president; Mrs. J. W. Adams Jr., Texarkana; Charles Chessar, Carlisle; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Leroy French, Fort Smith; Henry G. West, Blytheville; Marie Milligan, Harrison; Tommy Robertson, El Dorado; and the Hon. Etajane Roy, Little Rock.

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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One-sided moralizing

Not long ago, a meeting of European Baptists in communist Czechoslovakia passed a resolution denouncing apartheid in South Africa. Get that? Yes, European Baptists meeting in communist Czechoslovakia! Now wasn't that a courageous resolution!

Wonder why they didn't also denounce (in their words) the "contradiction of Christian standards" inherent in communism and the atheism that is at the core of communist philosophy (communist philosophy—now, that's an oxymoron!). Why didn't they denounce communist Russia's genocidal butchery of the Afghanistans people? Is that not a contradiction of Christian standards?

Either the European Baptists meeting in Prague, Czechoslovakia, were afraid of being arrested and thrown in jail, or they were pandering to communism as liberal organizations are prone to do.

Their one-sided moralizing remarkably resembles the output of liberal-led American Baptist organizations including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Almost unfaithfully the spokesmen for these organizations demonstrate the ability to see all the warts on the body politic of the United States of America, and then put blinders on when it comes to looking at our enemies, who are coincidentally the enemies of mankind and Christianity. — **Gerald Holland, Crossett**

What price life?

Our country was appalled at the secret killer in the cyanide-laced Tylenol episode. What makes a person or persons so insane to kill people arbitrarily? This person would face severe punishment if found. The government intervened, and the media rushed to warn the public of the danger. We were outraged, and the makers of Tylenol spent literally thousands of dollars trying to protect one more person from taking cyanide unaware. Commendable for them, in my opinion.

One life was worth a great price to the Tylenol industry. I wish the same could be said for the makers of alcoholic beverages. Alcohol kills more people in three hours than Tylenol capsules have ever killed. The national average is 70 per day. Here in our own state, with one accident five people were killed. In 1984, 113 people died from alcohol-related accidents, not to mention other alcohol-related deaths. The makers of this killer are ignored by the government and the news media doesn't mention the danger.

The makers are not the only participants in the untimely death of thousands of people every year. The picture painted for our society by advertisers is fun, exciting, refreshing, athletic, but not killing. Why become so upset over seven people and not change even the ads or the labels of the killer of 25,000 a year? The answer is money! Yet, for every one dollar gained in taxes from the

sale of alcohol, we spend approximately four times that in taxes cleaning it up.

When will we get enough, and when will we ask for the price of a life to be levied in the alcohol industry, as we expected in the pain pill industry? — **David McLemore, Russellville**

Turn the lights on

Jesus in his ministry on earth operated in all seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and the Holy Spirit always work together. When he went back to Heaven, he passed the spiritual gifts around among the members of his body, the church. The seven pipes carry the oil or power of the Holy Spirit to the seven lights of the lamp that lights up the worship place of man as he comes into the Holy Place in the tabernacle. This is the light of Jesus.

Jesus has given most pastors only one or two of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If that pastor has stopped testimonies in his church, he has put out all the light in that church except his. That church is missing most of the beautiful light of Jesus.

Brother Pastor, somebody in your church has the gift of healing that Jesus said was the children's bread. Somebody has the word of knowledge. Someone has the working of miracles, someone the word of wisdom, the discerning of spirits, and the gift of faith. Only when all these gifts are operating in your church, will you see all the beautiful light



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

When Baptists lose a university

One of the saddest news stories in recent weeks, in my opinion, is the account of a decision by the trustees of a historic Baptist university to become a "self-perpetuating" board of trustees. Because of the critical importance of strong Christian universities in the contemporary world, it can only be called a tragedy when an outstanding university severs its organic ties with the Baptist convention and its churches that once controlled it. Admittedly, it is risky business to criticize or fix blame from afar, but there is little doubt in my mind that this is a tragic loss in the long-term strength of Christian higher education.

Some years ago, I was given the privilege of addressing newly-elected trustees of all convention agencies and institutions in that particular state. The thrust of my remarks was that the first responsibility of trustees is to those who elected them, and not to the particular institution or agency over which they have jurisdiction. This does not mean there

is no responsibility to the institution. It only means that the primary responsibility of trustees, elected by the convention, is to the convention itself.

I am well aware some Baptist colleges or universities were founded with varying degrees of independent status for their trustees, probably at times when the state conventions were less able to support and govern such institutions. Even so, I think the cause of Christian education is served much better today by a close and responsible relationship of the Christian college or university, through a board of trustees, to the churches organized into a cooperative structure such as a state convention. It is good for the churches and good for the Christian colleges and universities.

The United States is abundantly supplied with colleges and universities of outstanding academic quality. Our urgent need is for more colleges and universities that are strong

both academically and in Christian commitment. The natural evolution of a university is toward greater academic excellence, but all kinds of pressures and traditions militate against a Christian dimension that permeates employment policies, curriculum design, moral standards in student life, and the daily calendar of activities.

The shift from a convention-elected board of trustees to a self-perpetuating one may not appear to make measurable differences in the Christian dimension of the university, either immediately or within the next few years. In the long run, however, there can be little doubt it will weaken the Christian structure of a university.

I cannot pinpoint the blame. I can only grieve as a great university is lost to a great group of Baptist churches.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

of Jesus. This is why some churches are so dark these days; the pastor has stopped all testimonies in the worship service except his own.

A pastor who understands how Jesus has passed the gifts of the Spirit around among his body will not be intimidated when others share in the ministry but will rejoice to see more of the light of Jesus. A happy pastor will be one who has learned how to direct the traffic of God rather than try to drive the only car on the highway.

