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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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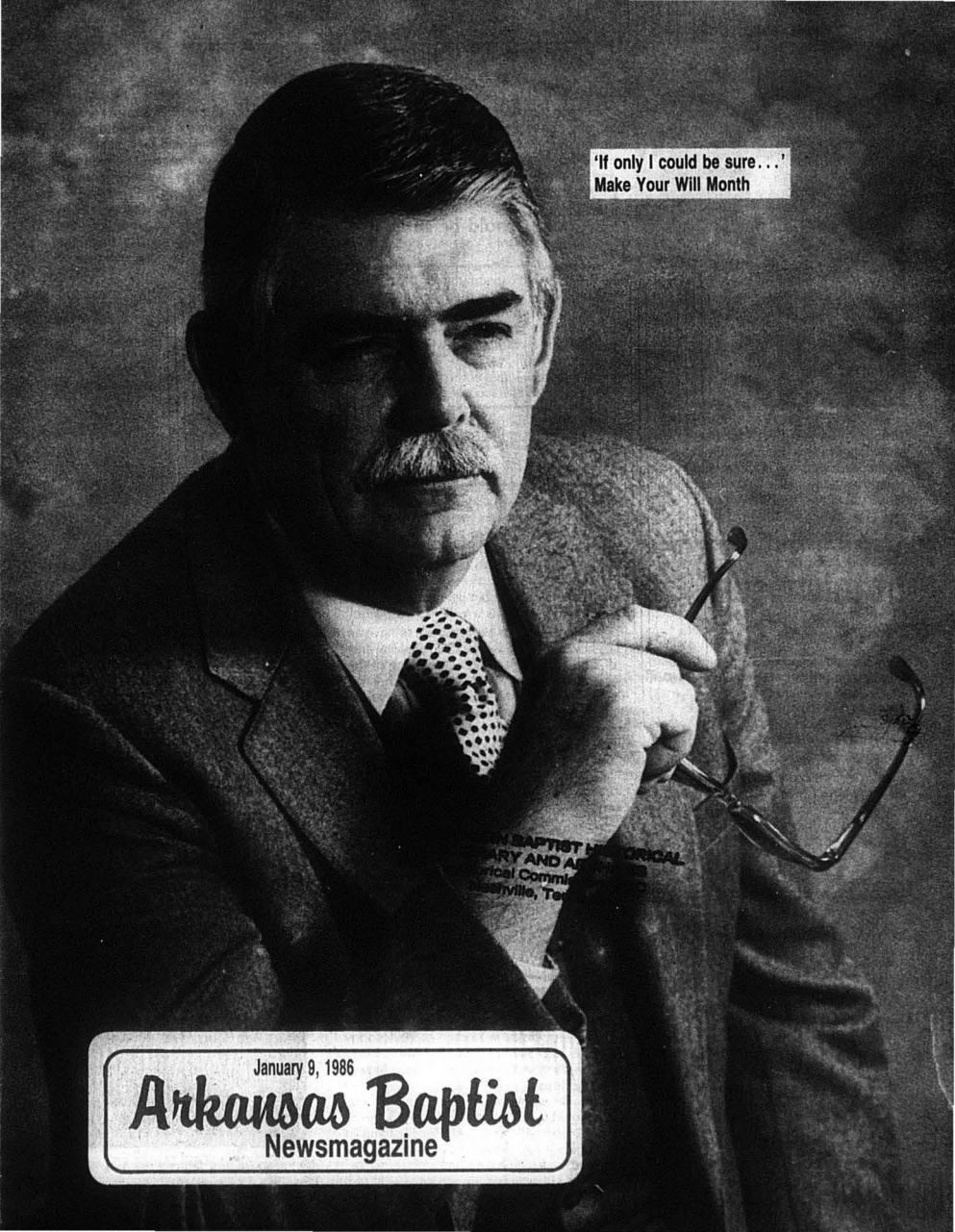
January 9, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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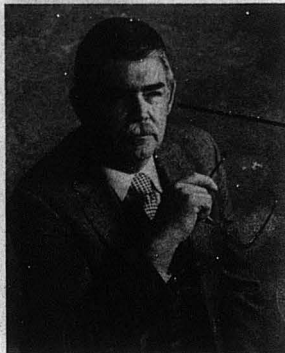


'If only I could be sure...'
Make Your Will Month

ARKANSAS BAPTIST MEDICAL
CLINIC
HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE
CLINICAL COMMUNITY CENTER
FAYETTEVILLE, TEXAS

January 9, 1986

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Little Rock layman Dr. James Sawyer knows providing properly for his family is a serious matter. Making a will is an essential first step to ensuring the well-being of one's family. January is Make Your Will Month.

Dealing with the stress of uncertainty

by Harry D. Trulove

If only I could be sure...
Deep in the heart of every Christian is the longing for assurance that, should death occur, those loved ones left behind will be cared for properly. Christian causes loved and supported during life will be adequate-

If only I could be sure...

ly funded and accumulated possessions always will be used as the Father intended.

Yet, in spite of this yearning, only three persons out of 10 take the basic step of estate planning, the writing of a will. Going one step further, only two of the 10 who do have a will take advantage of the various options the law provides for conserving the estate.

I can be sure!

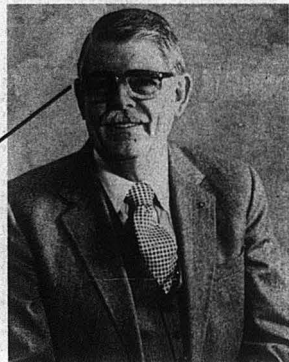
For those who do plan their estates, there is a joy and peace. A recent study revealed that people who have a will tend to live longer than those who die intestate (without a will). This peace also extends to the family. An article in *Money Management* magazine indicated family quarrels are less likely where there is a will.

Arkansas Baptists are fortunate to have an agency to provide assistance in this vital area of Christian stewardship. Larry Page of the Foundation staff is well-trained in Christian estate planning. Members of the development staff of our various institutions and agencies are kept informed by the Foundation office of the various tax laws and techni-

ques available. An up-to-date library and continuing educational seminars are resources for keeping the staff well-informed. Any of the persons will be pleased to become a member of your estate planning team. This service is without cost or obligation.

Do you want the assurance that your plans will be continued beyond your lifetime? Then talk with your attorney and invite the

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Foundation staff to become a member of your estate planning team. The address is Arkansas Baptist Foundation, Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone: 376-0732, 376-4791

Harry D. Trulove is president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

In this issue

7 new graduates

Seventeen Arkansans are among December graduates from three of six Southern Baptist theological seminaries.

9 rightful claims

Six boxes of property deeds held by the Foreign Mission Board since missionaries were expelled from China three decades ago may help Chinese Christians press their claims for the return of church property nationalized by the government in 1949.

Arkansas couple appointed to HMB assignment

James and Sandra Browning have been appointed to assignments by the personnel committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Browning, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, will serve as regional director of interfaith witness. He has been pastor of Blue Ridge Church, Marlin, Texas, since 1981. Prior to that, he was acting news director for KXAR Radio in Hope and was a writer for the Ouachita Baptist University news bureau in Arkadelphia.

Browning is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and holds a doctor of philosophy degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Browning of Hope.

Mrs. Browning, a native of Camden, was appointed for church and family work by the board. She will serve with her husband in the midwest and southwest regions of the United States.



Sandra and James Browning



One of the highlights of any year is an evangelism conference, which this year promises to be truly outstanding. The program will be one of inspiration, evangelistic methodology and enrichment for everyone. Director of Evangelism Clarence Shell seeks to provide a balance between inspiration and methodology. This year's conference will be a joint venture between the three National Baptist conventions and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Evangelism conferences have been a major factor in developing Southern Baptists into the fastest-growing major denomination in the world. This year's conference is particularly crucial with the simultaneous revivals, "Good News America: God Loves You," at hand. If church leadership utilizes proper evangelistic methods and has the enthusiasm to carry them out, 1986 will be a banner year in baptisms.

