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### September 15, 1977

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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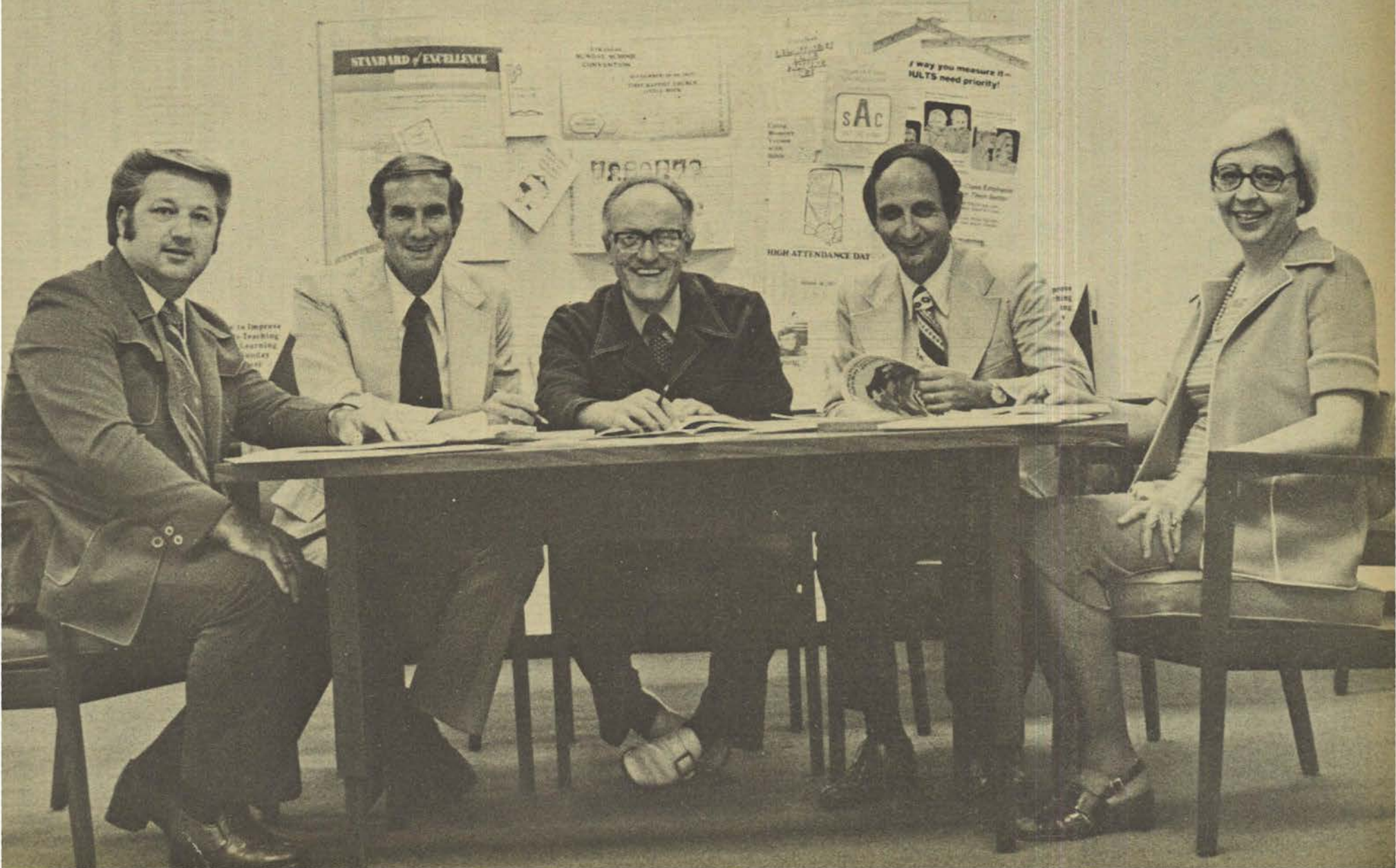
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September 15, 1977

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

The State Sunday School Staff  
invites you to the Sunday School  
Convention at First Church, Little Rock,  
Sept. 19-20.  
See page 14







## I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

### Big people act like big people

Big people act like big people because they are big. They do not always move as swiftly as others, but they carry a lot of weight as they go. Big people are not aware that little people are often uncomfortable in their presence.

The "bigness syndrome" finds fertile soil in a democratic structure where a majority vote is sovereign. Baptists are now big and they are beginning to act like it, perhaps unconsciously. When Baptists were small they were champions of religious freedom, for all others as well as themselves. Rarely did any group of Baptists meet without enacting a stiff resolution on separation of church and state. It is not so anymore. Baptists are now acting as the big people before them acted. They can now afford lobbyists. Act 238 of 1975, providing state funds for students in church supported colleges, was pushed through by big majority religious groups including Baptists, and recently received a favorable ruling on its constitutionality. The big religions have now outsmarted themselves.

By involving secular funds with religious ideologies they are requiring each other to finance diverse theological concepts they would have never conscientiously endorsed on their own. Baptists who have participated in this suit have conned themselves and their innocent fellow Baptists into inuring strength to promulgate such doctrines as baptismal regeneration, infant baptism, falling from grace, open communion and salvation by works. Under Act 238 of 1975, Baptists have now harnessed their fellow Christian brothers of other faiths perhaps unknowingly into the projection of our own cardinal theological views, such as salvation by grace and others. This is a strong reversal for Baptists and I don't like it. The courts will be required on some later date to again protect people from big people and religious people from religious people.

Big people act like big people until they bump into someone bigger. Best we be good citizens, abiding by the principles we inaugurated, remembering our long perilous pilgrimage, lest we find ourselves again on the other side of the judge's bench.

A real American may be expected to expend his last drop of blood for the right of others to disagree with him, but should not be required by law to invest one cent for the promulgation of religious beliefs in which he does not concur. May the courts save us from ourselves.

A 600 pound gorilla may sleep where he wishes, but a bumblebee can dislodge him as easily as a bulldozer. Bigness is not rightness, we shall learn.

*I must say it!*

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A new TV program has been the subject of protests by many church groups including Southern Baptists. An article by Harry Hollis explains why he opposes the program, and an article from Baptist Press looks at claims that the show has been cleaned up. This week's "Woman's viewpoint" (page 14) gives views on the show.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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## People first — our priority

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



It has sometimes been said that what is good for our country and for business is good for the Christian life. This is not necessarily true. Business and government have developed a structure which gives priority to the producing of material possessions, sometimes without regard for people. Jesus placed people above customs, regulations and material possessions.

The fact that Christ placed people above material possessions is clear in the miracle in which he banished the unclean spirits (Mark 5:1-20). Early one day, "a man with an unclean spirit" (Mark 5:2) came to Jesus seeking help. Christ responded by allowing the spirits to enter a herd of swine. The owners of the swine, being very angry with Christ, "began to pray him to depart their coast" (Mark 5:17). In essence, they were saying, "You care for men. We care for material possessions: so get out of our country."

The Bible nowhere condemns a person for his possessions. It does sternly condemn those who place possessions above the love of God or concern for people.

Jesus also placed people above customs and regulations. One sabbath day upon entering the synagogue (Mark 3:1-7), Jesus met a man with "a withered hand." All eyes were upon Jesus to see if he would heal on the sabbath. Jesus said, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?" (Mark 3:4). Under Jewish law, all work was

forbidden on the sabbath and healing was considered work. On the sabbath day measures could be taken to keep a person from growing worse, but nothing could be done to assist him in getting better. This is a crucial event in the life of Jesus, for in healing this man he was forcefully declaring that people are more important than a day, a custom or a regulation.

It is important for each of us to examine our own priorities. It is very easy in a busy, affluent society such as ours, for even the dedicated Christian to have the wrong priorities. A person can usually determine his priorities by answering three questions. (1) How do I spend my time? (2) How do I spend my money? (3) What will I allow to interrupt my activities?

Obviously, the gospel was made for persons, not persons for the gospel. Because of God's great love for people, he sent his son into the world to provide salvation. In accepting Christ as our Saviour, we are accepting a responsibility to people.

Tension is inevitable for the Christian. We live in the world and yet we have a different perspective than those who are of the world. As Christians we are committed to God whose first priority is people. As we make people our priority, we please God!

## Guest editorial The importance of Bible study

First Corinthians 2:16 says that the Bible is "The Mind of Christ". If we are to know what Christ thinks, then we must know the Scriptures. About eight years ago I closed the door to my office and promised the Lord that I would begin to devote full-time to Bible study so I could preach line by line and verse by verse from the Bible. On that day I began a new era in my life.

*The Meaning Of The Bible Is In Words* — With this new emphasis on verse by verse preaching I came to realize that the true meaning of Scripture is in the exact meaning of the words of Scripture. Let me illustrate. In John 4:13 we read, "Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again." Then in the very next verse Jesus said, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst." Here in both of these verses we have exactly the same English word, the word "drinketh". But in the original language, they are entirely different. That first "drinketh" in John 4:13 is a present, active, participle and it means when you drink water it satisfies for a few hours, but you have to keep coming back and you have to drink again and again. That present tense says you have to keep drinking every few hours. The active voice of that verb means that you have to do the drinking for yourself, and no one can do it for you. The participle means that this is a universal law and everybody in the world has to do the same thing in order to live.

But the word "drinketh" in John 4:14 is an aorist, active, subjunctive and means something entirely different. That aorist tense means that you drink of the water of salvation only once, and you never have to drink again. The active voice means that you have to drink for yourself; you have to believe for yourself; no one can do this for you. But the sub-

jective mood means that your volition is involved and this is a decision you make of your own free will. Here are two words exactly the same in the English Bible, but entirely different in their meaning.