A good pastor will learn how to recognize people with these gifts, and turn them all on that Jesus might be glorified. This light of Jesus will draw people to him by the hundreds. There's not a building in the world big enough to hold the people that will come to that light. May Jesus open our spiritual eyes to this great truth.—James O. Young, Warren

God-called teachers

I hope and it is my prayer this letter will be taken in the Spirit of our Lord who calls upon us to constantly re-examine ourselves.

Has it ever occurred to our denomination that the reason we have such a poor percentage of members attending Sunday School, Training Union and Bible study is that we have lost our salt? Why? Here's one reason.

For years our denomination has recognized that God and God alone calls men to be pastors. God calls, the man responds, we respond by recognizing the man and his call by in turn calling that man to pastor our church. What we have failed to see in Scripture is that God and God alone also calls those whom he wants to as teachers.

We would never dream of calling a man to be our pastor before he first acknowledged that call from God and demonstrated it. Yet we do that very thing constantly in our churches with teachers. We must remember that God should call a person to teach his Word before the nominating committee calls him.

Until we as a denomination realize that one God-called teacher is better than 10 uncalled teachers, we shouldn't wonder why we don't have better participation from our members.

With a God-called teacher, our spiritual food has salt and tastes good. With a non-God-called teacher we have at best blandness; and who wants bland for a steady diet?

Hawaii BSU seeks information on students

Baptist students enrolling for course work in Hawaii are being offered assistance by the Hawaii Baptist Convention's student work department, according to Don Gurney, student work director.

Hawaii BSU workers will meet planes, help students find church homes and integrate

Wouldn't you lose interest in eating if your food had no flavor? — Dale W. Morfe, Fort Smith

Withdraw the suit

President Charles Stanley's decision to rule the motion amending the Committee on Committee's report out of order was correct for a number of reasons.

In the first place, nominees should have been queried as to their qualifications and should have given their consent to serve. State convention presidents and state WMU presidents were not approached nor did they consent to serve or even to be placed in nomination. It was certainly the president's prerogative to declare a slate of nominees who had not given their consent to serve "out of order."

Further, the SBC bylaws clearly state that a member of the Committee on Boards must be a resident of the state which he represents for at least one year. However, no attempt was made to determine, if, in fact, they met this requirement. Again, it was not only the president's right but his responsibility to declare "out of order" a slate of nominees when we had no assurance they were even qualified.

Also, the bylaws state that "At least one (1) person named to the committee from each state shall be a person not employed full time by a church or denominational agency." Here again, no effort was made to determine if nominees met this qualification. In fact, in several state conventions both the state president and the state WMU president were "full-time employees of a church or denominational agency," thus making them ineligible to serve.

The entire issue violates basic SBC polity. Both the Southern Baptist Convention and the state convention are separate entities, neither subsidiary nor subservient to the other. To elect the officers of one as the constituency of a major committee for the other violates basic polity and should be declared "out of order."

The current unscriptural and unethical effort on the part of a few disgruntled messengers to challenge President Stanley's ruling in the courts is abominable! They have brought shame upon our convention and discredited our witness to the world. In Christian love I rebuke them and I urge that they withdraw their suit. — Larry Lewis, Hannibal, Mo.

newcomers into summertime BSU plans, Gurney explained. He also noted limited housing is available in the Hawaii Baptist Convention's BSU dorm.

Students planning summer school or fall enrollment may contact Gurney at 2042 Vancouver Dr., Honolulu, HI 96822.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Newcomers to the state and to church leadership are impressive. In our recent New Pastor/Staff/Wives Orientation,

we were so blessed to have approximately 100 to participate. Attitudes, experience, spiritual joy and appreciation found in these new leaders greatly encouraged us. Others are on the way. I am convinced God has raised up the finest leadership our churches have ever had. We know our churches have more resources, our leadership more education and most fields have a greater challenge than ever before. As these new people join the rest of us in evangelizing and discipling, I am praying we may all have renewed heart and hope about each church's mission.

...May I appeal to all leaders of our churches, both lay leaders and ministerial leaders! Especially, do I beg of you who have new pastors or staff to make some new commitments. Many of our churches have a record of short pastorates. This is usually detrimental to both the pastor or staff person, as well as the church. Occasionally, moral problems or financial mismanagement result in a loss of respect and the termination of a pastor.

Usually a pastor has to leave because of some administrative conflict, failure to meet all of the expectations of the power structure of the church, or some slight or oversight in pastoral duties. Seldom do these conflicts revolve around issues of real substance and principle. Personal pride, selfishness and sheer bullheadedness on the part of pastor or people usually dictate a battle.

Yes, insist on doctrinal, moral and financial integrity. No, don't insist on just one way, one opinion, one approach or one answer in matters that relate to methods, procedures and practices. And, for God's sake, accept the fact every personality is different. This is by his design. If a personality doesn't fit yours perfectly, this is not cause for belligerence and rejection. It is a cause for growth and appreciation.

... I am appealing for some new records to be set by both pastor/staff and people in cooperation and tenure. "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Ro. 12:18). May God richly bless each who takes seriously this challenge.

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



Moore

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Johnny E. Ross has resigned as pastor of Pine Bluff Second Church, effective May 4 following more than three years of service there. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Calvary Church in Batesville. Ross is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and attended Mid-America Seminary. He served in the U.S. military for 21 years. He and his wife, Cherie, have three children, Felecia Atkinson of Clarksville, John Ross of Lewisville, Texas, and Rebecca Wilson of Corning.