It is particularly fitting that the 1986 Evangelism Conference will involve all three of the black Baptist conventions, as well as Southern Baptists. Both black and white Baptists have a great deal which they should share with each other. National Baptist work across the years has been marked by great enthusiasm and outstanding preaching. Southern Baptists have the organization and methodology to share with their black neighbors.

Evangelism Director Shell has three goals he hopes to accomplish through the Evangelism Conference. First, he hopes to encourage every church in Arkansas to have a "Good News America: God Loves You" revival. Simultaneous revivals always result in increased baptisms. In order to accomplish maximum results, it is essential to conduct a prospect survey. If the People Search and Scripture distribution did not take place in the fall of 1985, they should be completed immediately. In most church revivals, people are won to the Lord through personal evangelism. The distribution of the Bibles or Scripture portions also will help to confront people with God's saving grace.

Shell hopes every church has already scheduled its evangelist and music director. If not, it should do so immediately. Churches are being asked to schedule eight-day revivals, as statistics from the Home Mission Board show the longer revivals produce more conversions.

Second, Shell hopes to break the baptismal record of 1950. In 1950, 16,357 people were baptized in Arkansas. The population of Arkansas is greater and the number of lost people has increased substantially. The record will be broken as each church

accepts its responsibility under God.

Finally, our evangelism director wants to encourage churches to involve those baptized in the work of the local church. To him, total evangelism involves every aspect of the Great Commission. Shell says this means, "making disciples, marking disciples (baptism) and maturing disciples."

Each of us should pray that our new year which has just begun will be even greater than the past. Nothing stands still; we must reach the lost for Christ if we are to please God. Someone has said, "We are always just one generation away from having a totally heaven world." This points up the challenge for each of us. The Evangelism Conference should provide a time of refreshing, renewal and rededication for us all.

Great evangelism conferences don't just happen. Shell continually seeks to find the needs of our churches and to provide methods and encouragement to meet them.

Shell does not desire to dictate the methods used by local churches. He said, "I am not trying to tell you what to do, but we do want to help you do what God wants you to do."

This year's Evangelism Conference will feature a number of outstanding speakers. Jack Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Convention is one of the anchor speakers. Dr. Johnson has had extensive experience both as a pastor and in denominational activities. Johnson is noted for providing help for preachers.

Another speaker that will provide significant help is Robert Lee Hamblin, who is vice president of the Home Mission Board in charge of evangelism. Dr. Hamblin is a noted speaker and author.

Everyone also will want to hear Findley B. Edge. Dr. Edge, senior professor of Christian Education, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., is perhaps best known for his book, *The Greening of the Church*. Edge will participate in the Evangelism Conference as a joint activity of the Church Training and Evangelism Departments. He is the author of the doctrinal study for 1986, entitled *The Doctrine of the Laity*. Edge is sure to present both information and inspiration that will help those who are in attendance. A host of other Southern and National Baptist pastors and evangelists will appear on the conference program.

Each of us will want to plan to attend the Arkansas Baptist State Evangelism Conference which meets at the Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Jan. 27-28. It will be a great learning and motivational opportunity.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 2

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

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Kelley's response

In response to Mr. David A. Masterson's question (letters, Jan. 2, p.5), I would thank him for giving me an opportunity to say that Scripture is the standard and authority by which all our beliefs, interpretations and presuppositions are to be tested. There is no higher standard and there never can be. This means that the pastor and teacher must make the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments an object of daily meditation and study. I am troubled when I encounter someone who defends the Bible but never really studies it.

An example of where I come out in my approach to Bible study can be seen in the current issue of "The Adult Teacher" in the Life and Work series. Examine this and decide for yourself if I have imposed my value judgment on the Scripture or if I have been willing to submit my value judgments to the light that comes from the Scriptures. It is better for critics of our seminary teachers to make specific and concrete criticisms rather than to deal in abstractions. You can crucify anyone with abstractions.

I am writing in an effort to assure Mr. Masterson that I Timothy 3:16 is still my guideline for Bible Study. I am not a proponent of what he calls "negative higher criticism." I never have been and hope I never shall be. — **Page H. Kelley, Louisville, Ky.**

Snakes?

I was disurbed to read about the meeting in Jacksonville, Fla. concerning the election of our next SBC president, and the possibility that this kind of activity is present in Arkansas. It appears the leaders of this meeting have little if any regard for the individual spirituality and freedom of their church members.

I believe these men, in pursuing a cause, have overlooked some important principles of the New Testament and the Baptist Faith and Message. There was a group in the New Testament who thought they had the last word on spiritual matters. They were called the "Pharisees" and, ironically, John referred to them by the same name (snakes) these men now call the "liberals."

I've been a Southern Baptist for 17 years and I'm ashamed and apologetic for these

tactics. Surely some way can be found to conduct political activity without setting aside individual freedom, an important tenet on which our nation and our convention were founded. — **Sheldon Richardson, Camden**

Burdens for peace

Like most of the messengers at Dallas, I left encouraged with the appointment of a peace committee and the pleadings and promises of our leaders from both sides not to say or do anything that would harm the momentum of peace. I believe this has been accomplished.

However, the old rhetoric seems to be heating up. In November's issue of *SBC Today*, Robison B. James charges that "militant inerrantists are heretics." In the December issue, Cecil Sherman brings charges that the "new Baptists" are after "a college and seminary to indoctrinate." He characterizes the Criswell and Mid-America seminary faculties as "Baptist... with a particular set of mind."

The name calling is just as bad on the other side. In the meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., Harold Hunter is quoted as saying, "Liberals are mean as snakes... Anybody who'll deny the Word of God doesn't even know God." In the same article, Homer Lindsay Jr. leaves the impression that anyone who does not cast the same ballot as he casts is not in the will of God.

I believe Arkansas Baptists will agree that these comments and the spirit in which they were given are unfortunate and not helpful to the peace process. Each smacks of political maneuvering, insensitivity for the work of the peace effort and moral inconsistency by men who preach peace but breathe war. Statements such as those quoted and the Crowder lawsuit bring with them burdens for the Peace Committee.

My prayer is fourfold. That we, first, continue to pray for our denomination, its officers and the Peace Committee. Second, refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric and speak only to edify. Third, to not allow ourselves, and discourage others from becoming involved in, any type of political activity (of the right or the left) where things said or done could harm the peace process. Fourth, to not allow ourselves to be bullied

by politicians from either side, but pray constantly, consistently and confidently that the Holy Spirit will lead each of us, individually and independently, to be instruments of reconciliation. — **Ray Meador, Judsonia**

Where are the prophets?

A much-used and over-worked word with some preachers of today is the word, "share." Some brethren begin their message with the announcement they want to "share" something with the folks. This usually means that the preacher is going to make some mild, meaningless, ministerial moralizations, hoping no one will be offended.

Imagine Elijah, Jeremiah, Nathan or Amos coming to Israel with the announcement they wish to "share" a message with the folks! Try to visualize John the Baptist, Simon Peter or the Apostle Paul starting off with an announcement they want to "share" a message with the people.

When the preacher announces his intention to "share" a message with the people, it reflects poor preparation, hesitation, a tentative and apologetic attitude. Paul the Apostle asks, "If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for the battle?" The Apostle also warned of a time when folks would not endure sound Bible preaching, but turn their itching ears to teachers who would preach what would be pleasing to them.

Some of today's brethren are the spiritual counterparts of Neville Chamberlain, England's prime minister who sowed the seeds of World War II by compromise with Hitler. Where are the bold prophets and reformers of yesteryear? Where is there a Luther, Knox, Whitfield, Calvin, B.H. Carroll, Truett or Jonathan Edwards?

John R. Stott in his book, *Preaching in the 20th Century*, observes that we live in the age of the sermonette that produces "Christianettes" and weak churches. May the Lord raise up a generation of bold, Spirit-filled preachers who will come with a message from God saying, "Hear the word of the Lord!" We will have stronger churches and real revivals when we return to the business of declaring the whole counsel of God, no matter what the cost! — **Walter H. Watts, Ft. Smith**

Church Music Workshop slated at Ouachita Baptist University

ARKADELPHIA—The 17th annual Church Music Workshop at Ouachita Baptist University will be held Feb. 20-21, 1986, at OBU's Mabee Fine Arts Center.

