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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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January 23, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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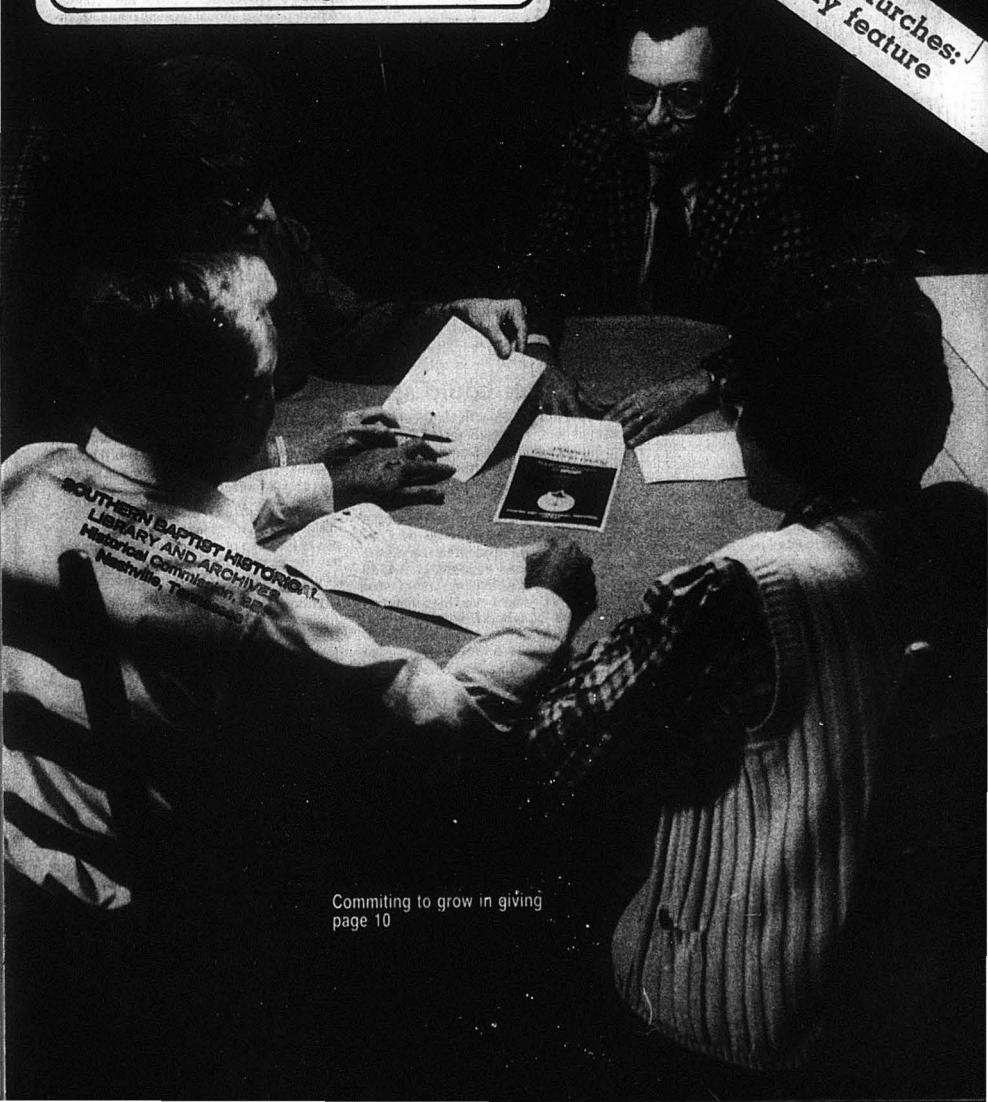


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January 23, 1986

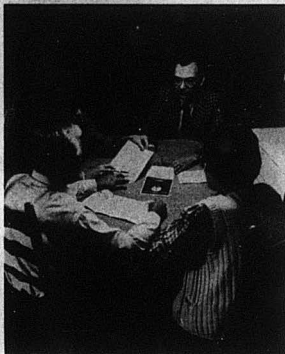
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Helpline for the churches:
a new monthly feature



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, 500
Nashville, Tennessee

Committing to grow in giving
page 10



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Wilma and Dick Ciddings (center) were among the Park Hill Church members who visited church families, like Richard and Margaret Cook, to present *Planned Growth in Giving* as the church conducted the SBC emphasis. A feature beginning on page 10 details the church's experience.

In this issue

6 AMAR update

Reports on Arkansas Baptists' partnership projects with Baptists in Brazil are reprinted from an ABN-produced update that was distributed to state convention messengers.

9 helps for churches

Launching a new feature with this issue, the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine joins the ABCS Executive Board in "Helpline," a cooperative ministry designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the state convention to the churches.

Correction

In an obituary for Opal Allison in the Jan. 16 ABN, the following persons should have been listed as step-sons and step-daughters: James P. Allison, Clarence A. Allison, Mary Lee Dame and Wanda Jean Jones.

Southern College enrollment down in fall 1985

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. — Although overall enrollment in 52 Southern Baptist colleges and universities increased by 1.3 percent during the fall 1985 semester, on-campus enrollment at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge sustained its first decline since 1981, according to Southern College President D. Jack Nicholas.

Returning student enrollment showed a continued increase, but the new student category was down "substantially," reflecting an overall decrease of 10.7 percent (477 to 426) in on-campus enrollment, Nicholas reported.

Although the returning student enrollment depends upon a variety of factors, the new student enrollment depends primarily upon the admissions (student recruitment) department, Nicholas explained. "If, for a single year, or even a part of the year, the admissions department does not function effectively, the college will not receive its share of applicants, and the results the following fall will be unpleasant," he said.

"We believe the fall semester decrease is similar to the one experienced in the fall semester of 1981, in that it is temporary and

due primarily to a problem in the admissions program which has been corrected," Nicholas continued.

In the fall of 1981, on-campus enrollment fell to 354 from the previous fall's mark of 384. In November 1981, the college reported to the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention that the decrease was thought to be primarily due to an admissions problem and that they were anticipating a 1982 fall enrollment exceeding 375. The enrollment that next fall actually reached 409, Nicholas said.

Nicholas reported Southern College officials anticipate the fall enrollment in 1986 will "rebound back up to a figure from 460 to 480." He said that projection "would appear to be somewhat vindicated" by figures which indicate that new student, on-campus enrollment is up in the 1986 spring semester by more than 10 percent.

"In fact, instead of sustaining the typical drop of seven to 10 percent from fall to spring enrollment, it appears from preliminary data that the spring 1986 enrollment equals or exceeds fall 1985," he concluded.

Postal rates could see further increase

WASHINGTON (BP)—On the heels of a substantial Jan. 1 rate increase, the U.S. Postal Service board of governors approved and then rescinded a further increase for non-profit mailers pending further consideration.

The governors cited a shortfall in postal subsidy appropriations approved by Congress and signed by President Reagan as the reason for the second increase. That \$748 million figure fell \$233 million short of what the Postal Service said it needed to maintain the 1985 level of subsidized rates.

Following an announcement of the additional increase—which would affect state Baptist newspapers and some church news-

letters—Jan. 7, the board of governors two days later announced the rescission until the matter can be reconsidered at a Feb. 4 board meeting. The proposed increase was scheduled to take effect Jan. 18.

The Jan. 1 rate increase pushed non-profit mailers up two rungs from step 14 to the final step of a 16-step plan begun in 1970 to phase out the postal subsidy. The new increase would move those mailers to above step 16.

(Editor's note: Despite a much larger increase than predicted, the ABN still will attempt to absorb the increased cost of postage in order to keep subscription rates at current levels.)

Cooperative Program report: December

January-December gifts

	Year	Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
Summary for December 1985			
Received		\$916,849.31	
Budget		\$956,333.13	
(Under)		(\$ 39,483.82)	
	1980	\$329,935.43	9.62
	1981	\$295,706.63	12.19
	1982	(\$137,611.72)	7.82
	1983	(\$ 15,548.95)	11.17
	1984	(\$351,009.81)	4.99
	1985	(\$395,316.10)	5.71

Even though we had a 5.71 percent increase in total gifts, we reached only slightly more than 96 percent of our budget for 1985. In order to meet next year's budget, our receipts must exceed this year's receipts by 10.5 percent. —L.L. Collins Jr.



Since the beginning of time, music has been one of man's constant companions in all of life's experiences. Music has enhanced the ordinary and served to engrave the classic events in the hearts of people. Man's ecstasies and despairs, his joys and his sorrows, his achievements and failures have all been told in music. So it is no small wonder that, from the outset, man began to associate music with worship. Music serves as a unique vehicle through which man seeks to know his Maker and to praise him.

Surely, as Adam stood in the Garden of Eden and looked upon his inheritance as a creature of God, there must have been a feeling of deep reverence and awe. As Adam walked in the garden and talked with God, the first man must have made some attempt at worship. Some song or doxology of praise must have crossed his lips in an effort to express the depths of feeling that sprang up within his soul.

During the long years of the Egyptian enslavement of the chosen race of God, there must have arisen plaintive songs from the abused bricklayers as they toiled at their endless task. The Scripture clearly declares to us the beauty of song that sprang forth from the lips of Miriam as the Hebrew people emerged from the Red Sea. A portion of her great song of freedom and deliverance is preserved for us even to this very day. Among these great songs are compositions by David, the sweet singer of Israel, who played his harp and composed his great music. In many instances, these songs laid the foundation for Temple worship of later years and even for our own church music.

The centuries passed, and then there burst upon the Judean hills one night a song of message and quality which had never before been heard by man. It was the voice of angels in a song of proclamation of "peace on earth and good will to men," as God's Son, Incarnate in the flesh, visited man.

When this age is consummated, we are told that Gabriel shall announce with a trumpet the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, even our Christ. Even the joyful and magnificent beginning of eternity will be marked by the sound of music.

This is but a brief glimpse at the rich heritage which is ours in church music. Its beginning and background are magnificent. We also are fully cognizant of the fact there are almost as many concepts of what constitutes worshipful church music as there are individuals today. But as a non-musician, there are certain questions this editor believes every music director and church should answer in regard to the music worship experience. First, "Does the music help in the creation of an atmosphere of true worship?"

Most congregations go to great expense and take great care in the construction of their worship facilities. It is the church's desire that the very lines and appointments of the building will help in the creation of an atmosphere of worship. All that is done can be made null and void by the conflicting atmosphere produced by inappropriate music.

Music in a worship service is not just extraneous material to fill an order of service or to cover the transition from one point of the service to another. Hymns should not be intended for a time of relaxation or for an additional speaker to come to the platform, nor to take up time while late arrivers make their way into the auditorium. Yet such use of hymns and music in the church is rather typical of the slipshod and hazardous regard we have for hymns and church music in general.

A second important question is, "What purpose did the hymn writer have in mind as he penned the song, and what emotions inspired the writing of the music?" The music should be carefully chosen to enhance the message delivered by the speaker. In order to accomplish this, the music director must know the subject and goal of the speaker. He also must carefully tie the message of the music with the sermon.

A third question for consideration is, "Is the music worthy of the high and holy purpose for which it is being used?" Today hymns are available which are neither theologically sound or musically appropriate to prepare the spirits of individuals for proper worship. When study shows either of these to be true, such music should never be used in church worship.

Fourth, "Does the hymn of invitation embody the grace and winsome tact of the Master's 'Follow me,' or is it rather the high pressure of a salesman who is trying to force a decision?" Decisions that last must result from the wooing of the Holy Spirit. Decisions that are made on the basis of an emotional spree are usually rejected as soon as the individual returns to his normal emotional state.

Finally, "Do the lives of the musicians exemplify Christ?" A church could have priceless instruments, an organist, a pianist and soloist of such quality that Carnegie Hall would be envious, and nullify it all if the musicians' lives were not devoted and consecrated to Christ.

Music is of vital importance in our worship experience. But all the training and all the talent in the world is for naught if it lacks the accompaniment of devotion and consecration to the up-building of Christ's kingdom.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 4

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

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

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Christian testimonies can exalt Christ, reach lost, layman says

by J. Everett Sneed

Little Rock businessman Jimmy Karam has given his testimony in such diverse places as Blue Eye, Mo., and Van Nuys, Calif. Having given his testimony 16 times at Billy Graham crusades, Karam feels the need for more people to give their Christian testimonies.

Karam, who gave his testimony 37 times in 1985 to churches or major groups of people, said, "Most people are blind. It is only because of Jesus Christ that a person can live a Christian life. Lost people need to hear testimonies of Christians whose lives have been changed by the Lord, so they will know they can have this same experience."

Karam believes Christians who give testimonies must live clean lives. He said, "A lot of Christians hurt the cause of Christ by their activities. I recall, before accepting Christ, seeing Christians at Oak Lawn placing bets and drinking beer and saying to myself, 'I am as good as them.' If a Christian engages in these kinds of activities, he doesn't have a testimony and can't be a witness."

Karam feels churches should use more testimonies in their services. But the people they choose should be individuals who reflect Christ. He said, "No one is perfect, but Christians should make every effort to

follow the Lord Jesus and not get up and pretend to be one thing, while they are actually another. You can be assured lost people know how we are living in our daily lives."