Doug Turner will join the staff of First Southern Church in Bryant as minister of youth. He will graduate May 10 from Ouachita Baptist University as the first OBU graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in family life ministry and church recreation. He also has served as youth minister at Helena First Church and Pine Bluff Immanuel Church. He has completed the chaplain intern program at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock and taught at Arkansas Baptist Assembly. He will be married on May 17 to Dana Margo Bearden of Hot Springs who also will graduate May 10 from OBU with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. She has trained in the Evangelism Explosion witnessing approach and in MasterLife.

William V. Philliber will be serving as interim pastor at Ruyana First Church in North Little Rock.

Jack Kwok will graduate May 9 from Mid-America Seminary with a doctor of theology degree. He serves as pastor of Indianhead Lake Church in North Little Rock.

Phillip Healy has resigned as youth and music director at Marmaduke Church.

Ron Pickney has resigned as pastor of Fairview Church at Paragould.

Eddie McCord recently participated in a Basic Leadership Seminary sponsored by the Associational Administration Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He serves as director of missions for Independence Association.

Harold Jones Jr. has completed all requirements for the doctor of philosophy degree in music education at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. He is assistant professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University.



Ross

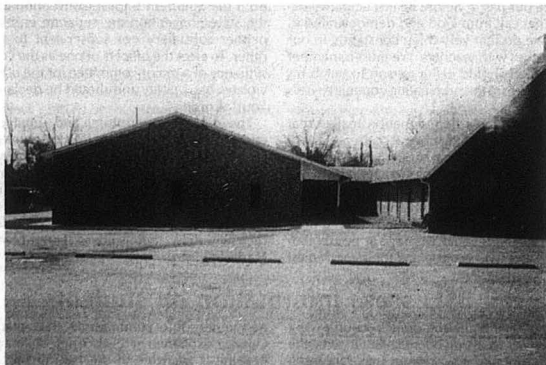


Turner

Emil Williams has been elected to serve as first vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pastor of Jonesboro First Church.

James Criswell recently retired as pastor of Berry Street Church in Springdale following almost seven years of service there. He and his wife, Nell, were honored by the church with a reception March 30.

Clayton Berry of Judsonia died April 13 at age 66. He was a deacon, assistant Sunday School director and chairman of the finance committee of Midway Church in Judsonia, where his memorial services were led April 14 by pastor John D. Davey. He was a retired employee of Sperry Vickers, Inc., of Searcy. Survivors include his wife, Mildred, and a son, Larry Berry.



Perryville First Church dedicated a 50 by 100 foot education-fellowship building with an eight-foot entranceway April 20. Its features include six large classrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a fellowship space designed to seat over 200 people. Jesse Reed of Little Rock was dedication speaker. Horace Gray is pastor.

briefly

Harmony Association sponsored a Family Missions Night April 17 at Matthews Memorial Church. Program personalities included Dr. and Mrs. Harold Mitchell, missionaries on furlough from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and former Pine Bluff residents.

Eudora Southern Baptist churches united with National Baptists in Good News revival efforts March 16-21. Services, held in Eudora High School gymnasium, resulted in four professions of faith and four re-dedications. Speakers were Tommy Cunningham of Memphis, Tenn., and O.C. Jones of Little Rock. Charles Graham of Tulsa, Okla., directed music.

Union Avenue Church at Wynne was in a Good News revival March 16-21. Danny Veteto, pastor of Gravel Ridge First Church, was evangelist. Pastor Shelby Bittle reported 20 professions of faith and 16 additions by letter.

Little Red River Association is sponsoring its second annual Mother-Daughter luncheon May 3 at Heber Springs First Church. The associational Woman's Missionary Union council has planned the event that will have as its theme "Hats Off to Mother."

Charity Southern Church in Rogers dedicated a worship and activities center April 6.

Red River Association recently had seven churches to unite in Good News revival efforts, with pastors of the seven participating churches rotating during the week of meetings. The final meeting was held at Arkadelphia Third Street Church with 13 churches participating. Director of Missions L.B. Jordan was speaker.

Wilmot Church has completed the first of a two-phase building project by purchasing a new pastor's home. The church also is experiencing increased Sunday School attendance and church membership growth.

Carlisle Immanuel Church will celebrate 20 years of ministry and fellowship April 26-27. A 7 p.m. Saturday dinner and fellowship has been planned with Sunday activities to include an anniversary worship celebration. Ken Williams is pastor.

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro broke ground March 30 to begin construction of an 18,000-square-foot education building. The addition to the church plant will include six department rooms, 23 youth and adult classrooms, four preschool department rooms, a music suite and church offices. The church is presently in a "Together We Build" campaign to finance the construction, according to pastor C.A. Johnson.

Rosedale Church in Little Rock ordained Terry Looney to the deacon ministry April 20. Pastor Aaron Carter served as moderator.

Little Rock Immanuel Church ordained Wes Kennedy to the preaching ministry April 20. Kennedy serves the church as youth minister.

Conway Second Church will observe homecoming May 4, according to pastor Larry Pillow. The church is sponsoring a statewide Precept Leadership workshop May 29-31. The workshop is designed to certify individuals for teaching the Precept verse by verse Bible study. There also will be a session on How to Study the Bible.

Reynolds Memorial Church in Little Rock will dedicate its newly re-modeled sanctuary May 4 at the morning worship service. A fellowship luncheon and afternoon musical program will conclude activities.

Friendship Church at Springdale dedicated its new sanctuary April 27 with a celebration service moderated by pastor Jack Anglin.

