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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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January 2, 1986

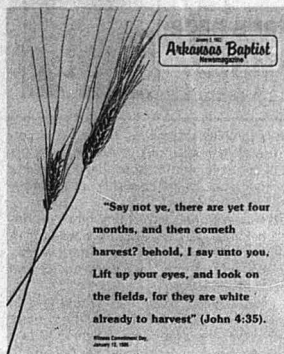
Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

**“Say not ye, there are yet four
months, and then cometh
harvest? behold, I say unto you,
Lift up your eyes, and look on
the fields, for they are white
already to harvest” (John 4:35).**

Witness Commitment Day,
January 12, 1986

On the cover



Many Arkansas Baptist churches will use the annual Witness Commitment Sunday, which is Jan. 18, 1986, to launch an effort to train one million Sunday School workers in evangelism. This SBC's Evangelism, Sunday School and Church Training Departments and their Arkansas counterparts. Equipping Center modules from Church Training are available.

In this issue

8 windows on China

The doors to mission work in China may be opening and there is now some opportunity for U.S. Christians to share a witness when they work in China. A Chinese educator was in Arkansas to speak to a conference planned by the SBC Foreign Mission Board to interpret the projects.

12 agency visits set

Eleven of the SBC's 20 national agencies will be visited by members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee in the next two months as part of their effort to reconcile controversies in the denomination.

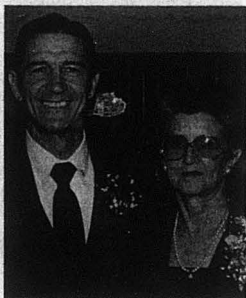
Garner honored for 25 years in Texarkana

William V. Garner, pastor of Immanuel Church, Texarkana, was honored by that congregation recently in recognition of his 25 years of service to the church.

Garner, who graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 1952 and subsequently attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California, came to the congregation from the Martindale Church, Little Rock in December 1960.

Garner presently serves on the trustee board of Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge and has filled leadership positions in the Southwest Association. He is active in the association's Ministers' Fellowship and has served as camp pastor for R.A. camps and as a chaplain for the Texarkana Fire Department.

Garner and his wife, the former Edna Pitts, have four grown children.



William and Edna Garner

Ground broken for chapel at Pine Bluff

PINE BLUFF—Ground was broken Dec. 9 for chapel facilities for inmates at the Department of Correction Women's and Diagnostic units at Pine Bluff.

James Sawyer, board chairman for the Chapel Facilities Fund, presided at the service. Completion is scheduled for July 1,

1986, according to Dewie Williams, administrator of chaplaincy services for the Department of Correction.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted in annual session Nov. 20 to observe a Day of Prayer for Prison Chapels. That date for 1986 will be Sunday, Feb. 16.

OBU play chosen for competition

ARKADELPHIA—The Ouachita Baptist University drama department has been selected to present its production of Michael Brady's play "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday" for the Southwest Region American College Theatre Festival competition to be held at the Scott Theatre, Jan. 15-18, in Fort Worth, Texas. There are 12 regional festivals in the United States.

To be eligible for consideration for the regional competition, the school must have been chosen to receive the Director's Choice or the Critic's Choice Awards at their respective state festivals. The seven plays selected at regional level will perform in the spring semester at the national festival in

Washington, D.C.

Ouachita was chosen to receive not only the Director's Choice, but also the Critic's Choice Awards at the conclusion of the Arkansas American College Festival held November 22-23 at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia.

According to Roy Buckelew, chairman of the OBU department of drama, speech and speech pathology, this is only the second time in Ouachita's history to be selected to attend the regional festival in Fort Worth. The first time was in 1972 when former department head Dennis Holt's original play "The Last Bouquet" was selected to perform at the regional festival.

Cooperative Program report: November

January-November gifts

Summary for Nov. 1985	
Received	\$958,084.72
Budget	\$956,331.17
Over	\$ 1,753.55

Year	Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
1980	\$296,716.10	12.19
1981	\$160,290.44	10.65
1982	(\$179,172.54)	8.70
1983	(\$118,593.91)	10.62
1984	(\$411,988.81)	5.20
1985	(\$355,832.28)	6.78

For the first time in several months, our receipts have exceeded budget. With a super month in December, we could still reach budget. Remember, receipts must be in our office by Jan. 7, 1986, to be counted on the 1985 budget. — L.L. Collins Jr.

Responding to reader concerns

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



A few months ago, the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine had a professional survey conducted to determine reader response to the content of the ABN. In general, our readers gave us high marks, for which we were extremely pleased. They did, however, make some very positive suggestions for changes which we will be incorporating into the Newsmagazine, beginning this month. Among the items desired by our readers were more feature stories about Arkansas Baptist people, additional "how to" stories explaining how churches and individuals are able to accomplish specific tasks for the Master and a monthly section for church leaders.

The leadership section will be called "Helpline" and will appear each fourth Thursday in the ABN. The first page of Helpline will be an informational page written by Executive Director Don Moore. On this page, Dr. Moore will point up three or four important events that will be taking place within the next few weeks. Since Dr. Moore is an able and competent promoter, this should be of significant benefit to the readers.

Pages two and three of the special Helpline section will contain a "how to" feature story or stories. The various departments of the Executive Board will point the staff of the Newsmagazine to churches or individuals who have done an outstanding job in developing a particular area of work for the Master. Other articles will seek to help churches and individuals be more effective in areas of church work such as teaching, witnessing and mission action. Appropriate pictures will accompany each story. We believe that such information will be helpful and useful to congregations across the state.

Pages four through seven will be articles by the staff of the Executive Board designed to assist churches in carrying out their task of evangelism, church growth and member training. Careful attention will be given by Baptist Building field workers, who are specialists, to the needs of the churches and to clear and concise communication.

Page eight of the Helpline will contain a three-month calendar of activities. This will be designed to acquaint church leadership with upcoming events at a glance. Each item will be repeated three times, and more details of the event will be given as we get closer to the date of each endeavor.

A few people who are not on the regular mailing list of the ABN will receive the fourth issue each month. A comparison is currently being made between church leadership mailing lists and the subscribers to the Newsmagazine. The goal is for every individual who has a leadership position in the local church to

receive the fourth issue of the Newsmagazine. In the event you receive two copies of the fourth issue of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, please notify us immediately so that your name can be deleted from receiving one of the copies. Your response will be helpful to everyone involved.

The survey revealed that editorials explaining biblical principles were the type most helpful to readers. Inspirational editorials ranked second, followed by those concerning current social problems, those which are related to church growth and advice and those dealing with controversial issues.

When asked what percentage of space they would give to various subjects if they were responsible for planning the content of the Newsmagazine, the average respondent assigned 30 percent of the space to Arkansas issues and churches, 28 percent to world religion issues, 17 percent to Southern Baptist issues, 15 percent to state convention issues and 10 percent to advertising. The Newsmagazine will devote extra space to world religion, as our readers indicated their interest.