The workshop will feature sessions on choral techniques, children's choirs, instrumental music and new choral music. A special performance will be given by OBU instrumental and vocal ensembles on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Rectal Hall of

Mabee Fine Arts Center. Preceding the music program, workshop participants will attend a banquet in Evans Student Center.

Registration fees are: \$35 for one person attending the workshop (both days); \$50 for husband and wife attending the full workshop; and \$20 per day for Thursday or Friday. Students from an educational institution can attend the workshop for \$7.50, and a \$75 economy package is offered to any

school or church group of leaders.

The fees include participation in all workshop sessions, but does not cover meals, housing or the banquet which costs \$6.50 per ticket.

For more information on the workshop, persons should contact Paul Hammond at (501) 246-4531, ext. 129, or write OBU Church Music Workshop, P.O. Box 3710, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... We are all committed to helping our churches! I hope you all know that. That is true from your associational directors of missions right on to Harold Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. This was highlighted for me recently in Nashville when I learned what our publishing people had done to provide Good News.



Moore

America New Testaments for our Scripture distribution and People Search. They produced 8 million testaments for us at cost. The massive presses ran 24 hours a day for 131 days to do this. It took 40,000 pounds of ink and 30,000 miles of paper, enough to go around the world and overlap 5,000 miles.

For the items published in which there is a profit margin, this too is returned to benefit the churches. Profits from the sale of books, music, equipment and other material come to approximately \$10 million. This provides the finest training opportunities we can have a Ridgecrest and Glorieta. Plus \$5,000 per month is returned to Sunday School Board-related work in our state (S.S., C.T., B.S.U., C.M.). Even profits are directed toward helping improve the work of the churches. No doubt many would rather have the savings at the counter than the services. I am not debating that. I am simply stating the fact the commitment is there to help the churches.

Recently, the Annuity Board saw where they could open their insurance program to anyone, whatever their medical history had been. Pre-existing conditions would be excluded for a brief period of time. A minimum of 3,000 were expected to enroll with a maximum of 5,000. In the two months the offer was open, 8,000 new enrollees came in. What a help this will be in thousands of lives.

Now, churches that would like to have Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) for their church can do so at a great savings. You will be given the TVRO dish, if the church will subscribe for the next five years. This a great savings! Call Gerald Jackson, (376-4791), if you are interested.

Yep! That's right! We are all committed to helping our churches.

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



The Southern accent

Mike Smith

Helping to close the gap

Each year, many Arkansas Baptist young people choose not attend Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College because they feel they cannot afford to pay the difference in tuition charged by Baptist colleges and state colleges. State funding allows state supported colleges and universities to charge lower tuition rates, thus creating a gap in costs between the two types of institutions.

Messengers at the recent Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Arkadelphia voted to encourage the Baptist churches of Arkansas to help "close the gap." Arkansas churches are encouraged, on a voluntary basis, to designate funds for scholarships for their students attending OBU and SBC. The guidelines for the award, the amount of the scholarship and the method of funding the scholarship will be determined by the local church.

This scholarship will allow students who otherwise would not give serious consideration to attending Southern or Ouachita the opportunity to benefit from a Christian education. Some churches will not be able

to fund the entire difference in Baptist college and state college tuition, but a church scholarship of any amount, when added to the students' financial aid package, will make Christian higher education more available.

This decision by Arkansas Baptists is timely since: (1) college costs are increasing at the more rapid rate than financial aid funding and (2) these future leaders, now more than ever, need a Christian education to be able to deal with the world of tomorrow. Ouachita and Southern staff members are available to assist churches in establishing "Tuition Equalization Scholarships." For additional information, churches may contact either institution.

On behalf of the present and future students at Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College, and in keeping with the theme of the host of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, we say, "Thank you, Arkansas Baptists!"

Mike Smith is director of financial aid at Southern Baptist College.

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Bullington, missionaries to West Africa, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 601 S. Hughes St., Little Rock, AR). He serves as associate to director for non English West Africa. He is a native of Charleston. The former Evelyn Robinson, she spent most of her childhood in Russellville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1966.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Culpepper Jr., missionaries since 1944, retired from active missionary service Dec. 1. They served in China, the Philippines and Taiwan. He served on the faculty of the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, Taipei, Taiwan, from 1954 until retirement. She was active in

evangelism and church growth and also taught at the seminary. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and grew up in China where his parents were missionaries. They may be addressed at 603 Oblate Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216.

Mrs. and Mrs. William D. Thomason Jr., missionaries to the Ivory Coast, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Mission Baptiste, BP 1362, Gagnoa, Ivory Coast). He was born in Georgia. The former Vicki Brannon, she was born in Illinois. Both consider Springdale their hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

BTN, ACTS to carry missions teleconference

Persons or churches equipped with satellite receiving dishes will be able to tune in the Home Missions Teleconference scheduled for noon on Feb. 8.

The event, which promotes the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, will be broadcast over Baptist Telecommunication Network (Spacenet 1, channel 21-transponder 11) and the American Christian Television System

(Spacenet 1, channel 15-transponder 8). The signal will not be scrambled for this event.

The teleconference will feature interviews with missions leaders Dorothy Sample, William Tanner and James Smith, as well as home missionaries. A theme interpretation will be offered for taping and later use during the Week of Prayer. Viewers will have an opportunity to call in questions for the missions leaders to answer.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Jon Stubblefield completed 10 years of service with Central Church, Magnolia, Dec. 20. He began his service as associate pastor and has served as pastor since April 1, 1977. Stubblefield and his wife, Jackie, and their two sons, Michael and Steven, moved to Magnolia from Kentucky. Stubblefield completed two years of service in November 1985 as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and has served as president of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* Board of Directors and in other leadership positions for the ABCS, Southwest Association and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Melvin Klinkner has resigned as pastor of Kern Heights Church in DeQueen.

Fred Siedler began serving Dec. 5 as pastor of Fair Oaks Church.

David Hardy has joined the staff of West Memphis Second Church as youth director.

Walter Crosson is serving as pastor of Vanndale Church.

Randal Pegues has resigned as music and youth director at Camden First Church to complete 12 hours of study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in preparation for foreign mission service in Belem, Brazil.

Jimmy Holland is serving as pastor of Post Oak Church at Heber Springs. He is a freshman at Southern Baptist College.

Les Frazer is serving as pastor of Lamar Church, moving there from Everton Church near Harrison. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd B. Shaw of Pine Bluff celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 22 when a reception was given in their honor at Hardin Church. Their children, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Shaw and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Waldron, and the Baptist Women of the church were hosts.

Dillard Miller of Mena began serving Jan. 5 as interim pastor of Grannis Church.

Willard Bellon is serving as pastor of Cherry Hill Church at Mena, moving there from Alexandria, La., where he had served for 15 years with the Home Mission Board.

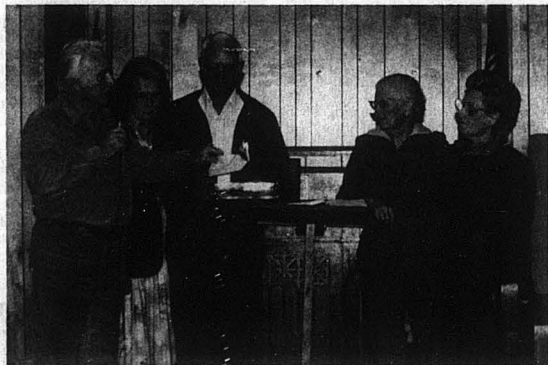
Billy Maxey is serving Concord Church at Mena as minister to youth. He and his wife, Sheryl, reside in Mena, where he also serves as a teacher in the middle school.

Brad Sutton has joined the staff of Hatfield First Church as music and youth outreach director. He is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University.