Individuals who have clean lives should be anxious to give their testimony, according to Karam. He feels an individual should prepare himself for giving his testimony by following two simple rules: (1) call on the Lord and ask him what to say and how to say it and (2) make sure that Jesus Christ gets all the credit.

"An individual should be careful not to get up and talk about how great he is or how many possessions he has. These are the last things the lost man wants to hear. The lost individual wants to know what he can do to find happiness, peace and freedom. All mankind is searching for this and soon discovers money won't buy it. So he is looking for answers."

Karam feels that an individual does not have to have an unusual testimony in order to be effective. He said, "The main ingredient is to exalt Christ. I lived in hell for 45 years because I was without Christ. A testimony from someone who trusted Christ as a child and who has lived consistently for

the Lord can show people how they can know joy. The key is for the testimony to be presented in a manner that exalts the Lord."

Karam has had many interesting experiences across the years. Several years ago, he presented his testimony at the North Carolina State Convention and had 81 immediate invitations to speak. It was impossible for Karam to make numerous trips back and forth from Arkansas, so he spent three weeks speaking to as many places as possible.

Karam believes any individual who will exalt the Lord and make himself available to give his testimony without expecting personal gain will have many opportunities. Karam says he is willing to go anywhere to give his testimony when it will fit into his schedule, and he will not personally accept an honorarium or reimbursement for his travel expenses. Any honorarium or expense money given to Karam is put into a special fund and distributed to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association or to the Lottie Moon, Dixie Jackson or Annie Armstrong mission offerings.

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

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy W. Amos, missionaries to Uruguay, have arrived at language school (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in Keiser. They were appointed in 1985.

Mr. Emmett O. Woodward, father of Mrs. Charles T. Browning, Baptist representative to Jordan, died Dec. 26 in Lonoke. She is the former Nancy Woodward of Lonoke, and her husband is a native of Judsonia. Appointed in 1983, they may be addressed at Box 1, Baptist Hospital, Ajloun, Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael O. Canady, recently reappointed missionaries to Malawi, have arrived on the field (address: P.O. Box 39, Mzuzu, Malawi). He was born in Louisiana. The former Linda Patton, she was born in Fort Smith. They were appointed in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Q. Chatman, missionaries to Uruguay, have completed language study and arrived on the field (address: Av. Agraciado, 3452, Montevideo, Uruguay). He is a native of Poplar Bluff, Mo. The former Carol Hill, she was born in Walnut Ridge and considers Imboden her hometown. They were appointed in 1984.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberto V. Diaz, representatives to Mexico, have completed language study and may be addressed at Calle 16 #196-B, Colonia Garcia Ginerex, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. He is a native of San

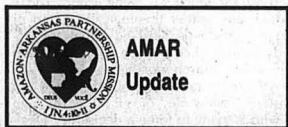
Antonio, Texas. The former Kathy Haygood, she was born in Little Rock and lived in Pine Bluff. They were appointed in 1984.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Hendricks, missionaries to Costa Rica, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). The former Mary White, she was born in Fort Smith and considers Hartford her hometown. They were appointed in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Johnson, missionaries to Zimbabwe, are parents of Clifford Tamotsu Kudzai, born Nov. 6. Their address is 16 Pendennis Rd., Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe. Johnson was born in Pig-gott. They were appointed in 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall C. Trail, missionaries to Rwanda, have arrived in France for language study (address: 25, rue de Grand Marche, 37000, Tours, France). He was born in Houston, Texas. The former Kittie Colvin, she was born in Jonesboro. They were appointed in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard O. Cheek, missionaries to Malaysia since 1981, resigned Dec. 31. They served in Penang, where he was a seminary teacher and she was a church and home worker. He was born in Little Rock. She is the former Jene Criswell of Pine Bluff. They may be addressed at 2212 SW 49th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73119.



Blytheville First Church six-member layman team composed of Tommie Westbrook Sr., Steve Westbrook, Bill Inman, Don Turnage, Don Childers and Johnny Buchanan completed a 10-day volunteer mission assignment Jan. 15. They assisted with a church building program and evangelism outreach in Coqueiro, Belem, Para.

Jonesboro First Church mission team returned Jan. 22 from work in Brazil. They were commissioned for service by the Jonesboro church Jan. 5.

Ashdawn First Church mission team composed of Dan and Mary Edds and pastor Jerry L. Winfield is working in Santarem, Brazil, assisting missionary Richard Walker with construction, a church constitution service and ordination service.

Hope First Church members, J.W. Rowe and Larry Barton, are assisting missionary Richard Walker in Santarem, Brazil with the construction of a chapel.

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

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... Help is on its way. For whom? Almost all of you. There are so many things "out of kilter," whatever that means. The reason I know is because the vehicle is running too rough. Perhaps the tire is out of balance, a spark plug fouled or it's just out of timing. Some adjustments somewhere need to be made soon.



Moore

When constant bickering and strife prevail in a church; when pastors break down and burn out; when lay people lose heart from not being able to really use their gifts and abilities; when the results of all our preaching, teaching and meeting are so negligible; and when the most common way of dealing with disagreement is violence—such as firing the pastor—then something needs to be done! This pattern of irrational, fleshly and unproductive behavior characterizes so many churches.

Such conditions have driven us back to the basics as to how the people of God can and should relate to each other. The basics are that Christ is head of the church, all of the members of the church are gifted and responsible and that God calls pastors to provide leadership. That leadership is responsible for leading the church to discover the will of the "Head" and enabling each member to function in carrying out that will. It acknowledges the lordship of Christ, the leadership of the pastor, the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the church and the fullness of joy that comes from the fellowship of believers accomplishing things together. This is simple, specific, scriptural and successful.

The urgency of the conditions noted earlier have resulted in concert of action throughout our convention to help. The help is in the form of leadership aids and instruction under the title of "Shared Ministry."

Nine conferences are being held throughout the state. I expect every pastor, deacon and committee person could benefit from these. The times and places are listed elsewhere. Pastors have received a letter on the meetings. I urge you all to be involved in "Shared Ministry." It is the brightest hope for a better day to church relations and ministry.

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



The Southern accent

Joy Ring

Helping to close the gap

Preparing federal tax returns for the year 1985 should be an exciting one with respect to contributions. But, if you are like my classes and the individuals for whom I prepare tax returns, you could use some suggestions for the required recordkeeping.

First, let's get rid of the myth that the tithe is all that can be reported on your tax returns. Generally, you may deduct your contributions of money or property that you make to, or for the use of, qualified organizations. Your deduction for most charitable contributions is limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. For our purposes, the 50 percent limit applies to gifts to nonprofit hospitals, churches and nonprofit educational institutions.

You must be able to back up each individual cash contribution by either a cancelled check or a receipt. If your bank does not return your checks, your church envelope will suffice. It should be noted that checks from the pastor or secretary made payable to First Baptist Church may not be proof for an IRS auditor. They reason that those checks could have been written to obtain petty cash!

If you gave more than \$3,000 to any single organization, be prepared to prove the gift.

You cannot deduct the value of services

you perform for your church, but you can deduct telephone calls, materials, supplies and the cost of buying and maintaining your robes.

If you use your automobile commuting to and from the charity, you can either deduct 12 cents per mile or compute your actual cost of operating the automobile, including gas, oil, repairs and maintenance but not insurance or depreciation. You should not have to establish which repairs are directly related to the charitable travel. Instead, multiply the total of your repair bills for the year by the fraction: deductible mileage/total mileage for the year. You can deduct expenses incurred in attending a convention provided you attend as an official messenger.

Non-itemizers may deduct 50 percent of their charitable contributions on 1985 Form 1040, line 34b.

Just imagine the enlarged ministries of our churches, our educational institutions and the Home and Foreign Mission boards, were we to give, as allowed by the Internal Revenue Service, up to 50 percent of our adjusted gross income.

Joy Ring is chairman of the division of business and education at Southern Baptist College.

The president speaks

'Let's read the Bible for renewal'

One day I heard Hoyte Mulkey sing an old spiritual with lyrics something like this: "Does anyone here love Jesus? Here's one; here's one."

The message has stayed with me.

Now, I want to paraphrase the verse: "Does anyone here read the Bible daily? Here's one; here's one."

Bible reading and prayer are at the foundation of spiritual development. Will you be one of many thousands of Arkansas Baptists who will join in daily devotionals? Juanita and I will meet many of you around the throne daily as we read passages of the Word and pray.

We are using the quarterly magazine *Open Windows* as a guide. This quarterly suggests a daily Scripture reading, devotional

comments and also the names of our home and foreign missionaries who have a birthday on "their" day.

Here are some simple steps to include in your family prayer time:

(1) Place a Bible on the table where you eat breakfast. Also have a copy of *Open Windows* handy.

(2) Read the Scripture and comments for the day.

(3) Read the names of the missionaries who have birthdays.

(4) Read from the fourth week issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* some of the prayer concerns of the state convention.

(5) Have individual or family prayer.

All together now, let's read the Bible for renewal. "Here's one, here's one."

Open Windows, regular or large print, also list daily passages to read the Bible through in one year. It is available from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, TN.)

— Lawson Hatfield, president, Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Hatfield

AMAR project gives couple glimpse of people 'the way Jesus saw them'

text and photos by Mark Kelly

BELEM, Para—Tom and Joyce Fudge see things differently now.

When they arrived, with eight other members of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, in this bustling north Brazilian city of 1.5 million people, they were struck by the obvious human need they saw around them. Minimal wages—unable to keep pace with a soaring 220 percent annual inflation rate—makes life difficult for the majority of Brazilians.

But the Fudges found the poverty—though sharper by North American standards—to be nothing compared to the spiritual need and openness they encountered.

"I believe we got just a glimpse of the way Jesus saw people," explained Fudge, a district director for the University of Arkansas' Cooperative Extension Service. "We saw the people's responsiveness, warmth and openness and felt a deep sense of their tremendous need."

The Fudges and the Immanuel group spent eight days during September in Brazil as part of an Amazon-Arkansas (AMAR) partnership project. They visited house to house and held revival services in New Barcarena, a developing planned community on an island several hours east of Belem.

"The potential we saw was almost unbelievable," recalled Fudge. "The people we visited were so receptive to what we had to share."

"The fact we had come so far to share our faith opened doors for us," added Mrs. Fudge. "When people heard we had come from the U.S., they just let us walk right in."

Using bilingual testimony tracts and accompanied by a Brazilian Christian, the Fudges found even the language barrier was not insurmountable. In three days of visitation, only two of the non-Christians to whom they witnessed did not accept Christ as Savior.

"Our Brazilian helper couldn't speak English, and of course we couldn't speak Portuguese," noted Mrs. Fudge. "But we knew what was happening when we saw tears come to their eyes and their faces break out in smiles. When you can't speak the language and someone makes a profession of faith, you know it's the Lord's work."

"Openness" and "need" are appropriate words to describe Brazil in general and New Barcarena in particular. Five years ago, the jungle ran wild over the land where New Barcarena is now rising. In two years, an estimated 50,000 people will live there.

The New Barcarena development symbolizes the rising potential of Brazil. A country rich in mineral wealth, Brazil only now is beginning to discover its natural wealth. Gold has been discovered at Redencao (Redemption), deep in the interior. At Caracas, what is believed to be the world's largest deposit of iron ore has been discovered. Projections estimate the ore might be mined out

in 300 years. Baptists have a foothold in both the areas.

At New Barcarena, a Brazilian aluminum company and a consortium of 22 Japanese companies are investing \$6.3 billion to build a deep-water port and bauxite processing plants which will create 8,000 new jobs in what has been an isolated, rural area. An important city is being cut out of the jungle, and Baptists are there to minister.

Those new jobs and the good wages will attract thousands of factory workers and rising young professionals to the area, predicts Johnny Burnett, a Southern Baptist missionary who directs the Baptist "junta" (state executive board) in the state of Para.

Those who come to "colonize" New Barcarena leave behind ties to their families and religions in exchange for the promise of a better life, explained Burnett. Because of the tremendous changes in their lives, the settlers' openness to a Baptist witness will be high.

Little Rock Immanuel's group saw evidence of this openness their very first day in New Barcarena. One of the group members shared a witness with a young civil engineer who had been assigned to give them a tour of the port and production facilities. The young man responded readily and made a profession of faith.

Immanuel plans to be in on the ground floor of New Barcarena's buildup. The congregation is looking at a three-year involvement designed to lay a solid foundation for a strong, missionary Baptist work.

Immanuel's associate pastor, Charles Bar-

field, sees New Barcarena as a marvelous investment for the congregation. For just \$100 a month, the church can put two seminary students on the field to cultivate prospects (the minimum wage in Brazil is \$50 a month). For less than \$2,000, they can buy a used minibus to provide transportation for the local pastor. Another \$7,000 to \$10,000 will buy the land and build a first unit for the new mission.

Barfield sees a volunteer construction team from Immanuel going in 1986 to build that first unit. The following year, another team would hold a major crusade effort in the city.

Given the area's economic potential, Barfield believes a strong congregation can be established in just three years with an investment of \$16,000.