Readers responding to the survey felt that, overall, the ABN does a good job in keeping them informed, although 25 percent expressed the opinion that the Newsmagazine is merely a public relations tool for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Dissatisfaction with the paper's performance in two specific areas were noted. Twenty-eight percent of the respondents perceived a weakness in the ABN's helpfulness to individuals in becoming more effective church workers and 17 percent believed that the editor's fairness in presenting both sides of controversial issues needed to be improved.

Most readers considered themselves, the editor and the ABN itself to be conservative in religious orientation. The readers generally said they share the Newsmagazine with other individuals each week, usually spouses, and currently receive the ABN as a part of the church or group plan.

The Newsmagazine's goal is to provide information, inspiration and interpretation. It is the purpose of the Newsmagazine to provide readers with a comprehensive knowledge of what is transpiring in our churches, in the state convention, in the Southern Baptist Convention and to the ends of the earth.

We further hope to help inspire individuals to carry out the objectives of the Great Commission.

The staff of the ABN asks the prayers, assistance and overall support of our readers as we continue to attempt to provide the kind of paper that would please the Master.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 1
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Lane Strother, Mountain Home, president; Mrs. J. W. L. Adams, Jr., Texarkana; Charles Chesser, Carlisle; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Leroy French, Fort Smith; Mrs. Jimmie Garner, Truman; Marie Milligan, Harrison; Tommy Robertson, El Dorado; and the Hon. Elsjane Roy, Little Rock.

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

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

New Century's Day resolutions

In thinking about New Year's resolutions, I am reminded that the logical time for such resolutions by students, teachers and school administrators was four or five months ago when the school year was just beginning. I once considered organizing a powerful political pressure group called the American Association for the Promotion of Student New Year's Day in August, but I decided 'AAPSNYDA' would never gain the name recognition necessary for a successful political movement.

Since Jan. 1, 1986, is the calendar beginning of Ouachita's second century, I have been wondering what kind of "First Century Resolutions" Ouachita's first president, John Conger, was making in 1886. The very fine history, *Ouachita Baptist University: The First 100 Years*, by Michael Arrington, records both the joy and the agony of many of those plans and resolutions. Hardly a day goes by that I do not receive some memento of those days: an old letter, diploma or picture from a scrapbook rescued from an attic. It is

exciting to dig into the history of Ouachita's founding fathers and mothers.

Exciting as the past may be, I am more excited about Ouachita's second century. We actually will have our New Year's Day, or New Century's Day, next Sept. 6, 1986, when we launch Ouachita's second century. We will announce new goals for Ouachita, lower the Ouachita centennial flag and raise the Ouachita second century flag, bury a time capsule of documents and memorabilia and hear a message from former President Jimmy Carter. We may well include a ground-breaking ceremony for Ouachita's new \$2 million information-age library.

All of this is great, but I am reminded that the Ouachita faculty and staff have already made their "New Century's Day" resolutions. Without a lot of fanfare, we had a faculty-staff commitment service at the beginning of this school year, on Sept. 6. It was one of the most meaningful and moving worship services in which I have ever participated. Excerpts were taken from

Ouachita catalogs during the first 100 years, and these became a part of our recommitment service. We joined our voices and hearts in saying, "We...affirm that providing Christian education is, for Baptists, not optional, because it our response to the mandate of our Lord to know, to teach and to model the truth of Scripture." When mixed with personal testimonies by teachers, secretaries, custodians and administrative staff members, it became a kind of revival and rededication service for the entire Ouachita family.

In remembering that a rose by any other name is just as sweet, I am convinced that New Year's resolutions at any other time are as important, but I hope they are more keepable! One thing is sure: not many of us will be around one more century from now to check up on whether we keep them, but God will know.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Ida Tidsworth

Thank you notes

My nephew wrote, "Thank you for the cheese you sent. Everybody in the family—but me—likes cheese." In many ways, it is "more blessed to give than to receive." I wish for the blessings from giving all year. But first, more thank you notes are due.

Thank you to a Sunday School classmate who told her doctor she was calm before surgery because people were praying for her. Thank you for sharing your faith.

Thank you to members of churches who genuinely welcome us and other strangers in their churches. Thank you for that gift of your love.

Thank you to people who have accepted Christ and by your public confession brought the "joy of the Lord" to us also.

Thank you, young women, who would not marry until you knew you could share the inner city ministry calling of your intended. Thank you for sharing self-control.

Thank you, my husband, for your long-suffering with me.

Thank you, weary mother, for cuddling

your crying child in the doctor's office. Thank you for demonstrating kindness.

Thank you, friend whose children and grandchildren returned to live at home and upset all of life's routines. Thank you for meekness that came after prayer as you decided to "enjoy them to the fullest" while they were with you.

Thank you to the woman who warmly received and returned a hug from a dirty, smelly woman. Thank you for goodness that caused you to say, "I could not hold back!"

Thank you, Lord, for these and others who have shared the fruit of your Spirit in their lives with me. Teach me to share that fruit. Then I may know the blessings of giving all year.

Mary Ida Tidsworth is a member of Calvary Church, Little Rock, where she serves as WMU director. She has taught in the public elementary schools and written materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

SBC Book of Reports deadline set at March 15

NASHVILLE, Tenn.(BP)—Messengers to the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 10-12 who want to insure they have a copy of the Book of Reports must order them prior to March 15.

This is in response to the record registration at the 1985 meeting in Dallas, which caused numerous messengers to do without the reports when the supply ran out.

Books may be ordered by sending name, address, city, state and zip code, along with a check payable to the SBC Executive Committee for \$3.50 for each book, to: Book of Reports, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203. A separate request should be included for each book ordered.

A receipt will be sent which can be used to secure a copy of the reports in the registration area at the Atlanta convention site, according to an Executive Committee spokesman. Individuals who order and are then unable to attend the convention may return their receipt and a copy of the book will be mailed to them immediately following the convention.

No copies can be mailed prior to the convention because of publishing deadlines. A limited number of copies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the registration desk.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... I am excited about the new year! It appears there will be considerable stress upon many of our Arkansas people due to unemployment, but I have confidence in our Lord and his churches that people will pray for one another and help one another. This will usually strengthen people more than a dependable paycheck. Struggles help to tender the heart in preparation for receiving Christ, too. It will be a good year!



Moore

... We have come to a new level of appreciation for missions. The AMAR projects in the Amazon Valley will expand with increasing support and involvement. You talk about excited people! You need to visit with some of those who have been to Brazil. You need to know these are not tour groups, they are tough missionary work groups. Many of our ministers of music also will be on mission to Kansas and Nebraska!

... We have the highest commitment ever to win our people to Christ. Good News America activities will help us to major on this. Thousands of Sunday leaders should commit themselves to personal evangelism this month and be trained by revival time to share the gospel with their un saved members and prospects.

... We have some fine events scheduled for bi-vocational pastors. These always meet with success as we get to know these special men and enter into their labors.

... Shared Ministry holds out immense promise. How to get the load off one man's shoulders (the pastor) and on to many other shoulders who want to be more involved in service is what "Shared Ministry" is designed to do. I hope 1986 will find us taking giant strides, as pastor and people, in learning to work together.