Mark Duggin is serving as pastor of Brinkley Broadmoor Church, coming there from Stanton, Tenn. A native of Memphis, he is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Mid-America Seminary. Duggin and his wife, Melinda, have one son Matthew.

John Phillips of Booneville is serving Leslie First Church as minister of music and youth.

Paul Husker began serving Dec. 29 as full-time pastor of Lone Rock Church near Norfork. He had been serving as part-time pastor since April, leading the congregation in both membership growth and a building program.



Liberty Church at Mineral Springs celebrated payment of the note on their sanctuary with a recent noteburning service and harvest festival attended by 130. The church, in the past four years, has experienced attendance growth, baptisms and has made building improvements that included installation of a baptistry. Bus and youth ministries are new outreach programs, according to pastor Dale Cowling. Noteburning participants were (left to right) Cowling, Evelyn and Cecil Funderburg, Verna Schooley and Olive Cowling.

briefly

Ward First Church Crusaders presented a special offering, collected throughout 1985, to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Crusader Pat Walker made the presentation to Shirley Bean, Woman's Missionary Union director.

Harrison Union Church Brotherhood recently purchased and arranged for the delivery of meat to Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello.

Hoxie First Church teams have completed a three-week People Search to 687 homes that resulted in 416 prospective members and one profession of faith. Members also are involved in the Continuing Witnessing Training program, according to pastor Howard Pankey.

Ward First Church ordained Royce Alan Alford to the preaching ministry Dec. 13. Program participants included Bill Hilburn, W.T. Byrum, Mark Fawcett, Carl Fawcett, Bobby Douglas, Troy Carroll, Gary Nelke, Ruby Bayles and Vickey Jackson.

Leslie First Church broke ground Dec. 1 for a two-story educational building that will provide classrooms for the adults, youth and children, as well as a fellowship hall and offices.

Southern Baptist seminaries graduate 21 Arkansans

Twenty-one persons with ties to Arkansas graduated from three Southern Baptist seminaries during the month of September.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, conferred degrees on the largest number of Arkansans, a total of 15 in a graduating class of 307. Commencement ceremonies were held Dec. 20 in Fort Worth.

Receiving master of arts in religious education degrees were **Joseph Leo George**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Houston George of Jonesboro; **Bob Allan Scudder**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Oldham Scudder of Paragould; **Kathryn Joanne Robinson**, daughter of Opal Robinson of Fort Smith; **Cindy Kay McClain**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. McClain of Scotland; **Barry Earl Hughes**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dean Hughes of Mabelvale; **Donna Lee Eden**, daughter of Paul D. Eden of Judsonia; and **Mark Gregory Brookhart**, son of Doris I. Brookhart of Siloam Springs.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were **Robert Theodore Tucker**, son of J. T. Tucker of Wynne; **E. Kent Williams**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Williams of Parkin and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Aaron of Marion; **Mitchum Wilhite Tapson**, son of Anita Elias of North Little Rock and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace of Little Rock; **Cherri Lynn Smedley**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby L. Smedley of Grannis; and **Danny Lee Johnson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison Johnson of Monticello.

David Wayne Walker, son of Harold Alford Walker of Ashdown, received the master of music degree. Two Arkansans received the associate of divinity degree: **Loren Douglas Pederson Jr.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loren D. Pederson Sr. of Rogers, and **Russell Don Howard**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Howard of Owensville and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cordell of Benton.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., graduated four Arkansans among 221 students Dec. 20: **Stephen Gregory Smith** of Hot Springs, master of arts in Christian education; **William Wesley Lites** of Pine Bluff, master of divinity; **Michael D. Johnson** of Pine Bluff, doctor of education; and **Benny M. McCracken** of Pine Bluff, doctor of ministry.

Two Arkansans were among 110 graduates who received degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Dec. 21: **Johnny Edward Shaw** of Pine Bluff, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John P. Sample, master of divinity, and **James Alton Sample** of Ashdown, doctor of ministry. (No photos were available from the seminaries for McCracken, Smith, Johnson and Shaw.)

Southwestern Seminary graduates were challenged in a commencement address by James H. Taylor, president of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., to choose the risk of servanthood rather than seeking power, position and prestige.



George



Scudder



Robinson



McClain



Hughes



Eden



Brookhart



Tucker



Williams



Tapson



Smedley



Johnson



Walker



Pederson



Howard



Lites



Sample

Financial aid deadline approaching

ARKADELPHIA—Students interested in receiving various scholarships and other financial aid supplements for the 1986-87 academic year are reminded of several important deadlines for submission of material, according to Randy Garner, director of admissions counseling at Ouachita Baptist University, and Harold Johnson, director of student financial aid at OBU.

The School of Music at OBU will hold auditions for music scholarships to be awarded for the 1986-87 academic year on Saturday, Feb. 8. Scholarships are available for freshmen and transfer students in the areas of voice, piano, organ, strings and all band instruments. Persons unable to audition on Feb. 8 may schedule a special audition through the School of Music office at OBU. To obtain music scholarship application forms or to secure further information, persons should contact Charles W. Wright, dean of the Ouachita School of Music, at P.O. Box 3771, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, or by calling (501) 246-4531, ext. 129.

The deadline for submitting scholarship application forms for both current students and incoming students at Ouachita for the

1986-87 academic year is March 1, 1986, according to Johnson. Incoming freshmen and transfer students desiring to apply for a scholarship should obtain an application form by writing P.O. Box 3776, Arkadelphia, AR 71923 or calling (501) 246-4531, ext. 110 or 570. All current academic scholarship holders—with the exception of those with Scholastic Excellence, Honor Graduate, Centennial and Leadership Scholarships—who wish to be reconsidered, and those current students without scholarships who desire to be considered, should file an application.

May 1, 1986 is the priority deadline for receiving processed American College Testing Family Financial Statements results for the 1986-87 academic year, said Johnson. The current package includes instructions, code lists and forms needed to file for Pell Grants, Arkansas State Scholarships, college work-study programs, plus other loans and grants. The ACT statement, based on the family's 1985 United States tax return, should be mailed to Iowa City, Iowa, no later than April 1, 1986, for processing and results being sent back to Ouachita by May 1.

OBU trustee board elects officers for 1986

ARKADELPHIA—The 24-member trustee board of Ouachita Baptist University elected officers for 1986 during its fall meeting on the OBU campus.

Elected chairman of the board was Kathleen Burton of Little Rock. Thomas Ashcraft of Pine Bluff was elected vice-chairman, and Carroll Caldwell of Texarkana was elected secretary.

Ruschlikon students from four continents enrolled

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland — Fifty-five students from four continents have enrolled for the 36th academic year at the International Baptist Theological Seminary here. Twenty-six students are from European countries, including Poland and Yugoslavia; 14 from the United States; five from Brazil; four from the African countries of Ghana and Malawi; and the remaining six from India, Korea and Australia. Delayed in enrolling were two anticipated students, one from Nigeria, where there was an Aug. 27 coup, and one from Romania.

Five new missionaries end worker drought in Lebanon

by Frances Fuller

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Five Southern Baptist missionaries have begun language study in Lebanon, a country that hasn't had that many new missionaries in a decade.

Karl and Thelma Weathers of Arkansas, Gary and Jeree White and Russell Futrell of Louisiana all have come to Lebanon with a firm conviction it is God's place for them, in spite of the daily hazards of living here.

Jeree White grew up in Lebanon as an MK (missionary kid) and always had an inclination to come back, but her husband, Gary, used to say, "I would never go to Lebanon." It took a long process of prayer and thinking to change his mind.

The Weatherses feel God gave them no choice. "We waited 11 years for a mission appointment, and the first time a job that suited our qualifications opened up, it was in Lebanon. So we didn't doubt that we were supposed to take it," they said.

The Weatherses were appointed to work with the Beirut Baptist School. They have two children, Eddie, 13, and Elizabeth, 12.