ABN photo / Mille Gill



Harmony Association dedicated a new office April 20. The office, located at 2100 Cherry in Pine Bluff, is valued at \$200,000, with \$155,000 of that indebtedness already paid for by the 40 churches within the association. A May offering is planned by churches to pay a \$45,000 note at Pine Bluff National Bank, according to Director of Missions Bill Lewis. The building houses four offices, a conference room, a reception area, equipment room, kitchenette and two bathrooms. Special services available through the association office include work with Internationals and social ministries coordinated by furloughing missionary Thurman Braughton and counseling services provided one-day a week by Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.



Woman's viewpoint

Sarah Anders

Does faith make a difference?

During a recent illness, my seven-year-old had a sudden attack of stomach pain. In that moment he cried out, "I want God!" He had some big questions for God and felt that God had some accounting to do. We all feel this way sometimes, and it seems God remains silent in the face of our questions.

Habakkuk had such an experience, and he climbed up in his watchtower and waited to see how God would answer his complaint. The Lord did answer Habakkuk, saying, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time. . . though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come. . ." (3:2).

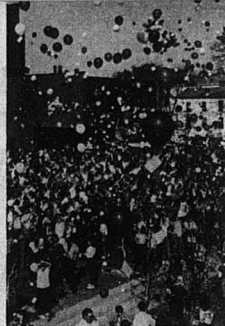
Last summer, we had a similar experience. My husband's sixteen-year-old niece had surgery on her knee, and the doctors found she had a tumor. We prayed the tumor would not be cancer, but it was. We prayed there would be some alternative to amputation, but there was not. Finally, we prayed for strength to endure, and we received it.

Our niece has come through all of the surgery and treatments with courage, which was a beautiful testimony to her faith in God.

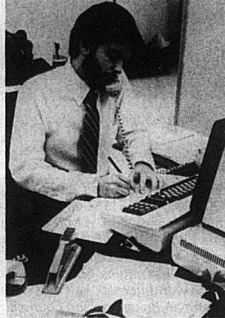
Terrible things do happen, but God's purposes can still be accomplished if we just wait for the vision. We want our prayers to be like magic, but praying like that is a way of trying to manipulate God. Real faith waits on God's answer, confident that sooner or later he will answer.

Sometimes this is a hard lesson to learn. We want our faith to change our circumstances and make life easy for us. Our faith does not always change our circumstances, but it does make a difference.

Sarah Anders is director of the preschool division of First Church, Sherwood. A graduate of Louisiana College, she is married to Sherwood pastor C. Michael Anders. They have two boys, Andy, age eight, and Will, age two.



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Remember your state paper staff on May 11, the annual Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



ABN photos by Millie Gill and J. Everett Sneed. BSSB photo (students) by David Haywood.





Brady-Arkansas Partnership Mission - program in 1981

The mission is a joint effort between the Brady Baptist Church and the Arkansas Baptist Church. It provides a place for worship and community activities. The mission is located in Brady, Arkansas, and is a significant part of the local church life.

Denison offers suggestions about World Council preparations

Denison Baptist Church has offered several suggestions for the World Council of Churches preparations. These include increasing the number of lay members, improving the quality of the offerings, and providing more opportunities for youth and children. The church believes that these steps are essential for a successful and meaningful participation in the World Council.

Arkansas couples appointed by Foreign Mission Board

Five couples with Arkansas ties were among 69 persons named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

David and Martha Miller will work in Peru, where he will be a conference and encampment director and she will be a church and home worker.

Born and reared in Little Rock, Miller is the son of Mrs. Lillian Miller of that city and the late Willis S. Miller. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Miller formerly was camp and outreach director at Second Church, Little Rock.

Mrs. Miller, the former Martha Savage, was born in DeQueen and grew up in Walnut Ridge and Marion. A graduate of Southern Baptist College, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, she is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Savage of Walnut Ridge.

Roy and Rebecca Worley will work in Venezuela, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker.

A native of Tennessee, Worley was until recently pastor of First Church, Keiser. A graduate of Memphis State University and Mid-America Seminary, he now is attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to fulfill requirements for missionary appointment.

Mrs. Worley, the former Rebecca Taylor, was born in Jonesboro and lived in Bono, Bay, and Fair Oaks while growing up. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Max Taylor. Her father is pastor of Fellowship Church, Tyrone. Also a graduate of Memphis State, Mrs. Worley has been an elementary and junior high music teacher in Wilson.

Randal and Sherry Pegues will work in Equatorial Brazil, where he will be a music consultant and she will be a church and home worker.

A native of Texas, Pegues is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Until recently, he was minister of music and youth at First Church, Camden. Previously he served as minister of music and youth at Cullendale First Church, Camden.

Mrs. Pegues, the former Sherry Anderson, is a native of Texas. She is a graduate of San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas, and East Texas Baptist University.

Ray and Nelda Watson will work in Taiwan, where he will be a secondary school teacher and she will be a church and home worker.

A native of Louisiana, Watson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Minard Watson of Bella Vista. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Watson currently attends New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been a chemical engineer for companies in Freeport and Bay City, Texas. Mrs. Watson, the former Nelda Mooney, also is a Louisiana native and graduate of Louisiana State



David and Martha Miller



Roy and Rebecca Worley



Randal and Sherry Pegues



Ray and Nelda Watson

University. She is the daughter of Gerald Mooney of Bastrop, La., and the late Ethel Mooney.

Craig and Melissa Bird will be stationed in Nairobi, Kenya, where he will serve as a correspondent covering foreign missions work in 19 countries of eastern and southern Africa. She will be a church and home worker and will assist him in his area-wide duties.

Born in Camden, where he attended Cullendale First Church, Bird is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. Currently he and his wife attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to enrolling in seminary, Bird was feature editor for Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. Bird, the former Melissa Jackson, is a Texas native and a graduate of San Jacinto College. Presently, she is a secretary for the School of Religious Education at Southwestern Seminary.