"We won't be just starting a church in New Barcarena, either," Barfield observed. "I believe Immanuel has an opportunity to help start a strong church able to reach out and start many new missions. We aren't just starting a church; we're laying the foundation for outreach through the entire area."

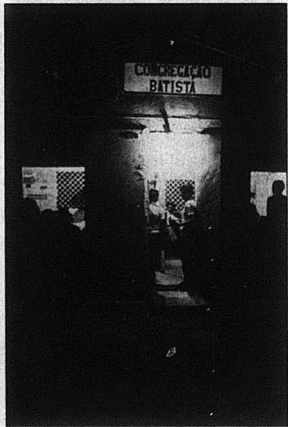
Brazilian Baptists' heart for outreach and starting new churches is a good match for their nation's potential. Their work in Brazil is over 100 years old, and the national convention supports 75 missionaries in 15 countries.

The Baptist convention in Para boasts 99 churches. But between them, those 99 churches sponsor 125 mission congregations and 200 preaching points. Often, churches will start a mission before even their own basic needs are met.

That commitment to starting new work is a reflection of the vast challenge facing Brazilian Baptists. Sixty-one percent of the nation's 130 million people is under 21 years of age. That youthful work force, combined with Brazil's emerging mineral wealth, gives the country the potential of becoming a major world power, Burnett said.

And the need for Baptist work is great. In the Para-Amapa state convention, 99 churches and their mission points labor in a state twice the size of Texas with a population of over 4 million. In Amazonas-Roraima, the other Brazilian convention with which Arkansas is paired, 27 churches work to reach another 1.7 million people in an even larger area.

Burnett believes the opportunities for Baptists are almost unlimited, and Tom and Joyce Fudge agree. In their one-week project, the Immanuel group saw 120 first-time commitments to Christ and seven additions to the Barcarena church. The larger group with which Immanuel traveled to Brazil—31 persons in all—recorded 200 first-time commitments to Christ in homes, 179 professions of faith in church services and 226 "rededication" type decisions in seven locations. In addition, 13 persons acknowledged calls to



The 99 churches of the Para-Amapa Baptist Convention sponsor 125 missions ("congregacao") and 200 preaching points.

full-time ministry and two couples gave themselves to missionary service.

At one church, located in Agulha, east of Belem, 162 decisions were recorded in services led by James Hayes, pastor of Little Rock's South Highlands Church. On Monday night after Hayes concluded services on Sunday, the congregation met for a "thanksgiving" service. They received six more professions of faith that evening.

At the Belem airport, waiting for their flight home, the Fudges reflected on their experience. "This trip has been tremendous. It's difficult to put it into words," Fudge mused. "I don't believe you can go through something like this and ever be the same again."

"Now we appreciate the missionaries who work with needs like this every day," he added. "We see the vastness of the task and our mission program. We see the immense resources needed to meet the challenge."

"We know we won't be the same again," he concluded. "And if we have any influence on our churches at home, they won't be the same, either."

Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



House-to-house visitation and witnessing is a key element in AMAR strategy. Arkansas Baptists, like Tom and Joyce Fudge of Little Rock Immanuel Church, equipped with bilingual testimony tracts and accompanied by Brazilian Baptist interpreters, often win more decisions for Christ in home visitation than in the church-based revival services, says Johnny Burnett, Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil.

Mountain Home team finds trip more than a building project

by Betty G. Kennedy

HELP WANTED: Persons willing to do whatever is needed to help Brazilian Baptists spread the gospel. May include hard physical labor, such as mixing concrete by hand, or witnessing door-to-door. Temporary position. Pay own transportation and living expenses. No salary, but benefits include a changed outlook on missions.

The advertisement is fictitious. The job description, however, is close to reality for 17 persons from Mountain Home First Church. Although the group of 14 men and three women never actually saw such an advertisement before they went to Brazil early this year, they had an idea what to expect. Their pastor, Roy Fowler, and his wife, Pat, were missionaries in Brazil for 13 years.

The Mountain Home group worked near Natal, where the Fowlers had served, to help build a 30x60-foot church building with a baptistry and one classroom. Although a few had building experience, that was not included in the criteria. The main qualifica-

tion was willingness.

The group left from Little Rock March 17, bound for the community of Ceara Mirim, 45 miles from Natal.

Land for the building already had been bought with Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds and the Mountain Home church had contributed \$10,000 for building materials and Brazilian workers. Team members were to supply much of the labor.

Beginning at 6:30 a.m. each day, the Arkansans worked up to 11 hours helping mix and pour concrete, lay ceramic blocks, cut timbers for roof trusses, raise the trusses, put up steel for wall reinforcement and build scaffolding.

During the day, the three women visited in homes, witnessing and leaving tracts. Team members also had the chance to give testimonies or sing in local churches on Wednesday night and Sunday, and Fowler was invited to preach Sunday morning at the First Church of Natal.

On the team's last night in Brazil, the Ceara Mirim congregation traded their tem-

porary meeting place in a rented garage for the new structure. About 300 persons overflowed the building, worshipping under temporarily strung lights and an incomplete roof.

The Mountain Home team returned March 27 with what Fowler described as "a completely different outlook on missions." "It was an eye-opening experience," Fowler reports. "The result is that our people have put their whole hearts into missions."

Even now, team members are still being asked to relate their experiences in other churches, Fowler notes. He counts tremendous blessings for the team members, who in turn infect the church with enthusiasm for the missions partnership project.

And some are talking about going back. "Maybe next year," Fowler ventures. Meanwhile, the missions team will share their new understanding of missions with the church, which perhaps thought it was sponsoring only a building project.

Betty G. Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

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J. O. BAPTIST
100 MAIN STREET
ANYTOWN AR 72000

Two copies are not better than one

As church leaders are placed on the ABN mailing list for this monthly *Helpline* issue, duplications of the regular subscriber list may occur. In case this happens, please help us save Cooperative Program dollars. Send the one marked SPECO, like the one at left, to the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, for deletion.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Amon Baker has resigned as minister of music at Little Rock Immanuel Church following 21 years of service. Baker, who has served on the music staff of Southern Baptist College and as minister of music at Pine Bluff First

Church, has participated in Arkansas local church television ministry for more than 18 years. He has organized and directed four Bold Mission Thrust music mission tours to European countries and Scandinavia. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and East Texas Baptist College in Marshall. Baker and his wife, Joynelle, have three daughters, Brenda, Carrie Sue and Melody.

Michael Loren Trammell will begin serving Jan. 26 as pastor of Jonesboro Fisher Street Church. A native of Hot Springs, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently is a doctor of ministry candidate at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is moving to Jonesboro from Mineral Springs, where he has served as pastor and administrator of Central Baptist Retirement Village. He has also served as minister of church program for Second Church in Houston, Texas. He is married to the former Pamela Miller of Nashville, Tenn. They have one son, John Matthew.

Leonard Williams is retiring as pastor of Viola Church following more than four years of service there. While there, he led in a membership growth of more than 100 members; purchase and payment of a parsonage and a \$35,000 building improvement program. Williams will reside in Melbourne.

Jerry Flagg is serving as pastor of New Providence Church, Leachville.

LeRoy Douglas is serving as pastor of New Harmony Church at Manila.

Reece Stanley of Crossett died Jan. 10 at age 70. He was a member of Crossett First Church and a retired painter for Georgia Pacific. Survivors are his wife, Letty M. Stanley; two sons, Keith Stanley of Oklahoma City and Reece Michael Stanley of Crossett; two daughters,



Trammell



Williams

Carolyn Thraillkill of Montgomery, Ala., and Debbie Hancock of Greenbrier; a brother; two sisters; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lewis Allen Mashburn of Little Rock, a former Pulaski County judge, died Jan. 11 at age 83. He was a member of Little Rock Immanuel Church where his funeral services were held Jan. 13. Survivors are his wife, Martha Vaughn Jackson Mashburn; two daughters, Janet M. Eagle of Lonoke and Patsy M. Robertson of North Little Rock; three stepsons, Alan Jackson of Hattiesburg, Miss., Milton Vaughn Jackson of Tyler, Texas, and David Kent Jackson of Benton; three sisters; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Dick Couch began serving Jan. 5 as minister of music and youth at South Side Church, Pine Bluff. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a native of Alabama. He and his wife, Donna, are residing in Pine Bluff.

Newton Smith has resigned as pastor of Bethel Church at Elaine to become pastor of Union Springs Church in Converse, La.

Gary Gipson is serving as pastor of Gravel Hill Church at Benton. He is manager of Benton Retirement Inn.

Larry Danks has resigned as associate pastor of Camden Hillside Church to join the staff of First Church in Trenton, Mo.

Art Horne has resigned as minister of music and education at West Side Church in El Dorado to become associate pastor and coordinator of ministries at Trinity Church in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

Rex M. Horne of Camden now is serving as pastor of Trinity Church in Oklahoma City.

Larry Whitson has joined the staff of Mansfield Church as music and youth director. He and his wife, Jane, are parents of a daughter, Jennifer.

Joe Angel has joined the staff of Hot Springs Second Church as business manager, having served the church as a consultant in administrative functions in 1984-85. He was ordained as a deacon of the church in 1978. Angel and his wife, Shirley, are parents of four children.

briefly

Cross Roads Church near Blytheville has recently organized both a Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union in an effort to broaden its missions education program. The church's 1984 Lottie Moon Christmas offering was \$30; in 1985, it exceeded \$265.

Emmanuel Church at Half Moon ordained Glenn Freeman to the deacon ministry Jan. 19.

North Little Rock First Church will observe homecoming Jan. 26 with morning services, a noon luncheon and a 1:30 p.m. service. L.L. Collins will be speaker and North Little Rock Singing Men will provide music. Paul Daniel is pastor, and Roger Carlson is minister of music.

Marked Tree First Church has organized a clown ministry in an outreach effort to local nursing homes and community sponsored events.

Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock has organized a single adult choir that meets each Sunday at 4 p.m.

Newark Southern Church Crusaders and Girls in Action recently contributed \$240 to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Walnut Valley Church in Hot Springs recently organized a Baptist Women's group with Joan Newnam serving as president. Newnam reported that the church exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal.

Gentry First Church recently broke ground for a building that will house the nursery, preschool department, church office, kitchen and fellowship hall. Building committee members are Jearld Henderson, chairman, Jerry Harris, Ervin Cripps and Stan Fox.

Helpline

for the local church

Welcome to Helpline! This monthly pull-out section of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* will provide quick reference to activities, information and events that relate to you and your church. This effort to reduce mail-outs should simplify your work and increase our efficiency. We hope this is helpful. Let us know your response to our efforts.



Moore

What wonderful opportunities February affords! If you will finish your Lottie Moon Offerings and get them in to us, we will give you an exciting report before the month is out. We should all be able to rejoice together over this victory.

You can do something about your attendance this spring, but you'll have to begin now. Your promotional materials are

packaged and awaiting your request. The theme is "White Unto Harvest," and the campaign goes from Feb. 23 to March 30. You can close with record-breaking attendance on Easter. Order materials this week from the Sunday School Department at the Baptist Building.

Do something nice for your pastor. Encourage him and help him to get to the Pastor's Retreat, Feb. 24-25. Fantastic fellowship, Bible study with Dr. Curtis Vaughn, testimonies, practical assistance and time with the Lord will renew that man who bears such a burden 24 hours a day. The \$30 cost or gasoline expense could keep him from coming. Give him what help you can.

Have you really tried to improve the attitude of yourself and your people toward other races? Should you? With the large numbers of Mexican, Korean, Laotian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino and black people in our midst, we are probably overdue in our need to study the Christian response to other races. Why not contact Bob Parker or Bob Ferguson for some material to help you and have Race Relations Day on Feb. 9?

Single adults are booming! Almost any church which will try to provide a ministry for singles and will show genuine acceptance of them will experience thrilling results. They are one of the largest group in Arkansas. They have a great contribution to make to our churches. They have some unique needs. The State Single Adult Conference, Feb. 7-8, at Olivet Church, Little Rock, will help your church begin or improve your single adult ministry. You will get some new ideas and enjoy the togetherness with other singles from over the state.

Have you said "thanks?" Most women in WMU and most leaders of the children's missionary organizations serve with little recognition and encouragement. No one dares ask the question, "Where would we be in world missions without the help these people have been to our churches?" We probably wouldn't be in the missions business. So much of the success they have had has been in spite of us, not because of us. Would it be an act of Christian love and grace to set aside a Sunday like Feb. 9 or 16 to introduce the WMU leadership of the church and say "thank

you" to them? One of them might give a testimony in the service that would inspire others to become involved. This would be a good kickoff to the Home Missions Study and Week of Prayer for Home Missions. Our churches need all of the help they can get to keep the mission fires burning. This focus on WMU will pay rich, eternal dividends. (Why not get with your WMU director and plan this together rather than do an "off the cuff" job alone?)

Pastor, people, this will change your life! We have major problems in many, if not most of our churches. Pastors are being terminated. Pastor and staff are often crosswise. Power struggles between deacons, committees and pastor are common. What an awful testimony goes out from our churches because we have trouble working together! Something can be done about it! God never expected it to be this way. In fact, the Bible sets forth principles to govern and guide in all of these relationships and responsibilities. We need to rediscover these truths. If there is a change, the pastor will have to take the lead. But he can't do it alone.