Look how many great vital doctrines are tied up on these words. Here Jesus revealed the finality of salvation, that you drink of Christ and are saved, and you never have to be saved again. So the precious doctrine of "Eternal Security" is also tied up in this word. In other words, you are saved once and that is enough. Now you have to be revived every day, you have to be refreshed every day, you have to be renewed every day, and this comes through the intake of Bible Doctrine. But once you are saved this is enough.

That last half of John 4:14 says, "But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Salvation is everlasting. You can't be saved but once. And once you are saved, you are always saved.

As I have written these lines, we have just concluded a day of planning for the calendar of events for our church program for another year. In our staff we adopted a little personal motto for our own personal growth this year. The motto is the last line of Psalm 23:5, "My cup runneth over." What does it mean? Well, I think it means this: The Lord stands there ready to pour, but he can't pour unless you have a cup into which he can pour. The cup is constructed out of Bible Doctrine in Scripture. If we keep the Book open, keep breathing in the truth every day, keep providing the cup, then God will pour and pour until we, too, can say, "My cup runneth over." For the Christian, the most important thing in the world is the daily, consistent study of the Word of God. Then from the overflow, we pray and witness and serve. — **W. O. Vaught, pastor, Immanuel Church, Little Rock**





## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

### Reasons for supporting the BSU

#### Third Century Campaign

One of the dangers of having a full-time job of winning friends and supporters for Ouachita Baptist University is that people may expect that I am not really for any other special campaign or fund-raising effort. Occasionally, I meet a loyal friend and supporter of Ouachita who is almost apologetic for his involvement in a financial campaign on behalf of another institution or cause. He suspects that I suspect that the money would have gone to Ouachita if there had been no such campaign.

I am happy to say that I do enthusiastically support many other causes and special campaigns, and the BSU Third Century Campaign is a case in point. I am personally committed to

supporting this campaign with my own pledge and by urging my church and other churches to share in the campaign. I believe this effort to raise a \$1 million endowment for the Baptist Student Union in Arkansas deserves the support of Arkansas Baptists for several reasons:

1. For many college young people the BSU is the only effective voice of our Baptist churches that speaks the Christian gospel in a language they can understand. Ministering and witnessing to modern college students is one of the most difficult callings a person could have. Tom Logue could double the effectiveness of the state-wide BSU ministry if only more funds were

available.

2. The state-wide ministry of the BSU and the state-wide ministry of Ouachita Baptist University, are not in competition with one another. They complement each other. Ouachita faculty, staff, and students ought to be the strongest supporters of the Baptist Student Union, and I do believe Ouachita has one of the best BSU programs anywhere, thanks to the able leadership of Elmer Goble. BSU leadership on the state college campuses have consistently supported all programs of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and its Cooperative Program, including the importance of the Baptist college as a foundation stone in our structure of Christian ministry to college students. The need is great in both areas — it is a "both-and" situation, rather than being "either-or."

3. The campaign will reach some persons for financial support who probably would not give any other way. For any who may doubt the wisdom of an endowment for a particular program of the Convention, it should be remembered that capital campaigns are for exceptional needs in unusual circumstances. It is not reasonable to expect one program to receive the urgently needed one million dollars through the normal increases expected in the Cooperative Program in the next few years. The Ouachita-Southern Advancement Campaign has shown all of us that an occasional special campaign not only does not hurt regular Cooperative Program receipts, but the enthusiasm and dedication generated in the campaign can actually help regular giving through the Cooperative Program. God blesses us most when our gifts are over and above our regular tithe.

4. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has voted to launch the Third Century Campaign. Although the Convention has no authority over any one of us as individuals, I believe in the democratic processes of our churches and the State Convention. I believe we should support and complete worthy projects which we vote to undertake, and I believe we will. Under the dedicated leadership of Jamie Jones and Tom Logue, who would doubt it?

### My journey to missions

by Monica Keathley

Monica Keathley has served in the missionary Journeyman program of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and will go soon as a career missionary to Upper Volta in Africa. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Keathley of Little Rock. Her father serves as State Music Secretary for Arkansas Baptists.

The following is her account of how she came to be a career foreign missionary:

*Having grown up in a Christian home, I was aware of God's love for me at an early age. I responded to that love at the age of eight and was baptized soon afterward at Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.*

*When I was 12, I felt that God was calling me to do something special for him. Through the years that sense of calling has grown into a commitment to foreign missions.*

*Many things have influenced me toward missions, but two or three readily come to mind. First was my involvement in Girl's Auxiliary. I had a leader who really took an interest in us, and through her concern and the influence of all I learned as a G.A. I was very interested in missions from an early age.*

*As I finished college at Southwest Baptist in Bolivar, Mo., I applied for the Missionary Journeyman Program with the Foreign Mission Board. The privilege of serving in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, for two years was probably the greatest influence on me as far as where I am today. This experience showed me the challenge of missions first-hand, and that I could be very comfortable in an overseas setting.*

*Underlying all of these outside influences is the influence of my parents. They taught me by their own example that to find God's will and do it was the only way to find real peace, happiness and fulfillment.*

*I am doing his will as I understand it, and I look forward to what he has ahead.*



Miss Keathley



**Bennie Brooks** is serving as pastor of Black Oak Church near Tyrone.

**Gene Dixon** has resigned as pastor of Greenfield Church, Trinity Association.

**John House** has been called to serve as pastor of Pleasant Hill church.

The **Clyde Dodsons**, retired missionaries from Africa, led in the Wednesday evening services on Aug. 25 at Hardin Church, Pine Bluff.

Former Arkansans, the **J. Russell Duffers**, have moved to 510 Georgia Street, League City, Tex. Duffer plans to remain active in revivals and Bible Studies.

**W. C. and Nancy Wofford** recently observed their fourth anniversary with Booneville First Church where he serves as director of music.

**Dick King** of Little Rock has been called to serve as pastor of Nalls Memorial Church. He began his ministry there on Aug. 28.

**Jim Daniel** began serving part-time minister of youth at Sylvan Hills Church,

North Little Rock, on Sept. 4. He is a student at Ouachita University.

**Glen Newton** was ordained to the ministry by Forrest Park Church, Pine Bluff, on Sept. 11. Jimmy Watson, pastor of Greenlee Church, delivered the ordination message. Others participating in the service were Minor Cole; Harold White, Director of Missions for Harmony Association; and E. S. Ray.

**William L. Bennett** was honored during the month of August by Fort Smith First Church in observance of his ten years of service with the church. During these 10 years 1,552 people have been baptized into the church, and there has been a total of 3,252 additions to the church. The church's budget has increased from \$250,000 to \$841,023 and the church ranks second in the state in missions giving. Also honored during the month were Mrs. Bennett and the couple's sons, David, Bill Jr. and Philip.

**Kenneth Freemyer**, who has been

pastoring Trinity Church, Fort Smith, has resigned and is moving to Casper, Wyoming where he and his family will start a new mission work.

**Robert Dell McElroy** and his wife, **Maudie Marie**, were fatally injured in a head on car collision on Aug. 28. The couple was enroute to Brush Creek Church, Springdale, where he was serving as youth director. Funeral services were held at First Church, Siloam Springs, on Aug. 31. Surviving McElroy are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. McElroy; a brother, Mark Craig; and a sister, Mrs. Jeannie Magnon, all of Atlanta, Ga. Mrs. McElroy's survivors include her parents, William H. and Oleta Nikkel Isbell, missionaries to Caracas, Venezuela; three brothers, Steven, David and Phillip; and a sister, Marsha Isbell, all of Caracas; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Isbell and Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Thissen.

Last week, nearly 60 years after his experience as a medic in World War I, Elder A. L. Perkins of Little Rock received the coveted Chief of Chaplains Scroll of Honor Award in a ceremony at Plumerville. Perkins, a pastor of the Regular National Baptist Convention, Inc., who is 83 years old, got the award at a session of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress of the Middle Western District of the Missionary Baptist Convention of Arkansas. Making the award on behalf of U.S. Chief of Chaplains (Major General) Orris E. Kelley was Chaplain (Col.) Wilson C. Deese, head of chaplaincy ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Participating in the ceremony were (from left) Chaplain Deese; Perkins; Charles H. Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; Mrs. Perkins; and Robert Crawford and O. C. Jones, officers of the district.



## News about missionaries

**Mr. and Mrs. Ben E. Hope**, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 5, 78000 Cuiaba, MT, Brazil). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Grant County, and spent most of his youth in North Little Rock. She is the former Berdie Lou Moose of Oklahoma City, Okla. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967, he was pastor of Columbia Road Chapel,

North Olmsted, Ohio.

**Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Purtle**, missionaries to the Dominican Republic, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 134 Rosston Rd., Prescott, Ark. 71857). He is a native of Prescott, Ark., and she is the former Jane Altom of Abilene, Tex. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973, he was graduated from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth,

Tex.

**Mr. and Mrs. Alex F. Garner**, missionaries to Panama, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 8951 N.E. 50th St., Spencer, Okla. 73084). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Fort Smith, and she is the former Charleta Beindorf of Pope County. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1952, he was pastor of First Church, Leedey, Okla.



**Friendly Hope Church, Jonesboro,** will be in revival Sept. 11-18. Jerry Tracy will be evangelist.

A Girls In Action and Acteen recognition service was held at **West Church, Batesville,** on Aug. 28. Mrs. Louise Gaston and Jackie Millspaugh were in charge of the GA service. Those receiving recognition were Rebecca Dunegan, Gayle Finley, Karen Potts, Sharon Potts, Jennifer Watson, and Tracy Creighton. Special recognition was given to Acteens Coletta Jones, Vonita Patterson and LaWanda Kay Fulbright. Attendants for the Acteen service were Kevin Creighton, Dawn Melton, Vance Jarrett, Felicity Cason, Brady Suttle and Jan Puckett. C. Phelan Boone, pastor, led the benediction.

A choral clinic was held at **Calvary Church, Little Rock,** Sept. 12-14. Pete Butler, minister of music at First Church, Ada, Okla., was director for the clinic. Butler currently serves as second vice-president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma convention.