... Those of us who serve you out of the Baptist Building will be coming with a greater zeal and commitment than ever to help your church. From Sunday School to missionary education, there are great needs in our churches. We want to help, and we will, if you call on us and God blesses.

"The Lord willing," it will be a great year which we will share together.

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

Letters to the editor

'Why didn't you say so?'

Professor Kelley's article about "higher criticism" is interesting. I have always heard this term used to mean speculation on the authenticity, authorship or dates of books in a way that is negative and destructive. If the term really means only such normal aids to interpretation as language and historical background, many otherwise informed Bible students do not so understand it.

If we mean Bible history and interpretation, it is probably best to say so in simple words that have no doubtful connotations in the minds of the people. —Clay Hale, El Dorado.

'Negative' higher criticism

I read with interest Page H. Kelley's "Perspective" concerning higher criticism, but I am afraid he evaded the issue. From a general standpoint, all Bible students are higher critics; anyone asking "Who wrote Hebrews?" is involved in higher criticism.

The issue which Mr. Kelley evaded, however, is what is known as "negative higher criticism." When he was accused of being a higher critic, the accuser may have meant "negative" higher critic. I believe the majority of Southern Baptists want to know if

negative higher criticism is being taught in our schools and seminaries.

The problem existing today is this negative higher criticism, which passes judgment on the qualities or merits of the Bible, particularly an unfavorable judgment. This is criticism which has become warped and fails to see a worthy object for what it really is, and, when coupled with presuppositions, it becomes dishonest, unobjective criticism.

What people are wanting to know is, in our seminaries, is the value judgment of the critic imposed on the Scriptures or is the Scripture accepted as the standard to which all value judgments are subjected?

Mr. Kelley, in my opinion, used a great deal of space to say nothing. I hope that he does not accept his own mind and ability to reason as his authority, for this is the appeal of negative higher criticism. —David A. Masterton, Hensley

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double space and must be signed by one person, though the name may be withheld on request. Mailing address and phone number of the writer should be included. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. Letters must be marked "for publication." Only original letters will be considered.

Paragould Daily Press photo



East Side Church, Paragould, sanctuary burns

East Side Church, Paragould, lost its sanctuary in a suspected arson fire in the early morning hours of Sunday, Dec. 15. A 21-year-old Paragould man was arrested Sunday night in connection with the blaze.

The fire, reported about 12:25 a.m. Sunday, gutted the sanctuary of the

20-year-old building. The remainder of the physical plant received moderate smoke and water damage. The building had been remodeled two years ago. A new organ, purchased in 1984, and a recently-installed sound system were lost in the fire, reported Brenda Fowler, wife of East Side pastor Jim Fowler.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Rev. and Mrs. Hoyle Haire celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 22 when a reception was given in the chapel of Booneville First Church. Mrs. Haire is the former Mary Dunn. They were married Dec. 26, 1935 in Clinton, La. Hosting the reception were their four daughters, Anne Bowman of Los Angeles, Calif., Susan Crane of Nashville, Tenn., Jane Felps of Clinton, La., and Judy Cobb of Little Rock. Their eight grandchildren were also present. He has served for 43 years as a Southern Baptist minister, having served churches in both Louisiana and Arkansas. He now is pastor emeritus of Booneville First Church. The Haire's served for one year as missionaries to Guam.

Virgil Brandt has joined the staff of Searcy Second Church as minister of music. Brandt, who is manager of plant engineering at Vickers, Inc., in Searcy, has completed studies in engineering and education at the University of Nebraska. He and his wife, Renie, attended Grace College of Bible in Omaha, Neb. They are parents of three adult children living in other states and have one grandson.

Larry Webb is serving as pastor of Canfield Church.

Rehta Kilmer has joined the staff of Third Church, Malvern, as director of children's music. She is working on her master's degree at Ouachita Baptist University.

D.C. Applegate died Dec. 13 at age 66 in Starkville, Miss. He was a former resident of Paragould and a retired Southern Baptist minister. Survivors include his wife, Catherine Applegate; a daughter, Sharon Nobles of Starkville; two brothers, Henry Applegate of West Memphis and Loyd Applegate of Indio, Calif.; and two grandchildren.

George H. Dunklin of Pine Bluff has been elected as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Health Care System in Memphis.

Mack Blackwood of Corning died Dec. 4 at age 83. He had been a member of Corning First Church for 45 years. He had served there as church treasurer and Sunday School director and as a deacon for 40 years. Survivors include two daughters, Mackie Ann Tiner of North Little Rock and Madelyn Hubbard of St. Louis, Mo.; nine grandchildren and two great-grandsons.



Hoyle and Mary Haire

Bobby Johnson of Conway is serving Wooster Church as minister of music and youth.

William H. Clay is serving as pastor of Indian Springs Church at Bryant. An Arkansas native, he is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He came to Bryant from Cleburne, Texas. He and his wife, the former Rita Dean Weaver of Perryville, have three children, Todd Randall, Bryan Anthony and April Melissa.



Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock honored Pastor Don Moseley for 10 years of service by furnishing a study in his new home. The congregation recognized Moseley and his family on both Dec. 1 and Dec. 15

briefly

Brookwood First Church in Little Rock was in revival Dec. 1-6. Pastor Bradley A. Rogge served as evangelist. Craig Hopson of Arkadelphia directed music.

Watson Chapel Church at Pine Bluff will observe its 25th anniversary Jan. 12 with special services.

Trumann First Church will ordain Noyl Houston, Ray Dement, Charlie Parks, Ken Sorrels and Willard Walker into the deacon ministry Jan. 5. Pastor Jerry Wilcox will serve as moderator.

Magnolia Church at Crossett ordained Buddy Kinney to the preaching ministry Dec. 8.

Mount Carmel Church at Cabot was in revival Dec. 15-20 with Ron Dunn of Texas serving as evangelist.

Little Rock Immanuel Church held a single adult Sunday School rally Dec. 15 to launch an outreach program to single adults in the Little Rock area. Pastor Brian Harbour was speaker and Donna Crenshaw presented special music.

Lincoln First Church dedicated its auditorium, refurbished with new pews, pulpit and carpet, Dec. 8. Terrel Gordon, a former pastor, and Harold Gateley, Washington-Madison Association director of missions were speakers.

ABN photo / Millie Gill

'Super Summer' youth program will focus on growth, fellowship

by J. Everett Sneed

"Super Summer," a time of challenging experiences in spiritual growth and fellowship with other youth, will be held on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University, July 14-18. A wide variety of growth activities will meet the needs of young people who have completed ninth grade through college.

Activities will be provided for adult sponsors as well as youth in the daytime. Youth classes will include such topics as "Preparing for a Preaching Ministry," "Preparing for a Youth Ministry," "Improving Your Time Alone With God," "Growing in Personal Relationships" and many more.

In the evening, Dawson McAllister of Arlington, Texas, an outstanding youth communicator, will lead the worship service. Tierce Green, an outstanding Christian musician, will lead the music worship and a special concert will be held by "Gabriel,"

a Christian recording group.