Nine meetings have been scheduled over the state so that every pastor, staff person and available lay leader can come and

Here is help for your church!

by Don Moore

discover an approach to church leadership that will revolutionize the spirit, fellowship and effectiveness of the church. The places are listed elsewhere. The dates are Feb. 17-21. I urge you, in the name of Jesus and for the sake of the Body, to participate in an Area Shared Ministry Conference. "Shared Ministry" is the most effective, biblical and fulfilling approach to leadership there is. **A blessed memory**—early rising, butterflies, weak knees, long bus rides—these are a few of the memories of my days of Youth Choir Festivals. That was in the '50s. They are still going. They are still fun. They are still helpful. Bring your best dress, best voice, best attitude and best number to share in our annual Youth Choir Festival at First Church, Little Rock, Feb. 22.

Speaking of youth, get this! You can learn the DiscipleLife program at one of four Area DiscipleLife Workshops in February. All who work with young people—from pastor through the staff, Sunday School and Church Training—need to be familiar with this dynamic tool. Dates, and places may be found elsewhere in Helpline.

Another youth opportunity in February is WOW Training Day, Feb. 11. "Win Our World" is a personal evangelism training program for your people. Many of them have the concern and boldness necessary to telling others about Jesus, but they need the confidence that comes from a simple and thorough presentation they can commit to memory. This meeting will help youth workers help youth at this point. The meeting is at the Baptist Building.

Let's make it a fabulous February!

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

10 growing in giving

Southern Baptist people are being encouraged to set their sights on growth in the percentage of their giving. A feature explains how one church has worked through Planned Growth in Giving.

16 Looking ahead 3 months

Equipping and inspirational events sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention during the months of February, March and April are explained.

Planned Growth in Giving starts 'journey in stewardship' at

by J. Everett Sneed

"Planned Growth in Giving, is probably the best stewardship program we have ever had at Park Hill Church," declared Jimmy Sheffield, church administrator. "Although we didn't get as many people to make commitments as we would have liked, I still think it is the way for churches to go."

Planned Growth in Giving is a four-week, five-Sunday emphasis. These four weeks are preceded by several weeks of preparation. It is designed to challenge every member of the congregation to consider making a growth in giving goal for 15 years or through the year 2000.

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, recently conducted the Southern Baptist Convention's emphasis, which is intended to encourage every family to consider making a percentage increase in their giving over the next 15-year period.

Park Hill followed closely the materials provided by the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Sheffield said the church had an overall task force or committee, which had individuals assigned to various areas of work, such as spiritual preparation, publicity, visitation and the fellowship dinner.

Sheffield said, "We followed the materials closely. Actually, the only change I can think of was modifying the materials that have a committee for the fellowship dinner."

Sheffield feels one of the most important things for church families was to encourage them to think about what the Lord would have them to be giving by the year 2000.

"There were some minor problems," Sheffield said. "Some people would say, 'I am going to be retiring in a few years, so I don't know how much I'll be earning.' The visitors emphasized they were not to think in terms of dollars but in terms of percentage of increase."

Still others objected, "I am on a fixed income." The visitors encouraged them to think in terms of growth in giving for the Lord.

Sheffield says there are still some unanswered questions, such as "What will we do in stewardship development next year or five years from now?" He said, "It is our intention to continue to emphasize Planned Growth in Giving."

Nineteen percent of the families at Park Hill made a pledge of some kind. Some made small percentage increases over the 15-year period, while others made as much as a percent a year increase. "We don't know the actual impact this will have on our money yet," Sheffield observed, "but we believe it will be significant."

Although only 19 percent of the families made pledges, this was not too far short of the number of pledges received by the church in the past, since it represented approximately 260 families. In the past, the church had received from 1,000 to 1,100

individual pledge cards. Since families will average approximately three members per family, the numbers are virtually the same.

"We knew we would have less response because the program was new. We had never had anything exactly like this before," Sheffield said. "But we had no negative reaction, as far as I know. A few people did say, 'We don't want to pledge,' but they weren't ugly about it."

Sheffield feels, if he were conducting the Planned Growth in Giving campaign in a church where there had never been any pledging, he would start six months to a year earlier than the materials called for. "Our church is used to pledging in dollar amounts," Sheffield observed, "but we had some people who had difficulty in understanding the program in the two-month period we were explaining it."

"If I were in a church that had never had pledging," Sheffield continued, "I would explain over and over how the program worked, that there would be pledge cards. I would let the people react and answer their questions."

In preparing for Planned Growth in Giving, Sheffield believes the best way would be to start with the deacons, church council and Sunday School teachers. The goal would be to get the church leadership informed. "It is not necessary to sell the peo-

ple on the program, it will sell itself, when everyone understands it."

Another approach that could be used in a church starting now would be to get individuals from a church that has gone through the program to help them. There are individuals at Park Hill who would be delighted to talk with deacons and church leadership.

There are a number of important facets to the program. But Sheffield feels the most important is having families think through what they want to be doing financially in the Lord's work by the year 2000. He believes a second important facet of the program is the study on cooperation.

Pastor Cary Heard taught the book entitled *Cooperation: the Baptist Way*, by Cecil and Susan Ray, during the normal Church Training hour. Sheffield observed, the book provides a basis for the church's considering what it wants to be doing for world missions by the year 2000. "There is so much material in the book," he said. "It is absolutely essential for the individual teaching the book to be well prepared. The teaching guide helps to do this."

The endeavor is concluded on the fifth Sunday with a fellowship banquet. "Our banquet was an exceedingly good experience," Sheffield said. "It was a time of celebration and fellowship."

Testimony

'We're going to trust God to provide'

by Gary Robertson

"Who Do You Trust?" That was the name of a popular TV game show from a few years ago. The name of that show has been a recurring thought to me since I was introduced to Planned Growth in Giving over a year ago. It's a question I think each of us needs to ask ourselves as we consider what our part should be in Planned Growth in Giving. Who do I trust?

I would like to share with you a few of my thoughts related to PGG as well as our family's testimony as to what we feel the Lord is leading us to do in this giving emphasis.

Let's look at PGG in reverse order: Giving—Growth—Planned.

Giving has been an important part of our family's life, especially over the past few years as God has led us to see the place it should have in our lives as Christians. I see giving as a tool God used for a four-fold purpose: (1) It's a tool for helping others in Jesus' name. (2) It's a tool for expressing our faith and trust in God. (3) It's a tool for learning about faith and trust in God. . . it helps us grow in our faith as we see God's faithfulness in providing for us. (4) It's a tool for receiving God's blessing; we've certainly

been blessed in many ways through our giving.

Growth, whether physical or spiritual, is often a difficult, painful experience. I see that very clearly with our boys, who are 14, 11 and six years old. Many times we are not ready to accept the new responsibilities that come with growth. But growth is a necessary part of life. It's also a necessary part of our spiritual lives if they are to be rich and rewarding as they should be.

So growth in giving is possibly painful (at first) but is a rewarding experience that helps to accomplish the four purposes of giving that I suggested earlier.

I don't know about you, but I need to grow in my faith and learn to trust God more fully. Therefore, I plan to grow in my giving.

As my wife, Paula, and I began to think about what our commitment to PGG should be, first we had to look into the next 15 years to see what we might expect to happen as far as financial obligation are concerned. Of course there are many possibly unforeseen expenses that might come up, but the one that stands out to us is the education of our three boys. During the next 15 years,

Park Hill Church

Although it is a fellowship banquet, it could be a potluck affair in a small church. At Park Hill, it was catered. The program consists of a fellowship meal, 45 minutes of study concluding the Ray's book on cooperation and a time in which church members evaluate where they would like for the church to be in world mission support by the year 2000.

A form is given to the members. It shows what the church is currently giving and asks people to write down what they would like to be giving to the Cooperative Program by the year 2000. Park Hill is currently giving 12.5 percent. The people said they would like for the church to be giving 21 to 22 percent by the year 2000.

Sheffield said the most difficult part of the whole project was enlisting visitors. These were the people who went into the homes to give pledge cards and other material to families, so they could evaluate the family's stewardship growth over the next 15 years.

The visitor introduces himself, if necessary, to the family, states his purpose and gives them a pamphlet on Planned Growth in Giving. He answers questions (though the visit is preceded by several weeks of explanation at the church) and shows the pledge card to the family. He also shows them an envelope in which they will seal their pledge card as they return it to

the church on the designated Sunday (either the next or the following Sunday).

Sheffield observes that those who responded had a very good experience. "We would have had a higher percentage of response if we had enlisted more visitors," he said.

Each one visited eight families. Sheffield feels this is just about as much as one could ask the visitors to do.

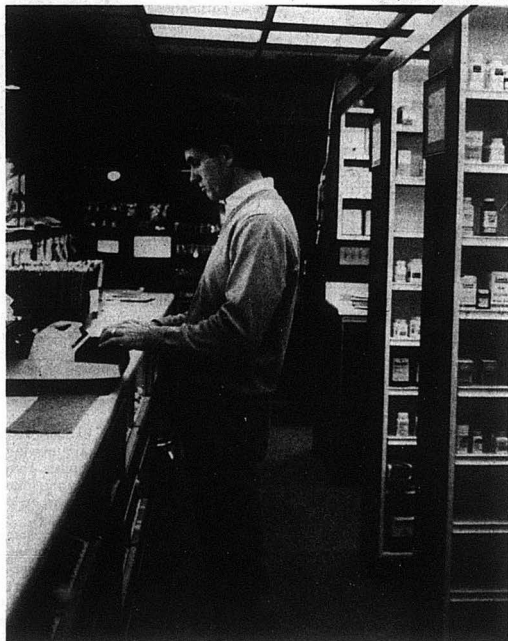
Pastor Cary Heard feels very positively about the Planned Growth in Giving effort at Park Hill. He said, "The period of preparation, the study itself and the positive growth in stewardship are all well developed and thought out by our Convention leadership. The program requires considerable effort for a church to put it on, but it is worth the effort because of the dividends it should produce. It provides opportunity for both educational and stewardship growth possibilities."

Dr. Heard said the program was biblically based. The idea of growth is paramount in the Christian life. Heard pointed to 2 Corinthians 8, where Paul spoke of the grace of God at work in the churches at Macedonia. In verse 7, Paul listed several areas in which the church at Corinth abounded. These included faith, speech and knowledge. But he admonished them to abound also in the grace of giving.

Heard also pointed to 2 Peter 3:18, which admonishes, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord." Heard said, "Giving is a grace. Planned Growth in Giving leads us beyond a legalistic limit of 10 percent, where people think, if they can just reach this level, they have done all they are supposed to do. Planned Growth in Giving sets a journey of growing in stewardship."

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News magazine.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



North Little Rock pharmacist Gary Robertson and his wife, Paula, have committed themselves to an annual 0.5 percent increase in their gifts to their church. Over the course of 15 years, the percentage gradually will rise to 17.5 percent of their income. Robertson believes God will honor that commitment and provide for their needs along the way.

all three of our boys will more than likely be entering college. That expense is frightening to us.

Who do we trust to provide for their education and these other expenses? At our current level of savings, we certainly don't trust ourselves to meet those expenses on our own. We're going to trust God to provide.

Paula and I are tithers, but we don't feel that's good enough after all God has done for us. So we are happy to say that, after prayerful consideration, we have decided to increase our giving by 0.5 percent per year over the next 15 years to a total of 17.5 percent (in addition to any building fund gifts and special offerings we might be a part of during that period). We don't consider that to be an equitable gift in comparison to what God has given us, but that's our goal for right now. We are confident God will honor that commitment and provide for our needs along the way. We are going to find out, because we want to grow.

Who do you trust?

Gary Robertson, a member of Park Hill Church, is a North Little Rock pharmacist.

PGG update

Planned Growth in Giving is a call to commitment. The need for the call is based upon Southern Baptists' commitment to



Planned Growth in Giving

Bold Mission Thrust. Planned Growth in Giving calls church members to a deeper level of sacrificial giving through their churches.

Churches are called to increase their associational and world mission support. Conventions respond to the call to commitment with an increased percentage to foreign missions.

The church event in Planned Growth in Giving is producing increased giving as members make long-term commitments.

Planned Growth in Giving continues the rest of this century. Churches that did not conduct the program last year may participate in 1986.

A Planned Growth in Giving Update is

Stewardship/Annuity

scheduled for Jan. 29, 9 a.m. - 12 noon at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. All pastors, staff members and committee members are invited. Those who participated in a PGG seminar last year will find the update helpful.

Gary Robertson, a member of Park Hill, North Little Rock, will share the results of their Planned Growth in Giving program.

Cecil Ray, national PGG director and author, will teach *Cooperation: The Baptist Way to a Lost World*.

Ernest Standerfer, from the SBC Stewardship Commission, will give instructions on how to conduct the Church Event.

Changing tax laws, reforms and complicated forms make it increasingly difficult for church staff members to complete their tax returns. Ministers sometimes make costly mistakes.

Harold Richardson, treasurer for the Annuity Board, is in a position to help pastors and church staff members. Mr. Richardson is scheduled to lead two tax seminars for Arkansas Baptist ministers and interested persons.

