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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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March 27, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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March 27, 1986

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

On the cover



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

Jesse Taylor, director of missions for Rocky Bayou Association, found videotaped training resources were well-received in that three-county association in northcentral Arkansas, broadening people's awareness of denominational resources and sparking interest in more training for ministry (pp. 10-11).

In this issue

6-8 glimpses of AMAR

Photos by James Bell of Fort Smith and a testimony by Bill Dixon of Arkadelphia offer glimpses into the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission in a special three-page section.

18-19 SBC not racist?

The common stereotype of the Southern Baptist Convention as a racially-exclusive denomination has been shattered by a report examining ethnic inclusiveness in major U.S. Protestant denominations, claims SBC Home Mission Board President William C. Tanner.

Retreat cancelled

The Pastor-Deacon Retreat scheduled for Camp Paron, May 2-3 has been cancelled. For additional information contact Robert Holley, Church Training Department, Baptist Building.

Summer meeting schedule at OBU busy

ARKADELPHIA—Approximately 6,000 visitors are expected to attend 23 summer camps and meetings on the Ouachita Baptist University campus during the months of May, June, July and August, according to Andy Westmoreland, director of student activities.

The largest encampment will be the approximate 1,150 delegates, counselors and staff personnel schedules to attend the annual Arkansas Girls State Convention at Ouachita, June 8-13.

The groups scheduled for the summer at OBU are: Masterlife, May 12-16; WMU Executive Board Meeting, May 20-21; National Foster Grandparents Jamboree, June 1-3; Computer Science Gifted and

Talented Workshop, June 15-27; Arkansas Extension Homemakers, June 17-29; Edlerhostel III, June 22-28; Young Musicians Camp, June 23-26; and Bill Vining Boy's Basketball Camp I, June 29-July 3.

Also set for camps are: Quarterback and Receiver Camp, June 30-July 3; OBU Publications Workshop, July 7-11; Crosspoint, July 7-12; Tigerette-Girl's Basketball Camp, July 14-18; Super Summer Arkansas, July 14-18; Bill Vining Boy's Basketball Camp II, July 20-25; Music Arkansas, July 21-25; Arkansas Association of Student Councils, July 27-31; Sesquicentennial Gifted and Talented Interdisciplinary Workshop, August 3-15; Tigerette Girl's Volleyball Camp, August 11-15; and Disciple Youth Camp, August 15-16.

Baptist church music heritage focus of meeting

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — "Baptist Church Music Heritage" is the theme for the 1986 annual meeting of the Historical Commission, SBC, and the Southern Baptist Historical Society. Scheduled for April 28-30, the meeting will be held in the SBC Building, Nashville, Tenn.

Featured speakers are William Hendricks, professor of Christian theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music, Southern Seminary; Harry Lee Eskew, professor of music history and hymnology, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Thomas W. Hunt, professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary;

William J. Reynolds, associate professor of church music, Southwestern Seminary; and Paul McCommon, retired director of the department of church music, Georgia Baptist Convention.

Highlights of the meeting include the premiere of the anthem arrangement of the hymn commissioned by the Historical Commission for this meeting and the awarding of the 1986 Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Baptist History.

Individuals wanting additional information should write the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203-3620, or call (615) 244-0344.

Biblical music has power, Elder tells missionaries

VAN NUYS, Calif. (BP)—Baptists have no more business singing a song that is not biblical than they have preaching a sermon that is not biblically accurate, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder said.

Speaking to 400 musicians and music missionaries, Elder told participants in the first Musicians on Mission Workshop the focus of church music should be "Jesus Christ is the Savior".

"I thank God that most of the musicians I know have studied the text to be sure it is biblical," he said. "Christianity is a singing religion. Baptists historically have been a singing people. We come by this honestly and biblically. There is power in music in the midst of Southern Baptists."

Citing the need for "the enabling power of God for musicians on mission," he urged volunteers for music missions to receive power from God through a holy life, discipline, participation in the gathered church and study of the biblical message.

Musicians on Mission is a five-year

emphasis in support of Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust plan to reach the world for Christ by the year 2000. It is sponsored by the Sunday School Board's church music department.

Sponsored jointly with the church music department of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, the Musicians on Mission Workshop West was the first in a series of workshops continuing through 1990.

More than 450 persons registered for classes during the workshop, and about 700 people, including choirs and other musical groups, participated in the two-day event.

In conjunction with the workshop, some participants volunteered to work in California churches that had requested music assistance through the state church music department. A total of 30 Musicians on Mission worked in 22 churches before and after the workshop, providing music leadership and music education skills.

The next Musicians on Mission workshop will be April 17-19 in Wichita, Kan.

The salvation needs of children

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



"My eleven-year-old daughter is not old enough to make a profession of faith," an angry father shouted. "All the church wants to do is to bring babies into the congregation so they can have more numbers to count."

This man was perhaps protesting most of all his own lost condition. But he was also posing an extremely important question. When is a child old enough to trust Christ as his Savior?

In the past, some have held that a child must be 12 years old before reaching the age of accountability (the time when God would hold him accountable for his sin). It is somewhat difficult to determine where the idea developed. It may have come from the fact that Jesus went down to the Temple at that age. Under Jewish law, a boy became *Ben Tora* (son of the law) at puberty. At that time he was responsible for fulfilling all the requirements of the law. It was for this reason, at age 12, Jesus joined the adults in their annual pilgrimage to the Temple.

Paul, in Romans 1:18 to 3:26, spells out the fact that sin affects the way one thinks and acts. The sinner is one who has ample opportunity to see God's grace in the world and rejects it willfully. Hence, the small child remains in a state of innocence. Once becoming responsible before God, he knows that he commits sin and is able to exercise saving faith.

Children, prior to the age of accountability, are special objects of God's divine compassion and care because they are incapable of exercising saving faith. Everyone is saved by God's grace (undeserved and unmerited favor). Jesus declared, "... except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). Again Jesus said, "Suffer the little children and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). Everyone must have a child-like faith in order to be saved.

Obviously, the age of accountability varies greatly among different people. There are many factors which have an effect in the rate that a child matures, such things as training in the home, the child's native ability, and the rate of maturity.

Great care should be exercised in dealing with children. It is not difficult to extract a "decision" from most children for several reasons. To begin with, it is the child's nature to strive to please others. Second, he is easily frightened. And, finally, he is eager to do whatever the other children are doing. Most children who have been coerced into making a premature confession of faith have done it either out of fear or because other children were responding.

These negative aspects, however, should not keep parents and Christian workers from offering children the privilege of trusting Christ. The older one becomes, the more difficult it becomes for him to trust Christ as Savior. The percentage of people saved drops with each year after they reach age 20. It also is significant that when a child becomes a Christian an entire life for service is saved.

There is a proper way to discuss salvation with a child. Since the vocabulary of a child is different from that of an adult, he will express his thoughts in simpler words. It is necessary to allow him to express his feelings in his own words, rather than to simply ask him questions requiring positive or negative responses. In dealing with a child, one should never overrate nor underrate his ability to understand.

The question arises, "What if a child makes a premature profession of faith?" First, we believe there is ample evidence in Scripture to prove that God, at some point in an individual's life, will provide opportunity for salvation for one sincerely seeking him.

Second, there is grave danger in quenching the work of the Holy Spirit. Or, the question arises, "Isn't there a great risk in forbidding anyone from making a profession of faith who was under conviction?" If we are to err, it would be better to err by allowing children to respond rather than to forbid their response.

The most important question is, "What safeguards can be used to assist a child in making a proper profession of faith?" Proper counseling to assist in determining the understanding level of a child is by far the best safeguard. A child making a profession of faith needs to understand the reality of sin in his life, the fact that sin separates him from God and that God in his love has provided for his redemption. A child, of course, will state these truths in simple child-like terms.

Certainly it is not essential for a child to be able to state even the simple plan of salvation in theological terms. If knowledge were the criteria, we would all be hopelessly involved since the knowledge of even the wisest is inadequate in comparison with God's omniscience.

Above all, in any witnessing situation, it is necessary to rely on the Holy Spirit. Mechanical or canned approaches are to be avoided.

Every parent and Christian worker should be alert to the salvation needs of children as they reach the age of accountability. Remember, a child, like an adult, is saved when he accepts the basic truths of the gospel and relates them to himself. How marvelous it is when a young one truly trusts Christ!

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by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Wright

for more than two years as minister of music and youth at South Highland Church. He is married to the former Maribeth Pickett of Camden. They have a son, Jonathan, age one.

Toby Adair is serving as interim pastor of Forrest Park Church in Pine Bluff. A retired U.S. Air Force officer, he has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Nevada and California.

Rick Grant is serving Benton First Church as minister of youth and activities. He and his wife, Susan, have two daughters, Amber and Sarah.

Benny Brooks is serving as interim pastor of Mount Pisgah Church at Jonesboro.

David Jeans is serving as interim pastor of Egypt Church.

Ron Coates is serving as pastor of Widener Church.

John Borengasser has joined the staff of Ingram Boulevard Church in West Memphis as music director.

Ottis E. Denney was recently honored at Sherwood Park Church in Akron, Ohio, in recognition of his services since 1953 as a missionary and pastor in that state. During the celebration it was noted that Denney and his wife, Margaret, have assisted in planting over 30 Southern Baptist churches in Arkansas, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. These include the Sunsett Church, a black church in Mount Pleasant, Texas. Denney also served as first pastor of Canfield Church in Arkansas.

Rex Holt Sr. of Bay died March 10 at age 69. He was the father of Rex Holt Jr., pastor of Jonesboro Central Church. He was a retired school teacher. Other survivors include his wife, Vonda Holt; a son, Ronald Holt of Hawthorne, Calif.; two daughters, Pamela Rodgers of



Adair

Jonesboro and Melody Roberts of Fort Smith; a brother; four sisters; and seven grandchildren.

Sid Byler has resigned as pastor of Marshall First Church, effective March 30 following more than nine years of service there. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Church in Kearney, Mo.

Jerry Winfield has resigned as pastor of Ashdown First Church, effective March 30. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Church in Bolivar, Tenn.

D.S. Hay of Blytheville died March 9 at age 87. He was a retired farmer and businessman and was a member of Blytheville Trinity Church. Survivors include his wife, Lorena Hay of Blytheville; six sons, Paul, Wallace and Bruce Hay, all of Blytheville, Connie Hay of Chattanooga, Tenn., Mack Hay of Tulsa, Okla., and Mel Hay of Kankakee, Ill.; a daughter, Lucille Rodgers of Blytheville; three sisters; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ron Coates is serving as pastor of Widener Church, coming there from Snow Lake Church. He resides in Hughes and is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

John W. Hossler Jr. has accepted a call to join the staff of Hot Springs Central Church as minister of music and youth. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he is now completing his master's degree there.

Ronnie Noles has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Percy Church. He has been serving as pastor of Refuge Church at Story.

Elbert Wilson has resigned as pastor of Oak Grove Church at Caddo Gap.

Mrs. Dwight Hale Blackwood died March 8 at age 98 in Osceola Memorial



Grant

Hospital. She was a member of Osceola First Church where she was a member and former teacher of the TEL Sunday School class. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Jettie Drive of Osceola; two grandsons; and five great-grandchildren.