In addition, the evening services will include seminars for young people such as, "How to Raise Your Parents," "The Christian Family," "Dealing With Suicide," "Preparing for College" and much more.

James Lagrone, associate in the ABSC Evangelism Department, said, "We will have the very best youth program in the Southern Baptist Convention. We will be celebrating service for our Lord and the excitement level for all of the youth who attend will be very high."

The program has been tailored to meet the specific needs of the young people by 16 church youth directors. Eight of these serve with Lagrone as a steering committee. The youth directors have planned the worship experiences, the schedule and every aspect of the program. The goal of the Advisory and Steering Committee has been to make Super

Summer meet the needs of Arkansas churches.

Lagrone emphasized that Super Summer will be held annually. The membership on the Steering and Advisory Committee will be rotated periodically.

Lagrone said, "Young people will have opportunity to participate both in large and small meetings. The closely structured activities are designed to produce maximum Christian joy and growth in young people."

Ouachita's facilities will allow only 987 young people to attend. Young people are advised to enroll quickly in order to assure the opportunity of attending. The cost for the week will be \$55.00 including all meals, housing in dormitories and discipling materials.

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

Women's group seeks to make earth a safer place to live

by J. Everett Sneed

Mrs. Payton Kolb explains that Peace Links is an effort by women around the world to make the earth a safer place to live by educating others about the nuclear dilemma. Mrs. Kolb said, "I am grateful that women with strong Christian commitment are willing to take a stand for peace."

Mrs. Kolb, a member of Little Rock's Pulaski Heights Church, continued by saying, "The leader of Peace Links, Betty Bumpers, is a devoted Christian Methodist. Her involvement in Peace Links is a direct outgrowth of her Christian convictions."

Mrs. Kolb expressed particular joy that a group of Russian women recently came to the U.S. to see our country at the invitation of Peace Links. She said, "You can't provide a Christian witness to people unless you have personal contact with them."

Mrs. Betty Bumpers says Peace Links is not an effort to encourage unilateral disarmament. She said, "What we hope to accomplish is that nations will disarm themselves and lay aside atomic weaponry. It is beyond imagination the suffering and destruction that would come in a nuclear war."

Mrs. Bumpers said her involvement in Peace Links came as a result of a conversation with her 19-year old daughter. She was bringing her freshman daughter home for the holidays when her daughter asked, "What would we do in case of a nuclear war? If we were still alive, where would we meet as a family?"

Mrs. Bumpers said it was apparent her college freshman daughter knew far more about nuclear war than she did. She said, "I had grown up with the bomb. It brought my sweetheart home from the South Pacific. I had taught school during the 'duck and cover' era and knew that method was not



ABN photo / Millie Gill

(Above, left to right) Margaret Whillock, executive director of Peace Links; Betty Bumpers, a Methodist laywoman; and Dorothy Truex, a member of Second Church, Little Rock, and former vice-chancellor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, got involved with Peace Links because of their concern over the threat of nuclear war.

viable. Mostly, I had put it out of my mind."

Currently, there are approximately 120 wives of senators, congressmen and governors who are involved in the organization. Mrs. Bumpers said, "As I began to discuss nuclear war, I discovered women all over the world feel their children's future and even their homes on this planet are in jeopardy because of the possibility of nuclear war."

Mrs. Margaret Whillock, executive director of Peace Links, outlined a number of actions that can be taken to encourage world-wide nuclear disarmament. Among

these were: join Peace Links, participate in peace panels, write letters and encourage people to become educated on the awesome effects of nuclear war. Mrs. Whillock said she and other members of the group would be available to meet with any group of women, even for a small coffee or tea.

Mrs. Bumpers said, "When women become aroused because of the safety of their children, they will not sit idly by to let them be slaughtered."

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

Chinese educator sees new opportunities for witness in China

by Mark Kelly

The People's Republic of China hasn't opened its doors to missionaries yet, but a few windows have been thrown open for Christian influence in the world's most populous nation.

Since the 1950s, when foreign missionaries were expelled and religious institutions, including Baptist churches and schools, were closed, the communist government of China repressed all expressions of religion, Christian or otherwise.

But eight years ago, a new constitution reformed the government's attitude toward religion, allowing the return of Christian churches and opening the door for Christian professionals from overseas to come to China to share their skills.

In response to that new openness, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board formed Cooperative Services International in April 1985. CSI, an international organization with offices in Richmond and Hong Kong, seeks to identify service opportunities in overseas countries and interpret them to interested U.S. citizens.

In December 1985, the Foreign Mission Board sponsored a conference at Ouachita Baptist University to explain those opportunities to interested Arkansas Baptists. C.K. Zhang, a veteran Chinese educator, was among those speaking in the conference, encouraging Southern Baptists to take advantage of the new opportunities for Christian influence in China.

Zhang, a third-generation Baptist whose grandmother was won by Southern Baptist missionaries nearly 100 years ago, addressed persons attending the Tuesday, Dec. 9, workshop at OBU and then spoke in chapel to the university community.

In an interview with the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, Zhang explained the Chinese government has identified a need for 43 teachers in the natural sciences, fine arts, English and mathematics fields in 43 Chinese universities and colleges. Zhang has been visiting Baptist institutions, encouraging their faculty members to consider applying for the temporary positions.

At Ouachita, Zhang discussed the possibility of a sister-school relationship between OBU and Anhui Normal University in Wuhu, where he serves as head of the English department. In addition, the prospect of an OBU administrator going to Anhui as a physics professor next year was discussed.

Zhang has been a visiting professor of Asian studies this past semester at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is a 1938 graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has done graduate study at Duke University, the University of North Carolina and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

On his return to China in 1939, Zhang took a professorship at the University of

Shanghai, a Baptist school, and served as pastor of Shanghai's University Church. Classes at the university were suspended by the government in 1952, and Zhang spent six years in prison because of his Baptist connections.

After his release from prison, Zhang assumed his position at Anhui, where he is now approaching retirement.

Although foreign missionaries are not allowed to enter China, religious conviction

is affirmed as a matter of personal conviction under the new constitution, Zhang explained. Consequently, churches are being re-opened "very quickly and people are coming to them in great numbers." Churches in Shanghai are having to hold four or five worship services each Sunday, he reported.

In eight years, about 3,500 Christian churches have opened their doors, Zhang said. Adding those to the vast network of

ABN photo / Millie Gill



C.K. Zhang, professor of English at Anhui Normal University in Wuhu, China, is encouraging Baptist professionals to consider bringing their skills to China.

Arkansas couple appointed to serve in Israel

RICHMOND, Va. — An Arkansas couple was among 46 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Dec. 10.

J. Dennis and Bonita Murray will work in Israel, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He is pastor of Big Springs Church, Brookhaven, Miss.

Born in Arkadelphia, Murray is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Murray of El Dorado. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, where he is currently enrolled in a doctoral program.