Ministers will have special interest in tax reform and its impact on retirement programs. Mr. Richardson will also discuss the use of personal cars on church business.

The seminars are set for Feb. 10 at First Church, Jonesboro and Feb. 11 at First Church, Pine Bluff. The Monday and Tuesday sessions will start at 9 a.m. — **James A. Walker, director**

Love One Another

The theme for this year's Race Relations Sunday, February 19, 1986 is "Love One Another" (John 15:12). This special time has



Parker

been set in the Southern Baptist Convention and the Arkansas Baptist Convention's calendar for the second Sunday in February each year. A few other Scriptures related to this needed emphasis are as follows: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27); "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?" (Mal. 2:10); "...God shows no partiality" (Rom. 2:11); and "My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Jas. 2:1).

The Christian Life Council urges you to consider the following three suggestions in helping your church make this a truly significant day in promoting *agape* love for all mankind regardless of race.

1. The music and sermon could have a

Christian Life Council

race relations theme. Additional Scriptures that might be used could be the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and Peter's discovery that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:1-15,37).

2. Your church might ask an ethnic pastor to preach on this special Sunday. This might be arranged through an exchange of pulpits.

3. Joint services. An increased sense of Christian fellowship has often come when two congregations combine to have joint services.

Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention in all 50 states, there are growing numbers of ethnic Southern Baptists. Factual information should be sought from various racial groups. This will assist all to better *agape* relate as Christians.

The annual meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation is just around the corner, March 3, 1986. Many of our fellow Arkansas Baptists who are on the Foundation's Board will be in attendance. The recommended challenging budget for 1986 will be adopted.

The coming issue of state operated lottery will be discussed. Positive action will be encouraged for Christians to offset the greatly funded efforts of gambling interests to get the issue before Arkansas for a vote.

— **Robert Parker, Director**

New student workers

The successful BSU Third Century Campaign has not only made student-to-student workers available as one-year associates at our large four-year universities, but it has also made available part-time workers at so many of the smaller colleges.



Logue

Cathy Whitaker has worked for several months as our new Baptist Student worker at North Arkansas Community College in Harrison. Cathy's husband, Rick, is on the staff of First Church in Harrison. The Whitakers have three children: Kyle, Kelly and Katy.

A new part-time Baptist Student Director at John Brown University is Joe Finrock,

Student Ministries

pastor of First Church in Gentry. Joe and his wife, Barbara, have a daughter, Rebekah, and twin sons, Abram and Peter.

Denise Moore, a recent graduate of University of Arkansas at Little Rock, is our new director at Arkansas Baptist College. Denise served on the BSU council in several positions while a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Cathy Pittman, a graduate of Arkansas Tech and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is our new Baptist student worker at the College of the Ozarks at Clarksville. Cathy served as a student-to-student worker at Arkansas Tech before she enrolled at Midwestern.

Brenda Cunningham began this fall as Baptist student director at Arkansas State University-Beebe Branch. Brenda and her husband, Merle, have three children: Merle III, John Heather and Michael.

Jim Yates is our first student worker at Rich Mountain Community College in Mena. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and received his Master's degree in English from Arkansas State University.

The BSU III Century Fund has also helped Baptist Student Union work in new convention states. David Gilbert, an Arkansas State University alumnus, has been serving at the University of Utah in Salt Lake, and Larry Moore has served as director of the Baptist Student Union at Boise State in Idaho—a Baptist Student Union begun by Dan Robinson, a Baptist Student Union alumnus of Arkansas Tech. — **Tom Logue, director**

Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry is a concept or approach that relates to pastors and church staff, deacons, volunteer leaders and the congregation as a whole.



Holley

Shared Ministry seeks to build relationships, strengthen planning and activate church members as vital members of the body of Christ. Shared Ministry is not a new program; it is an application of the doctrine of the "priest-hood of the believer."

The concept of Shared Ministry has the potential of strengthening pastor-staff team relationships and of sharing the responsibilities and the blessings of church leadership with the congregation as a whole.

Shared Ministry conferences will be conducted in nine areas of the state during the week of Feb. 17-24. These conferences will present the concept of Shared Ministry and approaches and resources for its practical application. The conferences are planned for pastors and church staff members and are scheduled for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in each location. The locations will be as follows:

Monday: Fort Smith, Grand Avenue; Jonesboro, Walnut Street; Tuesday: Har-

Church Administration

rison, First Church; Brinkley, First Church. Wednesday: El Dorado, First Church; Hope, First Church. Thursday: North Little Rock, Park Hill; Pine Bluff, South Side; Friday: Hot Springs, First Church.

Dwayne Conner and D. G. McCoury, consultants in the Church Administration Dept., BSSB, will lead the conferences in these nine locations.

According to Joe Stackler, director of Church Administration at the Sunday School Board, "Shared Ministry is a new name for a New Testament ideal, the covenant of God's people in ministry. It's roots are in the lordship of Christ, the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers, the worth and priesthood of every soul and the servant/shepherd role of every Christian as a minister." Stackler says many churches today are finding renewal through sharing ministry. Deacons join with pastors in caring for families; church leaders give time and energy to teaching and leading their brothers and sisters in Christ; dedicated staff ministers and members equip the church for the work of ministry as the sharing or togetherness we have with God.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the potential of Shared Ministry for your church and ministry. — Robert Holley, director

Joy exploded!

Excited! Wow! Tremendous! Uplifting! These are just some of the views expressed at Joy Explo '85 held recently at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Over 1,500 young people and leaders jammed into the sanctuary for a spiritual challenge and call for commitment.



Lagrone

Tierce Green led us in praise and celebration. Rick Lineberger stirred us with an intense Bible study and Rick Ousley pointed us toward Jesus in a great challenge to produce the life that God calls us to.

There were many new features at Joy

Evangelism

Explo '85 that will be expanded and become mainstays in Joy Explo '86. There will be such things as a full half-day conference schedule for youth ministers, whether they are full-time, part-time or volunteer. Also, the conference will have a major Christian recording artist perform for the final session on Tuesday afternoon. There will be more variety and small group time. Of course, the All-State Youth Band will return for its second year.

In '86 there will be a greater emphasis on bringing in that youth who is not a part of that local fellowship of believers. Be praying about how God can use this meeting.

Super Summer registration is now open! Registration forms will be available at the State Evangelism Conference January 27-28. They will be mailed to all churches that same week. Since it will be a first-come, first-served basis, get those forms in as quickly as possible. The dates are July 14-18 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. The featured speakers for the week are Dawson MaAllister and Tierce Green. It will be a super week!

Would you like to see more young people won to the Lord? Would you like your young people memorizing Scripture instead of a "canned" approach? Would you like the youth Sunday School teachers involved in visitation and soul winning? If so, WOW Advance might just be the tool for your church! It is a process where the Sunday School teachers are trained in evangelism and then they train two young people in a 13-week on-the-job evangelism course.

The initial training session for this process will be held at the Baptist Building Feb. 11 beginning at 10 a.m. There will also be new updated WOW materials available.

— James Lagrone, associate

White Unto Harvest

Enrollment is the key to attendance. You never permanently raise attendance by working on attendance. You raise attendance by working on enrollment. When the enrollment increases, new classes are started, and visits are made on a regular basis then attendance will increase. Two pieces of material are available to help you work on enrollment.



Pike

White Unto Harvest is the name of an enrollment/attendance campaign scheduled for the spring of 1986. Although the material is undated and can be used anytime, the suggested dates are Feb. 23-March 30 (Easter Sunday).

The campaign's name is taken from the idea expressed in John 4:35. Several hundred churches used the material last year.

The material will be sold on a cost recovery basis through the department in Little Rock. Sold in pre-packaged amounts, each pack will include general promotion posters, class sign-up charts, personal commitment cards, attendance stickers, clip art and instruction sheet. Each pack will cost \$7.50 plus postage.

The campaign is part of the total effort to

Sunday School

reach 10 million persons for Sunday School by 1990. The Arkansas goal is to show a net increase of 35,000. This campaign is a choice opportunity for a church to give a fresh expression of compassion for members and prospects who need Bible study. It also provides an opportunity for a church to "stretch itself" and get a new vision of what God can do through a church that cares about people. It is a great way to build enthusiasm for your Good News America revivals. Please order your materials as soon as possible. The fields are white.

One-half of the associations in Arkansas reported a drop in Sunday School enrollment during this past year. Much of our losses stem from an inadequate understanding of who should be enrolled in Sunday School, when they should be enrolled and how long they should be left on the roll when they stop attending regularly. If any of these are a problem in your Sunday School, a new tract called "Enrolling People in Sunday School" could be helpful. The tract provides answers for the above questions. Write to the State Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203, and ask for a copy or copies of this new helpful tract. — Freddie Pike, director

CT opportunities

The Church Training Department of your state convention offers two outstanding training opportunities in the weeks ahead, one primarily for pastors, the other for youth ministers and other youth leaders.



Edge

Findley Edge, author of *The Doctrine of the Laity*, will lead the annual Baptist Doctrine Study Preview on Jan. 27 following the Tuesday afternoon session of the State Evangelism Conference. Edge is retired from the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he taught for many years. He is the author of such well-known books as *Teaching for Results*, *Helping the Teacher* and *A Quest for Vitality in Religion*. In addition

Church Training

to leading the preview of the 1986 Baptist Doctrine Study, he will speak on Tuesday at the Evangelism Conference.

Reservations for the Doctrine Study Preview must be made in advance. The registration fee (\$10) includes a copy of the text, a resource guide and the evening meal. Reservations should be made through the state Church Training Department.

Area DiscipleLife Conferences will be held in four locations Feb. 10-13. These meetings are specifically designed for youth ministers, youth Church Training leaders and other youth leaders. The conferences will be led by Wayne Jenkins, youth specialist, Church Training Department, BSSB. Participants will receive the latest information in implementing DiscipleLife Celebration, using DiscipleYouth and the latest resources in discipleship training for youth.

DiscipleLife is "anytime, anyplace" discipleship training for youth with three strategies for continuing training, discipleship-evangelism courses and special projects and studies.

Conference dates, locations and times: Monday, Jan. 10: Ft. Smith, Grand Avenue, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11: Jonesboro, Nettleton, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12: North Little Rock, Park Hill, 9-12 noon. Thursday, Jan. 13: El Dorado, West Side, 7-9 p.m.

We hope you will be a part of these conferences. Wayne Jenkins will also be available for consultations with individual churches and other leaders. He will be glad to help tailor a discipleship program to meet your specific needs. Contact the Church Training Department for more information. — Robert Holley, director

Focus, study, pray, give

Focusing a camera gives a picture with a sharp image. Focus on WMU, Feb. 9-15, 1986, provides an opportunity for the church to highlight the work of the mission organizations. Focus on WMU will help church members in understanding the importance of a strong missions education program for reaching the world for Christ.

February is not only a time to focus on the mission organizations but for planning, promoting and participating in the Home Mission Study. The theme is "Ministry: Challenge to Servanthood." The recommended dates for the Home Mission Study are Feb. 16-19, 1986.

The Home Mission Study lays the foundation for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. Participation in the Home Mission Study increases awareness of home mission needs and encourages individuals to be personally involved in ministry. As Southern Baptists are knowledgeable about home mission needs and ministries, they can pray more effectively during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions.

"How Far Love Reaches," the theme for

Woman's Missionary Union

the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 2-9, 1986, relies in part on the prayer resources of each individual. When burdened for reaching people without Christ, in the context of home missions, a commitment to prayer during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions becomes a must.

A prayer experience for home missions allows the Lord to lead in responding to meet needs and strengthen ministries. A tangible response, in addition to praying, is a gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. How far Christ's love reaches out in our land depends on the sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists.

Dimension (JFM) magazine provides resources for planning, promoting and conducting Focus on WMU, the Home Mission Study, Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Plan now to focus on the importance of missions education. Provide opportunities to participate in the Home Mission Study so that many would be able to pray more specifically and be led to give sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Providing a Home Mission study for all age levels will build a cohesive missions spirit in the church. There is an appropriate Home Mission Study for each age: *Servants Like Him* (adults), *Turning Your World Upside Down* (youth), *Wanna Be Number One?* (older children), *Servant with a Smile* (younger children). — Pat Glascock, GA/MF director.

AMAR: first year

The Amazon-Arkansas Partnership has finished its first year. God has richly blessed our efforts. Two lovely camp dormitories in Belem and Sao Luis are Arkansas contributions to reaching young people and leadership training. There is also one of the most beautiful campsites in Brazil: in Santarem. Arkansas Baptists have participated in phases of leadership training, pastors retreats, religious education emphasis, the first CWT Seminar in northern Brazil, starting new missions and associations, giving medical and dental assistance, revivals and personal witnessing.

One Arkansas volunteer stated that the greatest blessing of the trip was "meeting, working with and sharing my faith with wonderful, gracious Brazilian people. I had a real sense of obeying the Great Commission." Another who was primarily in a camp construction project said, "The greatest blessing of this trip was leading the young

Evangelism

man to Christ at the camp where we stayed."

One thousand five hundred and seventy-two (1,572) people affirmed their faith in Christ in church services and homes. One AMAR volunteer shared, "The most thrilling thing was the receptivity in the homes. I don't think I went into a home where someone was not saved.