Futrell first came to Lebanon as a journeyman in 1978. For two years, he worked among university students in west Beirut. They were tumultuous years in Lebanon, but Futrell, who had friends of all political persuasions, rarely felt the tension and violence prevent his moving around and being with people.

But he did have a few narrow escapes. Once, late at night, he almost drove into the middle of a small-arms skirmish on a Beirut street. To avoid it, he turned into a driveway, where he suddenly found a pistol at his tem-

ple as a man demanded to be driven out of the area. Futrell escaped out the other side of the car and into an apartment house.

When he left Lebanon, he promised everyone he was coming back. By the time he finished a master's degree in linguistics at Louisiana State University and a year at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the situation was more uncertain than ever in Lebanon.

Futrell was strongly encouraged to go to some other country. Even the mission in Lebanon didn't think it wise for him to live in Beirut and sent him to Jordan for a year of language study. (Two years of language study routinely are required in the Arabic-speaking world.)

At the same time, the Weatherses, also under appointment to Lebanon, were asked to go to Jordan for their first year of language study. They went, but deep inside they felt that everyone concerned should understand that they were called to Lebanon and should be permitted to go there.

They already had faced a lot of open opposition from well-meaning family members and friends who felt they would "get themselves killed" or that it was unfair to take two children into a war zone. Such statements also caused the children to become apprehensive.

Living in Lebanon turned out to be the best antidote to those fears. Eddie and Elizabeth study by correspondence under the supervision of a young American teacher. Their main problem is the lack of friends their own age who speak their own language. A little

gunfire now and then doesn't upset them.

The Whites first were appointed to Jordan and spent a whole term there before asking for a transfer. "The easiest thing would have been to go back to Jordan," Gary says. We have deep friendships there. Our two children are Jordanian. (The Whites have adopted children, Susan, two-and-a-half years old, and John Bill, six months.) We did a lot of praying and thinking before we knew we were called to Lebanon."

White adds, "You have to be called to Lebanon; otherwise, you wouldn't come."

Five days after the Whites arrived in Lebanon, there was an afternoon of heavy shelling. Two shells fell in the front yard, and Gary threw himself across the baby to protect him from flying glass.

Jeree, daughter of Bill and Vivian Trimble, missionaries in Lebanon since 1961, believes "it takes a certain kind of person to live here." With a laugh, she says, "a crazy person," and then becomes serious again. "We live here with the basics, just life and death. Even the mission has narrowed everything down to the basics. But the Lord has given us a love for these people that I can't explain. I want to be an encourager."

In fact, their presence already is doing that. In meeting the new missionaries in the Mansourieh Church, a young believer commented, "It encourages us to have new missionaries coming, when a lot of other people are leaving."

Frances Fuller is a missionary press representative in Lebanon.

China deeds to help Christians, Foreign Mission Board hopes

by Erich Bridges

(BP) photo by Stanley Leary

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has six file boxes full of deeds to property in China, and it hopes the documents will help Chinese Christians as they continue to re-open churches and expand their activities.

A small group of retired and former Southern Baptist missionaries to China huddled in the board's Richmond offices in December to examine the documents one by one. They constitute a fascinating record of more than a century of Southern Baptist mission work in China.

The documents, which have lain dormant in the board's archives for three decades, include deeds to land, churches, schools, hospitals, residences and other buildings spanning eastern China, plus numerous photographs, drawings and brittle hand-drawn maps of properties.

A 1924 appraisal valued the properties at almost \$3.4 million. Their current value is anybody's guess. Many of the buildings no longer exist. Much of the property was nationalized by the government after 1949, when it was no longer possible for missionaries to work in China.

The Foreign Mission Board has never formally sought compensation for the properties, hoping instead that Chinese Christians might one day regain use of them. Any money that might have been realized from property settlements paled in comparison.

"It is my hope that when it becomes possible for Christian work in China to be resumed more widely, that some of this property can be retrieved for (Christian) work," stated the late Baker James Cauthen in a memorandum he wrote six years ago as he turned over his duties to the board's new chief administrator.

"It may be that such retrieval would have to be over a long period of time, but with deeds in hand and much patience, some progress may be gradually made," he wrote. Cauthen was a missionary in China and later secretary (director) for all the Orient when that country was closed to mission work.

Open churches in China now reportedly number more than 4,000, and the Chinese government has in numerous cases restored and returned church buildings, used for other purposes for many years, to the congregations which once worshipped in them. If restoration is impossible or impractical, the government sometimes provides alternate properties or arranges for rental payments.

The Foreign Mission Board's deeds will be cataloged, computerized and made available on request to Chinese Christian leaders, according to Lewis Myers, director of Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptists' new liaison program with China.

"In some places, the presence of the deed



Retired Southern Baptist missionaries Lorene Tilford (left) and Mary Sampson work through a part of the mound of China property deeds held by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The two women, who both worked in Shanghai, joined a group of retired and former missionaries to China who gathered in December to examine the hundreds of deeds one by one. The board hopes the documents will help Chinese Christians as they continue to re-open churches and expand their activities.

in the hands of the Christian leaders talking to the (government) Bureau of Religious Affairs could probably help restore property to be used," Myers said. "In other cases, if it isn't already nailed down as property belonging to a church or religious group, they might register it as such and get paid fair rental value for the use the government is making of it."

The deeds include extensive properties in Shanghai, Canton (Guangzhou), Kweilin (Guilin), Chengchou (Zhengzhou) and other cities. A few examples:

—an elaborate deed for property in Chefoo (now Yantai) in north China, originally purchased from the imperial Russian

government in 1908.

—deeds for a church, residence, boys' and girls' schools and mission compound in Wuchow (Wuzhou), south China, and a 70-year lease on the Stout Memorial Hospital, where famed missionary doctor Bill Wallace practiced. The lease didn't expire until 1984.

—deeds for college and seminary property in Shanghai. The Baptist-founded University of Shanghai is now the Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

Erich Bridges is a writer for the Foreign Mission Board.

Postal rate rise for non-profit organizations effective Jan. 1

WASHINGTON (BP)—A continuing resolution approved by Congress and signed by President Reagan Dec. 19 guaranteed postal rates will increase for non-profit mailers, including state Baptist newspapers and some church newsletters.

Beginning Jan. 1, non-profit organizations will face an increase of approximately 30 to 35 percent in subsidized rates, including non-profit second-class, third-class and bulk mailings. (Editor's note: The Arkansas Baptist

Newsmagazine will absorb the increased cost of postage in order to hold subscription rates at current levels.)

The increase results from a reduction of federal subsidy to provide reduced mailing rates for non-profit publications. The continuing resolution contains only \$748 million for fiscal year 1986.

Although the figure falls \$233 million short of what the Postal Service says it needs to maintain the present level of subsidy, it

significantly exceeds the \$39 million proposed by the Reagan administration. The president recommended the termination of the subsidy except for benefits to organizations that send materials to the blind.

Non-profit and other subsidized mailers have been at step 14 of a 16-step plan begun in 1970 to phase out the postal subsidy. The new increase, however, will catapult non-profit mailers to step 16 six months before step 15 was scheduled to take effect.

BTN offer increased to 700 satellite receiving systems

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Due to a large response from churches, trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board executive committee voted Dec. 19 to allocate reserve funds for a total of 700 satellite receiving systems for churches willing to sign a five-year subscription agreement to BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network).

The action was taken after more than 600 churches responded to a November announcement that 250 satellite receiving systems would be made available. As of Dec. 19, 199 of those churches had returned five-year subscription agreements.

"Many churches have been interested in participating in BTN but could not afford the initial cost of the satellite receiving system," said Jimmy D. Edwards, vice-president for

publishing and distribution. "We are delighted with the response of churches to this offer. We are particularly pleased that we have heard from many churches in new work areas."

As of Nov. 1, a total of 432 churches and associations were subscribing to BTN with approximately 5,600 churches having access to network programming through their associations.

By Dec. 20, subscriptions had topped 600 and responses to the five-year subscription offer will almost triple the number of subscribers, Edwards said.