Bob Page resigned as pastor of West Fork First Church March 16 to become pastor of First Church in Franklin, N.C.

briefly

Park Place Church in Hot Springs honored its staff with an appreciation luncheon at the close of morning worship services March 9. Those recognized were Tom Harris, pastor; Harold Elder, minister of education and youth; and Tim B. Blann, minister of music and associate pastor.

Hot Springs First Church 50-voice choir will present the musical drama "I Am" at 7:30 p.m. on both March 29 and March 30. The choir, directed by Larry Bradley, will be accompanied by members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and other local musicians. The production will be presented from a wooden cross platform, representative of Christ's crucifixion. Tickets are free, but reservations must be made through the church office.

West Helena Second Church will sponsor **West Acres Chapel** as a new mission project in the western area of West Helena. A building has been rented on Highway 49 and plans are for Sunday School and worship services to begin there in mid-April, according to Carl Fawcett, director of missions for Arkansas Valley Association.

Little Rock Second Church honored physicians of the church March 23 as a part of Doctors' Day, established and adopted by the Southern Medical Association Auxiliary in 1935. Members recognized were Brad Fields, Larry Frevert, Bob Gosser, Bob Izard, Maria King, Gail McCracken, Jerry Malott and Ed Watson.

Washington-Madison Association sponsored special pastors' conferences on March 25 and 27 as a part of the Good News, America revival emphasis. Speakers were Bob Campbell and Pete Petty.

Benton Temple Church led youth day services March 9 that resulted in one profession of faith.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... At this writing, the first official day of the Good News America Revivals is just half over. Between 20 and 25 people united with our church this morning. The spirit of the Lord was mightily present! The evangelist, Brother Mike Gilchrist, delivered a clear and forceful message. The people of the church had two heavy soul-winning events the week before. On Saturday more than 200 people went out in soul-winning visitation. Pastor, staff and people had spent weeks praying and preparing. An increase of approximately 100 in Sunday School attendance over previous weeks was seen. Most of those making decisions were professions of faith. "Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!"



Moore

All of this bears out what we have been saying: when God's people get down to the things that matter and go after the lost and unchurched, he does something great. I really believe more prayer and preparation has gone into these Good News America Simultaneous Crusades than anything Southern and Arkansas Baptists have done in a long time. I praise the Lord for some 85 percent of our Arkansas churches being a part!

We could be entering into real revival! I mean a moving of God on Christians and through Christians that would literally shake our society. While such will anger the devil and those who make their living through ungodly living and ungodly business, it will fill true believers with new joy and zeal. Sinners, during real revival, will be trying to find the way. Oh, beloved brothers and sisters, let us stay before God in penitent and persistent prayer! May it please our Lord to manifest himself in and through his people during these last days. He could do it without us. No one doubts that, but since he has chosen to work through his people, I expect him to do it with us. I would hate to think he had to do it in spite of us.

Thanks for the encouraging words on the undergirding Good News media campaign. The Rothman & Lowry, Inc., advertising firm gave their services. The Home Mission Board produced the ads. Sixteen associations and 37 churches gave extra to pay the bill. Thank you! God bless you for your concern and support!

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



The Southern accent

Keith Rosenbaum

Potential pinnacles

Zig Ziglar beckons people to meet him at the top. With his motivational books and seminars, Ziglar encourages individuals to get the "extras" out of life that they are capable of achieving.

Abraham Maslow believed that 80 percent of us are living below our potential. He was convinced that a vast majority of people are so busy responding to physical needs and seeking belongingness and social approval that they never reach their full potential.

I have read that Maslow was fond of asking graduate students, "How many of you expect to achieve greatness in your careers?" Maslow would push and prod his students to extend themselves because he believed they were capable of doing more.

Both of these men have offered a challenge to individuals to become more than they are at the present. Ziglar calls it "success." Maslow refers to it as "self-actualization." Both men point out that it takes work to reach one's potential.

I sometimes see students who have potential but fail to achieve. In talking with their teachers, I discover they miss class and fail to hand in work. They have potential but lack self discipline.

On the other hand, I come in contact with students who seem to have everything going against them. I wonder how long they will be able to say in school. But they remain

and each semester improve. They possess determination, tenacity and the willingness to work.

Neither student may be aware of his total potential. But one is willing to push himself and try to reach as far as he can. The other is content to remain the same and be part of Maslow's 80 percent.

I have often wondered what Baptists could do if they pushed themselves to reach the pinnacles of their potential. How many would be in Sunday School? How many would be baptized? How many would volunteer for missions? How much money would be given? And, more important than the last question, how would we use these new funds?

When one dreams in terms of denominational potential, it is easy to forget that a denomination is a group of individuals. In order for a denomination or a church to reach its potential, each person must be striving to reach his own pinnacles of potential.

Arkansas is advertised as the "Land of Opportunity." And opportunity is what awaits us when we reach beyond the present to the potential pinnacles God has laid at our door steps.

Keith Rosenbaum is professor of psychology at Southern Baptist College.

Colorado church seeks assistance after fire

A few days before Thanksgiving 1985, the facilities of Pleasant View Church, Pueblo, Colo., burned, according to a letter received by the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine from Pleasant View pastor J.M. Phillips, who is seeking assistance in their efforts to rebuild.

Approximately 70 percent of the building and contents were lost, according to the letter, and the church's insurance company is covering "about 50 percent" of the loss.

Enrollment up sharply at Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — More than a 50 percent increase in entering students contributed to a dramatic rise in spring enrollment at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, according to Harold Songer, vice president for academic affairs.

Fed by this large influx of new students, total enrollment for the spring semester is up 14.22 percent over the same period last year, Songer explained.

Final registration figures show a 20 percent increase in entering students in professional

"We are asking you to pray with us that God will provide furnishings, equipment and further financial aid for the new building we plan to build," Phillips wrote. "We are a small church (172 members) ministering to an area with more than 5,000 residents."

The letter said Bill Irwin, Pueblo's association director of missions, will handle inquiries and share information with interested parties. His address is 2114 Comanche Rd., Pueblo, CO 81001; phone 303 / 545-7477.

(master's level) programs: Leading the unexpected jump in entering students was a more than 17 percent increase in students entering the Master of Divinity program. Other programs experiencing significant increases were the Master of Divinity in Christian Education, Boyce Bible School and the Evening School.

Total enrollment figures for the 1985-86 academic year reflect a 16.4 percent increase in entering students, with a 7.8 percent rise in those entering professional programs.

Pages 6-8 are an update on AMAR, Arkansas Baptists' partnership mission with Baptists in Brazil. The photos are the work of James P. Bell, a Fort Smith physician who went with a group of two dozen persons from that area to Manaus in September.

Pastor Darciso de Souza Mediros and missionary Luther Williams walk to the Baptist church at Jardim das Oliveiras in Manaus.



Personal testimony

Brazil - Arkansas Partnership Mission: a pilgrimage in faith

by Bill Dixon

The temperature was hot and the humidity high on the night in July 1984 when my family arrived at the Belem airport. It was one a.m., but missionary friends Johnny and Barbara Burnett made us feel very welcome.

Early the next morning, Johnny outlined a full schedule of work for my wife, Snookie, and I. He discussed with us the beginning of the AMAR project, which was still in the formative stages then. He told us he felt the project had much potential and that he wanted us to try and get a feel for what young people, especially college young people, could do as a part of this mammoth task.

Our first real assignment was about 90 kilometers northwest of Belem, near the small town of Castanhal. After leaving the pavement, we drove down a gravel road for several miles until finally we arrived at a gatelike entrance to Igreja Baptista Campo, the Baptist camp of North Brazil. It literally had been carved out of a junglike undergrowth, and the tall trees gave lots of shade for the open tabernacle and dormitories.

About 40 young people had assembled for a retreat, to discuss with us the need for religious work in the universities of Brazil. Through Johnny Burnett, the missionary, we conversed about Baptist Student Union work in the United States, and we talked about some of the things religious groups do on campuses. We asked them how college students might assist them. The message came back clearly: training is of great importance, and, because of the lack of religious interest in training, this is where much of the emphasis should be placed.

The presiding officer of this group was Alberto Gomes, a striking young man who impressed us the first time we met. After the session, Snookie and I spent a great deal of time with Alberto, trying to converse in poor English and even poorer Portuguese!

Before we left Brazil, I told Alberto that within a few weeks I would be talking to a group of freshman students at Ouachita Baptist University. I asked him if there was a message he thought I should give to them.

Without any hesitation, he said, "Tell them to take advantage of every educational opportunity, and, when they have learned, tell them to come to Brazil and help us preach the gospel!" He added that his greatest desire was to get a U.S. education so he could return to Brazil as a teacher and preacher.

It was with this message that we left Brazil. Our hearts were heavy, our convictions clear, and our aim was to carry out the Great Commission to a greater extent than we had ever done before.

On the day before registration for the fall semester of 1984, I received a telegram from an international student who said that, because of visa difficulties, he would be unable to accept the international scholarship offered to him by Ouachita.

I immediately thought of Alberto and quickly asked the scholarship committee if they would agree to give it to him. Final approval by the president was given, and I called Alberto to see if he would be interested in coming to the U.S. to study.

Faces of Brazil: at Compensa (top) and Jardim das Oliveiras



He was so elated, his remark was, "I cannot think in English!" I told him we would try to get all the documentation by the spring semester of 1985. If it were completed before that time, he could come and live at our home and concentrate on his study of English. He was very excited about this.

The following day, however, Alberto called from Brazil to say he could not accept the scholarship. He had checked his own financial status and talked with several members of his church whom he thought might be able to assist him. He only had a few hundred dollars for transportation, not half enough for a ticket to the United States.

After receiving this message, Snookie and I became very concerned. He needed to be here, and we felt it was definitely God's leadership that had caused us to feel so strongly about this. That night, we discussed the matter and decided to pray specifically God would give us some idea about how we could get Alberto to Arkadelphia.

The next morning, I awoke with the

Dentist offers suggestions about Brazil travel preparations

Dr. J.D. Patterson, a dentist and member of Temple Church, Searcy, who traveled to Brazil in September 1985 (ABN, Feb. 13, 1986), offers several suggestions for persons, especially health care professionals, planning trips abroad as part of the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission (AMAR).

The first requirement Patterson notes is the necessary passport and visa. Passport application forms are available at a post office or county clerk's office. Visa applications are available from the Brazilian Consulate, 1306 International Trade Mart, New Orleans, LA 70130. For the visa you will need a passport-size photo and confirmation of round-trip ticket. Tourist visas are valid for 90 days.

Secondly, Patterson notes several necessary health precautions. Protection against tetanus, yellow fever, malaria and hepatitis is available from the Pulaski County Health Department, 13th and Marshall Streets, in Little Rock (376-4511). Yellow fever shots are given only on Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., Patterson says.

To health care professionals specifically, Patterson says photocopies of diplomas and state licenses will help prevent misunderstanding with customs and other officials. He also says the Foreign Mission Board should be alerted to such travel plans. Contact Dr. Joyce DeRidder, consultant for health care recruitment, Department of Medical Services, SBC Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Patterson reminds travelers preparing for overseas mission trips that they will be limited to two pieces of luggage weighing no more than 50 lbs. apiece. Usually, carry-on luggage is not counted against this limit.