Born in Magnolia, Mrs. Murray is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Thomas Pettus of El Dorado. The Murrays consider El Dorado's East Main Church their home church.

The Murrays have one child, Jon Michael, born in 1972. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in January for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field.



J. Dennis and Bonita Murray

underground home churches, China may have as many as 15 million Christians today. Zhang compared that to an estimated 700,000 Chinese Christians when foreign missionaries were expelled and the churches closed.

Zhang credits radio broadcasts in Mandarin, a major Chinese dialect, with maintaining the vitality of Christian faith in China during the 35-year repression. By comparison, Buddhism was practically eliminated during that period, he said. Government-restored Buddhist temples draw only slight attention, he contended.

The new freedoms have opened many doors for Chinese Christians, who do not divide themselves into denominations, Zhang said. For instance, publication has just begun on a version of the Bible printed in modern, simplified Chinese characters. In addition, all restrictions have been lifted on shipments of English-language Bibles into the country.

"Don't smuggle Chinese language Bibles in from outside," Zhang said. "We can publish the Bible within our own borders now. Why smuggle it in?"

To the contrary, if U.S. Christians would pour their efforts and resources into China's growing new opportunities, tremendous strides might be made in evangelizing a country which is home to one-fourth of the world's population, he asserted.

Zhang asked: "If one-fourth of the world's population could be reached for Christ, how long would it take to reach the rest of the world?"

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

Literacy program reaches Hindus for Christ

BANGALORE, India—An effort to teach Indian Baptists to read and write has led six Hindus in the past four months to become Christians.

Southern Baptist missionaries began the effort this year to battle India's 50 percent illiteracy. Their program offers teacher training and materials that present the story of Jesus after only a few sessions.

Seventeen training centers were opened with Baptist pastors and church starters receiving teacher training. The first literacy study groups involved only Christians. But as Hindu friends and neighbors saw participants rapid progress in writing their names and reading sentences, they began asking for help.

Without education, many Indians have been barred from possible advancement in life. More than 30 employees of the Baptist hospital in Bangalore are illiterate. Each is now learning one of two south Indian languages from the hospital's pastoral care staff.

FMB names record 429 to mission force

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists added a record 429 new overseas missionary personnel in 1985 and also moved close to the \$10 million mark in world hunger and relief giving.

These reports, made at the December meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, came amid reports of new ways the board is exploring to reach areas of the world where missionaries cannot go.

At the same time, the board warned financial support is lagging behind missionary growth and urged Southern Baptists to give sacrificially both through the Cooperative Program and the 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. The goal this year is \$70 million.

Board trustees approved 46 new missionaries in December and reapportioned five to reach the record figure. Previous high was 406 named in 1982.

Relief giving to meet human need around the world surged to \$9.8 million through the end of November, the latest figures available. The total for 1984 was \$7.2 million.

The emotional high point of the meeting came as President R. Keith Parks and Executive Vice-President William R. O'Brien told of their recent visit to the Soviet Union.

O'Brien, who has led in seeking new ways to cooperate better with Baptists in both the U.S.S.R. and China, said the spiritual health of Christians in these two countries is evident in the depth of their worship and growth that has occurred even during years of oppression.

"Marxism, Leninism and Maoism has been a 20th Century Darius in the hands of God creating a climate in which the church could get well," he said. "And in China and the Soviet Union it is getting well." (Darius

the Great, king of ancient Persia, helped restore Israel after the Babylonian exile and made it possible to complete rebuilding the Temple.)

"I don't know what it's going to take for us to get where they are (in the purity of the church)," O'Brien said. "I don't want to go through what they've gone through to get there. But it probably will take either a revolution or a revival." He said he hoped for the latter.

O'Brien noted that in 1917 when the Russian revolution broke out, the church there was arguing over the width of the hem of the bishop's robe.

"Having experienced what I've experienced," he said, "I've decided the things we argue about are directly proportional to the distance we are from the real issues. God help us. God revive us. God help us learn from our brothers and sisters in these parts."

Parks said Southern Baptists must resist the human and cultural pressures to remain local and respond instead to the Christian mandate to be global.

"The exploding opportunities for interchange between Baptist people, as well as other Christians, and the Christians in China is literally overwhelming," Parks said. He noted the recent visit of a Foreign Mission Board film crew to portray the Christian church in China can be a "window through which we can catch a glimpse of God's moving among a great people."

A letter from Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), head of the Three-Self Patriotic (Protestant) Movement and the China Christian Council, expressed hope this film would create "waves upon waves" of prayer from the Christians of America for the Christians of China, Parks reported.

Food, fun helps church raise \$2,000 for missions

text and photos by Sherri Anthony Brown

GRANITE FALLS, N.C. (BP)—Corn shucking, all-you-can-eat chicken and dumplings, square dancing, cake walks and good fun has helped a Southern Baptist church raise \$2,000 for missions in one evening.

Dudley Shoals Church in Granite Falls, N.C., for several years has used similar creative, down-home methods which have allowed members to build 12 churches in four years.

It all started in 1980, when North Carolina Baptists and West Virginia Baptists formed Partnership 200. Their objective was to add 100 new churches in West Virginia to the existing 100 churches, by 1985.

At the time, Keith Sims' Sunday school class at the Dudley Shoals church was trying to find a mission project. "We were looking for a project more than just something local," explained Sims. They chose to help in the structural building of the new churches.

In 1982, they bought brick, mortar mix and sand, traveled to West Virginia and, in a week, bricked their first church building.

However, they returned with a debt for the materials. "We chose not to pull this mission project money out of our general budget," said Don Ingle, pastor of the Dudley Shoals church for the past 14 years. So, the Sunday school class opted for another method of gathering funds, one which proved to be fun as well as lucrative.

Sims and his family own and operate a barbecue restaurant, which is opened only on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. He offered to use his restaurant—a popular eating place in the area, feeding up to 1,000 people a night—for an evening, with the profits going to missions.

The class readily agreed and chose to



Irene Starnes, the "Dumpling Queen" (far right), rolls out dough with the women of Dudley Shoals Church, Granite Falls, N.C. The church sponsored a community-wide, all-you-can-eat chicken and dumpling dinner to raise money for missions.

serve all-you-can-eat chicken and dumplings as the main course, for \$5 a person.

This fall, the fifth chicken and dumpling dinner to finance their twelfth mission trip to West Virginia cleared more than \$2,000 for missions in one evening. During those

12 trips, Dudley Shoals church members bricked the 200th and 201st churches in the Partnership 200 project.

They fashioned their evening after an area tradition of "corn shuckin'." Years ago, area corn farmers would call their neighbors together at harvest time. They would shuck the season's corn, eat a meal together and celebrate with music and square dancing.

A month before the dinner, women in the church made batches of dumplings and froze them. "Freezing gives the final product more moisture," explained Irene Starnes, the "Dumpling Queen." Then, the day of the dinner, they gathered ahead of time to cook 16 huge pots of chicken and dumplings. Others brought cakes and pies for desert and the cake walk.