Included in the agreement is a Broadman 10-foot satellite receive-only antenna, a Uniden receiver, 100 feet of cable and all regular manufacturers' warranties. Churches

are responsible for shipping costs from the manufacturer, installation, additional options, onsite survey (if needed) and repair and maintenance beyond warranty coverage.

The retail value of the equipment is approximately \$2,000, Edwards said.

At the end of the five-year period, churches may choose to sign another five-year agreement, at the end of which the equipment would belong to the church; purchase the equipment for \$500; or remove and return the system to Broadman, freight paid.

James Clark, executive vice-president of the board, said the offer could be enlarged if more than 700 churches request subscription contracts in the near future.

Hunger relief groups assess Africa's impending needs

by David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)—As the new year begins, Africa may be moving from a crisis of acute hunger to a crisis of chronic hunger, underscoring the need for long-term assistance and development.

Recent assessments by hunger relief and development organizations working in Africa illustrate both significant progress and continued need. Reports from famine-stricken countries indicate that while emergency food aid requirements for 1986 may be half the 1985 amount, millions of people will still have critical food needs next year.

The U.N. Office for Emergency Operations in Africa noted in a recent status report that the emergency is still "acute" in 12 countries.

Rains have returned to parts of the continent, but they have been unevenly distributed and too little, too late for harvests in many areas. In addition, transportation problems and civil strife in some countries have continued to hamper relief efforts.

In Ethiopia, where much of the world's attention has been focused in the last year, relief officials estimate six million people will still be in need of international food assistance next year. Southern Baptist missionaries report that transportation problems and lean crops will add at least another year to Southern Baptist short-term relief efforts in that country.

Other illustrations of continued need: —Ethiopia alone now has at least 200,000 orphans.

—An estimated 4 million persons have been displaced by famine and civil strife.

—In the Sudan, approximately 12,000 homeless boys between the ages of 7 and 17 are roaming the streets of Omdurman and Khartoum.

—Across Africa more than 17 million children under age five are suffering from malnutrition, a trend which will harm the continent's development for generations. In countries such as Ghana and Burkina Faso, more than 40 percent of the children under five are malnourished.

—More than 18 million people in seven countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Botswana, Sudan, Mozambique and Lesotho) are still "at risk" because of food shortages.

In response to these needs, experts who testified at hearings in December before the U.S. House Select Committee on Hunger and the African Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee called for a long-term commitment to Africa relief and development.

African Subcommittee chairman Howard E. Wolpe, D-Mich., noted that without immediate attention to recovery and rehabil-

itation, many African countries "will be even more vulnerable to the next drought and even more dependent on international aid."

Robert S. McNamara, former president of The World Bank, testified that despite much progress, "the harsh truth is that Sub-Saharan Africa today faces a crisis of unprecedented proportions." He cited various "underlying realities" of the hunger crisis: deterioration of the physical environment, dramatic population growth, crumbling national economies and steady decreases in per capita production of food grains.

Peter J. Davies, head of Interaction, a coalition of more than 100 U.S. relief, refugee and development agencies, reported that harvests may be better this year and the food deficits will be "correspondingly lower." But Davies warned against being lulled into "a false sense of security, believing that the need has been met."

He said efforts must "move beyond food and life-saving medical assistance to focus limited human and financial resources on getting people back on their feet—back into productive roles—and to focus these same limited resources on addressing the long-term root causes of the famine."

David Wilkinson is director of news services for the Christian Life Commission.

Chaplains give comfort to families of crash victims

by Sherri Anthony Brown

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (BP) — "First you cry. Then you're numb. Next you smile because you remember something good. Then it starts all over again," explained Ladeana Ladd, 21-year-old fiancée of Wayne Reed, one of 248 soldiers killed in the Newfoundland air crash.

"I don't ask why, though, because it wouldn't do any good. It won't bring Wayne back," she told Capt. Douglas Carver, a Southern Baptist chaplain at Fort Campbell.

Carver, one of 11 Southern Baptist chaplains on the base, has spent the days since the crash visiting family members of the slain soldiers. One of Fort Campbell's 32 chaplains will visit each of the families at least once.

The soldiers, representing many military units, died when their chartered Arrow Air DC-8 plane crashed on takeoff early Thursday morning. They were returning from a six-month peacekeeping mission on the Sinai Peninsula in the Middle East.

Many of the family members already had gathered at the base gymnasium where the soldiers were to arrive after their debriefing, said Southern Baptist Chaplain Bill Fox.

Fox and the other chaplains spent the first 48 hours, after the crash, working with families on the base. "We tried to bring comfort and the presence of God to these peo-

ple when we were hurting too," said Southern Baptist Chaplain Don Yancey. Capt. Troy Carter, a fellow chaplain, died with his unit on the Arrow flight.

"Christmas makes it seem even more tragic," commented Carver.

Ladd, a Southern Baptist, was waiting to accompany her fiancée to his Washington home to meet his family and announce their wedding plans.

Because she was not married, Ladd was not notified of Reed's death. She asked Carver to arrange for her to represent the family at the memorial service. Ladd asked President Reagan, who visited family members following the ceremony, to sign a photograph of Reed for his mother.

Christmas week she was to present the photograph to Mrs. Reed in Washington, where she was at the expense of the Army chaplain's fund. "I wanted to spend Christmas with his mother. I have a part of Wayne that she doesn't have and she knows a part of him that I don't know," she explained. "We can share that." Ladd also will stay for the funeral.

"I didn't want to talk to you that first morning," Ladd confessed to Carver, "but I'm glad I did. It's a comfort to know someone cares."

Carver also visited a young widow three

days after the crash. On her wall, amid Christmas garland and Santa Claus, was a sign which read, "Welcome Home." She sat on the floor of her trailer, surrounded by wedding photos and a Western Union telegram officially announcing the death of her husband.

"I'm 20 years old. I'm too young to live the rest of my life without him," she told Carver. "Our first anniversary is next week."

Carver encouraged her not to waste her sorrow but to learn and grow from it. "I want to pray for strength through this time," he told her. The woman nodded, wiped at her tears and bowed her head.

"The worst part is the question, 'Is my husband in heaven?'" Carver said later. Often Carver could assure that the husband was with God, but he could not always make that assumption.

"With some, it was obvious there had been a casual Christianity, at best, but you certainly cannot tell a grieving wife that her husband is going to hell," he explained.

"The most important thing right now is letting people know someone cares about their spiritual and emotional well-being during the tragedy. That's what we're trying to show."

Sherri Anthony Brown is editorial assistant for the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

HMB photo



Southern Baptist chaplain Douglas Carver comforts Ladeana Ladd (center), fiancée of a soldier killed in the Newfoundland air crash.

Griffin Bell to represent SBC in Crowder lawsuit

ATLANTA (BP)—Former United States Attorney General Griffin B. Bell has been retained by the Southern Baptist Convention to represent the convention in a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta.

On Dec. 5, a retired Birmingham, Ala., couple and a retired Navy chief from Windsor, Mo., filed suit against the SBC and its Executive Committee, claiming they were "irreparably harmed" by rulings, presiding and events at the 1985 annual meeting.

The suit, filed by Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, and Henry C. Cooper, seeks to have the election of the SBC Committee

on Committees, Boards and Standing Commissions declared illegal and to prevent the 52 persons elected to the body in Dallas from serving as the nominators of persons to serve as trustees of the national agencies of the denomination.

Papers in the suit were served on the SBC just before Christmas, according to SBC attorney James P. Guenther of the Nashville, Tenn., law firm of Guenther and Jordan. Guenther said the SBC must file a response to the 18-page complaint by Jan. 20.

Guenther said Bell and the Atlanta law firm of King and Spalding will be the Georgia representatives of the convention and Ex-

ecutive Committee. Guenther and SBC Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett have had a conference with Bell, planning the response.

Bell was attorney general during the presidency of fellow Georgian Jimmy Carter, serving as the attorney for the government 1977-79. Previously, he was judge of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Civil Appeals from 1961-76.