**Hillside Church, Camden,** is beginning a full-scale puppet ministry with a new stage and puppets. Nan Maxwell and Louise Jodon are directors for the ministry.

**Murfreesboro First Church** has established a new branch of activities to include seventh through ninth grade students. The new program of activities began on Aug. 31.

Women of **Little Rock First Church** met on Sept. 6 to hear Monica Keathley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Keathley, who will be serving as a missionary to Upper Volta.

**First Church, Clinton,** has completed a summer youth program led by Ron and Fonja Bruton of Ouachita University. The church has reorganized its youth department and plans to continue the program through the remainder of the church year.

**Trinity Church, Malvern,** has begun a puppet ministry under direction of Dottie Cash. The group, to be called the Trinity Youth Puppeteers, will present its first program preceding Sunday School installation services on Sept. 28.

The **Gardner Church** youth choir, under the direction of Al Ray and Carrie Taylor, presented the musical "Cool In The Furnace" at the Wilmar Church recently. The Gardner Church concluded a youth-led revival on Aug. 28 with David Taylor as evangelist. The Taylors and members of the youth choir presented music for the revival.

Youth of **East Side Church, Fort Smith,** have completed a 10-day mission tour to Casper, Wyo. There were 38 youth and six adults including the pastor, Trueman

Moore, and minister of music and youth, Lew King, who made the tour. The youth choir, an ensemble, and the puppet team performed and witnessed daily on the midway of the Central Wyoming Fair. A city-wide youth choir of Casper, that responded to an invitation by Ken Jerome, pastor of College Heights Church in Casper, assisted the Fort Smith group.

**Sheridan First Church** had as speaker on Wednesday evening, Aug. 31, Bob Harper. Harper is a ministerial student at Ouachita University.

**Marked Tree First Church** held deacon ordination services on Aug. 28. Paul Lillard was ordained. Bernard Beasley is pastor.

**Toltec Church, Scott,** held revival services Aug. 8-14. K. Alvin Pitt, pastor of Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, was evangelist. Ervin Keathley, music secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, served as music director. There were six additions to the church. Billy G. Kimbrough is pastor.

A retreat was held by the singles group of **Arkadelphia First Church** recently. The retreat was held at DeGray Lake camping area with Weldon Vogt as program leader.

**Anderson-Tully Church** near Trumann held a revival in August. Frank Bufford was evangelist. Thomas Ray is pastor.

**Calvary Church, Harrisburg,** held a re-

cent weekend revival. Paul Kirkendall, Mississippi County Union Mission Director, was evangelist. Kenneth Jackson is pastor.

**Freer Church** near Trumann held homecoming services on Aug. 21. Frank Hendrix was guest speaker. Bob Kennett is pastor.

**Neals Chapel** near Lepanto was in revival Aug. 21-25. Evangelist was Chaplain Ben Kelly from Blytheville Air Force Base.

**Rivervale Church** was in revival Aug. 15-21. Maurice Hitt, a former pastor, was evangelist.

**Valley View Church** conducted revival services Aug. 21-25. Robert Crockett, missionary to Argentina and a former pastor, was evangelist.

**West Ridge Church** held its summer revival Aug. 21-25 with Frank Bufford as evangelist. Leslie Davis is pastor.

**Ingram Boulevard Church, West Memphis,** launched the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School "ACTION" program Sept. 11-14. Warren Mallard of Charlotte, N.C., assisted the church in preparation for the growth program.

**Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock,** began Children's Church on Sunday, Sept. 4. Mrs. Wallace Kerr will be leader for four and five year-old children and Mrs. Norman Evans will lead the first through third grade students.

## After retirement, Arkansans enter foreign missions

As a part of the Bold Mission program, the Harry C. Wiggers of Bentonville left the States in early September for Bangkok, Thailand, to serve the Calvary Church on a two-year assignment from the Foreign Mission Board. Wigger will serve as interim pastor of the 350-member international English-speaking church.

This is the second assignment for the Wiggers since retiring from the pastorate of Bella Vista Church, Bentonville, in November, 1975. They served for 10 months in 1976 with the Central Church in Antigua, West Indies.

Prior to serving Bella Vista Church, Wigger was director of missions for Benton County Association. Mrs. Wigger is a retired school teacher. She has also served as an approved worker in the Church Training Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Since returning from the West Indies they have filled speaking engagements and shown slides of their mission work on the small but strategic island in more than 25 churches in six states.

Wigger taught the January Bible Study book in two churches, conducted one revival and led in one Vacation Bible School. They have spoken in associational meetings and were missionaries in three Youth Camps this summer.

The Wiggers have a son, L. David Wigger, who is also under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board serving in Indonesia. A daughter, Harriet, is also serving by appointment of the Foreign Mission Board in Ecuador.

Wigger said, "Retirement to us means that we are free to go into all the world wherever the Lord may lead."



## Cave City Church dedicates building

Eastside Church, Cave City, begun as a mission of Batesville First Church, observed homecoming and dedicated a new building Sunday, Aug. 14.

Among those on the dedication program were Mrs. Lillian Trammell Faris of Dallas, Tex., who gave the property for the church; Noble Wiles, pastor of Rehobeth Church, Moorefield, and evangelist for the first revival in Cave City; and Willis L. Bunch, the church's first pastor.

Mrs. Faris gave a testimony in the morning services, saying, "It is no secret what God can do, because when I gave this land for a mission to be constructed I did not visualize the growth in this area

that would lead to construction of the building we are in today."

Wiles delivered the morning message, preaching on "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done".

Wiles said that he bulldozed the ground and set up a tent for the first revival service on Aug. 14, 1960. "If you don't want something to happen, such as has occurred here at Cave City, then you had better not ask for it. The extent of our own faith determines our blessings. Faith is gained through experience and comes from the extent to which we trust God," he said.

The Eastside Church, led by Pastor William R. Passmore, held dedication

services in the afternoon. The building, constructed of native stone and valued at \$75,000, has central heat and air conditioning. It includes an auditorium, balcony and two classrooms. The auditorium, which will seat 300, has gold carpeting, permanent gold pew cushions and a new studio piano.

Stone for the church, donated by Alvin and Noble Wiles, was collected by church members, who also donated \$25,000 worth of their labor for construction. The balance of the cost is being paid for through a bonding program.

Marvin Story served as chairman of the building committee. Committee members were R. W. Reynolds, Ronald Satterwhite, Jim Robins and Steele Burge. Randolph Varnell of Batesville was contractor.

S. D. Hacker, director of missions for Independence Association, was dedication speaker. He spoke from Numbers 27:16-17 as he said, "We are sitting at a paramount place today. It is neither the beginning nor the end. We have the building, now we must have the church."

"We need to see the vision as to how we might apply ourselves to the task of being a witness for the glory of God," Hacker continued. "Jesus must be the only emphasis in your witnessing. You witness to lost people in the hope of changing them from unbeliever to believer," he said.

Wilson Deese, director of chaplaincy of the State Missions Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, led the prayer of dedication. R. A. Bone, pastor of Calvary Church, Batesville, led the benediction.

Pastor Passmore said, "I am encouraged by the continuous growth our church is experiencing, and on Sept. 4 we used the baptistry in our new building for the first time. Our plans are to continue to witness and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."



Marvin Story, church music director, led congregational singing at the dedication services. He was assisted with special music by Mrs. Beulah Gray, pianist, Mrs. Marvin Story and Jimmy Payne. (ABN photos)

## Black Oak Church

Black Oak Church, Mount Zion Association, observed homecoming on Aug. 28 and also held a note burning service for an auditorium paid for prior to note maturity date.

J. W. Gibbs, pastor, told of recent improvements to the church that include a new sound system; electric organ; classroom furniture; carpets for classrooms; and central heat and air systems in the educational building.

Improvements have also been made by updating the library; remodeling the foyer of the auditorium; and adding floor covering in the recreation hall and kitchen.

Plans call for enlarging the educational building.

Special music for homecoming was by the Crownmasters Group from Pine Bluff.

L. E. Sanders is associate pastor of the

Black Oak Church.

## Rogers, First

First Church, Rogers, is leveling property which they purchased on Beaver Lake and will establish a portable chapel there. The chapel will be furnished by the State Missions Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, R. H. Dorris, Director.



# Arkansas all over

## Vimy Ridge burns note

Vimy Ridge Immanuel Church celebrated its 60th anniversary with homecoming and a note-burning service on Sunday, Aug. 28.

The church was organized with five charter members on Jan. 21, 1917, under the leadership of J. H. Reynolds. The church was then called Vimy Ridge Immanuel of Germania, and meetings were held in a private home.

In 1919 a barracks building was purchased and set up across from the present site. Property purchased in August of 1922 for \$150 and today valued at \$60,000 provides the location for the church now. Property value has increased as a result of building improvement programs.

The note-burning service was for a building dedicated in 1964 and paid for two years prior to note maturity. The building provides space for a sanctuary, eight Sunday School classrooms and a kitchen.

An educational building with a fellowship hall, nursery and pastor's study is the most recent church improvement and was constructed under the leadership of Leroy Patterson.

Patterson, who has served as pastor of the church the past seven years, concluded his tenure as pastor on Aug. 28. He was presented gifts from the congregation.