The corn shuckin' began with everyone anxiously looking for the red ear which allowed the privilege to kiss the prettiest girl or boy. More than 400 people showed up to eat their fill of food and join in the square dancing and clogging to music of local bands and callers who donated their talents.

"Coming together to make this money helps the churches in West Virginia. But it's also fun, which makes it easy to do," said Sims.



A local blue grass band donated their time and music to help the Dudley Shoals Church of Granite Falls, N.C. raise more than \$2,000 to help with mission projects in West Virginia. The funds used helped defray costs of church building supplies.

Sherri Anthony Brown is an associate editor with the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptists urged not to tire of assistance to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)—Transportation problems and lean crops will add at least another year to Southern Baptist short-term relief efforts in Ethiopia, according to missionaries.

Missionaries urge Southern Baptists to continue prayer and financial support for efforts to shore up the transportation and supply system necessary to keep feeding programs operating.

Feeding and health care centers operated by missionaries and volunteers in the Ethiopian highlands need reliable sources of grain and continued access to a helicopter or airplanes to stabilize the difficult transportation system.

Rains, which partially broke Ethiopia's drought, produced only enough harvest to feed the people for two to four months. Thus, the feeding and health care centers will need to remain open through at least 1986. Southern Baptists operate five such centers in Ethiopia's Menz-Gishe and Merhabete districts and may be asked by the government to open two more.

That, along with plans for long-range development, will call for at least a dozen more volunteer nurses and perhaps a career missionary physician, as well as another career veterinarian and another career agriculturist.

Aware that one harvest can't cure 11 years

of famine, Ethiopian officials project nearly six million Ethiopians will need relief throughout 1986. That calls for mobilization and distribution of nearly 1.2 million metric tons of grain, supplementary food and oil.

Southern Baptist missionaries need 19,000 metric tons of grain, plus supplementary food and oil, in 1986 to supply their centers and feed about 170,000 of those people per month.

"We can reasonably expect from current sources only about one-half of our total annual requirement," said Ed Mason, volunteer from Florida, who coordinates relief efforts for the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia. Mennonites donated 1,720 metric tons of grain to keep the centers supplied through December and have promised 5,000 to 8,000 metric tons in 1986 if Southern Baptists can handle inland shipping costs.

The Foreign Mission Board is exploring ways to get access to additional grain and improve transportation for grain already in the country but log-jammed by lack of trucks, according to John Cheyne, the Foreign Mission Board's senior human needs consultant.

Missionaries report they could put a helicopter or airplane to work right away, since funding apparently is running out on a helicopter on loan from the "100 Huntley

Street" religious program in Canada and only part-time airplane transportation service is available from another religious organization.

Aware continued needs in Ethiopia may create "donor fatigue" in the United States, Mason pointed out. "The Ethiopian famine is far from over. To stop now would be to retrogress to one year ago when we first started. The caring and giving must continue to protect the investment already made in these people.

"Because Christians cared and prayed, we have made a dramatic impact in the lives of children and adults here. The investment has been worthwhile. We've won victories and saved lives. We must not stop the short-term efforts now."

Meanwhile, missionaries continue to negotiate with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture to design a long-range developmental plan. They also have cooperated with an Italian immunization team and received drug shipments from the Foreign Mission Board to battle a typhus outbreak.

Career missionary physician David Sorley of Uganda will visit Ethiopia to recommend ways to maintain the health of missionary and volunteer staff who have encountered health problems while involved in relief efforts in remote areas.

Wake Forest trustees set self-perpetuating board

by R.G. Puckett

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—Trustees of Wake Forest University, in a regular December session, voted to elect all their successors, thus establishing a self-perpetuating board of trustees which would not be elected by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The move raised objections from some Baptist leaders, including expressions of regret and questions of legality.

According to Russell Brantley, spokesman for the university, the action by voice vote passed by "a large majority." All but two of the 36 trustees were present.

WFU trustees took the action in response to action last month when messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved a new covenant relationship with the university but failed to give the two-thirds majority necessary to change some language in the convention's constitution to accommodate the new provisions of the covenant.

The convention and the university have been functioning with a covenant relationship which was approved in 1979 and was subject to review and evaluation each five years. The review in 1985 resulted in a change whereby one-third of the trustees would be elected by the university's trustees and the remaining two-thirds would be elected by the convention.

"The trustees have an inordinate desire to maintain close ties to the Baptist State Convention," President Thomas K. Hearn Jr., told the *Biblical Recorder*, the newsjournal of the state convention. "They committed themselves to maintain programs and services to Baptists and Baptist churches.

"They desired to settle the governance question and to establish our relationship to Baptists and Baptist churches on the basis of our service and programs," he concluded.

The number of trustees will be increased from 36 to 40 and will include the General secretary-treasurer of the convention, the executive secretary of the Christian Higher Education Council and four ministers of churches cooperating with the convention. Two-thirds of the trustees will be residents of North Carolina and members of churches cooperating with the convention.

Roy J. Smith, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said, "I have two reactions in this matter. First I am sorry that our convention, meeting in Charlotte, did not complete the constitution and bylaw provisions for the renewed covenant relationship with Wake Forest University. The revised covenant was approved by 63.4 percent of the messengers, just short of the necessary two thirds. The disappointment of our friends at the univer-

sity is shared by convention leadership.

"Second, I regret the decision of the Wake Forest trustees. Many of us have labored faithfully to make the covenant relationship work to the advantage of both Wake Forest and the convention.

"When Bob Mullinax and I met recently with President Hearn and trustee chairman Harfield, we stated clearly our opinion that a self-perpetuating board of trustees would not be acceptable to the convention. We must now carefully consider our responsibilities in light of the trustee action.

"What we do now will become the recorded history of an important era in Baptist life. We must act with intelligence and courage in responding to the university trustees," Smith said.

T. Robert Mullinax, executive secretary of the Council On Christian Higher Education, said, "I am disappointed in the decision of the Wake Forest trustees. Serious questions must now be addressed, as they were in 1978, when similar unilateral action would have removed the convention from its historic role in the election of trustees.

"The critical question is whether the trustees have the legal right to alter the university's relationship."

R.G. Puckett is editor of the *Biblical Recorder*.

Peace Committee subcommittees to visit SBC agencies

by Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)—Five subcommittees of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee will visit 11 of the 20 national SBC agencies during the next two months as part of the effort to reconcile the controversy in the 14.4-million member denomination.

The subcommittees, each composed of four members, were appointed during the Dec. 10-11 meeting of the committee in Atlanta. They are expected to make the visits in January and February and to report to the whole committee during meetings in January and February.

Committee Chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church of Roanoke, Va., said the purpose of the subcommittees is "neither a whitewash nor an inquisition. I think the committee is genuinely trying to avoid those extremes."

Fuller added the instructions to the subcommittees are that they "go in the spirit of love and candor and with the major purpose being to sensitize agencies to convention concerns and to solicit their active participation with us in the peace making process."

"The subcommittees will state at the outset that the purpose is not to accuse but to express concerns which committee members have and which have been conveyed to the committee by Southern Baptists in general. The purpose is to establish honest dialogue and communication.