Craig and Melissa Bird

Hard work, training, teaching spur growth in Little Rock church

by J. Everett Sneed

The South Highland Church, Little Rock, is 70 years old. Approximately five years ago, it relocated in the western section of Little Rock. Under the leadership of Pastor James Hays, who came to serve the church approximately two years ago, the church is experiencing unusual growth.

Hays believes the church's growth is a direct result of a lot of hard work, the use of the Continuing Witness Training program and emphasis on biblical teaching from the pulpit and in Sunday School.

When Hays became pastor of the church, the congregation was running from 80 to 85 in Sunday School. The church is now averaging 280 to 290 in Sunday School. Much of the growth of the church is a direct result of those who have been saved and baptized into the congregation's fellowship. Others who have moved into the community from other locations have united with the church by transfer of letter.

The greatest growth of the church is in the young adult and children's departments. For example, on a recent Sunday 76 children were in the children's department. Sixty-five of these had been added in the last 12 months. Hays observed that growth in the young adult and children's departments go hand in hand.

Since the church does not have a bus ministry as such, the children are brought by their parents. The church does run one van to pick up senior citizens.

Hays said, "Our growth has come as a result of a lot of hard work, commitment on the part of the pastor and members, and the Continuing Witness Training program."

Hays recalls that when he went to the church there was a real desire on the part of the people who were in regular attendance to see the church grow. As a result of "the people's vision," the church has been able to establish a variety of visitation and witnessing programs. In addition to normal church-wide Baptist prospect visitation, the church secretary sends a list of Sunday School absentees to every teacher on Monday. The list has the address and phone number of each absentee, and teachers are asked to stay in touch with all absentees. The church-wide visitation program contacts only prospects while the teachers and others handle the absentees.

"Another major key to our growth is the Continuing Witness Training." Hays observed. "Our church now has about 30 people who are trained in CWT or are in the process of being trained in witnessing."

Hays observes this is a weekly effort to witness to people concerning their relationship with Jesus Christ. He said, "It is not an invitation to church or Sunday School."

The church has 15 people who go out each week on Thursday night to present the plan of salvation as a part of CWT. Others who go out witnessing periodically have

already been through CWT. The church has been in CWT three semesters and every team has seen at least one person accept Christ. Some teams have seen seven or eight people saved.

Hays said, "The results we are seeing through CWT are thrilling because some people have never shared the gospel with anyone. Some of our people had only seen people saved in a regular church service."

"It is our understanding that our results are considerably above the average. But this program has created a real excitement in our church about seeing people accept Christ as Savior."

The church has baptized approximately 100 people since it started CWT. Hays said, "Forty to 50 percent of those we have baptized are a direct result of CWT. And there has been a carryover into other areas of our church work. Everyone has a desire to see people saved. We have a waiting list of people waiting to get into CWT the next semester."

As a result of the growth the church has experienced, classrooms are running over and building has become necessary. Hays said, "Another highlight of what the Lord is doing at South Highland is the Together We Build program. The church voted unanimously to build a 15,000-square-foot addition, 14,000 square feet to expand educational facilities and an additional 1,000 square feet to extend the sanctuary.

"It is gratifying to see our people give above the tithes since this represents real spiritual growth on the part of our people," Hays continued.

When South Highland held its banquet in which the pledges made to that date were



Explosive growth in Little Rock's South Highland Church has cramped Sunday School class space.

shared, the first goal of \$250,000 had been reached. Approximately 90 percent of the total cost has already been pledged at this point. Hays believes the church will not have any long-range indebtedness, since others who are won to the Lord by the church will want a part in the building program.

Hays said, "Our people are exceedingly enthusiastic. There is a unique blending of our old members and our new members. We feel a real unity under the Lord's leadership."

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

ABN photos / Millie Gill



Part of South Highland Church's greatest growth has come in the children's department, according to Pastor James Hays, pictured above. On a recent Sunday, 65 of the 76 children present had been added in the last 12 months.



BSU summer missionaries appointed—Forty-eight Arkansas Baptist students will be serving for 10 weeks in 10 states and the country of Brazil on behalf of the 27 BSUs on campuses around the state. Listed by assignment, the students and their campuses are: **Brazil**, Kurt Caddy (SBC), Danny Burroughs (SBC), Glynn Braswell (UALR), Camille Davis (ATU), Dianne Conaway (ASU), Alberto Gomes (OBU); **Hawaii**, Janae Shatley (ASU); **Alaska**, Mark Schleiiff (OBU); **California**, Mark Pinkerton (ASU), Robert Pinkston (OBU); **Colorado**, Mary Ann Moses (OBU); **Illinois**, Trish Isbell (ASU), Lynn Henderson (SBC); **Indiana**, Kim Whiteside (SBC), Rodney Stovall (ASU); **New Orleans**, Roger Langlie (SBC), Nancy Smith (SAU); **Florida**, Cindy Stafford (UA); **New York**, James Waters (SAU); **Arkansas resort ministries**, Michelle White (UCA), Cheri Hassell (OBU), Scott King (UCA), Morgan Bryant

(ATU), Holly Gibson (OBU), Joanna Leslie (ATU), Brad Hartness (SBC), Randy Jones (OBU); **Arkansas Share Team**, Robert Wight (ATU), Susan Sumpter (ASU), Kurt Marine (CoFO), Angela Dillard (UA), Keith Harris (SAU); **Arkansas GA Camps/Special Project**, Karen Gorham (ASU), Karyn Davis (SBC), Susan Menhinick (UCA), Anita Miller (SBC), Kathy Emmerling (OBU), Carla Moody (OBU); **Youth Home, Inc.**, Lou Ann Tyner (SBC), Marsha Jackson (ATU), Mark Neese (OBU); **Arkansas emergency shelters**, Hope Manchester (SAU), Barbi Jones (SBC), Kay Cartmill (OBU), Ginger Taylor (ASU), Ellen Douglas (WCC); **Arkansas Baptist Home for Children**, Danny Mullen (SBC), Sandy Wheaton (ASU). Other Arkansas Baptist students will be serving as summer missionaries in Home Mission Board-sponsored assignments.