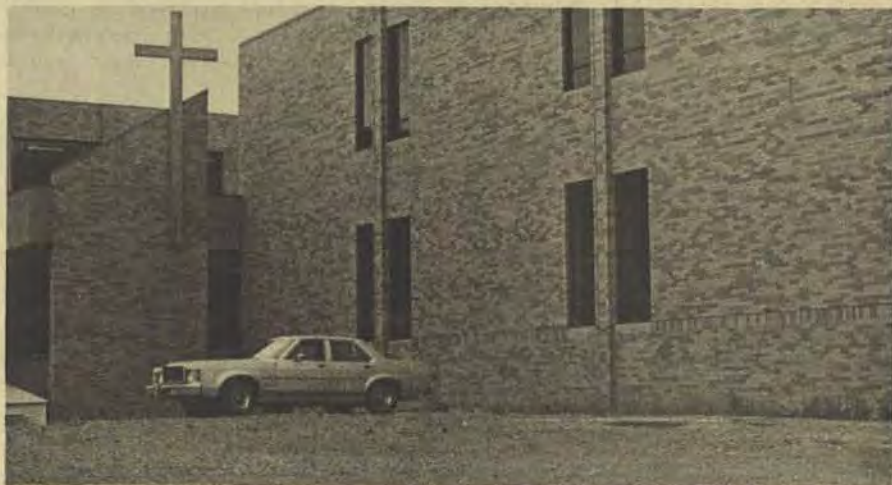
Patterson, in his final message to the church, said, "As a church you must continue to exercise your faith in God by totally committing yourselves to him in your service and in your giving. If you are willing to do this," Patterson said, "then God will continue to bless your church in the future as he has in the past."

A mission-oriented church with 190 resident members, the Vimy Ridge church has increased its gifts to both the cooperative program and Pulaski County Association.

Participants in the note-burning service were Patterson; Glyndon Bailey, building committee chairman; trustees and deacons of the church; and Barbara Singley, homecoming committee chairman.

Ray McClung, director of missions for Pulaski County Association, was a special guest at the service and assisted with the afternoon music program. Special music was by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Singley, Rosemary Wright, Sue Ann Weather, Hildreth Brown and the Gravel Hill Church choir.

Vimy Ridge members participating in the noteburning were (from left) Pastor Leroy Patterson, Manuel Hobby, Glyndon Bailey and Lloyd Speer. (ABN photo)



A feature of Olivet's new building is the rough-hewn wooden cross. (ABN photo)



## Building means new classes at Monticello

A \$230,000 building dedicated by Second Church, Monticello, on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 21, already has permitted expansion of the church's Sunday School program.

Two adult classes, a girls' youth class and a Bible teaching program for three-year-old children began meeting for the first time the morning of dedication.

John C. Robbins, pastor, said that with the population of Monticello projected to double within a 10-year period and with the city now growing, he could foresee nothing but the potential of continuous growth.

The church uses three buses as an outreach ministry and has a puppet program, a program of weekly visitation and a Sunday School class taught in a local nursing home. "We are reaching out to teach others about Christ and will continue to do so as our community grows," the pastor said.

The addition provides space to expand the auditorium as the need develops and includes education space, office space and a multi-purpose conference room.

James Farrar of Little Rock was architect and Mark-K Corporation and Construction Company of Little Rock was in charge of construction. Funding was through a private fund raising campaign. Campaign steering committee chairman was Leonard Polk.

Building committee members were Sam Powell, Edgar Wyles, Shelby Joe Chambers, Joan Bone, Leonard Polk, Cletis Posey and Joan Chambers.

Don Cooper, associate director of the Sunday School Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was dedication speaker. Cooper, who three years ago assisted the Monticello church with growth expansion plans, spoke on "Let the Church Reach Out in Bold Mis-

sions".

"Even though you are today dedicating this building, you have not done it all yet," Cooper said. "You are only beginning today to do the work and will of God.

"The church reaching out in bold missions requires all our resources," Cooper said. "We are concerned today about the mission and commission of Christ. We must go to the highways and hedges to win our world to Christ. With this new building, God is calling you to be a new church and a new people and to go where the people are."

Richard Wade, church music director, was in charge of special music for the day. The special day of dedication ended with a musical, "The Church that God Built with Love", presented by the young people of the church at the evening worship service.

*Monticello Second's new building (opposite page) will allow the auditorium to be expanded as the need develops, and the pastor expects it to develop. (ABN photo)*

## Olivet completes second building

Olivet Church, Little Rock, celebrated its 31st anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 28, by dedicating a new building valued at \$325,000.

The second phase of a five-phase building program, the building includes a transitional auditorium and provides space for church offices and adult classrooms. An auditorium, youth activities building and bus shop will complete expansion plans.

The 648 persons attending Sunday School represented the second highest Sunday School attendance in the history of the church. Also adding to the day were an offering of \$10,907 and a record bus ministry attendance of 215.

A unique feature of the service was a sacred concert presented by Kim Wickes, a blind Korean-American girl. Miss Wickes, a graduate of the University of Indiana and the Vienna Institute of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna,

Austria, also shared her Christian testimony.

C. Lamar Lifer, pastor, in the dedication message, said, "Our attendance today is no surprise, but the result of witnessing by concerned people of our church. There should be no surprise to any phase of our church growth," he said, "because 31 years ago there was born a desire to build a church, then known as Gaines Street Church, with a goal to win the lost to Christ.

"Today I challenge the members of Olivet Church not only to dedicate a building, but to dedicate their lives anew to the task of taking Little Rock, the state of Arkansas and the world for Jesus Christ," Lifer concluded.

Lawson Hatfield, a member of the church and director of the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, led the prayer of dedication.

John Farris Jr. was in charge of music for the service. Accompanists were Norma Ausbrooks, organist, and Janie Lifer, pianist.

Bob Scott, building committee chairman, spoke and said, "To me the focal point of our new building we are dedicating today is the rugged wooden cross secured to the western side of it. Though it seemed that it was not intended for us to have this cross, God led in every step from the location of the timber for its construction to erection day so that we might view it for the first time on Easter Sunday morning."

Building committee members were Ed Ferguson, Ray Mealman, Everette Parker and Dewey Pigue.

The building will be paid for through a private fund raising campaign. Oliver Kirk serves as campaign director. Architect was Horace A. Piazza and Associates. Cardinal Construction Company was contractor.



# Your state convention at work

## Stewardship

### The unanswered questions

T. V. fund raisers come on strong. They were once too small or too poor to buy television time. Their pleas had to be carried by postmen in third class envelopes or printed in the magazines. They now come in living color.

Viewers were recently hit with a double-barrel. Two organizations made their public pitch for funds. One sponsored a telethon and suggested area

goals. The other lasted only our hour with several pleas from a well known personality. I watched and grew angry as I realized they left several questions unanswered.

Who was behind the request for funds? Panel members had names and their leader asked the right questions. But who was behind the organization dedicated to fighting a common foe;

pornography?

How would the funds be spent? The sponsors promised that gifts would fight the evils of blasphemous films. A smiling spokesman said they couldn't tell everything because they didn't want the enemy to know their plans.

Were their books open to the public? They asked for public money but were they willing to let the people know how much they received and how they spent it? Were they willing to reveal a public audit of funds?

How would the solicitors react if I sent a gift and told them how I wanted it spent? Trust is an important factor in public funds. Too many have presented religious appeals, received sizable gifts and then made less than good use of the money.

Why did they offer a free book to all who requested it? Was this an attempt at bribery?

Baptists know how their money is spent. Tithes and offerings given through the local church can be traced. The local church, associations and conventions operate on approved budgets. Reports tell how much comes in and how it is spent. Questions can be asked and answered. I feel better about my check given through the local church, even if some members frown, than I do giving to some charming personality 2,000 miles away. — James A. Walker, Secretary of Stewardship

## Looking ahead: Arkansas events

### September 1977

- 15 Statewide church WMU leadership conference, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 16-17 Brotherhood Leadership Training, Paron
- 18 Associational Hymn Sings
- 19 State Missions Season of Prayer and Dixie Jackson Offering
- 19-20 State Sunday School Convention, Little Rock, First
- 22 Area church WMU leadership conference, Hope, First
- 22 Northeast District Brotherhood meeting, Paragould, East Side
- 23 Area WMU leadership meeting for associational leaders, Hope, First
- 26 Area church WMU leadership conference, Monticello, First
- 26-Oct. 2 Sunday School Preparation Week
- 27 Area WMU leadership meeting for associational leaders, Monticello, First
- 27 East Central District Brotherhood meeting, Parkin, First
- 29 Central District Brotherhood meeting, Geyer Springs, First
- 29 Area church WMU leadership conference, Wynne
- 30 Area WMU leadership meeting for associational leaders, Wynne
- 30-Oct. 1 State deacon ministry conference, Little Rock, First (Church Training)

### October 1977 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MONTH

- 3 Southwest District Brotherhood meeting, Immanuel, Texarkana
- 4 West Central District Brotherhood meeting, Paris, First
- 6 Southeast District Brotherhood meeting, Monticello, First
- 6 Area church WMU leadership conference, Mountain Home, First
- 7 Area WMU Leadership Meeting for Associational Leaders, Mountain Home, First
- 7- 9 BSU Convention
- 10-14 ASSOCIATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS
- 17-21 ASSOCIATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS
- 20-21 Music Men rehearsal/retreat, Camp Paron
- 23 High Attendance Night in Church Training
- 24 North Central District Brotherhood meeting, East Side, Mountain Home
- 25 Northwest District Brotherhood Meeting, Fayetteville, First
- 27 Church Training Convention, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 30 Great Day In The Morning!

Take a look  
at the 1977  
state convention

in the

Oct. 6 issue

of the Newsmagazine

Programs, Executive Board recommendations and auxiliary meetings information will be included.



# Bold missions

will be featured at

## District Brotherhood meetings

Glendon Grober, missionary to Brazil, will be the speaker at the first six meetings, and James Hampton of Tanzania will be speaker at the others.