"The man of the house was saved in the first home we visited. At the time, he was the only person in the living room. Then we had a Phillippian jailor experience; he wanted his family to be saved. They were called into the living room. All of them, with the exception of a child who was too young, were saved."

Another testimony is, "It has meant so much to my life as an opportunity to share Christ, to preach the gospel to another people. These were opportunities to share work with Brazilians, to start churches and to strengthen present work. I was a part of Bold Mission Thrust. My interpreter accepted a call to preach. He indicated our working together in this special ministry was a factor in his yielding to a call he had been avoiding for some five years."

At years end, there is no way to fail to recognize that being a blessing to Brazil has also blessed Arkansas Baptists. A constant testimony from AMAR volunteers is, "It completely changed my life."

One physician shared his experiences this way: "I saw about 100 people in their homes or on boats near by. I had the opportunity to make a minor health screening exam of about 400 other people."

— Glendon Grober, associate

Changing communities

The church in the changing community is the church whose facility is located in a community where significant population density, lifestyle, socio-economic or racial change is present. This change (taking place or already occurred) alters the very character and nature of the community in terms of norms, social traits and culture.



Washington

At least 60 percent of Southern Baptist churches and probably 70 percent of Arkansas Baptist churches could be termed "churches in changing communities."

An increasing number of churches are excitedly rediscovering their mission in light of their changing situation. They are creatively adapting structures and programs to the needs of the people within the church and present community.

Pastor, if your church is located in such a community, you can benefit from the Urban Training Conference March 31-April 2, 1986. The time of this three-day conference is from 1 p.m. Monday until noon on Wednesday. The purpose of the conference is three-fold: (1) Identify effects the

Missions

changing population are having upon churches. (2) Discuss strategies in dealing with changing communities. (3) Observe various churches in ministry outreach.

The location of the conference is the Baptist Building in Little Rock. The target group is pastors of churches on a plateau or on the decline. The cost is a \$5 registration fee plus participants own food and lodging. Registration is due by March 14, 1986. The program personnel are Richard Falang (Baptist General Convention of Texas), Ken Taylor (Home Mission Board field missionary) and myself (director of Church and Community Ministries).

Falang has worked with Texas churches of all sizes (teens as well as thousands) to help them address the realities of their present and future situations. Taylor has worked with churches around the nation in a strategy entitled PACT (Project: Assistance to Churches in Transitional Communities). He is in charge of a strategy for associations to address the challenge of the changing community. Washington has worked with churches in changing communities as a pastor, staff member, associational worker and as a demographer. — Jack Washington, church and community ministries

Good News countdown

The countdown is a very critical time before a great rocket is launched. Our scientists go through a series of checks to determine if all is go. If they find any malfunction in the system, they scratch the operation. We are in a very critical countdown time for the Good News America Revivals.



Shell

Long ago, your church voted to enter the Good News Revival. You made the decision to set it at a certain time. This probably was in cooperation with the selected date in your association. Even at this point, some of you may decide, "I want

Evangelism

to be a part of that great spiritual awakening called Good News."

Many of you prayerfully considered an evangelistic team. The preacher and singer were then selected according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Your church probably voted to invite them to come.

Many of you have been involved in the People Search. Numbers of you have given the Good News America New Testament to a multitude of homes. Many prospects for Christianity have been found your church did not know existed. Each of these are very valuable to our Lord. Jesus would even say, "I came to seek and to save those lost." Since you have found the prospects, you will begin to visit them and cultivate them. You will share your love and concern to them. You perhaps will even give your testimony of your salvation experience. You may share a model presentation or witnessing booklet to help them know Jesus.

Due to the fact prayer is the power line between the spiritual dynamos in Heaven and the spiritual transformers on earth, you are very much involved in praying. Numbers of prayer partners have been selected to join hands and hearts to pray God will give great spiritual awakening. Special prayer times and places have been set up for your families and friends to get together and pray."

You are now preparing the publicity. The Good News Revivals are being mentioned in your bulletin and mail out. Posters are being printed or ordered to display. You have noticed many expressions in the publications that have come into your hands. You soon will begin to see spots on television and billboards that display in bold letters, "Good News America—God Loves You." — Clarence Shell, director

New directions in music

We are happy to announce that Peggy Pearson is now serving as office manager and part-time associate in the Church



Pearson

Music Department. This promotion is well-deserved, after almost eight years as secretary in the department. Peggy is well-prepared to serve Arkansas Baptists effectively. She has a Master of Church Music degree in piano performance from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her leadership skills have already been demonstrated in the many conferences she has conducted in the keyboard and children's choir areas.

We are grateful to the Lord for sending Peggy Pearson our way. She is available to conduct conferences in piano skill development and in children's choir leadership on a request basis. We would prefer these conferences be conducted on an associational basis to reach the greatest number of folks and make efficient use of program dollars.

December marked the inauguration of our All-State Band Program, with 29 players from all areas of the state. Several others have already indicated an interest in next year's All-State Band.

Jim Lagrone and the Evangelism Depart-

Music

ment gave us performance time at their Youth Evangelism Conference. Glen Ennes was assisted by several ministers of music and band directors.

February is festival time for youth choirs in Arkansas. First Church, Little Rock, is the location this year for both junior and senior high festivals.

Don Stribble, minister of music at FBC, Atlanta, Texas, will direct the senior high festival, and Gregg Greenway, minister of music at FBC, Siloam Springs, will be the junior high clinician. Registration deadline for both festivals is Feb. 10.

You will be seeing the acronym MOM in much of our music promotion in the future. It stands for "Musicians on Mission," which is the overall thrust of the Music Department. We will be encouraging churches and musicians to move out of the four walls of the church building to take the gospel to people where they are through the medium of music. Arkansas musicians will be directly involved in two events very soon. These are the AMAR link-up in Brazil and the MOM Workshop and Good News Revivals in Kansas/Nebraska. — Ervin Keathley, state music secretary

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE													
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February, Baptist Seminaries, Colleges and Schools Month. Annual focus on Baptist colleges and schools owned and operated by Baptist state conventions, and on Southern Baptists' six seminaries.

February 3, State Vacation Bible School Clinic. Central Church, North Little Rock. An annual event to train associational VBS teams to lead conferences in clinics in their own associations. The State Sunday School Department sponsors the clinic and will provide Arkansas as leaders.

February 3-4, ASSIST Faculty Training. First Church, North Little Rock. An annual event, scheduled for the first time following the State VBS

registration fee is available from the state Church Training Department.

February 9, Race Relations Day. In local churches. An annual SBC-wide event to encourage better race relations. Arkansas Baptists' Christian Life Council and Cooperative Ministries Departments are local sponsors.

February 9-15, Focus on WMU. Local church event to help the congregation to evaluate their mission action ministry and focus on the WMU organization and its part in mission action leadership. Arkansas WMU is the local sponsor of this SBC-wide event.

February 10 and 11, Regional Tax Seminars. Jonesboro First Church and Pine Bluff First Church. An annual event to help pastors and church staff members understand tax options available. The Arkansas Annuity/Stewardship Department is providing a speaker from the SBC Annuity Board.

February 11, Win Our World Training Day. Baptist Building, Little Rock. New materials for WOW will be introduced to pastors and youth leaders in local churches. The state Evangelism Department is the sponsor.

February 10-13, Area DiscipleLife workshops. (10) Fort Smith, Grand Avenue Church, (11) Jonesboro, Nettleton Church, (12) North Little Rock, Park Hill, and (13) El Dorado, Westside. A periodic event to provide to youth leaders in local churches help with youth discipleship programs. The state Church Training Department co-sponsors the event with the Baptist

Sunday School Board, which will provide a leader.

February 16-19, Home Mission Study. Suggested dates for the local church to prepare for the SBC-wide Home Missions Week of Prayer in March.

February 22, Youth Choir Festival. Little Rock, First Church. Annual event for junior and senior high singers, which includes adjudication and a mass choir.

February 17-21, Area Shared Ministry Conferences. (17) Fort Smith, Grand Avenue, and Jonesboro, Walnut Street, (18) Harrison, First, and Brinkley, First, (19) El Dorado, First, and Hope, First, (20) North Little Rock, Park Hill, and Pine Bluff, South Side, (21) Hot Springs, First. A first time event to introduce Shared Ministry, a plan to help church staff, leaders and congregations work as a team.

February 23-March 30, White Unto Harvest Enrollment / Attendance Campaign. An annual campaign for local churches to increase Sunday School enrollment and attendance, sponsored by the state Sunday School Department.

February 24-25, Statewide Pastors' Retreat. Camp Paron. An annual event, sponsored by the Executive Board of the ABCS, which offers fellowship and renewal for pastors.

February 25, CWT Awareness Seminar. Baptist Building, Little Rock. A first time event to acquaint pastors and staff with Continuing Witness Training. The state Evangelism Department is the sponsor.

Next month in Arkansas: February

Clinics for the convenience of those who attend both meetings. The conference will train Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Teams to teach the "Guiding" series in associational training schools.

February 7-8, State Single Adult Conference. Olivet Church, Little Rock. Annual event for single adults and church and associational leaders of singles. Leaders will be from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department, which is a co-sponsor with the Arkansas Church Training Department. Information about the

March

March 2-9, Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering.

March 3-6, National Continuing Witness Training Seminar. Blytheville, Gosnell.

April

April 1, Church Building Conference. Baptist Building, Little Rock

April 4-8, BSU Leadership Training. Camp Paron.

April 12, Baptist Young Women Retreat. Lake Nixon, Little Rock.

April 14-15, New pastor / staff orientation. Baptist Building, Little Rock.

April 14-15, Interfaith Witness Conference. Monticello, First Church.

April 14-16, Interfaith Witness

March 11-12, Statewide Literacy Training Workshop. Pine Bluff, Harmony Association Building.

March 16-April 6, Good News America. God Loves You Revivals. **March 18-19, WMU Annual Meeting.** North Little Rock, Park Hill Church.

Associate Training. Monticello, First Church.

April 17-19, Northeast Bible Conference. Mt. Zion Association Camp

April 19, Mission Friends Leadership Training. Little Rock, Calvary Church.

April 21, Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Wynne Church.

April 22, Growth Spiral Workshop. North Little Rock, Central Church.

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

March 24, Youth Plus Workshop. Camden, First.

March 25, Youth Plus Workshop. Texarkana, Trinity.

March 31-April 2, Urban Training Conference. Baptist Building, Little Rock.

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

April 25-26, Children's Workers' Reach / Teach Retreat. Camp Paron.

April 25-26, Royal Ambassador Congress. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia.

April 25-26, Acteens Encounter. North Little Rock, Levy.

April 28-29, Key Leader Meeting. place to be announced.

Seminary Studies Program to open spring term

Master's level courses courses in the Seminary Studies Program will begin Feb. 24, 1986, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock, according to Lehman F. Webb, coordinator of the program.

Three Monday courses will be offered: "New Testament Theology" (332A), taught by Richard Stiltner, pastor of First Church, Hope, and adjunct professor of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Foundations in Christian Theology" (140), taught by Vernon Davis, associate pro-

fessor of Christian theology, Midwestern Seminary, will meet from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. "Church Administration" (41000), a telecourse led by Charles Tidwell, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will meet from 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Maurice Hurlley, retired professor of psychology, Ouachita Baptist University, will be the local facilitator for the class.

Credit for these courses is transferrable to any of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, which cooperatively sponsor the Seminary Studies Program.

Southern College schedules 1986 Homecoming

WALNUT RIDGE—Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge will hold its 1986 Homecoming festivities Feb. 21-22. The annual event will feature a Friday night concert and a Saturday schedule packed with alumni reunions and a luncheon, two basketball games and coronation of the 1986 Homecoming Queen.

The Nashville-based Andrus and Blackwood, one of the premiere groups in con-

temporary Christian music, will be in concert at the Southerland-Mabee Center on Friday, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m. Since 1977, the group has produced seven top-selling albums and had three singles at the top of the national airplay charts.

Advance tickets for the concert are on sale through the Student Development Office for \$7 general admission and \$8.50 reserved seating. Tickets will be \$8 at the door.

Sparkman church gives gift to OBU

ARKADELPHIA—First Church, Sparkman, has made a \$10,000 contribution to Ouachita Baptist University for the purpose of supplementing an already existing endowed scholarship from the church, established with a similar gift in December of 1980.

"This gift will not only help deserving young people receive an education at Ouachita for years to come, but it should help other churches give serious consideration to establishing such scholarships," said Daniel R. Grant, president of OBU.

"This action is consistent with the motion

passed by the recent meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, encouraging churches to establish tuition equalization scholarships, assisting their young people to pay the difference between private and state college tuition," said Grant.

The annual income from the endowed scholarship fund is designated for one or more Ouachita scholarships each year, giving first preference to students from First Church and next preference to other residents of the Sparkman community.

Herman Sandford is pastor of the church.

One Arkansan among new Golden Gate grads

One Arkansan was among 48 students honored by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in commencement exercises Dec. 18.

Kevin Sigsby of Paragould received a master of divinity degree from the seminary. Sigsby also is a graduate of Arkansas State University.