Board elects Texan as chairman, reaffirms its seminary policy

DENVER (BP)—By a vote of 38-32, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board elected Robert E. Smith of Weslaco, Texas, as its new chairman April 11.

Smith, retired director of missions for the Rio Grande Valley Association, edged out C. Mark Cortis, pastor of Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Both are veteran members of the 83-member board, which supervises the work of more than 3,700 missionaries in 106 countries.

It was the closest the board has come to a division resulting from the theological controversy which has gripped the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years. Cortis, while a strong supporter of missions and the SBC Cooperative Program, was viewed by some board members as representing fundamental-conservative viewpoints. Smith would be viewed by most as falling within moderate-conservative ranks.

At the same meeting, members of the board's Human Resources Committee rejected a bid to appoint graduates of Mid-America Seminary directly without their having to do a year's study at one of the six SBC-sponsored seminaries.

In a report to the board, the committee reaffirmed the board's long-standing policy

requiring, for career missionary assignments where a seminary degree is necessary, "the degree must be from an SBC seminary or an accredited seminary plus one year of study (26 semester hours) at an SBC seminary."

Mid-America is located in Memphis, Tenn., and supported directly by that city's 16,000-member Bellevue Church and other churches which accuse the Southern Baptist seminaries of becoming too liberal in their theology. Mid-America's faculty includes former Southern Baptist missionaries and places emphasis on missions.

Proponents of the plan to appoint Mid-America graduates without further training at an SBC seminary emphasize many of its preachers feel called to missions but face financial obstacles in being required to do an additional year's study at an SBC seminary.

The board's guideline statements, which were in effect before Mid-America was founded, were adopted primarily to deal with candidates from Princeton, Yale, Fuller, Vanderbilt, Dallas Theological Seminary and others. The board has said through statements it believes its missionaries, supported by Southern Baptists, need the strong identification with the denomination and its

goals which attendance at an SBC seminary helps provide.

At the close of the three-day meeting, the board's outgoing chairman, Harrell R. Cushing of Gadsden, Ala., warned that board members need to unite in developing a "genuine and high level of real and honest-to-goodness trust in each other and staff and in what we're doing."

The devil, he warned, is always pleased when he can create problems and difficulty in the cause of Christ. "If we're not careful," he said, "we'll let the devil undermine the confidence, the trust, the commitment we ought to have in this which God really wants to bless in a great way."

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Bold Mission Thrust reaches 10th year with staying power

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Bold Mission Thrust, 10 years later, has become far more than a slogan, leaders of Southern Baptists' foreign missions effort report.

Adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1976, Bold Mission Thrust has prompted "a stirring of conscience to give more attention to the whole world," says R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Messengers to the 1976 SBC annual meeting in Norfolk, Va., took on a challenge: "Every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years." During the past 10 years, Bold Mission Thrust has become a key theme in Sunday school literature and other dimensions of Southern Baptist life. The emphasis is to continue through the year 2000.

The 1976 convention, in launching Bold Mission Thrust, also adopted a range of long-term foreign missions goals, such as a career missionary force of 5,000 in 125 countries. In the areas of missionary force and countries, the growth rates are ahead of the pace necessary to reach the goals by the turn of the century. And the growth rate toward 10,000 long- and short-term volunteers each year is ahead of initial projections.

However, in four key areas of overseas

work—baptisms; churches; the total number of churches, chapels and preaching points; and membership—growth rates to date have fallen short of Bold Mission Thrust dreams.

An annual increase of about 10 percent was targeted in each case. But in baptisms, the annual growth rate has been 7 percent; churches, 7.5 percent; churches plus chapels and preaching points, 6 percent; and overseas church membership, 8.4 percent.

Despite the shortfalls, Bold Mission Thrust has sparked a "healthy upturn" in overseas evangelism and church development, notes Charles Bryan, senior vice president for overseas operations, in a report prepared for Foreign Mission Board trustees.

Growth rates are above the 10-year period prior to Bold Mission Thrust, when baptisms increased at an average annual rate of 5.3 percent; churches, 5.6 percent; churches plus chapels and preaching points, 4.8 percent; and membership, 6.2 percent.

Bold Mission Thrust goals, Bryan adds, "certainly are not unrealistic, with the potential resources. They're only unrealistic to the degree that we're not willing for our commitment to measure up to the challenge."

That challenge, in financial terms, was not clearly stated at the outset, Parks points out. Calculating the cost would have been ex-

remely difficult and tenuous, because of worldwide inflation over a 25-year period. But using solely the increase in career missionaries from 2,667 at the end of 1975 to 5,000 by the turn of the century as a measure, Southern Baptist commitment to foreign missions needed nearly to double beyond inflation.

A stewardship emphasis to bolster Bold Mission Thrust was launched last fall with Planned Growth in Giving. Among the campaign's goals is an increase in combined Southern Baptist giving from \$3 billion to \$20 billion by the year 2000.

Bold Mission Thrust marks "one of the few times in our history where we've committed ourselves to a unifying theme over a long enough period of time that it really becomes known among Southern Baptists," Parks says. "I think it will continue to gain momentum."