Health care professionals should plan to take with them all the instruments and supplies they will need. They will also find it helpful to take with them some favors—baseball caps, key rings, balloons, pens, etc.—to give to a patient after services have been performed.

All travelers should consider taking some dried or canned foods, not only for personal dietary supplements, but also for the sake of missionaries, who may have been away from a U.S. diet for as much as four years. Patterson hints, "A Snickers or Baby Ruth candy bar will look mighty good to them."

A final word of advice, "Don't be a burden to the missionaries. They are God's servants, not yours. Remember their salaries are small, and they should be compensated for their extra expense.

"Be prepared to have a safe and healthy trip. Come back praising God for such a wonderful trip that he might say to you, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.'"

Patterson may be contacted at 333 E. Market, Searcy; telephone 268-8634 or 268-3650.

clearest idea I've ever had. I called a businessman in Atlanta, Ga., whom I had known for many years. I told him I had never asked anyone for money, but I felt very strongly a need to see if his business could finance an international student to come to this country to study.

He told me he had already made all the charitable contributions he had planned for that calendar year. But, after a pause, he asked if there was anything wrong with his doing it personally. I gave him an emphatic "not!" He said he would call me.

In about two hours, he called to tell me he had placed a check for \$1,400 in the mail. I immediately called Alberto to tell him we had his transportation arranged.

After an international student is accepted, he must receive an I-20 form, which will grant him student status. This also must be approved by his own government. The form had to go from Arkadelphia to Belem to Brasilia and back to Belem.

It is very uncommon for this to take less

than one to three months. During the following week, we had one U.S. holiday and two Brazilian holidays, but, thanks to God's hand in it, in exactly two weeks Alberto arrived at the Little Rock airport. This was additional evidence God was working things out for him to come to this country.

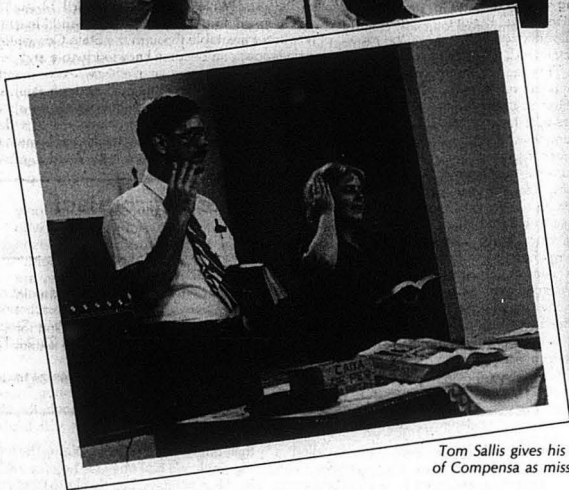
Several weeks before the beginning of school, I had told Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, that I had met this young man and was going to try and get him as a student at Ouachita by the fall of 1985. He was impressed with my description of him and said, "I want to remember that name!" He wrote Alberto's name in his pocket calendar and put it back in his coat.

When Alberto arrived at the Atlanta airport on his flight from Miami, he had to change airlines and was anxiously trying to find his Delta Airlines connection. Seeing his anxiety, a man came up to Alberto and asked if he could help him. In his best English, Alberto told the gentleman he was looking

Fort Smith Oak Cliff pastor Phil Whitten (right) shares a laugh with the pastor of the Manaus First Church on the partnership missions trip Fort Smith area Baptists made last September.



Children descend from the classroom of the elementary school of the First Baptist Church of Nova Betania in Manaus.



Tom Sallis gives his testimony to the Baptist Church of Compensa as missionary Lynn Olmstead translates his message into Portuguese.

for a Delta flight to Little Rock. The helper said he too was looking for that flight.

After some conversation, Alberto said he was coming to a Baptist school in Arkansas (He did not attempt to pronounce "Ouachita" or "Arkadelphia"). The man asked, "Do you know Bill Dixon?" "That's who I am going to see!" exclaimed Alberto. "Then your name must be Alberto Gomes!"

Alberto was so overjoyed that, in a large airport in a foreign country, someone would know his name. I was very surprised when I saw Don Moore and Alberto disembarking from the same plane. God does work in mysterious ways!

Alberto enrolled late in the fall but worked diligently to make the best possible grades. He is now in his fourth semester, his use of English is satisfactory, and he has

made great educational progress toward his goal, a degree from Ouachita.

Why do Snookie and I want to share this story? Our faith in God and in doing his will has become a reality in our Christian lives. It has been a joy to watch Alberto grow and see him become a part of our family.

It is even more rewarding to watch 16 people meet with the pastor on Sunday evenings to discuss volunteer short-term missions in an AMAR project scheduled this summer. We practice Portuguese with our teacher, Alberto Gomes. Alberto is translating testimonies for many volunteers who are participating in the AMAR projects from churches all over the state.

This summer, our church will sponsor Alberto's trip back to Brazil, where he will not only visit his family but will serve as an

interpreter with two groups from Arkadelphia who will go to Santarem on AMAR projects and will serve with some other students who are sponsored by the Arkansas BSU.

Snookie and I can hardly wait for the summer, when we will return to Brazil to assist in the construction of a church in a remote Amazon community. In the last two years, we have learned a bit about the true meaning of the Great Commission. I trust anyone who reads this account will be receptive to putting the Great Commission into his or her plans. It will revolutionize one's life!

Bill Dixon is dean of students at Ouachita Baptist University. Snookie Dixon is minister of education at First Church, Arkadelphia.

Helpline

for the local church

Sometimes it helps to have an encouraging word. Several could be given. Super Summer registration passed 1,000 by the deadline March 1. This spiritual encounter will be the most dynamic experience ever for many of our youth.



Moore

This is an exciting approach to youth evangelism and discipleship. It is different in that, while it is sponsored by the pre-college evangelism leader of the Evangelism Department, it is planned and administered in consultation with a large group of youth ministers over the state. All of these are doing a swell job of dreaming, planning and leading. Congratulations folks!

Another encouraging word: God wonderfully blessed the fourth annual Pastors' Retreat. Begun by Dr. Drumwright shortly before his death, it continues to meet a special need. Our first three years saw 28-30 participants each year. This year 70 men were involved. Pastors ministered to pastors in a marvelous way. Outside ministry came from Jim Burleson Jr., First Southern, Del City, Oklahoma, and Curtis Vaughan, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Another good word is the number of churches that now have access to the educational and training opportunities afforded by BTN, the Baptist Telecommunications Network. There are 275 churches which have access to videocassettes on almost every area of our work from Pastor Search Committee to Foreign Mission Updates. Six associations have the receiving dishes and equipment for their use. Twenty-five churches have their own dish. The quality of all we do can be improved by using this means of training and education. This tool isn't terribly expensive. There are people in many churches who would provide this as a personal gift to the church if they knew about the value of it.

This fits in Helpline, too. When Dr. Collins became critically ill in Fort Worth, I was in Nashville sharing in the Executive Committee meeting. Several times I tried to get the Baptist Building in Little Rock by telephone, only to encounter long delays in having the phone answered. I did not understand. If you have had the same experience, you probably didn't understand. We have six incoming lines. One of those days, 182 calls were received. There is only one switchboard operator. If she should be tied up, then your call goes unanswered until she is free. The bigger problem was that, when the lines were all tied up, the equipment was not giving a busy signal. We hope by the time you receive this the mechanical part of this problem will be resolved. Thanks for being patient.

Exciting April in the natural order, the awakening of life will stir us to activity. In our churches, a quickened step, a restless desire to do more and new anticipation will rise. How can this surge of interest and energy be utilized?

(1) Good News America revivals will be concluding. Those last minute, do-or-die, soul winning visits should be made. Those

just coming into the Christian life need to be warmly and consistently nurtured during this first month of their new life. And, if real revival has come, there will be unplanned activities that the Holy Spirit will prompt.

(2) The biggest! The Key Leader Meeting is just that. From all over the state, from all of the associations, from all areas of our programs, associational workers come to be briefed on the latest things we know about their area of work. The dates are April 28-29 at Park Hill, North Little Rock. The Director of Missions will be prepared to help associational leaders to get there. John Sullivan, gifted pastor from Shreveport, La., and twice first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be our preacher.

(3) Newcomers to the state have a special opportunity in April, the New Pastor/Staff and Wives Orientation, April 14-15. This meeting helps immensely in getting acquainted and "learning the ropes" of resources available through the State Convention. It means a church leader can become knowledgeable and comfortable in his adopted state convention in a few weeks or months, instead of years. Motel costs, food in Little Rock and some mileage will be paid by the convention. This makes it possible for almost every newcomer to attend. Directors of missions are providing the list of newcomers who should receive an invitation. If you have not received and responded to an invitation by April 2, please

March holds great promise!

by Don Moore

call 376-4791 by April 4 to make your reservations.

(4) Preschool leaders in our churches have some special opportunities in April. Sunday School workers with preschoolers should make every effort to attend one of the "Whistle Stops" scheduled at Wynne, Paragould or Osceola, April 21, 22, 24. The times and places can found elsewhere in this issue.

Missionary education for preschoolers takes place in Mission Friends. For the first time "specialized training for Mission Friends leadership" is being offered, according to Pat Glascock. Kathryn Kizer, from the WMU office of the SBC, will be the able leader. Could you Missions Friends leaders share in this training April 19, at Calvary Church in Little Rock? If you can, you should.

(5) Children's age group. No, they'll not be left out. Look at this. Four Sunday School Board specialists will be coming to sharpen Sunday School workers skills for those who work with children. This is called a Reach/Teach Retreat. It's at Camp Paron. It'll be super. The dates are April 25-26, and you have to make a reservation. Better look into this and make plans to attend.

(6) State R.A. Congress. April 25-26. Boys first through twelfth grades and their leaders will gather at Ouachita University for a great time of fun, fellowship and missionary inspiration. These young men and their leaders need the encouragement that comes from such gatherings. Don't miss this opportunity!

This monthly Helpline is a cooperative ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and the Arkansas Baptist News magazine, designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to the churches.

10-11 video opens new doors

Churches in a rural Arkansas Baptist association have found videotaped training resources both met a crucial need and opened other doors for growth.

14 looking ahead

April, May and June events, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for equipping and inspiration for the churches, are listed.

Association, churches find video useful, helpful training tool

FRANKLIN—Jesse Taylor could have taken offense at the anonymous phone call. As a brand-new director of missions in north-central Arkansas' Rocky Bayou Association, Taylor had just introduced the idea of an association-wide teacher training program based on 13 hours of video tapes.

The woman's voice on the other end of the line was quite explicit: "We don't need you or your new-fangled ideas."

Many would not have found such a reaction surprising. Rocky Bayou Association's three counties—Sharp, Izard and Fulton—are isolated from Arkansas' more well-worn paths. The area's people and churches maintain a firm sense of self-sufficiency and independence from other parts of the state.