Glendon Grober

### Dates and places

Sept. 22	North East District	Paragould	East Side
Sept. 27	East Central District	Parkin	First
Sept. 29	Central District	Little Rock	Geyer Springs, First
Oct. 3	Southwest District	Texarkana	Immanuel
Oct. 4	West Central District	Paris	First
Oct. 6	Southeast District	Monticello	First
Oct. 24	North Central District	Mountain Home	East Side
Oct. 25	Northwest District	Fayetteville	First

**Briefing and planning for Bold Missions for Brotherhood officers at each meeting.**

**All meetings begin at 7:30 and close at 9:15.**

## Third Century Campaign presented at Yellville



North Arkansas and White River Associations co-sponsored a BSU

Third Century meeting at the First Church in Yellville.

Approximately 150 persons attended the meeting which began with a barbecue supper on the church lawn.

The program included music by The Spokesman Quartet of First Church, Mountain Home. There were testimonies about BSU's ministry in their lives by Frank Huckaba, a Mountain Home attorney; Bob Langston, a Harrison physician; and Don Rose, pastor of Midway Church; and a slide and tape presentation of the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign by Jamie Jones, Director of the BSU Third Century Campaign.

The meeting was arranged by several leaders from each association. White River Association leaders were Troy Melton, director of missions; Frank Huckaba, associational chairman for the BSU Third Century Campaign; and Ken-



*Among those enjoying the barbecue supper at Yellville were (from left) Kenneth Threet, pastor at First Church, Mountain Home, and John Finn, director of missions for North Arkansas Association.*

neth Threet, pastor of First Church, Mountain Home, and member of the BSU Third Century Steering Committee.

Leaders from North Arkansas Association were John Finn, director of missions and co-chairman of the BSU Third Cen-

tury Campaign Steering Committee; David Wood, pastor of Northvale Church in Harrison and BSU Third Century Campaign associational chairman; and Dr. Bob Langston, a member of the State BSU Advisory Committee.



# Churches launch Bold

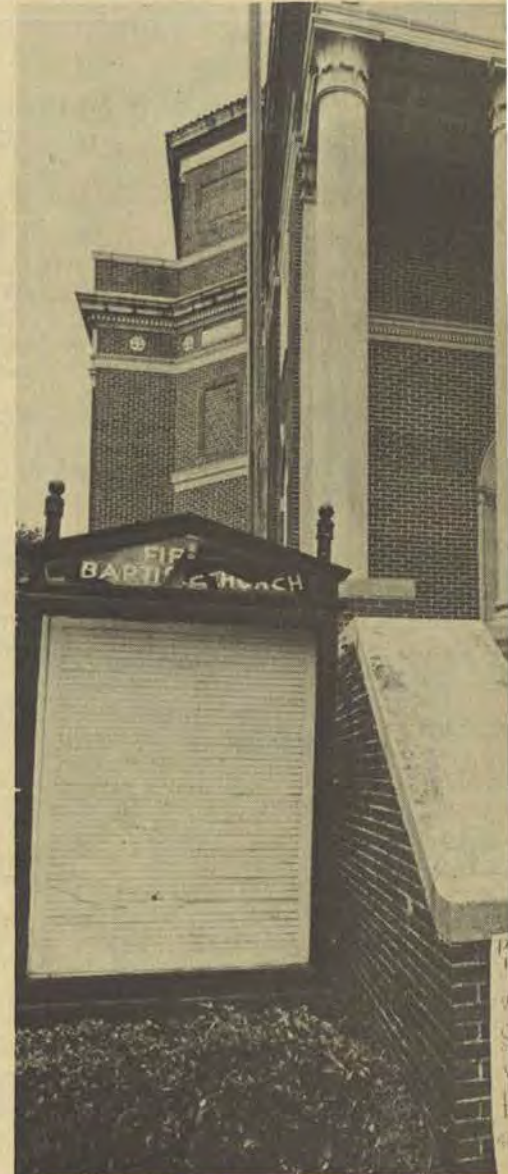
**Bold Mission Thrust**, to be launched Oct. 2 in all churches, already has found its place within the mission efforts of Southern Baptists in the United States. During the past year of awareness and program testing, key cities have been named, counties without a strong witness have been identified, and needs have been pinpointed for special efforts in evangelizing and congregationalizing.



The Berea Baptist Church of Napierville, Ill., started one year ago as part of Bold Mission Thrust, has become a symbol of the efforts to evangelize and congregationalize all persons. Pastor Frank Radcliff, left on front row, poses with the congregation of more than 350 on the Sunday they entered their new building. The church baptized 61 during their first year.



Mono County, skirting the Nevada-California border, has been entered during the past year as one of the more than 600 counties without an effective evangelistic witness. Missionaries Bruce and Cheryl Pearson, shown at right, talk with a resident of Bridgeport where they have started Bible study. Pearson has a ministry in the jail and has offered his services as chaplain to a Marine camp. He also is leading in a resort ministry to camp grounds.



Churches in crisis in transitional communities another target for BMT, need help just to continue their ministries. The shattered sign of First Baptist Church of Baltimore reflects the crisis this diminishing congregation faces. They share their imposing facilities with an all-black congregation — Providence — as one effort to reach the changing community.



# Mission Thrust in October



*Baltimore, a pilot project in BMT, has been named as one of the 20 key cities for special, concentrated efforts. The association has made BMT the core of its program, seeking as Baptists to capture the new spirit that is rebuilding Baltimore. Here Lee Street Baptist Church holds its Sunday evening worship services on Federal Hill overlooking downtown and the rebuilt inner harbor.*



*Cultural and lifestyle groups compose a target of BMT — layers of persons of various cultural, sociological, religious and lifestyle groups bypassed by the churches. Here a worker at the Baptist Center Daycare in El Paso, Texas, works with the children of multi-ethnic families.*



## On the cover

The annual State Sunday School Convention will begin at 2 on Monday afternoon, Sept. 19, and will close with the evening session on Sept. 20. First Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, will host the convention.

Highlights of the convention will include two messages by Andy Anderson, ACTION promotion specialist with the Sunday School Board; a recognition banquet honoring churches having attained Arkansas Standard of Excellence requirements; and conferences for workers with all age groups. These conferences will be continuous.

The convention is designed to assist churches in providing better teaching for more people.



## Woman's viewpoint

Mary Maynard Sneed

### Dirty SOAP: 99 and 44/100% impure

Probably, nothing has aroused the righteous indignation of concerned parents more than the recent announcement of the American Broadcasting Company of their new fall television series, "SOAP". Newsweek calls it "a show so saturated with sex that it could replace violence as the PTA's Video Enemy No. 1."

"SOAP" is a form of prime time pollution which flaunts immorality, laughs at sexual corruption and promotes the sexual miseducation of our children and youth. The show focuses on a pair of upper-middle-class suburban families who exhibit all kinds of lewd sexual instincts. Jessica Tate contends with a lecherous husband, a randy daughter with whom she shares a lover and another daughter "so prudish that she has never seen herself nude." Mary Campbell suffers an impotent husband and a homosexual son, who, she says, looks better in her gown than she does.

Foy Valentine and Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention have personally viewed ABC's first two episodes of "SOAP" and call it "a new low in morally irresponsible programming."

Dale Moore, president of KMTV in Twin Falls, Idaho, doesn't plan to run it.

Calling it not a "new frontier" but a "new sewer", he recommends that "SOAP" ought to have its mouth washed out.

Advertisers, on the other hand, are anticipating a ratings smash. "Salaciousness has its rewards," proclaims Bruce Cox, TV programming director of Compton Advertising.

The Parent Teacher Association is seriously concerned about what our children are seeing on television. According to a study done by the First United Methodist Church of Southaven, Miss., children witnessed the following on prime time television last year: 1300 acts of adultery, 2700 sexually suggestive comments, sex activity with a ratio of nine to one outside marriage and 5000 murders, rapes, beatings and stabbings. With the promise of less violence on TV this fall, it now appears that sex, rape and sexual innuendoes are replacing violence in the TV programming.

Messengers to the annual meeting of our 13 million member Southern Baptist Convention voted at Kansas City to confront this moral issue with a challenge of networks, stations and sponsors. As for myself, I am vehemently opposed to this kind of air pollution and am taking up my pen against it. I am hoping you will

join me. Please, feel free to duplicate this column and share it with your friends, and let us all unite in a letter writing campaign.

Write your local ABC station, and inform that that you, as an irate citizen and a concerned parent, teacher or pastor, oppose the showing of "SOAP" on television. Assure them that you are aware their license will soon be up for renewal and that you will take a personal interest in the future of their station. The Federal Communications Commission requires stations to advertise the time their licenses come up for renewal. Be prepared to protest the relicensing if "SOAP" is aired in your area. The address of the Little Rock station is as follows: KATV Channel 7, P.O. Box 77, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

Write the president of ABC: James E. Duffy, President, ABC Television Network, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019. Urge him to cancel "SOAP" in respect to the American people, who own the airwaves.

Prepare to boycott advertisers who sponsor such flagrantly immoral programs. We can clean up television if together we shout, "No 'Soap'!"



Attend Arkansas' fourth annual . . .

# State Deacon Ministry Conference

Friday-Saturday

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1977

First Church

Little Rock

7-9:30 p.m. Friday

8 a.m.-12 noon Saturday

- For all deacons, pastors and their wives •

## Keynote speaker



**Jim Henry**  
Pastor  
First Church  
Orlando, Fla.

## Program personalities



**Dr. Larry Baker**  
Pastor  
First Church  
Fayetteville



**Dr. Ray Crews**  
Pastor  
First Church  
Heber Springs



**Mrs. Ray Crews**  
First Church  
Heber Springs



**Dr. James Bryant**  
Pastor  
Second Church  
Russellville



**Jerry Brown**  
Church Adm. Dept.  
BSSB  
Nashville, Tenn.



**Ed F. McDonald III**  
Chaplain  
Baptist Hospital  
Little Rock



**Dr. Charles Treadway**  
Church Adm. Dept.  
BSSB  
Nashville, Tenn.

## • Program topics •

- Deacon election and ordination
- Biblical concepts of deacon work
- Identifying needs of families and members
- Deacons and pastors working together

Special conference for wives of deacons and pastors



## Annuity

# The necessity of protection

Is the pastor's retirement program a luxury some churches cannot afford? Is this an item only to be included in the budget after all other church expenses are provided?