It has been a clear reminder of "who we have been as Southern Baptists since 1845... missions people," O'Brien says. "Now that such large percentages of Southern Baptist churches are made up of people from non Baptist backgrounds, it would be easy to fragment in terms of our understanding of ourselves."

"The whole world is our responsibility," Bryan states. "Whether we have missionaries in a country or not, we have that responsibility. Bold Mission Thrust will keep us praying... planning... stretching the mission dollar."

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Mixed reaction greets Moore's peace proposal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Reaction has been mixed to a four-point peace proposal by Southern Baptist Convention First Vice President Winfred Moore.

The plan urges increased participation by small churches by allowing no more than two persons from the same church to serve on convention boards, asks that nominations be sought from four state convention officials before making convention appointments, calls for persons nominated to be from churches with a history of support for Southern Baptist Cooperative Program efforts and proposes an official parliamentarian and a regular identification when messengers register at the annual meeting.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn., told Baptist Press he could "say amen" to Moore's plan. "I basically think his plan is a very fine plan." He added he sought and received nominations from state leadership in the nominations he made during his presidency of the SBC (1979-80).

Rogers said he would add a fifth item to the plan "which would be to nudge us back to our historic belief in a conservative view of the Word of God. I believe that the new theological diversity in the SBC is at the root

of much of our problems."

SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta noted his belief seeking nominations from state leaders "would be the beginning of a hierarchical government which is against all of our traditional polity. Such a plan would not promote peace, but even greater division among us."

Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth, Texas, said he believes Moore's peace plan is "a gentle step in the right direction," but added "the problem is that it doesn't deal with purging" the denomination of persons who do not meet another's standard of orthodoxy.

"The problem with purging is that it sets brother against brother," Sherman said. The "fundamentalists" do not cast the Christian movement against the world, the flesh and the devil. The fundamentalist movement sets Christians against others who say they are Christians. Until the late 1970s, Southern Baptists were pitching their ministry at the world. . . . Now, we are pitched against each other, and will continue to be."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said: "My concern is that Southern Baptists get back to our basic biblical purpose of having our part in shar-

ing Christ with the whole world, including our own nation. This proposal would help us do that.

"By focussing on mission-minded people from churches committed to our cooperative mission effort, we would emphasize our true nature and strengthen the mission cause that has brought us together and holds us together."

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International

Jesus' ministry

by Winfred P. Bridges, First Church, Paragould

Basic passage: Luke 4:14-15; Matthew 12:22-32

Focal passage: Luke 4:14-15; Matthew 12:22-28

Central truth: Through the Holy Spirit's help, Christians can gain spiritual victory over Satan and all that is evil.

The reality of Satan as being, rather than a way to explain evil, is a question in the minds of some people. It should not be so for the Christian who understands the ministry of the Lord Jesus as presented in Scripture. Satan was an archangel (Isa. 14:13-14), who fell to establish his own Kingdom.

Jesus faced Satan on three occasions in the temptations in the wilderness. Satan tempted Jesus in verbal exchange. Each time Jesus used the word of God to defend himself. This was a power over Satan, but not because Satan could not quote Scripture himself, as he quoted Psalm 91:11.

Quoting Scripture and having the power to foil Satan with it are not the same thing. Quoting Scripture to Satan will cause him to leave for a season, but only if accompanied by the indwelling power and presence of the Holy Spirit, which only comes through having been saved and appropriating that power by being Spirit-filled.

It is no mystery that Jesus talked with and cast out demons. He had power over them. There is a relationship between evil and sickness, but while sickness can be intensified by a condition of the mind, and can in some cases be a causal factor, by no means is every sickness related to evil in the life of the sick one. The Lord set in motion certain physical universal laws. If we violate them, sickness can result. Direct attribution to evil may have nothing to do with it.

Jesus was of the lineage of David. The people knew that and asked, "Is this not the Son of David?" The Pharisees wanted to attribute what Jesus did to "Beelzebub," or Satan. Jesus simply answered this by talking of a house being divided against itself. Why would a representative of Satan cast out his own allies? It was here that Jesus spoke of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. The unpardonable sin is that of rejecting Christ as given testimony to by the Holy Spirit.

Satan can be overcome by the power of the Word of God in the life of a Spirit-indwelt and Spirit-led Christian.

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Life and Work

In our families

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Colossians 3:18-4:1;

Titus 2:1-8

Focal passage: Colossians 3:18-21; Titus 2:1-6

Central truth: Christians should relate in a loving and responsible manner toward members of their family.

Relationships within our families demand our immediate attention. Reports of women and children who have been abused, flagrant disregard for authority, and the lack of proper role models for young adults are just a few examples of broken relationships. What can we do to correct these problems? Correct interpretation and application of biblical principles regarding family relationships is the answer.

The first area of concern is between wives and husbands. The wife is to be subject to her husband. This does not mean that she is inferior but that she recognizes his place of leadership in the family (Cf. Gal. 3:26-29; Col. 3:11). The tense of the verb "be subject" is in the middle voice. This means her subjection is not forced but voluntary.

Husbands are commanded to love their wives. It is interesting to consider the Greek word Paul used for love. He did not use *eros*, which means sexual love. He did not use *philia*, which means friendship. He used *agape*, which expresses a self-sacrificing love. It is the same word used to describe Christ's love for the church (Eph. 5:25). Men are commanded to love their wives like this!

There are two interesting observations that should be made. First, both husbands and wives are to submit to each other (Eph. 5:21). Second, the word *agape* is not used when wives are commanded to love their husbands. However they are indirectly commanded to do so in Galatians 5:22, 1 John 3:11, and several other verses.