Sigsby

Carlos McLeod, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told the graduates their stability, passion and constancy will be ingredients in doing God's work in God's way. He reminded the class it would be ministering in a world where divorce, suicide, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse are only a few of the many problems.

Virginia executive announces retirement

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Richard M. Stephenson, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, has announced he will retire Feb. 27, 1987, after 19 years in the post, the longest tenure in Virginia Baptist history.

Stephenson became chief executive for Virginia Baptists in January 1968, coming from Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va., where he had been pastor 17 years.

The executive, who will be 65 in December 1986, met and married Noralee Mellor during his first pastorate in Fort Myers, Fla. Their two daughters are attorneys, and their son is a United States foreign service officer.

'Jubilee' to focus on farmer's spiritual and economic needs

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The first free Farm Jubilee Weekend for Christian farm families and their pastors' families will be hosted by First Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 31 - Feb. 2. Gene Garrison, host pastor, announced the church will provide meals, beginning with a dinner Friday evening, and lodging with church members through Saturday night.

The program will focus on "spiritual inspiration and economic renewal," noted Dean McHard, president of Agricultural Pioneers, Inc., an interdenominational Christian farm organization which is planning the program.

The weekend will feature singing, special music, prayer, farm family testimonies, worship, Bible teaching and preaching, accor-

ding to McHard. It also will offer seminars on various subjects related to the crisis in U.S. agriculture.

Pastoral seminars will focus on helping troubled families cope with the changes facing them, while laymen will participate in seminars led by Christian agricultural leaders from throughout the nation. Major areas of discussion will focus on "Coping with Change," "Agricultural Production Strategies" and "Inventions, Innovations and Marketing," McHard explained.

McHard also added activities are planned for younger family members. Youth seminars will focus on planning for an agricultural education and adapting to changing family situations.

Owen Cooper, a Yazoo City, Miss., agri-

culturalist who is founding president of Mississippi Chemical Corporation and a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will address the meeting on Saturday evening and bring a sermon during the televised Sunday morning worship service at First Church.

McHard noted the weekend is offered at no charge to those participating. He also explained participants would be given opportunities to donate cash, farm equipment or volunteer labor to assist agricultural missions in the Third World. A group of farmers who recently spent a week in Honduras will share their testimony.

For more information or to make reservations, interested farmers and pastors may contact First Church at (405)232-4255.

Bible called foundation of Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In response to continuing interest of Southern Baptists in the place of biblical authority in the work of the Sunday School Board, President Lloyd Elder said the Bible has been and will continue to be the foundation of everything the board does.

"The Sunday School Board is a Bible board, a special kind of educational board," Elder said during a Jan. 6 consultation on biblical authority attended by BSSB employees. "I do not believe the expectation of us as a Bible board will or ever should go away."

Elder emphasized he has found a high view of Scripture—which he described as biblical conservatism—reflected in employees' work throughout the institution. "I stand in awe at the phenomenally consistent quality of work by our editors," he said.

James Williams, associate to the president, said the purpose of the one-day consultation was to enhance understanding of the place of the "Baptist Faith and Message" in the work of the board, identify key theological concerns facing Southern Baptists and evaluate principles of biblical interpretation including guidelines for board literature. Also, employees could receive counsel from the board president in dealing with questions related to biblical authority, Williams said.

Also during the consultation, reports were

given on efforts to implement a guideline adopted by the board's trustees in August 1985 urging "special care in determining the biblical and doctrinal commitment of writers by carefully reviewing their published works, their public statements and their personal testimony."

Persons under consideration as writers are being asked to provide information about their beliefs and their writings and recommendations are being sought about potential writers, according to reports from several managers.

Elder said "enlisting writers is one of the most profound ways editors guide the board in meeting its editorial accountabilities for what is published."

He added, "Our ability to publish quality literature for churches is made possible by the commitment of the hundreds of Baptists who write for our publications each year."

Questions directed to the board related to the "Baptist Faith and Message" most often deal with the statement's preamble and Article I on Holy Scripture, Elder noted.

In applying Article I, Bill Stephens said the Bible must be approached with a sense of awe, wonder and anticipation as God's authoritative revelation and with a conviction that the canon is complete and correct.

Stephens, curriculum development coordinator in the church training department, also noted that editors should affirm the role

of the Holy Spirit in interpreting Scripture and should "probe biblical truths by using every available resource plus a believing heart."

In biblical interpretation, Bob Dean said editors and writers should deal with four questions: What does the Bible passage say? What did it mean to the author and the first reader? What abiding truths does it teach? How does it apply to our lives?

Noting that the medium of church literature is not face-to-face communication but "cold print" where it is easy to be misunderstood, Dean, editorial and curricular specialist in the office of church programs and services, suggested several guidelines in writing and editing.

First, he said materials should affirm basic Christian and Baptist beliefs and deal factually and fairly with issues about which there are genuine differences of opinion.

"Avoid anything that could appear to cast doubt on the truth of Scripture," he said. "Deal with diversity of Scripture in such a way as to affirm the unity of Scripture."

Follow an educational approach to change, Dean suggested. Leave people room to find and hold their own views. Also, he urged extra effort to study manuscripts for any writing that is unclear and could be misunderstood. Present unusual interpretations of Scripture in the context of traditional views, he said.

Baptists called to practice beliefs about unsaved, Hell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists believe that lost people are going to Hell, but they are not living out the conviction by making soulwinning a priority, three Southern Baptists leaders say.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department; Harry Piland, director of the BSSB Sunday school department, and Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board, decided to speak out after they met together for planning, discussions and prayer. They said they have agreed to increase cooperative efforts to lift up the concerns of a lost and hurting nation in need of the gospel.

"We are just about 18 inches, the distance from the head to the heart, from winning a lost world to Christ," said Edgemon. "If we could get in our hearts what we know is true theologically—that people who are lost are going to Hell and are separated from God—our people and churches would be penetrating society with the good news of salvation in Christ."

Hamblin said churches are spending so much time and energy ministering to their own people that they have neither the time nor the inclination to be concerned about the needs of people who are not Christians. "We find a lot of satisfaction in ministering to ourselves and are not penetrating the

world as we should," he said.

Piland said many churches growing numerically may be believe they are evangelizing lost people when, in fact, they are almost exclusively gaining members from other churches.

For example, he cited 1984 baptisms of 372,028. Of that number, he said approximately 199,000 were persons under 17, which primarily would represent conversions of children of church members, or biological growth. Of the remaining 173,000, between 40-55,000 were persons baptized from other denominations, leaving 124-140,000 persons reached from non-Christian homes by a denomination of 14-million members, he said.

The three outlined their concerns and announced their greater commitment to greater cooperation at a time Southern Baptists are launching a five-year effort to train one million Sunday school workers to witness and final preparations are under way for Good News America simultaneous revivals in March and April.

They emphasized their belief that more Baptists need to grasp the "awfulness" of being condemned to separation from a loving God for eternity. This awareness will create a compassion for the lost and will motivate individuals and churches to make evangelism their top priority, they said.

Piland said, "We may rush to the aid of

persons trapped in fires or injured in accidents, but, at the same time, our next door neighbors do not know Christ as their Savior," said Piland. "We live as if we believe these persons are not going to Hell."

To lead church members to a greater awareness of the needs of unsaved persons, Hamblin urged pastors to emphasize the concern in their sermons. "We need to talk about the consequences of sin and lead people to get under the burden of the love of Christ for lost people," he said.

Edgemon urged increased emphasis on training people to witness, including use of the church training module, Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism.

"I never met anyone I could not train to witness, to share their faith and use a marked New Testament to show the plan of salvation if they were willing to do it," he said.

Also, churches which make evangelism their priority cannot be easily damaged or destroyed by dissension, Edgemon noted. "If churches would center on winning people to Christ, they would see spinoffs in stronger relationships, stewardship and missions support," he added.

"Our inability to become obsessed with the loss of the lost... is eating the heart out of our convention," said Piland. "At the same time, I believe we can turn things around and win our nation to Christ."

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Bishop Tutu predicts end to apartheid

by Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—Bishop Desmond Tutu predicted an end to the South African system of apartheid during a Jan. 8 address at the New Bethel Church in Washington. "We're going to be free," Tutu declared. "There's no doubt about it. We don't talk about it, but when. We will link arms with God and walk out of bondage."

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who visited the United States to raise support and financial assistance for anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa, thanked the overflow crowd gathered at the Washington church "on behalf of millions for your love, caring, commitment to justice and peace."

He emphasized the importance of Americans protesting apartheid during the past year. Because of those actions, he added, the world has "seen history being made in months."

Tutu recounted how surprised he was to find so little coverage of South Africa in the American press prior to his 1984 United States visit. He recalled wondering why there was so much media interest in one missing priest in Poland and yet so little mention of the scores of those murdered in South Africa.

After alluding to the radical changes that took place following that visit, Tutu broke into a long peal of laughter.

"I came in 1984," he said, "and God said, 'I run this world. I'm in charge.' I said, 'Why don't you make it a little more obvious?'" "Many people had been trying to get others interested in South Africa. God said in his time," Tutu pointed to 1984 as the

beginning of that time. He mentioned events including Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign, the South African riots, his Nobel Prize and American protests.

"We are now part of the victory movement," he declared. "We are not boasting. We are just saying, 'You have lost. You can't take on God and hope to win.'"

"In South Africa we know when the rubber bullets come, the police dogs, detention, torture, death, we can say, 'Ha-ha!'"

Tutu said he would say to white people in South Africa, "Why don't you join us and be what you are, our sisters and brothers?" He added he can hardly wait to see jailed activist Nelson Mandela sitting in the same office with South African President Botha.

"God is striding ahead of us," Tutu explained in conclusion. "He is a liberator God. He takes side with the weak and oppressed, the hungry and the homeless."

While Tutu addressed the Washington church, the congregation's pastor, Walter Fauntroy, was on a fact-finding mission in South Africa. Fauntroy, who also is the non-voting congressional delegate from the District of Columbia, accompanied five other U.S. congressmen on a tour of various sites in that country.

Fauntroy and Rep. William H. Gray III, D-Pa., who also is a Baptist minister, preached sermons to a congregation in a mixed-race ghetto outside Cape Town.

Kathy Palen writes for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

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High court to refine limits of free exercise of religion

WASHINGTON (BP)—After hearing oral arguments in two church-state cases, the U.S. Supreme Court appears ready to refine further the constitutional balance between the free exercise of religion and the government's need to regulate the military and the Social Security system.

In one dispute, an Air Force captain who is a practicing Orthodox Jew, tried to convince the high court justices in oral arguments Jan. 14 that his right to exercise the longstanding Orthodox practice of wearing a yarmulke—or skull cap—while on duty as a psychologist in a military hospital outweighs the military's need to enforce its uniform regulations.

Simcha Goldman, who wore the skull cap on duty for four years before being instructed to remove it, argued through his attorney, Nathan Lewin, of Washington, that accommodation of religious freedom rights of military personnel should be protected in much the same way as are those of civilians. But Lewin ran into a barrage of pointed questions from several of the justices, including William H. Rehnquist, who lectured the at-

torney that previous cases testing free exercise applied only to civilians.

Lewin countered that in some previous cases on other claimed rights by military personnel, the court has ruled that the Bill of Rights protects them as well as civilians.

But Lewin also ran into tough questioning from William J. Brennan Jr., the court's senior member, whose libertarian views often contrast with those of the conservative Rehnquist. Brennan wanted to know if the military might have to make further exceptions to its uniform regulations if adherents of other sects whose headdress is more elaborate and conspicuous claimed the same right. Lewin admitted that much of his case was built on the fact that the yarmulke is an inconspicuous religious adornment.

Making the government's case, Justice Department attorney Kathryn A. Oberly noted that the number of military personnel seeking exemptions from uniform regulations for religious purposes is "constantly growing." She argued that while she was not suggesting the court should "abdicate to (the military's) judgment" Pentagon officials

nevertheless have the obligation to preserve military discipline and morale.

In the other case, the court heard Justice Department deputy solicitor general Kenneth S. Geller, argue that the family of a five-year-old American Indian girl is not entitled to the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program or to food stamps because the child's father refuses to allow her Social Security number to be used for identification purposes.

Geller said the "integrity" of the Social Security system would be at stake if individual citizens who claim religious exemptions are allowed not to participate.

Stephen J. Roy, father of the child, Little Bird of the Snow, argued through attorney Gary S. Gildin, of Carlisle, Penn., that the government has not been able to prove exempting his daughter would cripple the system. In the absence of such "compelling governmental interest," Gildin argued, the state must respect free exercise of religion.

The cases are expected to be decided before the end of the high court's current term in early July.

Supreme Court rejects Church of Christ property dispute

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two elders in a local Church of Christ dispute over control of church property lost their final legal appeal Jan. 13, when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear arguments that they—not the entire congregation—have authority to decide who their minister and elders will be.

Mannie Black and Moses Williams, elders of the Liberty City (Fla.) Church of Christ, argued throughout their two-year legal bat-

tle in state courts and in two appeals to the nation's high court that they possessed sole authority to hire and fire a minister and to control the congregation's purse strings.