No, the protection provided by the Annuity Board for the career ministers on your staff is not a luxury and should be included in the early stages of your budget planning.

The wise church member knows the church will protect itself when it joins hands with the state convention to protect the pastor and ministerial staff in the event of disability, death or retirement. It is needed by the minister; it is a protection for the church as well as being a good business practice, and it is pleasing to the Lord. "Even so hath the



Mrs. Bjorkman

Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (I Cor. 9:14).

Many of our churches are now planning next year's budget. Will you please look carefully at what your church is doing in the area of retirement and insurance for the pastor and staff? If your church is still paying \$33.34 per month or less on the retirement program for any career minister on your staff, won't you seriously and prayerfully consider upgrading this amount.

Do you have any person on your staff serving as minister of music and/or education or youth, who has trained for this work and who is not in our protection program? Enroll that person before the end of this year. There is a definite advantage in getting in the plan before the new program is effective on Jan. 1, 1978.

Security is planning for tomorrow — today. Let me know if I can assist in any way. — Nadine B. Bjorkman, Annuity Representative

## Instrumental music seminar planned

NASHVILLE — Concentrated study for ministers of music interested in using band and orchestra instrumentalists in the church music ministry will highlight the Instrumental Leaders Seminar at Furman University, Greenville, S.C., Oct. 10-13.

The seminar, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, will be directed by Gerald Armstrong, instrumental music consultant in the church music department.

Featured as the special guest clinician will be Robert Nagel, internationally acclaimed trumpet soloist and composer. Nagel also is a conductor, recording artist, teacher, founder and director of the New York Brass Quintet, a member of the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and the Aspen Music Festival and music director, deacon and music committee chairman at Candlewood Baptist Church, Danbury, Conn.

The seminar will give special attention to helping ministers of music make use of instrumentalists in the church music ministry. Participants will learn how to conduct music groups, as well as to enlist, audition and assign instrumentalists. Music will be suggested for use by soloists, ensembles, bands and orchestras.

Other personalities for the three-day seminar include Daniel Boda, music professor at Furman University, who also is a violinist and orchestra director. G. Douglas Smith, trumpet soloist, author and associate professor of church music at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will be the principal clinician.

The Instrumental Leaders Seminar will begin on Monday with an evening banquet and conclude at noon Thursday following an inspirational message by William J. Reynolds, secretary of the board's church music department.

## Foreign mission briefs

**SEMARANG, Indonesia** — Tertius Soediono was installed as the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary's interim president at the seminary's third nationwide retreat here recently. He is the first Indonesian to hold this position. He will serve during 1977-78 when Southern Baptist Missionary Avery T. Willis Jr. is on furlough. Approximately one-third of the students enrolled through extension centers, or 130, attended the retreat.

### Child Care

#### Pieces of truth

An infant — every baby, is but  
An extension of God,  
Made in His Image —  
A piece of truth, a part of His plan.

A child — each one, every one  
Is but God's great potential,  
Ready to discover truth.  
Needing to Know, to Find  
In the world of His Father —  
A parent, a friend, a love, a home.

An individual . . . a family.  
We all — Children of God, Pieces of Truth,  
Searching for truth in this world.  
Asking, Receiving,  
Seeking and Finding —  
Our truth is in God himself.

All infants, children, adults, families need help in realizing that they are "pieces of truth", created to be a part of God's Plan for meaningful, abundant living today, and that which transcends today. Some need more of our effort than others. Tragically, some never get, through us, what God intends for them. This is every Christian's work. It is the work of our administration, houseparents, social workers and secretaries. Pray about how you can join with us. This is the Family and Child Care Ministry of Arkansas Baptists. — Doug McWhirter, Director, Little Rock Area Office, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services





# Soul Winner's New Testament

This best-selling vest-pocket New Testament now has completely revised notes. Plus, step-by-step instructions for effective witnessing from Evangelist Clift Brannon. King James Version. Attractive brown flexible binding.

AT YOUR BAPTIST BOOK STORE



**(EDITOR'S NOTE: Harry Hollis, Director of Family and Special Moral Concerns for the Christian Life Commission for the past eight years, is one of the denomination's leading spokesmen on the issue of television and morality. He has written much of the material for the Christian Life Commission's new packet, "Help for Television Viewers", which will be mailed to every Southern Baptist pastor in a few weeks. The packet is a vital part of the commission's recommendations on television morality which were approved by this year's Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.)**

Officials of the American Broadcasting Company have now defended their new fall television comedy series SOAP as a "morality play". They are mistaken. SOAP is an immorality play. Although ABC has recognized that this time it has gone much too far and is now apparently making some moves to deal with their grossest and most flagrant mistakes in SOAP, the task must be viewed as almost impossible. If all the filth were removed from SOAP, there would be little left but the commercials. The American people are going to ask why any responsible network would have accepted such trash for public con-

sumption in the first place, why any local TV station committed to public service would air it, and why any responsible American business would sponsor it.

Here is what the first two episodes of SOAP contained when ABC gave a preview to its affiliates: ongoing sexual affairs implying that adultery is acceptable and funny; a homosexual who is complimented by his mother for the way he wears her clothes; a mother and daughter who take turns going to bed with their tennis pro (ABC has now said it will alter this; but what kind of moral judgment would have allowed this trash in the first place?); a teenage boy who likes pornography wants to touch "naked ladies" and teases his sister for being a "latent nun" who has "never seen herself nude"; and a recurring message that sexual immorality is merely humorous and harmless.

Having viewed these first two episodes of this prime time pollution, I found it to be bad news from beginning to end.

In view of the first wave of public indignation, ABC officials told their affiliated stations on July 15 that some changes were going to be made in SOAP. A show based on such blatant immorality, however, cannot be

redeemed. Rinsing it off is not enough. Delaying it one hour will not eliminate its moral flaws. It should be thrown out.

Meeting in Kansas City at the annual Southern Baptist Convention, messengers voted to confront television's moral challenge. SOAP is a prime example of this challenge.

What can be done?

1. Southern Baptists can respond more effectively by communicating with local ABC station managers our unequivocal opposition to such a program that glorifies immorality, laughs about adultery and supports sex miseducation. Express your opposition to SOAP's immorality. Encourage the station not to violate its responsibility to the public which it is licensed to serve. Urge the station not to show SOAP. Explain that a sixty-minute delay is no solution at all. Refuse to accept their expected protestations that the ABC network is cleaning up SOAP. (Can we now trust the judgment of the network that fully intended to use the cheapest kind of sexual immorality for its own selfish purposes?)

2. Write the President of ABC and express your strong opposition to SOAP. Urge him to cancel SOAP as good faith evidence of his intention to meet his responsibility to the American people.

## Cleaned-up 'Soap' series still dirty, opponents claim

NASHVILLE (BP) — ABC-TV has run "Soap" through the wash, but two Southern Baptist leaders who have seen the laundered episodes of the controversial new show claim it is still "prime-time pollution," and they promise to accelerate their agency's nationwide protest against the comedy series which is scheduled to premiere Sept. 13.

In a letter to ABC-TV president Fred Pierce, Foy Valentine and Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission called for cancellation of the "morally objectionable program" and reiterated their belief that "Soap" is "vulgar" and "in bad taste" and that it is "sex miseducation" and an "assault on family life."

"The problem is not that 'Soap' deals with sex but that it treats sex in an irresponsible manner," the letter states. "It irresponsibly laughs at and shamelessly exploits the tragedies of adultery, homosexuality, impotence, incest, crime and senility."

ABC, which has tagged the show

"adult comedy," revised portions of the first two segments after widespread protest from ABC affiliates and advertisers as well as a number of religious leaders who were allowed to preview the promotional videotapes.

The revised segments, however, failed to change the opinion of Valentine and Hollis, who are warning Southern Baptists "not to be misled," particularly by the slightly altered first episode.

"Some of the offensive scenes have been taken out of the first episode," said Hollis, "but in the second and third episodes, the morally offensive scenes increase. 'Soap' has not been substantially cleaned up, and it should not be on the air."

According to the letter, the commission will continue to carry the protest at the grass-roots level by urging individuals, churches and other concerned religious and civic groups to voice their protest to ABC and to affiliates which carry "Soap." The commission also will urge Southern Baptists to be alert to "each and every advertiser" who sponsors "Soap."

Responding to charges from the television industry and advertisers that religious groups are unduly pressuring them, Valentine said, "Americans have the right to hold the users of the public airwaves responsible for what is broadcast, and consumers have the responsibility to determine how they will spend their money. The medium must get this message."

A week earlier, commission officials said that 10 of the 11 original "Soap" sponsors listed in a television trade publication had told them they were not going to advertise on the new show, at least at the beginning.

The commission also has sent letters to every ABC affiliate, pleading with them to refuse to air the show. According to Hollis, a list of affiliates that have stated they will not carry "Soap" is being compiled and will be released soon.

A letter was sent to ABC President Pierce about seven weeks ago, Hollis said, but the commission has not received a reply.



who own the airwaves. Write:  
 Mr. James E. Duffy, President  
 ABC Television Network  
 1330 Avenue of the Americas  
 New York, New York 10019

3. Be prepared to unleash a generous portion of righteous indignation on any and all advertisers who persist, in spite of wide protests, in connecting their names and their products to this dirty SOAP. The Christian Life Commission has written to these advertisers respectfully asking them to withdraw from their sponsorship of SOAP. If they do not respond favorably to this request, Southern Baptists will need to unite with other responsible church people in refusing to buy products which help pay for programs that push America down the road to moral degeneracy and the breakdown of family life which leads to national ruin.