Children are instructed to obey their parents in all things. However, they are to remember to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Parents are to do everything within their power to encourage their children. A kind word, a forgiving spirit, and realistic expectations will go a long way.

Titus instructs older men and women to serve as role models for younger adults. What a wonderful privilege and a tremendous responsibility for older adults!

Relationships within families should not remain static. Growth takes place as we continually study God's Word and discover a deeper meaning for our role.

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Bible Book

Nehemiah returns

by Roy A. Fowler, First Church, Mountain Home

Basic passage: Nehemiah 1:1 to 2:18

Focal passage: Nehemiah 1:3-4; 2:4,11-13,16-18

Central truth: Nehemiah's response challenges God's people to consider how God can work through them to meet needs.

Word came to Nehemiah of the desperate plight of Jerusalem (1:1-2). As the king's cupbearer, Nehemiah was secure in the king's palace (v. 11). Not only did he protect the king's life by eating food prepared for the king before serving it to him, but he kept the signet ring of authority, was in charge of administration of the accounts and was usually second in authority.

How easy it would have been for him to isolate himself from his people but, Nehemiah's knowledge was transformed into concern (1:4). He entered into a four month period of prayer for his people. Note that in the prayers of Nehemiah, he himself became a vital part of the answer to his prayer. His prayer gave him a plan. He was to go himself and rebuild the wall.

For Nehemiah to go, it would be necessary to receive permission from Axtaxerxes the king. When he went into the presence of the king to serve, his sad, concerned countenance was immediately noticed, and the king graciously invited him to make his request known. He revealed his burden to the king and expressed his desire to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall. Permission was granted, protection for the dangerous journey was promised, and much of the material needed was donated by the king.

Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and faced immediate ridicule and opposition (2:10). He used great wisdom in not revealing to anyone his plan of work. He took a few men with him at night to see the condition of the wall and to detail his reconstruction plans.

After he had carefully examined the situation and prepared his plan of work, Nehemiah called the people together and challenged them to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. His motive was "that we be no more a reproach" (2:17). His challenge to the people was supported by his personal testimony of how the hand of God had separated him for the task before them.

Accept Nehemiah's example; quietly examine the desperate conditions around you; seek God's plan of work and work his plan with the right motive.

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To 'Roe v. Wade'

Southern Baptists more opposed than Catholics

WASHINGTON (BP)—A higher proportion of Southern Baptists than Catholics opposes the Supreme Court's 1973 decision giving women a virtually unrestricted right to obtain abortions during the first three months of pregnancy, according to a Gallup Poll.

Results of the poll, conducted in January, revealed Southern Baptists oppose the Roe v. Wade decision by a 2-1 margin. Sixty percent says it opposes the ruling, while 31 percent favors it. The remaining 9 percent has no opinion.

Among Catholics surveyed, 40 percent favors it, with 48 percent opposed and 12 percent with no opinion.

Overall, the poll revealed, the American public is evenly divided on the question, with 45 percent approving the decision, 45 percent opposing it, and 10 percent holding no opinion.

Barnette outlines principles of activism

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics Henlee Barnette called on students of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to live out the seminary's motto, "Doing the Word."

Calling the practice of activism an "extension of our Christian faith," Barnette outlined six principles of activism for the student ethics forum, a student group at Southern Seminary.

Barnette pointed to seeking awareness of problems as a "moral obligation" for Christians.

An activist must possess a passion for justice, Barnette continued. Contrasting the Bible with Marxism, Barnette note, "The ethical teachings of the Bible are more radical than Marx ever thought about being." Barnette also listed divine constraint for a

A slight majority of men—by a 45-43 margin—favors the Roe v. Wade result. Among women questioned, 45 percent believes the court was right, with 46 percent contending the justices erred.

One mildly surprising result was Gallup's finding that the difference between Catholics and all Protestants is insignificant statistically. Protestants overall oppose the ruling by a 50-42 margin.

Another finding in the poll demonstrated the higher their level of education, the more likely Americans are to favor the decision. Whereas 59 percent of those with a college education approves, only 27 percent with a grade school background does so.

The results were based on in-person interviews with 1,570 adults conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation.

just cause, shrewd strategy and disciplined hope as principles of activism.

Finally, he added, "Keep the faith." Quoting from Clarence Jordan, Barnette said, "Faith is turning your dreams into deeds, betting your life on unseen realities."

Referring to a slogan on a seminary catalogue several years ago—"We're out to change the world"—Barnette observed, "To try our slogan is costly."

Reflecting on the stance of Clarence Jordan during the racial crisis of the 1950's and 60's, he challenged students, "I haven't seen many of our alumni ready to lay down their lives."

Barnette returned to the seminary's motto. "If we do the Word," he asserted, "we'll change things."

Hymn-writing competition honors McKinney birth

NASHVILLE—A hymn-writing competition to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late B.B. McKinney has been announced by the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

McKinney, widely known Southern Baptist church music composer and arranger, was the first director of the board's church music department. He died in 1952 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Entries dealing with baptism or the Lord's Supper will be accepted until July 1 and will be judged by a panel of Sunday School Board church music personnel.

Awards of \$600 will be given for the best combination of a new text and new tune, \$300 for the best text for use with a specified existing public domain or Sunday School

Board-owned tune and \$300 for the best tune for use with a specified existing public domain or Sunday School Board-owned text.

Submissions must be in keeping with the doctrines of baptism and the Lord's Supper as described in the "Baptist Faith and Message," according to Terry York, coordinator of the project. Entries may not be offered to another publisher until the board has considered them for publication, he said, and winning entries automatically become the property of the board.

Each entry must be accompanied by a \$5 fee and should be addressed to Memorial Competition, Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234. Winning entries will be announced in mid-September.