When they sought to dismiss their minister, Freeman T. Wyche, the congregation rebelled, voting to retain him and to discharge instead the two trustees.

Black and Williams then sought relief at trial, contending Church of Christ doctrine

vests such authority in the elders, not in the whole congregation. But Wyche disputed that claim, arguing church polity is congregational, leaving final decisions to the body.

After the trial court ordered a new vote to decide the dispute finally, the congregation once more voted to retain Wyche and discharge the trustees. A Florida appeals panel affirmed the vote. It was that ruling Black and Williams unsuccessfully appealed.



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Rumors of pending resignation untrue, Criswell says

DALLAS (BP)—W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, announced in a Jan. 5 sermon that he is praying for a young preacher to "come serve alongside" him and ultimately to succeed him as pastor of the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Criswell also said a new executive administrator had been hired to assume the church's programming responsibilities in the near future.

Coming in the same sermon, the two announcements resulted in some confusion and unfounded speculation the 76-year-old pastor is preparing to retire and that the new administrator was intended as future pastor.

However, in a telephone interview with Baptist Press Jan. 7, Criswell denied he is making any immediate plans to retire and explained the administrative post is unrelated to the co-pastor's position.

"They are two different things altogether," he said. The executive administrator's slot is an already-existing position, previously held by Tom Melzoni, who left to become pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Criswell said the future executive administrator currently is a minister of music in another state. The administrator asked that his name not be released until after Jan. 19 in order to provide him time to resign and make arrangements to leave his church.

The proposed "fellow pastor" will occupy a new position, sharing the pulpit with the pastor until "my time comes," said Criswell. He said he hopes to follow the biblical model of Moses preparing Joshua, Elijah raising up Elisha and Paul training Timothy.

"I would love for us to have a man to come here to be with me and serve alongside me so that when my time comes,

he might carry on—that there might be no hiatus, no break in continuity," Criswell said. "I think that would be the most marvelous thing for our church and its ministry."

He said he will ask First Church to set up a pastor search committee to find the man to work with him and share the pulpit.

For two years, leading Southern Baptist pastors have preached the Sunday evening services at First Church. Criswell said he had hoped that one of the preachers would stand out as being especially well-received by the church, but no one emerged as their clear choice.

Criswell said none of the men would be eliminated from consideration by the committee, nor would Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, fail to be considered.

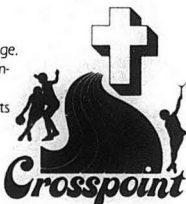
"Once the committee is appointed and they begin to pray, seeking God's guidance, any man to whom they are led could be considered by them, and he (Patterson) is certainly one of them," he said.

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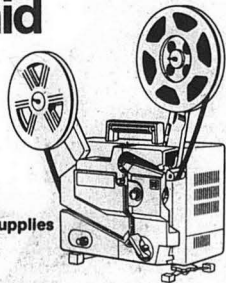
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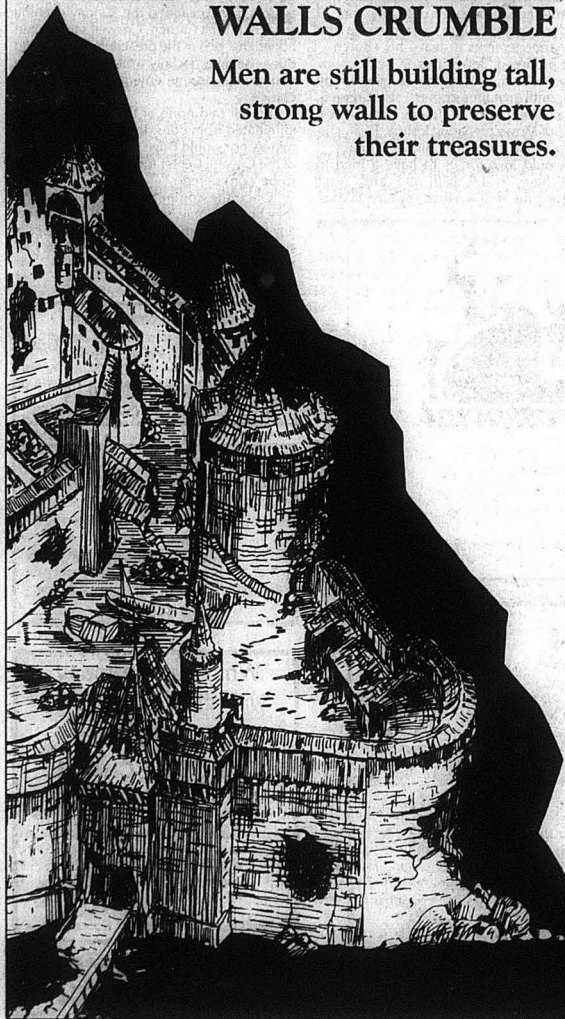
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International

Be forgiving

by Nan Ashcraft, Hurricane Lake Church, Benton

Basic passage: Matthew 18:21-35; John 8:2-11

Focal passage: Matthew 18:21-35

Central truth: The forgiving nature of God calls us to be forgiving toward others.

"Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?" This was Peter's question of Jesus. The rabbis were agreed on three times, a generous number in light of common practice in that day, which was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

Peter inferred by Jesus' answer that forgiveness is without limits. Jesus continued his teaching by a parable which compared the kingdom of God to an earthly king settling accounts with his servants. It illustrates the enormity of our debt to God, and his faithfulness to forgive that debt.

Because of our personal relationship to God, we know him to be merciful and forgiving. His forgiving nature calls us to be forgiving to others. We understand the parable to illustrate that forgiveness from God is not a possibility if we do not, from the heart, forgive others. His forgiving nature is to be our nature.

The unforgiving servant was a recipient of extravagant mercy and forgiveness, yet by his inconsistency in attitude toward forgiveness, he proved himself unworthy to receive forgiveness. He showed lack of understanding of the seriousness of his indebtedness.

The king was justifiably angry with his servant, who had not learned the vital importance of forgiving others. The parable makes clear that unforgiving persons will be treated without mercy.

The Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus who had been taken in the act of adultery. They wanted to trap him. They thought that whatever his response, they would have something with which to accuse him. Instead, Jesus forgave the woman while exposing his evil, unforgiving hearts.

Forgiveness is to be our attitude. It is always rewarding, though often serious, difficult work. Forgiveness is not synonymous with forgetting, as the cliché claims, but has been called "redemptive remembering."

In Jesus' parable is a warning word to all: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" (Matt. 18:35).

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Life and Work

Overcome all barriers

by C. Michael Anders, First Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: Matthew 8:1-13

Focal passage: Matthew 8:5-13

Central truth: All people, regardless of background, may enter the kingdom of God through faith in Christ.

The story of the healing of the centurion's servant reminds us of the universal nature of God's love. This incident foreshadowed the coming spread of the gospel beyond the barriers of race and nationality.

(1) No outward quality can prevent entry into the kingdom of God.

The Jewish leaders had consistently refused to hear God leading them to share their faith with all nations. Their nationalism and racial pride had led them to view God as their private possession. Jesus came to tear down the many barriers men had built to separate men from God.

We must be careful today to make sure we are following Christ in tearing barriers down rather than building them. Our attitudes toward those of other races, of other language groups or of other social classes may hinder our ability to share the gospel with them. We must constantly examine ourselves and our churches to make sure that we let no outward quality hinder a person from coming to God's universal love.

(2) No outward quality can guarantee membership in God's kingdom.

Jesus makes it clear in verses 11 and 12 that the Jews who were counting on their physical heritage for entry into God's kingdom would find themselves in outer darkness instead. Citizenship in God's kingdom is determined by the humble response of faith rather than by one's color, sex, race or nationality. God is not only color-blind; he is also race-blind, sex-blind and nationality-blind. God is no respecter of persons. Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

God looks to the response of the heart rather than to any outward circumstances. While those religious people around him saw only a Gentile centurion, Jesus saw deeply into the man's heart and commented, "I have not found such faith with anyone in Israel."

Outward qualities can neither prevent nor guarantee our salvation. Only our faith matters to God.

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Bible Book

Warnings and admonitions

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Focal passage: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Central truth: The good minister of Jesus Christ continues to warn his people about false doctrine.

Great apostasy will come one day to the world. The shadow of this falling away from the faith was beginning to be cast in Paul's day. That which was only a shadow is becoming a reality today. Religious deception and denial of truth are filling the earth.

It is important that God's people know the wiles and ways of the enemy. Satan sears the consciences of certain people so that they have no feelings of right and wrong. These hypocritical liars become the puppets of Satan, spreading his poison and false doctrine.

Satan has an evil doctrine for every truth of God. Sometimes his method is to lead people to abuse a wonderful thing that God has created. Adultery is an abuse of the marital sexual relationship. Gluttony is an abuse of the human appetite for food. Satan has an abuse for every blessing and privilege of life.

The lie that the Devil put in the mouths of these false teachers was not a teaching that would lead to the abuse of a privilege but a denial of the use of that which God calls good. They taught that marriage was evil and that certain foods were not to be eaten. To them, religion was a matter of refraining from marriage and abstaining from eating certain foods.

It is vastly important that we know and teach God does not accept us or reject us on the basis of our marital status or our diet. He accepts us on the basis of our faith in Jesus Christ alone.

The good minister of Jesus Christ warns his people about the false doctrine. He magnifies the Bible in his ministry. Proper attention is given to the public reading of the Scriptures. Power, healing and salvation are found in the words of the Bible. God's man must not be intimidated because of his age, if he is young, by those who oppose the truth or by anything else. If God has called him, gifted him and trained him for service, he has all the credentials he needs. As a good soldier, he is to defend the faith.

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Ecumenical Lecture Series enters 21st season

The 21st season of the Ecumenical Lecture Series will feature three speakers during the months of January, February and March.

Mother Tessa Bielecki, co-founder of a Roman Catholic contemplative community in Colorado, will speak on "The Cry of the Heart," a reflection on the nature of prayer, at 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30, at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. She has led a life of solitude and silence at the community for nearly 20 years.

Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz, professor of education and Jewish religious thought at the New York School of Hebrew Union College, will address the topic, "The Dilemma

of Contemporary Jewish Ethics" at 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13, also at Second Presbyterian Church.

James W. Fowler, professor of theology and human development at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga., will speak on "God's Work and Our Vocations." His presentation will be made at Christ the King Church in Little Rock, Thursday, March 6, at 8 p.m.

Ticket information may be obtained from the Ecumenical Lecture Series, 14 River Ridge Rd., Little Rock, AR 72207; telephone 227-0256 or 225-4631.

Youth ministers meet throughout country

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Hundreds of youth ministers gathered in more than 70 locations Monday, Jan. 13, for the first Youth Ministry Live Teleconference on BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network).

Richard Ross, youth ministry coordinator in the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, was host for the evening teleconference, which featured Merton Strommen, founder of Search Institute, Minneapolis, Minn., and a leading researcher on the Christian beliefs of young people.

Strommen opened the program by presenting some personal insights to the youth ministers regarding current social trends which should affect methods of ministering to youth.

After the initial remarks, approximately 40 minutes of the one-hour teleconference was devoted to 32 questions asked in from youth ministers viewing the program.

Questions dealt with the age of youth ministers, stereotypes faced in their ministry, available resources, serious problems and confidentiality, the role of women and strategies for dealing with drugs.

One of the most significant areas of discussion related to involving parents of youth in the work of youth ministers. Ross said many youth ministers in the denomination are expanding their ministries to include parents because of evidence of increased effectiveness.

At Greensboro, N.C., out of a group of approximately 100, 40 were parents of youth in the church. Some of the discussion in the teleconference centered on what parents can do to help youth ministers work with youth. One of the options suggested was parent training sessions to increase support for youth ministry.

Ross said he believes the teleconference represented one of the largest gatherings of youth ministers, although exact participation is not known. He said several youth ministers wrote to him prior to the teleconference to indicate they would have groups par-

ticipating in the teleconference. From those letters, Ross said there would be at least 1,100 persons viewing the conference. When questions were called in, several other large groups were reported.

The trends reported by Strommen included an increased secularization of society, in which families rarely talk about God or religion in the home. He said except for Southern Baptists, there is a general decline in Sunday school attendance by youth throughout the United States.

Strommen also addressed the problem of youth and the lifestyles they practice today, especially those related to drug and alcohol abuse. He said in the 60s and 70s drug abuse by young people decreased at least 20 times while marijuana use increased 30 times. In the last 25 years, Strommen said suicides by young people have tripled.

Other trends Strommen discussed were the changing role of women, growth in minority populations, changes in the nature of the family and an epidemic increase in the number of hurting people.

Strommen closed by offering a trend of encouragement for the youth ministers. He said there was increasing evidence today of a growing interest in religion by youth. Strommen challenged the youth ministers by saying they did not "have the luxury of carrying on business as usual," noting the trends he has discovered call for action from concerned adults and youth ministers.

At the end of the session, Ross said youth ministers have "a unique calling. A lot of adults have committed a significant portion of their lives to ministering to youth. All of society is watching to see what will happen to today's teenagers."

States which were represented by callers included South Carolina, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Maryland and Oklahoma. Ross said other states also had groups participating in the teleconference.

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