But when Taylor launched his "training blitz" a few weeks after his announcement, 100 persons signed up for the training, proving their openness to those "new-fangled ideas." And within a few months, after the training had a chance to work its way into the Sunday School classes, Taylor even received another call from his anonymous friend.

"outside world," the development of satellite television networks and the spread of the now-common receiving "dishes" have in some senses reversed the situation.

Pick virtually any stretch of country road in the state, and you'll not have to drive long to spot one of those dishes, its electronic ear cupped heavenward, drawing in an incredible wealth of events and information from all around the globe. In many cases, the antenna brings far more into a rural home than the average city dweller has available on his local cable franchise.

The ironic twist, Taylor found, is that the spread of that technology—satellites dishes, video recorders and the like—may create even more openness toward "new-fangled" training approaches among open country folk than in the city churches.

And openness is the word to describe the association's response to videotaped training resources. The Cherokee Village Church, averaging 149 in Sunday School during 1985, enrolled 14 in the training series. The Midway Church at Melbourne, with 82 in 1985 Sunday School, registered

ABN photo / Mark Kelly

"That teacher was simply teaching the way modeled for her," Taylor explains. "After the training, I visited that classroom again, and she was down on the floor, working with the children."

That experience, coupled with the testimony of his phone caller and those of associational pastors and leaders, convinced Taylor the videotaped training resources had touched a real need. The result was better teacher attitudes, more class participation and, ultimately, better Bible teaching and learning.

That matches the testimony of Margaret Parker, a member of the Myron Church. Teaching in various capacities for 20 years, the video training was her first equipping for the task.

"Now I've got more confidence. I feel better qualified," she remarks. "Now I know how to prepare, and I know what to look for in class participation. For the first time I am aware of the resources available to me."

A second benefit Taylor could identify would be new ministries and a new sense of direction for congregations involved in the training.

"A year ago we had one class for each age group," says Howard Clark, pastor of the Myron Church. "Now we are multiplying classes and preparing to build more educational space."

Dan Evert, a staff member at the Cherokee Village Church, celebrates that first video effort. As a result, the congregation is finding other ministry uses for video, such as taping Sunday School classes for absentees and shut-ins.

But far and away the greatest benefits of the training have been increased interest in other training and a better awareness of the resources offered by the denomination.

"There's a real hunger among our people," Taylor observes. "Teachers want to do their jobs well."

"But often it isn't practical for them to leave here and go to Little Rock. Sometimes they'll hardly go to Cedar Glades (the associational camp). So we have to 'bring the mountain to Mohammed,' so to speak."

Training feeds that hunger, and satisfaction sends the newly-trained leaders off in search of other resources. Following their teacher training series, the Myron Church enrolled 12 persons in the "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism" equipping center module, 21 persons in a study of the Baptist Faith and Message and 18 in the January Bible Study on Hebrews.

Using video resources which feature Southern Baptist denominational leadership also broadens a church's awareness of their denomination's resources and deepens their sense of identity as Southern Baptists, Taylor explains.

"We recognize our need for training, but knowing how to meet that need is something



Director of Missions Jesse Taylor tapes Baptist Telecommunications Network (BTN) transmissions, which are then used by Franklin First Church for weekly training.

"I want you to know I'm enjoying Sunday School more than ever now, because our teacher is letting us discuss things," Taylor reports she said. "I know she's been through that teacher training, and I want to thank you for bringing it to our area."

And with the initial training experience behind them and other churches now using the tapes for their own events, Taylor has found not only a remarkable openness to the video technology, but also some very positive changes occurring in the association's 28 congregations.

Although remote rural areas such as this have historically had less contact with the

25. The Myron Church at Ash Flat, running 44 in Sunday School last year, enrolled 10.

Everywhere the video resources are used, pastors report very positive developments, Taylor says.

The first benefit might be seen in the improvement of teacher attitudes and classroom techniques. Taylor recalls that, during his first few weeks in the association, the need for trained teachers and leaders kept hitting him "right between the eyes." He remembers in particular one classroom he visited, in which a room full of three-year-olds were seated in rows of chairs, listening to a lecture.

New technologies strengthen training

Leadership training is easily among the most critical needs of any church. And with time so precious and resources so few, it can be one of the most difficult to meet.

However, two developing technologies—satellite television networks and video tape recording—may provide just the answer for training church leaders.

According to *The Church Video Answerbook*, recently published by Broadman Press, video tape is proving to be an immensely valuable resource for training. R. Chip Turner, director of media services for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the author of the book, lists the following advantages of video, among many others.

(1) Videotaped resources are a practical substitute for personal contact between a speaker and audience. A video tape can provide well-known, highly sought personalities "on demand" for any congregation, avoiding the problems of scheduling and finances which would prevent personal appearances.

(2) Video tape is inexpensive, and video equipment is fairly reasonably priced. Turner notes a two-hour tape sells for less than a roll of color slide film, and video tape offers the added advantage of erasing and reusing it.

(3) Video equipment is simple to operate and familiar to many people. With the increased popularity of home video recorders, more and more people are comfortable operating with video equipment.

(4) Videotaped resources are both repeatable and controllable. A taped program may be played over and over again at will to reinforce its message. The same material may be stopped at any point along the way to allow a group to interact and discuss a point.

(5) Video tape is easily integrated with other audiovisual media: films, slides, audiocassettes, etc.

(6) Video tape lends itself to a variety of teaching approaches. Individuals can use the same material as easily as large groups.

(7) The use of videotape increases retention of lesson content and provides a more enjoyable learning experience.

(8) Video equipment is quite portable and becoming more so. In addition, the television set needed for video playback is usually available on location and need not be brought along by a leader.

(9) Videotaping an event or broadcast allows for later viewing at the convenience of the target audience. Scheduling meetings becomes easier, and those who miss a meeting can still "catch up."

(10) With home video recorders becoming increasingly common, learners are not bound so tightly to the church or conference center location. Lending tapes from a media library becomes very feasible.

(11) In the midst of a "video age," such resources have strong audience appeal.

"Video is here to stay," notes Turner. "Wise church leaders ought to make positive use of this readily available resource."

Turner points out there are many sources for the kinds of video tapes churches will find useful in their training and ministry tasks. One in particular he notes is Video Tape Service (VTS), a Southern Baptist project sponsored by the state convention executive directors. Featuring programming provided by SBC agencies and institutions, VTS offers approximately 200 titles on a range of topics involving church programs, religious education, pastoral ministries and personal development. The tapes are available at low cost or on loan.

In addition, Turner reminds readers other churches, associational offices and state convention offices are good resources, as are public libraries, which have "literally thousands of titles on an almost endless array of topics" available on request.

A second technology which can greatly expand a congregation's training resources is BTN, the Southern Baptist satellite television network sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Providing educational and training resources on the range of church ministry topics, BTN allows the taping and delayed playback of material presented by the denomination's best leaders. The recent offer of a free satellite receiving dish in exchange for a subscription substantially lowers the cost to congregations.

Turner closes his book—which also deals with cable and low-power television broadcasting—with a brainstorm of suggestions for using video tape in religious education and church programming, among them:

Recording presentations by special guests and teachers for later use, helping teachers and speakers evaluate their methods, training leaders, doing follow-up with new converts, training new members,

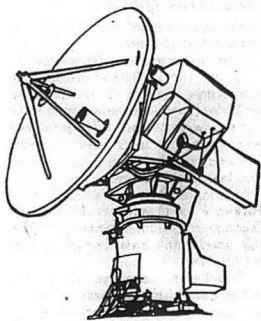
Reinforcing learnings by reviewing a tape, providing opportunities for continuing education, adding variety to weekly worker meetings, sharing reports from conferences attended by only a few,

Ministering to the homebound and members in nursing homes and hospitals, conducting special studies with outside resource people, facilitating in-home religious education,

Promoting church stewardship emphases, providing motivational resources for special occasions, training committee members, offering family entertainment,

Sharing reports from missionaries, recording special musical presentations for later enjoyment, preserving historical moments in church life and evangelism training.

Adapted from *The Church Video Answerbook* by R. Chip Turner, copyright 1986 by Broadman Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



else," Taylor notes. "Too many of our folk aren't aware of all the support that's available to them.

"We have things like the church architecture people at the Sunday School Board to help us plan buildings and site money at low interest rates from the Home Mission Board. That's new information to a lot of people.

"Even the idea of volunteer construction teams coming through the Home Mission Board to help with construction blows their minds," he adds. "Our biggest task is to help people understand what's available to them.

"Of course, some people won't do anything with it once they know," he admits. "But for others it's a plank in the middle of the ocean, something to hold on to."

"The video tapes opened our eyes to who we are as Southern Baptists and the resources that are available to us," comments Pastor Clark of the Myron Church. "It increased our awareness of the denominational programs and ministries and will help build a cooperative spirit in a church."

A number of new things are afoot in the association, many of them by-products of the initial experience with the teacher training, Taylor believes. Interest has increased in associational activities such as a rally for their Good News America revivals and weekly seminary extension classes. The Franklin Church has subscribed to BTN, the SBC's satellite network dedicated to leadership training.

For Taylor, it all adds up to one thing. "God is getting ready to do something," he insists, "and I don't want us to miss out."

**text by Mark Kelly,
ABN staff writer**

Senior Adult Celebration

Bob Norman, pastor of the Clearview Church in Nashville, Tenn., will be the inspirational speaker for the annual Senior Adult Celebration to be held Monday through Wednesday, May 19-21, on the Ouachita Baptist University campus.



Norman

"Coming of Age" will be the theme of this year's conference planned for Senior Adults and leaders of Senior Adults, including pastors and church staff members.

Dennis Lyle, a special worker in senior adult ministry from Nashville, Tenn., will

Church Training

lead two conferences for leaders who work with senior adults in the churches. He recently retired as director of church development for the Nashville Association. The leadership conferences will offer practical helps for beginning and maintaining an effective senior adult ministry in a church.

A special feature of this year's Senior Adult Celebration will be "Clyde and Archie." Clyde Spurgeon, pastor of First Church, Piggott, is well known around our state as an outstanding ventriloquist. He and his friend Archie will have some interesting and entertaining sketches that will speak to senior adults in a very special way.

The conference will begin on Monday, May 19, at 6 p.m. with a banquet and program in the Student Union Building. The conference will adjourn by noon on Wednesday, May 21. Lodging will be available on campus with two persons assigned to each room. The cost of lodging is \$3.50 per night for double occupancy. The registration fee for the conference is \$15 per person and includes registration, banquet and breaks.

Registration should be addressed to Senior Adult Celebration, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Senior Adult Chautauqua Tours are planned for this fall. A charter bus tour is scheduled for the Chautauqua at Glorieta (Sept. 22-26) and at Ridgecrest (Oct. 13-17). Each group will depart on the Saturday preceding the Chautauqua and return the following Saturday. Look for more information soon. — **Robert Holley, director**

BYW Swap Shop

The future of missions will not be determined in 10, 15 or 20 years. It is being determined today in the local church.

Baptist Young Women is an organization to equip young women for the missions task. BYWs from across Arkansas are invited to be a part of the BYW Swap Shop, April 12, 1986, at Lake Nixon, which is just west of Little Rock. This one-day event begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m.