"Agencies shall be given an opportunity to express their concerns and shall also be encouraged to express what they perceive to be the greatest needs to restoration of trust in SBC life," he added.

The subcommittees—three of which will visit two seminaries each, one to visit Nashville-based agencies and the last to visit the two mission boards—will meet with the chief administrative officer, the chairman of the trustees, and, in the case of the seminaries, the chief academic officer.

Informal guidelines given to the subcommittees indicate any "faculty member or agency employee whose name enters into the discussion," may appear before the subcommittee or present a written statement if he or she wishes.

Fuller said the 11 agencies to be visited have been specifically mentioned in at least one of the more than 200 letters received by the committee.

The committees and their assignments (chairman listed first):

Midwestern and Golden Gate seminaries—Harmon Born, Atlanta; William Hull, Shreveport, La.; Daniel Vestal, Midland, Texas, and Ed Young, Houston.

Southern and New Orleans seminaries—William Crews, Riverside, Calif.; Adrian Rogers, Memphis, Tenn.; Winfred Moore, Amarillo, Texas, and Cecil Sherman, Fort Worth, Texas.

Southeastern and Southwestern seminaries—Jim Henry, Orlando, Fla.; Robert

E. Cuttino, Lancaster, S.C.; William Poe, Charlotte, N.C., and Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.

Sunday School Board, Christian Life Commission and Historical Commission—Ray Roberts, Asheville, N.C.; Doyle Carlton, Wauchula, Fla.; Christine Gregory, Danville, Va., and SBC President Charles F. Stanley, Atlanta.

Foreign and Home mission boards—Albert McClellan, Nashville, Tenn.; Jodi Chapman, Wichita Falls, Texas; Herschel H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City, and John Sullivan, Shreveport, La.

Chairman Fuller and Vice-Chairman Charles Pickering of Laurel, Miss., will not join the visitation teams, but will be available to fill in, if necessary, Fuller said.

Fuller told Baptist Press he had contacted each of the agency executives prior to proposing the visitation subcommittees to the committee, and said each "was positive, favorable and supportive of the idea. Several of them had certain questions mainly in regard to procedure, but in no case did I encounter anyone who felt the idea was improper or wrong."

He added a representative of the seminary presidents had telephoned following a workshop conducted for the heads of the six seminaries. "He told me the presidents had reiterated their support, cooperation and willingness. He added the seminaries did not desire to sidestep anything, but to deal with everything the committee wants to ask."

Much of the time of the December meeting was taken up with discussion of the visitation approach, Fuller said, with some members "looking at a different process, such as inviting the agency executives to meet with the whole committee, or questioning whether the committee had progressed sufficiently to be ready for the action."

Fuller described the third meeting of the 22-member committee as being "one primarily concerned with implementation (of our SBC-assigned task). The first meeting was typified by organization and identification. The second moved from identification to confrontation and the third meeting moved from confrontation to some implementation."

The chairman said the meeting—which was attended by all members—had a "quality spirit. The diversity is there; the confrontation is there; the depth of feeling is there,

but I really believe there is respect for each other. Even though there may be disagreement, there is not a deterioration of the confrontation."

He added he also is pleased with the progress the committee is making, although it may appear to be slow to some outside the structure. "There may be some who say we are not moving fast enough," he said. "But that is not being said by those who have the responsibility for carrying out this responsibility. I think we (the committee) see the value in becoming a group, and that does take time," he said.

Fuller added most members are optimistic about the assignment and the progress. "I think that would be a good word, but most members probably would add a qualifier such as hopefully optimistic, cautiously optimistic or growingly optimistic. We are more inclined to be hopeful rather than pessimistic or defeated."

In addition to establishing the visitation subcommittees, the committee also:

—Allowed a representative from Baptist Press, the SBC news service, to attend the meeting. BP also has been invited to attend the January meeting in Dallas.

—Heard a devotional by Fuller, in which the chairman emphasized that the "biblical approach to reconciliation is that the Christian takes the initiative when he feels the other party is the offender" and once again encouraged Peace Committee members to "set an example by keeping the inflammatory profile of the controversy low."

—Heard four members—Vines, Carlton, Born and Hull—discuss the items which bind the Southern Baptist Convention together. Mentioned were autonomy of the local church, an "absolute belief in one God," the centrality of the Scriptures in Baptist theology, a passion for freedom and voluntary cooperation.

—Established a schedule for meetings leading up to the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC, June 10-12, in Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The committee will meet Jan. 20-21 in Dallas; Feb. 24-25, in Atlanta; April 3-4 in Dallas and again May 13-14 in Atlanta. Fuller said committee members felt rotating meetings between Dallas and Atlanta, rather than going to Nashville, simplified travel arrangements.

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

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Politics, structure discussions slated for next meeting

ATLANTA (BP)—Political activities within the Southern Baptist Convention will be discussed when the SBC Peace Committee meets in Dallas Jan. 20-21.

The 22-member committee, elected during the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC, voted to move from theological matters to political activities and structural matters when they continue their work to seek the causes of the controversy in the 14.4-million member denomination and to make recommendations about how to solve them.

"We said after our initial meeting we would begin with a discussion of theological matters, because we believe that is the root

from which the other problems spring," said Chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va. "We also said we would discuss other matters such as political, structural and parliamentary. We will now begin to do that."

He added one member said the group should discuss the fact the two men most frequently mentioned as candidates for the SBC presidency in 1986 are committee members: Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and Winfred Moore, current SBC first vice-president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas.

"The committee member did not express a view on whether the men should serve, but only said he thinks the committee should discuss all aspects of the convention politics,

even those involving current peace committee members," Fuller said.

Fuller said the committee members—from all theological spectrums—agreed the committee should discuss the political activities and their ramifications "no-holds barred and head-on."

Other matters scheduled for the January meeting include a discussion of the SBC presidency and presidential powers. It is the election of the president and the use of his appointive and presiding powers which have been at the focus of the seven-year political struggle.

Fuller said the committee also will discuss the role of the parliamentarian—another sore point in the controversy—and the possibility of negative designation of Cooperative Program funds.

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Oregon church loses school zoning appeal

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court refused Dec. 9 to review an appeal by an Oregon Assembly of God congregation challenging its city's requirement that parochial schools be zoned apart from church premises.

At issue in the dispute between the southwest Oregon city of Medford and the Medford Assembly of God was the church's refusal to comply with the zoning regulation on grounds it violated the free exercise of religion.

The congregation, which maintains a day

Music volunteers sought to fill missions requests

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Church music secretaries from across the Southern Baptist Convention were urged to find qualified volunteers for mission service in new work areas during the annual state workers meeting at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

David Bunch, Mission Service Corps director at the SBC Home Mission Board, said for the 81 requests on file for music leadership, there are "no musicians to recommend."

Currently, 35 music missionaries are on assignment in 22 locations, working for state conventions, associations, churches and groups of churches. Bunch said most volunteers accept two-year assignments, but persons who can give one year also are needed.