Bell is a member of Second Ponce de Leon Church in Atlanta, has been a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

Moore hasn't been asked to run for SBC presidency

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—Winfred Moore, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said recently that he has not been approached officially by anyone to be a candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency.

The First Church, Amarillo, Texas, pastor added he is hoping for a unifying candidate to emerge to lead the 14.4-million member convention. "I really do have a longing for someone to arise about whom everyone would say, 'We will follow this man as our president.'"

Moore said he has no one in mind as a unifying candidate and that he has not been looking for such a person. "You just hope that out of the process of finding a peaceful solution (to the controversy in the SBC), there would be somebody," he noted.

Moore said he has not done "any planning one way or another" concerning his candi-

dacy for the SBC presidency. "I just have a commitment to getting our convention back to doing what we do best," including missions involvement.

At the 1985 SBC meeting in Dallas, Moore was nominated for the presidency in opposition to incumbent Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, Ga. Stanley won the presidency with 55.3 percent of the vote. Moore was then elected first vice-president.

Rumors have persisted Moore also will be a candidate in 1986. If so, he apparently will oppose Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn. Rogers has been named by several as their choice for SBC president in 1986. Rogers says he has not decided yet whether he will be a candidate for the office.

Moore, noting that talk of himself as a "moderate" candidate is contrary to his view of himself as conservative, said he sees no

inherent conflict if one or more of the members of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee are candidates for the presidency.

"I think it's all in the way in which they perceive their work. I would surely hope if I am a candidate or Dr. Rogers is a candidate... that whatever is done would be done in such a way that it would not affect the work of the Peace Committee."

The committee was formed at the 1985 SBC meeting for the purpose of determining the causes of the current SBC controversy and making recommendations about how to solve them. Moore's optimism has grown for the group's success.

"I think we're in much better shape than we were in when we left Dallas. I have high hopes," he said. "I've been pleased with the Peace Committee as it's gone about its work."

Reaching inactive church members a goal of training leaders

NASHVILLE (BP)—If Southern Baptist churches could reach only 25 percent of their inactive members, church training enrollment would increase by about 600,000 next year, Sunday School Board Church Training director Roy Edgemon said.

Speaking to state Church Training directors and associates meeting here for annual planning sessions, Edgemon said inactive and non-resident church members make up about 49 percent of churches' total membership. Reaching 25 percent of those members would increase church training enrollment from its present membership of 1.9 million to 2.5 million, he added.

Reaching inactive and non-resident members would be in keeping with the Church Training Department's 1986-87 theme of discipleship training, an effort to help churches orient new members, equip members and train leaders, he said.

Edgemon said among the denomination's 14.4 million members, an estimated 30 percent or 4.1 million are non-resident, no longer living near the church, while approximately 20 percent or 2.8 million are inactive.

An inactive member is defined as one who has not contributed or participated in a local church for 12 months, Edgemon explained.

"In an average church of 400, 83 are inactive and 116 are non-resident," he said. "That leaves 199 actually active members who are carrying the entire load of the church. If we could just touch inactive church members, Church Training attendance would increase significantly."

Steve Williams, a new-start consultant in the board's Church Training growth section, said 22,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention have Church Training programs, but 14,000 do not. "We started 1,700 Church Training programs last year, but we only had a net increase of 100," Williams said. "We started 1,700 but we lost 1,600."

"We're doing a super, terrific job of starting new programs if we could just hang on to the ones we've got," he said. Williams estimated there are about 38 people per Church Training program. Multiplying the number of Church Training programs lost last year by the number of people in each program "adds up to a lot of folks," he said.

The Church Training department is contin-

uing its 1985-90 emphasis on Developing Believers through workshops, leadership conferences and use of short-term training and also is giving strong promotion to its equipping center module, "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism."

The BSSB Church Training and Sunday School departments, along with the Home Mission Board's evangelism section, are cooperating on a five-year emphasis from 1985-90 to train 1 million Sunday School workers in evangelism.

"Fifty percent of U.S. citizens have not expressed a belief in God and are not attending anyone's church," said Wirt Campbell, of the Church Training department.

Meanwhile, the 1985 Friend of Church Training Award was presented to retired California church training director Val Prince. Prince was church training director in California from 1963-81 when he retired. Immediately after retiring, he began working as a MasterLife workshop leader and to date has co-led 75 workshops involving 4,000 participants.

He has also helped train 34 state leaders and seven overseas leaders.

CLC meeting on apartheid issues 'call to concern'

by David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Sixteen Baptist leaders have issued a "Call to Concern" which expresses support "for all who are working to dismantle the evil system of apartheid" in South Africa.

The statement was approved unanimously at a Dec. 12 meeting in Nashville entitled "Southern Baptists and Apartheid: A Consultation on Racial Reconciliation, Human Rights, and Justice."

The consultation was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention under the leadership of W. David Lockard, the agency's director of organization. The commission's SBC program assignment includes education and action on issues related to race relations and human rights.

In addition to the Christian Life Commission, the meeting involved representatives, both black and white, from the Southern Baptist Foundation, Baptist World Alliance, Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Baptist Sunday School Board. Other participants were pastors of Baptist churches and representatives from state Baptist conventions.

The "Call to Concern" emerged from discussion of the moral, religious and political dimensions of the racial crisis in South Africa.

The 10-point statement was drafted following a Bible study on justice presented by Marvin Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Austin, Texas; a statement of concern about racism presented by Foy Valentine, executive director of the CLC; and a study paper on the "contextual trauma" in South Africa presented by John N. Jonsson, professor of missions and world religions at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., a native of South Africa and a longtime Baptist leader in that country.

In the statement, consultation participants expressed their conviction that the issues

addressed in the document "are not peripheral concerns merely tagged on to the Christian gospel but rather are fundamental concerns that are central to the Christian mission and that belong to the very heart of the Christian gospel."

The statement, to be shared with Southern Baptist agencies and institutions and other Baptist bodies around the world, commends the Baptist Union of Southern Africa for recent action which "spoke courageously and stood prophetically against the gross immoralities of apartheid."

At its annual meeting in October the Baptist Union adopted a statement addressed to South African President P.W. Botha which urged "that the whole structure of apartheid be dismantled as a matter of extreme urgency." The official government policy, it declared, is "in conflict with the Bible" and is "an evil which needs to be repented of."

The "Call to Concern" intentionally avoided specific mention of divestiture, choosing rather to "urge that future economic policies be developed wisely and applied courageously to help in moving the entire South African society away from apartheid."

It also expressed support for "decisive movement beyond the Sullivan Principles" towards involving blacks in decision-making "at the highest levels of government."

The statement praised those "men like Bishop Tutu and those women like Winnie Mandela together with those imprisoned leaders and hundreds of slain protestors who have valiantly laid down their lives for the cause of human dignity and freedom."

It also acknowledged "frankly but painfully...our own all-too-recent involvement as individuals, as Americans, and as Baptist Christians in a morally reprehensible system of legally enforced racial discrimination closely akin to apartheid as it still exists in South Africa."

The statement called on Southern Baptists to urge their elected officials "to challenge apartheid and oppose racism in all of its manifestations and wherever it may be found, not only in South Africa but also in our own country."

David Wilkinson is director of news services for the Christian Life Commission.

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International

Inward morality

by Nan Ashcraft, Hurricane Lake Church, Benton

Basic passage: Mark 7:1-23; Matthew 5:21-30

Focal passage: Mark 7:1-5, 14-15

Central truth: A life of genuine morality is based on inward purity rather than on an outward concern for ritual and rules.

As in last week's lesson, the disciples are guilty of an infraction according to the tradition of the elders. These religionists were constantly on the heels of Jesus and the disciples because of the former's hostility to the kingdom of God. Their great passion was studying law and writing rules.

Jesus, with the Twelve, was healing those who came to him. It was lunch time when the Pharisees, nearby as usual, saw that the disciples were eating with defiled hands. Hence their question: "Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" (Mark 7:5).