For much too long already, the American people have been subjected to immoral television programs. It is time to make it clear to the networks, the sponsors, the TV writers and the local stations that we are not going to tolerate this immorality any more. It is time to say yes to morality by saying, "NO SOAP!"

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 C-90 (no box) . . . 57¢ E.A.  
 C-120 (no box) . . . 73¢ E.A.  
**PRICES INCLUDE 1 LABEL AND SHIPPING • MINIMUM ORDER: 20 TAPES • LENGTHS CAN BE MIXED • 5-SCREW ASSEMBLY • HARD WINDOWS • LOW-NOISE, HIGH-OUTPUT TAPE • STEEL PINS • SATISFACTION OR TAPE REPLACEMENT • SEND PAYMENT WITH ORDER.**  
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## Rural evangelism meet

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The first nationwide evangelism conference designed specifically for rural church leadership will be held here Sept. 26-28.

The National Rural Evangelism Conference, co-sponsored by the Home Mission Board Mass Evangelism Department and Rural Urban Mission Department, features 12 conferences tailored to rural church needs.

"We hope to inspire and equip the rural church leadership to do a more effective job in evangelism," said Ken Carter, HMB director of small church and revival evangelism.

The conference has no registration fee and the only cost is room and board.

"It is important to magnify the role of the small church pastor," Carter emphasized. "We've got 23,000 churches which have 300 or less members. These pastors must feel they are doing God's will — not on a stepping stone to a larger church."

C. B. Hogue, director of the HMB Evangelism Section, said, "Pastors in these rural churches need training, motivation and the knowledge that we care about them and their work. We do care and we're not only telling them that; we're showing them with this conference."

"Evangelization (one of the two Bold Mission Thrust emphases) means rural as well as city," Hogue emphasized. "The constituency of the rural church is

changing from farm-oriented persons to sophisticated city dwellers with new educational and social interests. We must help the rural church adapt."

## Rutledge back at home

ATLANTA (BP) — Arthur B. Rutledge, retired executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has returned home following hospitalization for three heart attacks in July.

Doctors said Rutledge has made encouraging progress and that after several weeks' rest will probably be able to resume a regular schedule.

Since his retirement on Jan. 1, 1977, Rutledge has lived near Cumming, Ga., and has been writing and teaching.

Mrs. Rutledge, who has been ill for some time, was hospitalized for one week longer than her husband but was also able to return home.

## Woman ordained

ROCKMART, Ga. (BP) — Mrs. Neel Aldrede Tiller was ordained to the ministry at First Church here.

She will become principle chaplain at Hazelwood Hospital, a facility for mentally retarded and multiple handicapped persons in Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Tiller, reared in Rockmart, Ga., is a graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and has a master of divinity

degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville. She was a summer missionary in Pennsylvania-New Jersey while a student at Mercer.

Mrs. Tiller is married to Darryl Tiller of Amarillo, Tex., also a Southern Seminary alumnus, who will seek a pastorate in the Louisville area.

For the past two years the Tillers have been working in a mental health program in Columbia, S.C. They have been members at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia.

Mrs. Tiller is believed to be the seventh woman ordained to the ministry by a Georgia Baptist church.

Sharing in her ordination service were two Georgia Baptist women who are ordained ministers and one who is an ordained deacon. Mrs. Hazel Grady, a teacher and counselor at Georgia Baptist Children's Home, gave the charge to the candidate. Mrs. Grady was the second woman ordained to the ministry in the Georgia Baptist Convention. She was ordained in 1974. Mrs. Wallace Duvall, chaplain at the Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, led the benediction. She was ordained to the ministry in 1975. Mrs. Otis Johnson gave the charge to the church. She is a deacon at First Church in Decatur, Ga., and is director of business services division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Several Georgia Baptist ministers and laymen also took part in the ordination service.



## Seminary fitness center

Southwestern Seminary has awarded a \$1.6 million contract to the Walker Construction Company to construct a multi-purpose recreation and physical fitness center. The 40,000 square foot building will be the focal point for a 6½ acre activities area planned to the south of the new center. The new fitness center will be located southwest of the main campus at the corner of Frazier and Boyce Streets. The one-level building of wall-bearing masonry construction with brick veneer is expected to be completed in late summer 1978.

## Renewal meeting set

MEMPHIS — A fifth annual National Renewal Evangelism and Ministry Conference for 400 persons from throughout the United States will be held Oct. 17-23 at the Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission, the conference will emphasize the equipping of Southern Baptist lay leaders, pastors and denominational leaders in the process of renewal.

David Haney, director of the lay renewal department at the Commission, said the conferees will examine focus events and ongoing renewal strategies for developing lifestyle evangelism and ministry during the first four days of the conference.

Persons wanting to register or get more information should write to Hardin at 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.



## Hope that overcomes despair

Luke 6:12-26  
Romans 8:18-36

The Christian is responsible to God in all areas of his life. Thus far in the study on being a Christian, this series of lessons has dealt with the Christian's responsibility in his life-style and his responsibility in society.



Artt

Another responsibility of the child of God is in his attitude. An unhappy Christian is a poor testimony for the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, he must realize his need for dependency on the Holy Spirit to control his thoughts and emotions. The witness of a Christian's life is ineffective when despair and depression are evident.

The world sees the inconsistency in the joy of which a Christian speaks and the gloom in which he lives. This world then is caused to doubt the validity of Christianity.

There is victory over despair and hope for the Christian, provided by Jesus. God loved this world and sent his Son not only to die for the sins of mankind, but also to give hope to those in despair.

From the beginning of his earthly work, the Lord Jesus made prayerful preparation for a ministry of hope. He went into a mountain in Galilee and prayed all night long.

Coming down into the plains, he gave instructions on how one may build his life. This sermon is regarded by most as the Sermon on the Mount, and others say it was preached on another occasion. Regardless of the differing opinion as to the time, the message remains the same even today.

Jesus teaches his disciples the principles of happiness and wisdom. Coupled with the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7), the passage in Luke 6 gives the Christian the foundation stones on which to build his life.

### The condition of despair (Luke 6:12-23)

According to this sermon, the first step to happiness is one's realization of his spiritual poverty. Christ doesn't say, "Blessed are the physically, financially, psychologically and intellectually poor." Rather he speaks to the spiritually bankrupt, the sinfully devastated, the beggar in need of a Savior. To the man

in this pitiful condition is given the invitation to come find happiness.

God's kingdom is occupied by those who have come to him as sinners. Only when Jesus Christ becomes the Savior and Lord of a life does that one have a hope which overcomes despair.

A second step to happiness is spiritual hunger. Just as God supplies a Savior for a sinful condition, so God supplies heavenly bread for a spiritual appetite. Although the Christian life is not guaranteed freedom from despair, one who has experienced the new birth has a hunger for the things of God and his righteousness.

The guarantee for the Christian is that there is satisfaction for this hunger in Jesus.

Thirdly, the Christian must mourn the sin in his life. When despair comes into his life, the Christian's heart should be broken. Despair enters a life because of unbelief and a lack of trust in the Lord. But as his heart is broken over his sin, God meets the Christian's need.

Contrition leads one to repentance. Repentance enables a heart to be filled with the joy of the Lord because of his forgiveness. Burdens have always been lifted at Calvary. At the cross the burden of sin and despair is realized, mourned, repented, and thereby, overcome.

Finally, true happiness comes through persecution. "All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). The blessing of persecution in a Christian's life is evidence that he has the first three steps in perspective.

The Christian should react to persecution by rejoicing. As the disciples did in Acts 5:41, the oppressed Christian can be exceedingly glad he has been counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. To those Christians, abused in this world because of their faith, awaits a reward in heaven. Assurance of this wonderful promise leaves no room for despair.

### The condemnation of depravity (Luke 6:24-26)

After Jesus gives the keys to happiness, he changes the tone to that of warning. He pronounces "woes" to those who reject God's plan for happiness. Each woe contrasts each beauty.

The Outlines of the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series, are copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education. Used by permission.

A life without Christ is recompense to those who refuse to recognize their sinful condition.

Those who do not hunger and thirst after spiritual things are sentenced to a life of an unsatisfied and unexplainable craving.

Eternal separation from God will be just reward for those who laugh at God's way and reject him.

A religious attitude can never replace the personal relationship with Christ. Those who seek the praise of this world have misplaced their trust and have a false sense of security. A life without Christ brings the deepest despair, but life in Christ offers peace and joy within.

### A confidence of deliverance (Romans 8:18-39)

Because the Christian is still human, there will be moments of despair, but there is so much more hope as is written by Paul in this passage.

There are at least eight promises discussed in this text, each one containing a lesson in itself. But as the promises are revealed, the child of God must believe God's Word and claim the promise in his own life. These are the promises which build hope:

(1) Suffering on this side of heaven is not to be compared with the glory in heaven.

(2) The Holy Spirit groans and intercedes on our behalf at the throne of grace.

(3) All things are working for good in the Christian's life.

(4) God is always for us, so it matters not who is against us.

(5) The Christian shall be delivered and given all things.

(6) God himself justifies his children; no one can condemn them.

(7) Christ Jesus died, raised from the dead, and is glorified on the right hand of the Father to intercede for his own.

(8) Nothing shall separate the Christian from the love of God.

So, the hope of overcoming despair can be seen in light of two areas. First, one must accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior for he said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Then, as a Christian, one must learn to walk daily in the Spirit, claiming his promises and overcoming by his strength. An overcomer has victory over despair. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).