Jane Fray, former missionary to southern Africa, will lead in Bible study. Small group times will allow participants a chance to exchange ideas in mission action, mission support and enlistment/publicity.

Those attending are asked to bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. No child care will be provided.

If your church does not have a BYW organization, encourage young women to be a part of this meeting. They will gain a vision of their importance in God's kingdom to proclaim the gospel around the world.

It is our desire that young women will come expecting to gain much and be willing to share what they have experienced. More information concerning the meeting can be obtained by contacting Carolyn Porterfield at Arkansas WMU.

Woman's Missionary Union

Acteens Encounter: What do balloons, videos, music, Argentina and missions have in common? If your answer was that all these items will be included in the 1986 Arkansas Acteens Encounter, then you are correct! This weekend event will be April 25-26 at Levy Church in North Little Rock.

"This Is Our Day" has been chosen as the theme. A number of exciting individuals will be sharing how their own lives have been influenced by their involvement in missions. You will have an opportunity to meet Marti Solomon, Acteens consultant, WMU, SBC; personally visit with "real live" foreign and home missionaries; meet Arkansas' 1986 Acteens National Advisory Panelist, Susan Shell; get to know a musical Liberian missions volunteer, Alan Moore; and make friends with Acteens from all across our state.

The program has been designed for Acteens and includes some exciting features. It will begin at 7 p.m. Friday and conclude at 2:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. If your church does not have Acteens, this would be an excellent opportunity for teenage girls to discover how they can be personally involved in missions activities. Contact Angela Lowe for more information.

For details and cost of these events contact Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203—**Arkansas WMU**

Enrollment gain

The official word is in! Arkansas Baptist churches reported a net gain of 3,577 in Sunday School enrollment. This is nearly



Pike

10 times greater than the previous year. Our enrollment at the end of September 1985 was 258,954. While this is a good increase and far better than last year, it still averages only about two and one half people per church. We need to average increasing

about five per church if we are to show a 35,000 gain in enrollment during the five years of Challenge 10/90.

This means that more of our churches are going to have to plan to grow, not just hope they grow. The very best tool we have for guiding the Sunday School in quality work and increasing enrollment is the Growth Spiral. When used correctly the Growth Spiral will result in quality teaching and more people attending to hear the teaching.

A very unique opportunity for training Sunday School workers in how to use the Growth Spiral is available on April 22 at Central Church in North Little Rock. Andy Anderson, the designer of the Growth Spiral, will bring a team of age group conference leaders and show in detail how to use the Spiral in the local church. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m. It will be an intense, full day

Sunday School

and you should plan to stay the entire day and not leave early. Lunch will be served at the church.

Each church should plan to bring at least one worker in each of the four age groups as well as general officers. This would give each church a full team of workers committed to bring quality growth to the Sunday School.

The conference fee is \$10 per person and will cover the cost of materials and refreshments. Each person will also pay for lunch served at the church in addition to the conference fee.

In addition we will introduce a new emphasis called "On Eagles' Wings" for Sunday Schools that really want to accelerate their growth and be pacesetters in the state. "On Eagles' Wings" will require an all out, no holds barred commitment to quality growth. It will not be for the timid or reluctant. If your church has the mind set for being a bold pacesetter then "On Eagles' Wings" will be right down your alley. See you on April 22. — **Freddie Pike, director**

Church administration

Ministers of education and ministers of youth will have a double-header training opportunity at the annual Minister of Education/Youth Retreat on April 24-25 at the Holiday Inn on Lake Hamilton at Hot Springs, beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday and continuing through noon on Friday. Most of the conference time will be given to separate conferences for these two groups with one



Peck

joint session given to personal growth and building team relationships.

Terry Peck, consultant in Career Guidance in the Church Administration Dept. in Nashville, Tenn., will lead the session for ministers of education. The agenda for the session will deal with Essentials in Staff Team Ministries, Leadership Styles, Communication in Staff Relationships, and other topics of special interest to ministers of education.

Jim Minton, associate professor of youth education, New Orleans Baptist Theologi-

Church Training

cal Seminary, will be leading the session for youth ministers. Jim will be dealing with trends in youth ministry, survival on a church staff, keeping the temple fit and much more.

Reservations for the Minister of Education/Youth Retreat should be sent to the Church Training Dept. by April 21.

The Area Summer Youth Ministry Conferences, April 21-23, will provide an excellent opportunity for exposure to Summer Youth Ministry approaches and resources. The conferences will be held at Ouachita Baptist University on Monday, April 21; Southern Baptist College, Tuesday, April 22; and the Baptist Building, Little Rock, on Wednesday, April 23. The time for all locations will be 10 a.m.-3 p.m. If you are a college student planning to serve a church this summer, a summer missionary, a volunteer youth leader, a pastor or full time youth minister, this conference is for you.

The conferences will be led by Richard Ross, Youth Ministry Coordinator, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn. He will cover areas such as developing a solid youth ministry, working with the church and staff, programming ideas for the summer, effective use of resources and much more.

There is no fee or advance registration. Book Store materials will also be available for purchase. Contact Bill Falkner for more information. — **Robert Holley, director**

Time to think VBS

Vacation Bible School is still one of the prime areas for discovering prospects for ongoing Bible study in your church.



Edwards

If your church has decided not have VBS this year, the above statistics may help you to reconsider. A church that expects to grow will actively seek out prospects.

Children's Workers' Retreat: April 25-26, 1986, is a special date that needs to be on

Sunday School

your calendar if you teach children, grades 1-6, in Sunday School. The Children's Workers' Reach/Teach Retreat will include conferences for younger children, middle children, older children and division directors.

The purpose of the retreat is to update children workers on age-group work; to challenge and help workers sharpen skills needed to reach and teach children in Sunday School; and to offer ideas for relating to the child and his family.

This conference will be held at Camp Paron and begins Friday, April 25, at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner, a feature presentation and age-group sessions. The retreat will continue at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning with a general feature, skillshops and special interest conferences. It will end at noon.

The skillshops will include: Teaching the Bible Through Music, Teaching the Bible Through Drama, Teaching the Bible Through Creative Writing, and Helping Children Develop Bible Skills.

Special interest conferences will include: Guiding Children's Behavior in Sunday School, The Child and Christian Conversion; How to Have an Effective Weekly Workers' Meeting; and Ideas for Reaching Children and Their Families. All conferences will be led by Baptist Sunday School Board personnel.

Cost for the retreat will be \$16 per person. This cost includes two meals and overnight accommodations. Reservations can be made by contacting the Sunday School Dept., Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or phone 376-4791. — **Jackie Edwards, associate**

Internationals saved

The emphases with which Baptist Student Union started over 60 years ago are still with us: an emphasis on quiet time, having a prayer partner, being involved in a local church, and reaching out with the gospel first to the roommate, then other classmates, and eventually to the world. There are new expressions of these emphases, and one of these is the growth of small Bible study groups. There



Logue

are over 100 of these on Arkansas campuses, and each week over 1,000 students are involved in one of them sponsored by BSU.

Most of the groups are led by students; some are led by BSU directors, associates, or Student-to-Student workers. Some meet in the BSU Center, a few meet in homes, but most meet in dormitory rooms.

At first one might think the campus Bible study groups would compete with Sunday

Student Department

School Bible study time. Quite the contrary, these dormitory Bible study groups open the door for one to come to the BSU Center and eventually to a church. A case in point is the Bible study each Friday night in the home of Mike and Winnie Kinsey of First Church, Clarksville. Many of the students attending are internationals, and through the Bible study several internationals, as well as several American students, have become Christians and have been baptized in First Church. Recently a Japanese student also became a Christian, but as she was to return home in a few weeks, she decided to be baptized in Japan as a witness to her family and friends.

The College of the Ozarks, located in Clarksville, has an unusually large percentage of international students, and internationals transfer in and out just as American students do.

During the Christmas season several students came back to Clarksville. One of the students showed Winnie the Bible she had given him when he left Clarksville and the simple prayer she had written out for him to sign when he became a Christian. Winnie told Wen Chee to be sure and tell her when he did sign the prayer. At this point he said, 'I haven't signed it, but I did it. I opened my heart and accepted Jesus.' Later among quite a few internationals Wen said, 'I have an announcement to make. I have opened my heart and accepted Jesus.' — **Tom J. Logue, director**

GNA follow-up

At the present time some of you have completed your Good News Revivals. Others are presently in the process of



Shell

Each of us is deeply concerned that new Christians get a good start in their spiritual journey of life. Pastors and lay counselors must know how to use the Bible in leading a person in a personal commitment of life to Christ.

Each lost person should pray a prayer of repentance to God and faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. These new Christians should be welcomed to the family of God with the assurance of eternal life. This assurance comes from the fact that they know that Jesus came into their lives.

Evangelism

The revival is over, what then? God has blessed by people being saved. Each new convert is a babe in Christ and needs spiritual nourishment to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus. He needs a stable support system to help him gain in strength and usefulness.

In following the New Testament principle, the church should baptize new converts as soon as possible. In Acts 2:41, "They that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." This is an identification with Christ and his church. This is a living testimony that one has passed from death unto life. Each new convert should make a commitment to be faithful and loyal to their new spiritual family.

The encourager program is an excellent way to strengthen and reassure the convert. A mature Christian comes to him immediately to share love and prayers. The encourager works with him in the "Survival Kit" as he begins learning the great truths of our Lord. He or she also gives support as he is involved in the total program of the church. The new convert needs the Sunday School as he begins feasting upon the food of the Word. Peter states, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

Church Training to the new convert is what the basic fundamentals are to a team athlete. The athlete will not make much contribution to the team regardless of his potential unless he knows the principals of cooperating and working together.

Christian maturity is our desire for every saved person. — Clarence Shell, director

Prison Ministry Workshop

"I hated everybody including myself when the two men came by my cell that day. They asked if they could talk to me.



Sisk

"As they turned to walk away one of them said, 'We love you and God loves you.'

"Those words kept ringing in my ears and by the end of the week I was so convicted of my sin I felt sure that I would die if I had not accepted Jesus as my Savior.

"I have no idea who those men are but I am eternally grateful that they cared enough to come by my cell and give me those few words which led me to Christ."

This was the testimony an inmate gave during an annual training conference for volunteers in jail and prison ministry.

Each year Dewie Williams, administrator of chaplaincy services for the Arkansas Department of Correction, provides a conference to train volunteers to share their faith among inmates in correctional institutions.

Missions

Some of the outstanding program personalities in the past were Huey Perry, director of institutional chaplaincy, Home Mission Board; Paul Markstrom, director of chaplaincy for the Assemblies of God; Austin Brown, chaplain in the Florida Department of Correction and Clyde Johnston, director of chaplaincy services in the Texas Department of Correction.

This year, Ray Hoekstra of the International Prison Ministry, Dallas, Texas, will be the speaker. The purpose of the conference is to equip volunteers, lay people and ordained, to accomplish ministry in jails and prisons in the state.

The meeting this year will feature workshops, inmate testimonies, panel discussions and inspirational speakers. The conference will meet at the women's unit in Pine Bluff, April 18-19. The first session will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday 18 and will adjourn at 3 p.m. Saturday.