Jesus used strong language as he lashed out at their hypocrisy. Their spurious worship was lip-service and ceremonialism. They had long since left the commandments of God for traditions of men. They concerned themselves with outward ritual because of their stony hearts. The fulfilling of the law required inward cleansing.

Jesus confronted them with this pronouncement: "Hearken unto me, every one of you, and understand. There is nothing from without a man that entering into him can defile him; but the things that come out of him, these defile the man" (v. 15).

Jesus named 13 defiling sins that come from within (vv. 21-23). They have their origin in one's attitude, disposition or intention. The thoughts and intents of the heart find expression, and as Vance Flavner aptly expressed it, "What's in the well comes up in the bucket." The differences in Jesus' teachings and the traditions of the elders were irreconcilable. Jesus had to be put to death.

This study speaks to our emphasis on the outward appearance at the neglect of inward purity. Genuine morality is an inward matter, and the value of its teaching in the family cannot be over-emphasized. Basic responsibility belongs to parents. It is a God-given responsibility that dare not be delegated to others.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

A new sense of mission

by Bradley A. Rogge, Brookwood First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Zechariah 8:1-23

Focal passage: Zechariah 8:13-17, 20-23

Central truth: The mission of God's people is to help all persons know and worship God.

Have you ever failed? It can be a devastating experience. The answer to the question is, "Yes, I have failed." A few years ago, a young man became quite angry at God. He quit the ministry and did not even darken the door of a church for two years. But one of his close friends who did not know of the young man's struggle was being ordained. The young man went to the ordination service. Suddenly the young man burst into tears as he relived his own ordination and commitment. As he wept, he cried, "Oh Jesus, I have failed. What have I done to you?"

God wants to take our failures and make them a blessing to others. The young man is now preaching again, and God has allowed him the freedom to share his life with others who face similar problems.

God still disciplines his people to keep them from failing again. In verse 15 of our passage, God tells Israel, "I want to bless you again, but you must spread the truth to each other and not desire evil for each other (vv. 16, 17).

We in America need to have a new sense of mission. The "Good News, America, God Loves You" revivals in the spring is a start. Already there is a sense of new hope for our troubled land. There will be "Great Awakening" once again.

From these revivals will spring a new sense of mission field work. If the concept of Bold Mission Thrust is to be a reality, we need to see how we can be a blessing.

Like Judah, we must as a nation return to truth and moral living. If real revival and a renewed commitment to missions is to come, it must start in the pew of the local church. When commitment starts here, then the lost will be attracted to God because they will sense his presence among his people (vv. 20-23).

There is no better time than right now to say, "I will follow you, Lord, and do all you ask." All heaven will rejoice in your decision.

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Bible Book

Prayer and worship

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Focal passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Central truth: We should pray for all people, especially our national, state and local leaders.

One of the greatest things a person can do for someone is to pray for him. Prayer moves the heart of God. It releases the power of heaven upon us. God's Word avows that we do not have because we do not pray.

Paul urged Timothy to pray and to teach others to pray for all men, especially national leaders and others who are in places of authority. Every Christian needs a prayer list which contains the names of the President, senators, representatives, judges, governors, school administrators, teachers and police.

Two reasons are given for us to pray for them: first, so we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity; and second, that they may be saved.

God desires the salvation of all persons. It is not his will that any perish in hell. To live without Christ is unspeakably sad, and to die with one's sins unforgiven is eternal tragic.

Pray earnestly for the souls of men, women, boys and girls. God answers prayer. God is pleased with this kind of praying. Jesus, Paul and Moses prayed like this.

In public worship, men are to lead the prayers. This does not mean that women are never to pray publicly. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:5, 13 that women were to pray in public worship. The men, however, should be the ones who most often lead in public prayer.

Christian women should dress in such a way that they bring honor to the Lord Jesus who saved them, to their husbands who under God's design are their "heads" and to the church to which they are to make vital contributions.

The Christian woman has a praiseworthy calling from God in childbearing and teaching. To be the instrument that God uses to bring a new life into the world is wonderful. Her love and teaching lay the foundation upon which the child will ultimately build his life. There is no greater calling than motherhood. That some women would exchange that high calling of God for the role of males is astonishing.

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Giving up gift suits Montana pastor

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—A generous gesture on the part of a Montana Baptist pastor came just in time to soften the blow of a personal disaster of his educational director.

Each year, Mississippi Baptists, through their Brotherhood department, sponsor the Montana Suits Project. The project provides new suits to pastors in three states. This year, more than 130 applications were sent to pastors in Montana, North and South Dakota.

Carlston "Red" Berry of Bozeman, Mont., returned his application with a note to Paul Harrell, Mississippi Brotherhood director, suggesting Berry's education director, Jerry Neiminen, had a greater financial need for a suit than he, and that if only one suit could be sent, to send it to Neiminen.

Harrell wrote to Berry explaining that the

limited amounts of funds would not provide suits for both Berry and Neiminen, but that he was processing the application for Neiminen.

On Dec. 1, Berry wrote Harrell: "How timely is God's providence! Your letter... arrived in the mail the morning after Jerry and Penny's (Neiminen) mobile home burned to the ground, destroying all their clothes but their pajamas. Referring to Jerry as 'someone in greater need' is an understatement. Your gift of a suit could not be infinitely more important! They had no insurance. My thanks to all of you for your generosity!"

Gifts to help fund the Montana Suits Project may be addressed to the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (601) 968-3800.

\$1 million donated for Baylor law chair

WACO, Texas (BP) — Joseph L. Allbritton and his wife, Barbara, have honored Baylor University President Emeritus Abner V. McCall by donating \$1 million to the Baylor School of Law to establish an endowed chair in McCall's name.

The Allbrittons, who live in Houston and Washington, have donated the money to establish the Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence. The chair is the seventh endowed chair in the Baylor School of Law, according to Charles W. Barrow, professor of law and dean of the law school.

McCall has been at Baylor more than 50 years as a student, professor, law school dean, president, chancellor and now president emeritus. He received his bachelor's and his juris doctor degrees from Baylor and earned his master of laws degree from the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty of the Baylor School of Law in 1938 and from 1948-59 was its dean. In 1956, he served for several months on the Texas State Supreme Court, receiving the appointment from

former Gov. Allan Shivers.

From 1959-61 he was executive vice-president of Baylor and was president from 1961-81. He became the school's second chancellor in 1981 before becoming president emeritus upon his retirement.

Among the various courses McCall taught at the law school was "Law of Evidence." "Evidence was his specialty," Barrow says of McCall. "For those of us who were privileged enough to be in his class when he was a professor, we will always remember him as a truly great teacher of evidence. He always said, 'Evidence is the key that opens the door to justice.'"

Allbritton, a native of Houston, received his law degree from Baylor in 1949. He is active in numerous business activities, including banking, insurance, newspapers, television and other interests. In 1962, Baylor awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree, and in 1974, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus. He is a former Baylor trustee.

Criswell College gains accreditation

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has extended full accreditation to Criswell College, the degree-granting educational arm of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.

Criswell College, named for W.A. Criswell, pastor of Dallas' First Church and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is an undergraduate and graduate level institution specializing in the training of men and women for the various ministries of the church.

President Paige Patterson said a major emphasis of the institution is in the teaching of biblical languages, Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic. In addition, he said the school offers studies in cognate semitic languages, and Akkadian, Eblite, Moabite, Northwest Semitic Inscriptions, Phoenician, Sumerian, Syriac and Ugaritic.

The present enrollment in the Dallas-based school is 400, about 50 of whom are in the graduate program. Twenty-seven full-time professors are employed, 90 percent of whom hold earned doctorates in their teaching fields.

Of the nearly 400 graduates in the school's 14-year history, a large portion of them are involved in church planting ministries in the United States and internationally in places such as Brazil and Mexico.

Patterson said application for accreditation with the Southern Association was made nearly three years ago. During the period of candidacy, extensive self-appraisal and the contribution of two SACs visiting teams (comprised of scholars and administrators from a total of eighteen accredited institutions) were a part of the process leading to final accreditation.

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