## The destructive power of a lie

Sept. 18, 1977

Exodus 20:16  
1 Kings 21:8-13  
Proverbs 6:16-19  
Matthew 12:36-37

The words of the late Dean Chadwick, in his excellent volume on Exodus, form the very best introduction possible to the study of this Ninth Commandment. "A thought, once expressed, is transformed and energetic as a bullet when the charge is fired; it modifies other minds, and the word which we took to be far less potent than a deed becomes the mover of the fateful deeds of many men. Being at once powerful and unsuspected, it is the most treacherous and subtle of all the forces which we wield. And the Ninth Commandment does not undertake to bridle it by merely forbidding us in a court of justice to wrong our fellow-man by perjury. We transgress it whenever we conceive a story suspicion and repeat it as a thing we know; when we allow the temptation of a biting epigram to betray us into an unkind expression not quite warranted by the facts . . . It is a pity that our harsh judgment always speaks more loudly and confidently than our kindly ones, but the reason is plain: angry passion prompts the former, and its voice is loud; while the calm reflection which tones down and sweetens the judgment softens also the expression of it. It has to be remembered, also, that false witness can reach to nations, organizations, political movements as well as individuals."



Pruett

thus oftentimes causes untold and prolonged suffering to the innocent, while, in the majority of cases, he, the liar, goes undiscovered and unpunished.

False witness is borne by tale-bearing, that is, by repetition of some report without careful investigation. To repeat a story, if it reflects upon the honor or character of any man, without the most careful inquiry, is to violate the commandment.

False witness is also borne when a false impression is made upon the minds of certain persons about other, by a hint, a suggestion, or even the adroit asking of a question. Stigma has been cast upon many a good reputation by such questions as, "Have you heard about John?" The answer being given in the negative, the questioner says, "well, the least said the better off." Nothing further can be drawn from him, but an unfavorable impression has been created, and the innuendo has had all the deceiving effects of false witness.

Silence is a form of false witness. When one man utters a slanderous remark about a second in front of a third, and if this third person knows the statement to be slanderous, and for some personal reason or dislike, or it may be fear, remains silent, that person is as guilty of the breach of the law as is the one uttering the slander.

False witness may occur when a person questions the motives of another person. A person may remark about someone else, "He knows which side his bread is buttered on," leaving the impression that the person only performed the deed to get ahead.

Flattery is also a form of bearing false witness. To say to another man concerning himself things which are not believed to be true, which, indeed, are known to be untrue, simply for the sake of pleasing him, and paying tribute to his vanity, is to perjure the soul, and may be to imperil even his safety.

### Murdered by words

In 1 Kings 21:8-13 we have the scheme of Jezebel to bear false witness in order to have Naboth stoned to death. A sim-

ple lie spoken by two false-bearing witnesses proved the evil tool for Jezebel to gain Naboth's land for her own use. So Naboth and his sons were stoned to death; and Jezebel urged Ahab to give up his pouring and "take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead" (1 Kings 21:15). The guilt of this lie extended not just to Jezebel and Ahab, but to the bribed witnesses, the self-serving politicians and finally to the silent citizens of Jezreel who knew the witnesses were liars.

### The undesirable

Proverbs 6:16-19 gives us the picture of an undesirable type of person who sows discord among brothers and who gives evidence of a "deep-seated evil-doer who hasn't the capacity for neighborliness." The bad personal quotations of a man (note that five of the sayings are concerned with parts of the body, verses 16-18) make him a false witness (especially dangerous in legal proceedings) and a sower of dissension.

### Judged by our speech

It is the words which a man speaks in his unguarded moments, the words which he speaks without thinking, and the words which he utters when the conventional restraints are removed, that really show what he is like. As Plumme puts it, "The carefully spoken word may be a calculated hypocrisy."

A man will say in anger what he really thinks, and what he has often wanted to say, but which the cool control of prudence has kept him from saying. Many a man is a model of charm and courtesy in public, when he knows that he is being watched, and when he is deliberately careful about his words; while in his own house he is a dreadful example of irritability, sarcasm, temper, and criticism because he thinks he does not need to keep up his guard.

Let a man examine himself. Let him examine his own words that he may discover the state of his own head. And let him remember that God does not judge him by the words he speaks with care and deliberation, but by the words he speaks, when the conventional restraints are gone, and the real feelings of his heart come bubbling to the surface.

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## Attendance report

Sept. 4, 1977

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church adds.
Alpena, First	69	22	
Ash Flat, First	65		2
Batesville, First	247	119	2
Bentonville, Mason Valley	82	20	
Berryville			
First	161	67	
Freeman Heights	153	44	
Booneville, First	291		
Briar Creek Chapel	26		
Bryant, First Southern	201	74	
Caledonia	54	44	3
Camden, Cullendale First	494	112	4
Cash, First	95	51	1
Conway			
Pickles Gap	214	115	12
Second	363	106	1
Danville, First	157	37	
Des Arc, First	164	43	
Elliott	374	174	4
Elkins, First	91		
Fort Smith			
Grand Avenue	843	172	3
Mission	12		
Haven Heights	196	92	4
Fouke, First	88	52	
Gillham	71	37	
Grandview	72	72	
Hampton, First	149	72	
Hardy, First	116	51	
Harrison, Woodland Heights	134	67	1
Hector, First	38	13	
Hope, First	327	54	1
Hot Springs, Park Place	241	89	3
Kingston, First	38	16	
Lavaca, First	310	145	1
Leslie, First	81	46	
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	147	59	4
Life Line	409	94	1
Twin Lakes	12	9	2
Wakefield, First	88	33	
Magnolia, Central	542	136	
Melbourne, Belview	171	61	
Monticello, Second	264	77	
Murfreesboro			
First	152	62	
Mt. Moriah	51		
North Little Rock			
Levy	362	72	
Park Hill	857		10
Paragould			
Calvary	247	188	3
East Side	300	141	
First	411	86	2
Paris, First	451	200	1
Pine Bluff			
Central	139	49	2
East Side	148	75	
First	554	47	6
Lee Memorial	234	136	
Sulphur Springs	121	70	
Watson Chapel	397	146	4
Rogers			
First	510	114	2
Immanuel	482	111	4
Russellville, Second	120	42	
Springdale			
Elmdale	276	72	3
First	1441		16
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	204	72	1
Van Buren, First	462	154	8
Mission	25		
Vandervoort	64	27	3



## Board adds literature, changes pricing formula

RIDGECREST (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, in their semiannual meeting here, approved a proposed Home Bible Study Series to provide study materials related to television and radio broadcasts.

Scheduled for release in September 1978, pending agreement with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, the curriculum will be offered free to broadcast audiences. A monthly manual is planned to present Bible material, background facts, enrichment material and life application ideas relating to Bible passages taught

church literature pricing formula which will result in an average 10 percent increase in literature rates effective in April 1978. The last literature rate increase was implemented by the board in April 1976. Since that time the Sunday School Board has absorbed inflationary costs of 11 to 13 percent. When the rate increase is implemented, the board will have completed two full years without a rate increase, said James W. Clark, the board's executive vice president.

According to a recent survey, Clark said, the board's literature prices "will remain highly competitive with other publishers in the religious field."

"Moderate rate adjustments" were also approved by the board, Clark said, for first-class hotel rooms, apartments, and air conditioned rooms at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center; Chaparral rooms at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center; and conference service fees, effective June 1, 1978.

## Does accreditation matter?

by Duke K. McCall

One well-known college claims to be accredited by God. Now God's guidance and blessing is important for every human institution, but it is blasphemy to claim that God thinks our thoughts after us.

Alas, even good institutions are the result of finite, sinful human beings. They all fall short of the glory of God.

But the strongest institutions have gathered together to set up human standards to enable people to distinguish between the good, the mediocre and the bad. The result is such accrediting agencies as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, the National Association of Schools of Music. Southern Seminary is an accredited member of each of these.

Membership in these accrediting bodies tells other schools and the churches that graduates have had a high quality educational experience. Thus, Southern Seminary graduates can transfer to other quality educational institutions or they can secure employment in positions that require accredited degrees. Accreditation says nothing positively or negatively about Christian orthodoxy or God's favor.

So whether you, as an individual, are interested in accredited theological education depends on what you are looking for. If you want a doctor's degree as a label and do not care about the quality of learning, there are a number of places doctor's degrees may be secured at relatively little effort and modest expense.

Frankly, I think the concern of churches for doctor's degrees approaches scandal, and the clergy traffic in counterfeit doctors' degrees without reference to academic quality is scandalous.

**Duke K. McCall is president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.**

I would almost suggest that the Southern Baptist Convention resolve that upon approval by an ordination council the Doctor of Bible degree be awarded every minister (maybe he ought to be required to read the Bible through and send \$100 to the Cooperative Program before being included in the Convention *Annual* as "John Doe, D.B.').

Having settled that issue, then pulpit committees could make serious inquiry about the quality of the minister's educational preparation as well as his character and commitment to biblical theology and the Lordship of Christ.

At the moment, a significant number of bright young men and women are not going to accredited Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries but to local Bible schools, colleges and seminaries. There they will learn something and, indeed, God may accredit their ministry with spiritual power.

Alas, before their life is over, hundreds of them will try to transfer or continue their education in accredited schools. Sometimes they will receive as much as half credit, and sometimes none. The result will be a low ceiling on opportunities of Christian service for many fine young men and women. I can only pray for them that they may, in fact, be fully aware of what they are doing.

In the meantime, Southern Seminary will continue to offer the highest quality of accredited theological education. We will not jeopardize our accreditation by offering double credit for work already used on a bachelor's degree.

Our intention is to provide a quality of academic experience in a context of religious commitment that will produce Baptist ministers who are called of God and will be used by the Holy Spirit.

**Reprinted from the July-August issue of "The Tie", official publication of Southern Seminary.**

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Trustees also approved a "Bible Book Study Commentary" for use beginning April-June 1979, to provide additional resources for adult and youth teachers using the Bible Book Series.

A Spanish edition of "Sunday School Adults" was approved to provide Convention Uniform Series Sunday School materials beginning in September 1978, for adult class members in Spanish speaking Sunday Schools. The edition resulted from agreements reached with the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Boards in an attempt to better meet the needs of Spanish speaking people in the United States.

Trustees approved changes in the