There is no charge. Those desiring to attend may write to Williams at P.O. Box 8707, Pine Bluff, AR 71611, or call 1-247-1800. — Leroy Sisk, director of chaplaincy

God still loves America!

Good News America! God Still Loves You! Although we're coming to the end of the two week period when most Arkansas churches have been



Keathley

involved in revival, there is still much more to be done. Many churches will still be having meetings through April, and other areas in the convention will just be starting theirs. It's good news that God's love is not bounded by specific

dates, but is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let me encourage all church musicians to be totally involved in the music of their church during this revival season.

Many of us will be extending the ministry of our own churches as we travel to Kansas and Nebraska in April to assist the churches in that new-work area in their revivals. We're excited about this mission opportunity and I want to personally thank the churches who are making it possible for their music leaders to go. I know it will be a good investment of time and resources. Let me remind those involved in this endeavor that our final rehearsal is on Saturday, April 5, at Geyer Springs. We will meet from 10 a.m. until noon.

Music

Young Musicians Festivals are coming up on Saturday, April 12. Please check the calendar at the end of the Helpline section for the location nearest you. The deadline for registration is next week, so if you haven't registered yet, you still have time. This is the only opportunity our young musicians have to hear choirs from other churches. Each choir may choose to sing for the other choirs and for a panel of judges, who will write constructive comments to the choir and director. The experience of singing with all the others in one mass choir is thrilling.

Two events of special interest to associational music leaders are coming up in April and May. The first is our annual Key-Leader Meeting. The associational music director is a key leader and we have a training session planned on April 28-29 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

The other event is our State Music Tournament on May 10. Young people should check with their local music director or their associational music director about participating in an associational tournament before April 13. It's great fun! Come and join us! — Ervin Keathley, state music secretary

RA Congress

Our 33rd Arkansas Royal Ambassador Congress will be held on April 25-26 at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.



Guthrie

The Congress is for boys in grades 1-12, church staff, and interested parents, friends, and fans. It is a great opportunity to make new friends and have loads of fun.

Registration will begin at noon on Friday, April 25, and the events (RA Racers,

RA Speak Out, Campcraft Rodeo, Swim and Gym events) will be held from 1:45-4:30 p.m. All of these events will be repeated Friday night. On Saturday morning we will have our big track meet.

There is a registration fee of \$2, and the cost of meals is \$2.50 for dinner, \$1.75 for breakfast, and \$2.25 for lunch. Campers will not be allowed to cook at the campsite. Accommodations for overnight are up to you. You may bring a sleeping bag and sleep on the gym floor, camp out in the camping

Brotherhood

area, find a friend at Ouachita or stay in a motel.

It is necessary that you turn in your pre-registration card early. For information write to the Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call at 376-4791. Make plans now to be a part of an exciting Congress on April 25-26.

Another exciting project this summer for our RA's is to bring two pioneer boys from Brazil to Arkansas for the summer. Since the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is involved in a partnership mission with Brazil and, also, because the National RA Congress (held every 7 years) will be in Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 4-7 this year, we thought this would be a great project. However we need your help! As a special project for your RA chapter you can help us raise the necessary funds to bring the boys to the states. For each church that is involved, we will work out a schedule for a visit by the Brazilians while they are in the states to your church. The dates will be from July 4 to Aug. 8. Contact us at the Baptist Building for more information.

The RA events this summer start with the RA Congress in April and then our Man and Boy Camp, the RA Camps, and the National RA Congress in August. Plan now to be a part! — **Neel Guthrie, director**

Arkansas Assembly

Excitement is in the air. The 1986 summer assemblies at Siloam are just around the corner. I feel great about what God is going to do through our camps this year. It is hard to think about summer and not think about Siloam. So help us build Siloam up in your churches. Remember you are the key to its success.



Sherman

I am anticipating the best year we have ever had at the assembly. How can it

be the best? Glad you asked that question. It can be the best with your help. Let me share some ways you can help. Please start praying right now for every week of camp. Not just the week you are coming but every week. Pastors, we want you to come. Also,

Sunday School

we need you to come. You can help by bringing children and youth that are unsaved. Encourage your adults to come as teachers and counselors. Remember we want you at Siloam.

I also believe this summer will be the best because of our camp pastors, both youth and children. Allow me to share our pastors with you. Week 1, June 16-20, will be led by Jack Hazelwood for youth and Bob Harper for children. Week 2, June 23-27, will be led by Richard Wade for children and we are still waiting for confirmation on the youth pastor. Week 3, June 30-July 4, will be led by Jerry Winfield for youth and Vernon Payne for children. Week 4, July 7-11, will be led by Dan Yeary for youth and Ron Ford for children. Week 5, July 14-18, will be led by Mickey Anders for youth and Ken Reece for children. Week 6, July 21-25, will be led by Wes Kent for youth and Randal Everett for children. Week 7, July 28-August 1, will be led by Fred Tubbs for youth and Lee Lawson for children. I believe God will bless through these men. Please pray for each pastor.

I believe there is one other thing that will make each week very spiritual, please lead out in following the assembly guidelines. Remember the youth reflect whatever the leadership has taught them before they come to camp. Thank you so very much for your cooperation.

I am looking forward to your church coming to Siloam Springs. If you have not done so, make your reservations now. Send \$2 per camper to Larry Sherman, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — **Larry Sherman, associate**

No hunger burnout

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..." (Matt. 25:35 NASB). Notice the me is capitalized. Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me" (25:40b).



Parker

Arkansas Baptists must not suffer "hunger burnout". This problem was recently addressed by the Arkansas Baptist World Hunger Committee at its first meeting in 1986. As the teachings of Jesus are meant to be continually applied, sincere concern and active response to hungry people must be continual at home and overseas.

Associational and local church world hunger and Christian life committees must lead in not permitting interest and concern to die out. Sadly, isolated instances are a reality where even yet nothing or little has been done in ministering to our Lord regarding those physically hungry.

Christian Life Council

Arkansas Baptists already are doing many things. Some churches address world hunger through their budgets. Such gifts can be sent regularly. Other churches have an annual special offering for world hunger. Some make possible opportunities to contribute at regular church suppers, the Lord's Supper, etc. Special offering containers are sometimes distributed for individuals and families to use weekly in making annual contributions.

Local hunger needs are met through church and associational crisis closets. Some send regular gifts to local rescue missions. There are many church benevolence committees actively meeting needs.

Fetal malnutritional syndrome like fetal alcohol syndrome is a serious problem everywhere. Huge sums are spent in our state and nation in caring for the severely mentally and physically retarded. Many of these are children of mothers who failed to get proper or adequate food. Feeding the hungry may sometimes be costly but not nearly as costly as not doing so. Arkansas Baptists have not discontinued the World Hunger Committee established in 1977 and neither must the efforts to do something about world hunger "burnout".

Lehman Fowler, a layman from Brinkley First Church, is the new chairman of the World Hunger Committee. Pray for him and the committee in this important work. — **Bob Parker, director**

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
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		30 31	27 28 29 30 31		29 30

April 1. Church Building Conference. Baptist Building, Little Rock. Leaders of churches who have building needs will get information on the services of the BSSB Church Architecture Department and meet other building resource people.

April 4-6. BSU Leadership Training. Camp Paron. Annual event to train student leaders of 27 Baptist Student Unions. Officers will be elected and

Next month in Arkansas: April

more than 50 summer missionaries will be appointed.

April 12. Baptist Young Women Retreat. Lake Nixon, Little Rock. Annual missions education and inspiration event for women ages 18-29.

April 14-15. New pastor / staff orientation. Baptist Building, Little Rock. Annual event to introduce pastors and church staff new to the state since last April to Baptist Building and agency staff and their ministries to the churches.

May

May 5-6. Chaplaincy Awareness Conference. Camp Paron.

May 5. Golden Age Evangelism Conference. Springdale, First Church.

May 6. Golden Age Evangelism Conference. North Little Rock, First Church.

May 8. Golden Age Evangelism Conference. Dumas, First Church.

June

June 3-6. Student Summer Missionaries Orientation. Mills Valley Retreat Center in North Pulaski Association.

June 6-7. Man and Boy Mini Camp. Paron.

June 9-13. Royal Ambassador Camp. Paron.

June 16-18. Acteens Mini Camp. Cold Springs Camp in Faulkner Association.

June 18-20. Arkansas Baptist

April 14-15. Interfaith Witness Skillshaps. Monticello, First Church. A joint effort by the Arkansas Missions Department and the SBC Home Missions Board to help Arkansas Baptists understand other faith groups and prepare them to share Christian witness.

April 14-16. Interfaith Witness Associate Training. Monticello, First Church. Twelve hours of training for volunteers who will then be certified to lead conferences to help Christians reach other faith groups.

April 19. Mission Friends Leadership Training. Little Rock, Calvary Church. A first-time event to train leaders of Mission Friends.

April 21. Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Wynne Church. Preschool teachers will be trained to use curriculum materials by the Baptist Sunday School Board, and pastors and Sunday School general officers will get general information about preschool materials and work.

April 22. Growth Spiral Workshop. North Little Rock, Central Church. Pastors, Sunday School directors and age group

leaders will be informed and inspired to set growth goals and plan to reach them.

April 22. Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Paragould, East Side.

April 24. Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Osceola, First.

April 25-26. Children's Workers' Reach / Teach Retreat. Camp Paron. Conference will update children's workers on age group work and help them sharpen skills to reach the child's family as well teaching.

April 25-26. Royal Ambassador Congress. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia. Annual event for fellowship and missions education for boys first through twelfth grades and their counselors.

April 25-26. Acteens Encounter. North Little Rock, Levy. Missions education, inspiration and challenge for girls in grades 7-12. Speakers will include home and foreign missionaries.

April 28-29. Key Leader Meeting. Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. Briefing on new ideas in various areas of programs for associational workers.

May 10. State Music Tournament / Ensemble Jubilee. Benton, First Church.

May 12-16. MasterLife / Master-Builders / Disciple Youth II Workshops. Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

May 16-17. GA Mother/Daughter

Camp Paron.

May 19-21. Senior Adult Celebration. Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

May 19-22. National Continuing Witness Training Seminar. Blytheville, Gosnell Church.

May 22-23. New Work Conference. Camp Paron.

Assembly, Siloam Springs.

June 16-20. Royal Ambassador Camp. Paron.

June 17-19. Arkansas Campers on Mission Rally, Wilderness Point Campground on Lake Norfork.

June 20-22. National Campers on Mission Rally, Wilderness Point Campground.

June 23-27. Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs.

June 22-29. Mission Revivals Week. statewide.

June 23-26. Young Musicians Camp. Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

June 23-27. Girls in Action Camp. Paron.

June 27-28. GA Mother-Daughter Camp. Paron.

June 30-July 3. Girls in Action Camp. Paron.

'Outreach Bible Study' offers new approach to expanded ministry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A new outreach plan for evangelism and Bible study offers an expanded ministry opportunity for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools, believes Harry Piland, Sunday School director for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The plan is Outreach Bible Study, and its materials, "An Invitation to Bible Study," already have been tested in New England

and taught to state Sunday School leaders from across the country.

"Outreach Bible Study will provide a new path for the Good News," Piland said in the opening session of a three-day training institute for state convention leaders.

The Outreach Bible Study plan calls for Bible study locations outside the church—such as apartments, community centers,

homes or office buildings—in an effort to reach non-Christians and unchurched persons who might not be willing to attend traditional Sunday School or church.


The "Invitation to Bible Study" eight-session examination of the Gospel of Luke features Bible content written in language that persons with little church background and no knowledge of the Bible can understand, Piland said.

An emphasis on evangelism is provided in each session, and the teacher's books provide administrative guides and teaching aids. Holman Bible Publishers has produced a Scripture portion, "Invitation to Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke," for use in enlistment activities and in class sessions.

Plans for introducing the materials include an Outreach Bible Study kick-off seminar to be telecast live on Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN), Aug. 23, 1986. "Invitation to Bible Study" materials for youth and adult students and leaders will be available for Southern Baptist churches in October.


A Bold Mission Thrust goal for the project is 10,000 churches conducting Outreach Bible Study by 1990, Piland reported. Bold Mission Thrust is the Southern Baptist campaign to share the message of Jesus Christ with every person on earth by the year 2000.

Outreach Bible Study will not take the place of evangelism in the Sunday School, but it is another way for the Sunday School to conduct evangelism, Piland explained, noting, "Outreach Bible Study is only one part of Sunday School outreach."



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Baptists, Assemblies excel in ethnic inclusiveness

by Roy Howard Beck

DALLAS (BP)—While so-called liberal, mainline Protestants have talked a lot about ethnic inclusiveness during the past decade, Baptists and the Assemblies of God have brought the most ethnic-minority members into their denominations.

In a survey of Protestant denominations, each with more than one million members, the National Christian Reporter found stagnant or small ethnic membership growth among most mainline Protestant churches during that period. But the Assemblies of God, Southern Baptists and American Baptists have burgeoned.

In the American Baptist Churches denomination, generally considered as part of the mainline Protestant community, growth primarily came from congregations in black Baptist denominations dually affiliating with American Baptists.

However, ethnic growth in denominations generally considered outside the mainline family—the Assemblies of God (48 percent) and Southern Baptists (70 percent)—mainly resulted from aggressive evangelism and church-starting efforts.

Constant H. Jacquet Jr., editor of *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*, said there has been a lot of interest in the ethnic-minority composition of denominations. Hard statistics haven't been available in the past, he said. This study relied on surveys, censuses and estimates from each denomination. Because of the unevenness in the quality of the data and dates of collection, findings likely are best used for general comparisons.

General comparisons leave little doubt the "ethnic inclusiveness" title belongs to:

—The Southern Baptist Convention and the Assemblies of God, in terms of which churches are doing the most to offer the gospel to ethnic-minority persons and to welcome them into church membership.

—The American Baptist Churches and the Assemblies of God, as the denominations where ethnic-minority people make up the highest percentage of membership.

—The American Baptist Churches and the Southern Baptist Convention for having the largest number of ethnic-minority members.

Southern Baptist leaders acknowledged their denomination has much less of an image of being interested in ethnic minorities than the United Methodist Church. But a traditional concern about each person's soul overrides any cultural biases against non-whites that Southern Baptists might have, said Jim Newton, spokesman for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Southern Baptists have started a net total of nearly 400 black congregations during the last 10 years. Their ministry in languages other than English includes nearly 250,000 members in 4,600 congregations divided among 87 languages.

The Assemblies of God is another denomi-

nation that might seem unlikely to emphasize ethnic inclusiveness. It is the largest organization in a Pentecostal movement in which races traditionally have divided into their own denominations, Jacquet explained.

But the Assemblies' black membership is growing rapidly, and Hispanic membership is burgeoning.

In its Gulf Latin American District alone, the Assemblies have added 118 Hispanic congregations during the past five years. After only three years of having Korean districts, the Assemblies claim 10,000 members in 70 churches.

Jacquet said he previously had been unable to gather data on ethnic membership because many denominations—especially mainline Protestant—have been reluctant to compile it for fear it would be seen as racist. Contacts with Episcopal and Presbyterian leaders supported that assessment.

The American Baptist Churches, where 38 percent of members are ethnic, consider gathering of detailed, reliable statistics very important, said Richard Gladden of the denomination's research office.

"If you have no counts, you have no way to track your movement," he said. "You then are in a constant state of wonderment on where you are. Statistics can be a devilish tool. But they are essential if you are going to do any kind of intentional planning."

Jacquet said he thought the seven denominations listed in the Reporter's charts likely are the most ethnically inclusive among Protestant denominations of more than one million members.

No predominantly black denomination is on the list. They never have been oriented toward inclusiveness, he said, noting he doubted any of them have as high as 1 percent of members who are white, Hispanic or other ethnic origin.

Until told of this study, Jacquet said he assumed the United Methodist Church was the most inclusive denomination "because of its size and its historic black presence."

That a conservative Protestant (Southern Baptist) and Pentecostal (Assemblies) denomination would surpass nearly all mainline liberal denominations isn't totally surprising, Jacquet said.

They stress personal relationships and conversion, he said, while mainline churches tend to provide buildings for ethnic groups to use but don't try to evangelize them.

Gladden of the American Baptists said a lot of his denomination's growth has been through black congregations from black denominations seeking a dual affiliation. They do that, he said, to take advantage of the American Baptists' literature and professional advantages such as annuities.

In terms of ethnic inclusiveness in positions of leadership, the Reporter survey found mainline Protestants far ahead of the Assemblies and Southern Baptists.

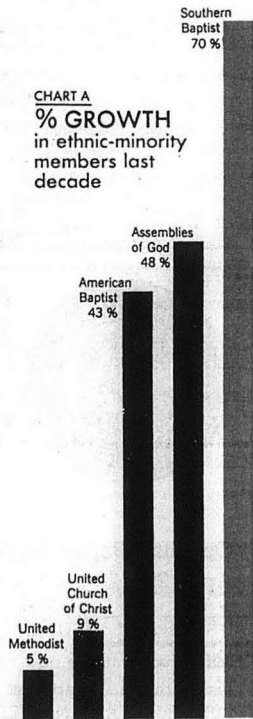
Gladden said the American Baptist Churches denomination is so close to being the first "true, pan-ethnic" denomination many black congregations are naturally drawn to it. In 1971, blacks accounted for 23.3 percent of American Baptists, he said. In 1984, that percentage had risen to 34.9 percent. "We're moving toward that ratio on our boards and agencies," he noted.

But statistics gathered for the charts do not indicate any necessary relationship between inclusiveness in leadership and growth in ethnic-minority members.

Roy Howard Beck is associate editor of the *National Christian Reporter*, a Methodist weekly national newspaper.

PROTESTANT

CHART A
% GROWTH
in ethnic-minority
members last
decade



Tanner says statistics shatter SBC's racist stereotype

by Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)—Statistics compiled by a Methodist weekly newspaper have shattered the stereotype image of the Southern Baptist Convention as a racist denomination, the president of the SBC's Home Mission Board said in a report to the agency's directors.

William G. Tanner, president of the board, said the data indicate the Southern Baptist Convention is now the most ethnically diverse Protestant-Evangelical denomination in the United States.

Tanner said research—compiled by the National Christian Reporter, the world's largest weekly religious newspaper with a circulation of 550,000 published in 450 editions—documents a belief he and other mission leaders have had for a long time but could

not support with solid statistical data.

The statistics revealed American and Southern Baptists now have more ethnic members than United Methodists, who have claimed for decades to be the most ethnically inclusive denomination.

Since 1974, ethnic membership in Southern Baptist churches has increased by 70 percent, making it the fastest-growing denomination in ethnic membership growth, the data indicated.

Based on 1984 data, Southern Baptists reported 590,000 ethnic church members, slightly behind the 610,000 ethnic members in the American Baptist churches.

At the present rate of ethnic membership growth, SBC ethnic membership will exceed

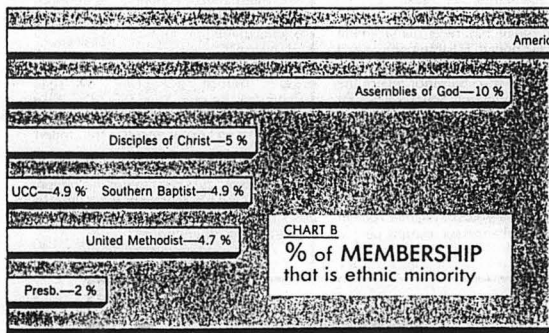
that of American Baptist churches sometimes this year, Tanner told the board.

The Southern Baptist Convention has worked with 84 language and ethnic groups. In the last 10 years, the SBC has started 3,271 language units (churches or missions) and 400 black Baptist congregations, Tanner said.

"We ought to be excited about what God has been doing in our midst in the past decade; but we need to be careful that we don't become smug and proud. We have not eliminated racial prejudice and racism from our midst. We've made amazing progress, but we still sometimes have a paternalistic attitude toward language missions sponsored by predominantly white churches."

The SBC has not done well at hiring ethnic leaders for key positions in the denomination and accepting them as equal partners and leaders, Tanner added, saying, "Indeed, we should be most concerned that there are

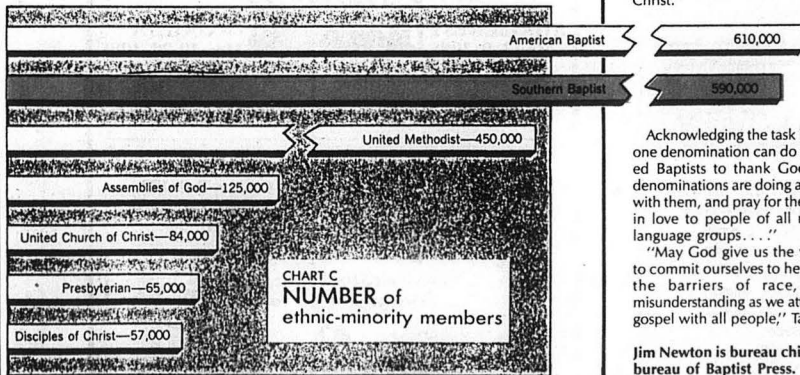
ETHNIC INCLUSIVENESS



so few black and ethnic presidents of state conventions, members of our boards of trustees and staff members of state conventions and SBC agencies.

"While we have a long way to go, we ought to rejoice that the statistics shatter the stereotyped Southern Baptist image the media has projected for decades that ours is a racially exclusive denomination."

"We may be doing better than most other denominations in reaching ethnic America and in starting new churches among black and language groups, but the challenge is so great," Tanner said. "There are more than 46.3 million ethnics in America, and if our data is correct, almost 28.8 million of them do not have a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."



Acknowledging the task is greater than any one denomination can do alone, Tanner urged Baptists to thank God for what other denominations are doing and to "join hands with them, and pray for them, and reach out in love to people of all races, ethnic and language groups..."

"May God give us the vision and power to commit ourselves to helping break down the barriers of race, language and misunderstanding as we attempt to share the gospel with all people," Tanner concluded.

Jim Newton is bureau chief for the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN REPORTER GRAPHIC BY ROBERTA SAPPINGTON

Christians face temptations in overseas job assignments

EL PASO, Texas (BP)—In some overseas countries, Americans from lower middle-income brackets "live like kings with chauffeur-driven cars, large homes and maids."

That's a problem, as Chuck Anderson sees it, if they're professing Christians.

The percentage of Christians who go overseas on job assignments and who also continue in their Christian lifestyle is disturbingly low, says Anderson of El Paso, Texas.

With three young sons, Anderson and his wife, Mary, headed to the Netherlands Antilles near Venezuela nearly 15 years ago. He was to be the quality control manager, supervising about 100 workers, at an electronics instruments plant on one of the islands.

"We were picked up at the airport by some company personnel and deposited in a resort hotel... and kind of abandoned," Anderson says, noting he and his family needed "some input from a Christian perspective" in adjusting to life in a foreign country.

Even though he had seminary training, "my first inclination on being overseas and having an income and a management position several rungs higher than I would have had in the States, was to let down in my Christian life somewhat."

Several characteristics of an overseas work assignment could tend to push a person in that direction, Anderson says. First, an overseas assignment usually entails salary bonuses, yet living costs are lower in most areas, especially with favorable exchange

rates for the U.S. dollar. Thus there's "the opportunity to move up several levels from the standpoint of luxury in living."

Instead of "taking advantage of what could have been an opportunity to minister with an increased income," many churchgoers "spend it all on themselves," he says.

Then, the overseas job often requires at least six days of work each week and "a lot of people feel like, 'Sunday is the only day I have off and... I don't want to spend half the day in church,'" Anderson says. "They're under so much pressure at work that they want that day to relax."

Although Anderson succumbed briefly to the temptation, before long, he and his wife began English-language Bible classes in their home. He taught adults and his wife taught children. He also distributed Bibles and helped persuade the U.S. Gideons organization to print 10,000 copies of the New Testament in Papiementu, the dialect on the island where he worked.

Anderson since has held management positions in factories in El Salvador twice and Mexico once. Each time, his family also relocated. It was in El Salvador where the couple first encountered Southern Baptist missions, through the literature work of Bill and Libby Stennett.

Today the Andersons are members of First Church of El Paso, where she is education secretary and he, as a volunteer, is church librarian and active in various ministries.

Laity Abroad, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's channel for assisting people

who are or will be living, working, studying or traveling abroad, gets high marks from the Andersons. Often, contact is arranged with missionaries or local believers in the host country. Brochures detailing Laity Abroad are available from the board.

A program like Laity Abroad helps both husband and wife learn about the culture from missionaries and local Christians, rather than just getting their indoctrination from the company.

"When the husband gets overseas, he immediately is immersed in his work... and the people he works with help him adjust to the culture, while the wife is generally left on her own to find her own way around," Mary Anderson says.

The Laity Abroad program also helps families find Christian friends and a good church to attend, as well as avenues of Christian witness in their host country, she says.

An "international economy" is developing, Anderson says, "and the opportunities are going to multiply for business people to work overseas."

People need to have their "house in order" before accepting overseas assignments, he says. They should prepare for "pressures regarding their Christian walk that they haven't experienced in the United States."

"They ought to go with their minds made up in advance," he says, "to use this opportunity as if God has sent them there for purposes of ministry... in spite of the opportunities to do otherwise."



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Annuity Board Southern Baptist Convention

Hunger experts: Africa hunger crisis not over yet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—While the Africa hunger crisis may no longer be Page One news, two Southern Baptist hunger experts have warned the crisis is far from over.

"Tremendous progress has been made, but to breathe a sigh of relief when millions of people still face critical food shortages would be premature and potentially disastrous," said Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Parham said desperately-needed rains in some areas, combined with millions of dollars in international aid, have relieved the famine crisis in some countries, Parham said. Nevertheless, 17 to 19 million Africans this year will require emergency assistance because of continued food shortages.

John Cheyne, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board senior consultant for human needs ministries, pointed out Africa is still "only one minor drought away from utter catastrophe." Cheyne recently surveyed Southern Baptist ministries in famine-stricken Ethiopia where the Foreign Mission Board has channeled \$4 million for hunger relief and development.

Ethiopia has benefited from "spotted, reasonably good rains" for the 1986 grow-

ing season, he said, and if the rains continue, the country "may be in a position to do slightly better than last year." Nevertheless, "these people are extremely vulnerable. They are living on the edge of human existence."

Parham said the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa still includes six nations on its "critically affected" list:

—Angola, with more than 500,000 people facing severe food shortages while civil war disrupts the economy and hampers agricultural recovery;

—Mozambique, with 2.2 million people critically affected as civil strife continues;

—Botswana, where drought continues for the fifth consecutive year, leaving 600,000 of its 1.1 million people with acute food shortages;

—Ethiopia, where the total of 6.2 million critically affected people will climb as harvests in some provinces are depleted by late March;

—Cape Verde, where a severe drought that began in 1969 has left one-third of its 300,000 inhabitants facing critical food shortages;

—Sudan, where five million persons—nearly one-fourth of the population—are

critically affected and one million people in the western part of the country face starvation.

Seven other nations are being monitored closely because of continued food shortages in some areas—Burkina Faso, Chad, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Somalia.

UN relief officials estimate the continent still has \$880 million in unmet emergency needs. Parham pointed out these needs do not address the massive problems associated with chronic malnutrition which affects more than 30 percent of African children.

In the face of continued need, Parham and Cheyne expressed concern about the level of giving to hunger relief in 1986.

Cheyne noted the SBC Foreign Mission Board received more than \$5 million for hunger relief during the first four months of 1985 following the news media blitz that focused the attention of the world on the Africa crisis. While receipts in January 1986 of more than \$1 million were only 19 percent less than January 1985, February receipts of \$600,498 were more than 61 percent less than the same month last year.

"I hope February is not an indication of what will happen during the rest of the year," Cheyne said.

Parham called on Southern Baptists, who gave a record \$11.8 million last year to hunger relief, to "let needs rather than news be the basis for our response."

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HMB votes to keep Atlanta headquarters, elects officers

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted to keep the agency's headquarters in Atlanta rather than relocate elsewhere in the city or nation.

The vote came on the heels of a report by the board's long range site committee which recommended the board remain in its midtown Atlanta location and develop the property as future needs necessitate.

Site committee chairman Marvin Prude of

Birmingham, Ala., in presenting the report during the board's March meeting, said the committee ruled out a relocation due to the general economy and inadequacies of proposed sites.

Citing land costs of up to \$200,000 per acre in the vicinity and a current location considered ideal by area developers, Prude said the committee felt the agency should maintain the site it has occupied since 1968.

The report also said the location currently includes room for expansion as long range plans develop.

Responding to a request by the 1985 resolutions committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the board concluded after a study by its interfaith witness department that dealing with Freemasonry does not fall within the scope of the board's assigned responsibilities.

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Fact #2 Only two countries where Southern Baptists send missionaries, India and Indonesia, have total populations greater than the 160-million number of lost in the United States.

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Former president Cooper responds to Criswell

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP)—The last layman to serve as Southern Baptist Convention president has responded with "consternation" to another former president who has said the pastor is the "ruler" of the church.

"Sweeping statements that the pastor is the 'ruler' of the church and thus making subscribers vessels of other church members cannot go 'unchallenged or unanswered,'" said Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., SBC president from 1972 to 1974.

Cooper referred to a comment made by W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church of Dallas and SBC president from 1968 to 1970, during the closing session of the "School of the Prophets" at First Church of Dallas in late February.

In response to a question about "shared ministry" between pastors, church staff and laypeople, Criswell said: "A laity-led, layman-led, deacon-led church will be a weak church anywhere on God's earth. The pastor is the ruler of the church. There is no other thing than that in the Bible."

In a prepared statement, Cooper asked if lay leadership is unbiblical when it is used to challenge the authority of a pastor who is acting in an un-Christian manner or when it counters pastoral authority which "is used to destroy faith in the Bible or undermine the support of the SBC."

"Obviously there are exceptions, and where to draw the line as to proper 'rulership' in a church can be a matter of endless debate and conjecture," Cooper said.

However, he cited historical precedent: "Pastors have traditionally interpreted as biblical the 'priesthood of all believers' and the lack of distinction among the people of God. They have recognized there are different functions within the 'laos' (laity), but there is no priestly or authoritative class. According to Baptist traditions, such a position itself is unscriptural."

Widow of Marine sends \$100 Lebanon missions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—It was not just a \$100 contribution for missions in Lebanon. It was a sign that Thomasine Baynard is recovering.

She was getting ready for church and tending to her one-month-old son in October 1983 when she saw Sunday morning news reports terrorists had blasted a U.S. Marines command center in Beirut, Lebanon.

She felt sorry for the victims' families. But she didn't worry about her husband, James, relying upon his "Don't-worry-about-me" statements. The next two days, however, she began to wonder, "Why doesn't he call and tell me he's all right?"

Wednesday, a Marine chaplain and another officer visited her twice, initially to report that James was missing and presumed dead, later to report that his body had been found.

The young widow is growing in her acceptance of what she believes God has told her

"To say that a lay-led, laymen-led, deacon-led church will be a weak church anywhere on God's earth is a misstatement," he noted, adding such a statement ignores Baptist lay forefathers who led in establishing churches in Europe and later in American, and it ignores lay-led work on many mission fields.

Cooper praised "those pastors who follow the role model of Christ who came to serve and not be served, who describe themselves as meek and lowly, who refuse all attempts at making him a 'ruler.'"

But he said the "tragedy of such a statement" as Criswell's is that "many pastors, young and old, who hold as a role model the pastor of the First Church in Dallas, will seek to exercise the unbiblical role as 'ruler' in their local church. Some soon will find themselves without a church over which to exercise their lordship. I wonder at whose feet the fault of their churchless condition will be laid."

Asking, "What is a weak church?" Cooper answered: "No church is weak whose foundation is deep enough to be resting upon the New Testament doctrines of the church; no church is weak that is broad enough to include in its program worthy participation in activities of meeting the spiritual and human needs of those hurting at home and around the world; and no church is weak that is high enough to reach the throne of God.

"The strength of the church is not represented by the number of members, the size of its budget or the authority of its pastor," he insisted. "The strength of a church is in direct proportion to the extent the Holy Spirit empowers the members of the church to carry out the Great Commission, beginning in Jerusalem; and to help hurting humanity, in the name of Christ, wherever the hurting may be found."

through prayer: "You don't have all the answers. Just be satisfied that I do." Still, she wonders why he had to die.

Bitterness toward Lebanon or even the terrorists was not crippled her. "I can't get angry with Lebanon and its people," she says. "I can't get angry at some misguided guy who sacrificed his life for a cause he believed in."

In fact, "I feel kind of attached (to Lebanon) because that's where James was when he was killed."

The 28-year-old widow found an avenue for ministry to Lebanon during a Richmond art show last year. Intrigued by the work of David Kreider of Harrisonburg, Va., she stopped to talk. Kreider, she learned, is the son-in-law of Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Anne Nicholas in Lebanon.

The next day, she returned to the art show with a \$100 check, asking the Kreiders to forward it to Lebanon for missions work.

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