Since the MSC program's beginning in 1977, some 50 persons have performed music missions tasks. Many, he said, have returned to complete formal training, including seminary studies, to further their careers in church music leadership.

Calling music missions "a valid church growth technique," Bunch said the Home Mission Board stresses placing volunteers in new work areas.

"One of the things we have found is the readily accepted church growth dynamic that comes with music missions," he said. "These volunteers build programs that involve a lot of people. They build attendance through music involvement with persons who have not been active in church. This brings more persons, better finances and more enthusiasm.

"Baptists being a singing people, it's a synergistic kind of thing in the congregation," he observed. "That's why we're investing time in a church music effort in new work areas."

Bunch said Mission Service Corps is a personnel vehicle through which persons give full-time service for a year or more, providing their own support in a mission and evangelism ministry on assignment through either the Home or Foreign Mission Board.

Bunch said the need is for enough church musicians to be placed in new work areas to develop models for ministry to show what can be done.

care center, preschool, kindergarten and elementary school with grades 1-3, has argued during court proceedings it should not have to obtain a separate zoning permit for operating its elementary school.

After losing in a state court of appeals, the church's attorney, Michael Farris, filed an appeal with the nation's high court, arguing the elementary school is "an integral and inseparable religious ministry of the church." Farris, lead attorney for Beverly LaHaye's Concerned Women for America, wrote further: "For practical, financial and philosophical reasons, the school could not survive off the church premises."

The city's zoning regulation, he concluded, violated the congregation's ability to exercise freely its religion and ignored earlier Supreme Court rulings that church-related schools are integral to the churches that

sponsor them.

But the city countered in a brief urging the high court to reject the appeal that the ordinance meets all three parts of a 1971 Supreme Court test for determining the constitutionality of laws relating to religion: that they have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion, and not excessively entangle government with religion.

Rejecting the church's argument the ordinance violated the free exercise of religion, the city's attorney wrote: "The city is not trying to tell the church what to teach or what kind of ministries it should have. . . . (It) is merely trying to allow schools and churches in residential neighborhoods while at the same time retaining some control to allow it to protect the neighborhood from a use that may be incompatible." (85-538, Medford Assembly of God v. Medford)

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Persons are important

by Nan Ashcraft, Hurricane Lake Church, Benton

Basic passage: Matthew 10:28-31; Mark 2:23 to 3:6

Focal passage: Matthew 10:28-31; Mark 2:23 to 3:6

Central truth: Persons are of infinite value to God.

"There you go again!" This over-used expression could have been appropriately addressed to the Pharisees in their continuing controversy with Jesus. It was not the first time he and his disciples had been taken to task about their sabbath activities.

In no other tradition were the Pharisees quite so zealous as in observing this holy day. The scribes had gone to great lengths in making lists of petty rules for upholding the law. Along the way, they had lost sight of the original intent of the commandments by the proliferation of their religious rules; consequently, the sabbath had become a burden rather than the benefit and blessing it was meant to be.

Persons are more important than traditions, institutions or law. Jesus demonstrated to onlookers that it is right to do deeds of mercy on the sabbath.

Jesus looked in anger on the hard-heartedness of the Pharisees. He answered them tersely in simple truths, and they held their peace. He did not promiscuously violate their regulations, though he challenged their interpretations. He demonstrated the sabbath day is for man's benefit.

Jesus was uncompromising in asserting his authority. His redemptive sabbath activities illustrated that the holy day was being fulfilled. In defense of his disciples and in support of his teachings, he reminded the Pharisees of the time when King David was hungry and ate the shewbread, which was not lawful to be eaten except by the priests.

Jesus' deeds of mercy on the sabbath day can increase our concern for meeting the needs of those who are culturally and racially different from ourselves. We are confronted with the possibility that certain patterns of behavior may be challenged and changed.

Participation in witness and ministry are encouraged for enrichment of Lord's Day observance for contemporary believers. Jan. 12 is set aside in churches of the Southern Baptist Convention as Witness Commitment Day.

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Life and Work

A new commitment

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

Basic passage: Nehemiah 8:1 to 10:39

Focal passage: Nehemiah 9:1-3, 31-34, 38

Central truth: In spite of past failures, God's people can renew their commitment to God and find his acceptance.

A new year has begun, and I already have broken my new year's resolutions. I do it every year. Isn't it great, that in the spiritual realm of our lives, God will forgive our sin and help us overcome our weaknesses? We all need a new commitment.

That commitment begins with a personal confession of sin to God. We must be willing to say, "God, I am sorry. I want forgiveness." We need to confess and name that sin and pledge to God our desire to have his help in overcoming our weakness.

A second step in our commitment is the study of God's Word. Modern Christians have gotten away from personal Bible study. We depend on preachers and Sunday School teachers for most of our spiritual education. Preaching and teaching is good, but we need more. We need that personal quiet time with the Word and God.

Commitment also means prayer time. How can we know God's plan if we never talk to him? Each day we need to set aside a time of prayer. Again, we need quiet time when God can speak to our hearts and help us make those changes that we need to make.

Finally, let us praise God. After all, without God we would be nothing, have nothing and there would be nothing to look forward to at the end of our days on earth. We need to praise God for who he is and all that he has given.

Today, sit down and make a list of all that God has done for you. All of us can find at least one thing. Most of us will find many things to be happy and thankful for.

Now, make a list of things that need to be changed, removed or strengthened in your life. Present this list to God in an attitude of prayer and say, "Lord, I am willing to make these changes, but I need your help. Here am I Lord; take charge of my life." Nineteen hundred eighty-six will be a great year for all of us if we renew our commitment to our Lord.

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Bible Book

The true gospel

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 1:1-20

Focal passage: 1 Timothy 1:1-17

Central truth: Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Godly parents are a priceless blessing. Timothy's mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois were women of faith and love. Because of these two godly people, Timothy was ready to respond to the gospel when he heard the message of Jesus.

My life parallels Timothy's life in many ways. God gave me the privilege of growing up in a wonderful Christian home. My dad and mother loved the Lord Jesus and taught me by precept and example what he is like. At every meal, someone always led in prayer. Each day always ended with a family altar. Every sorrow, trial and temptation was taken to the Lord in prayer. Every joy and blessing was received as a gift from God. Nurtured in love and faith, I was only seven years old when God made my heart sensitive to sin and my wonderful mother led me to Jesus.

False teachers have always been with us. They hounded Paul; they trouble us. Their goal is to gratify self in some way. There is always enough truth in what they say to make them dangerous. Paul left Timothy at Ephesus to instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines. They had been giving attention to "myths and endless genealogies." Just what these were is not known for certain, but they were empty of spiritual value and power.

The work of God in this world is done by faith. Exotic myths and endless genealogies may attract large crowds and excite the imagination, but they cannot save souls or advance the kingdom. The work of the pastor and teacher is to preach and teach Jesus. This gospel is the only power of God unto salvation.

Jesus came into the world to save sinners. The greatest demonstration of the power of God to save a sinner is the conversion of Paul. He said of himself that he was the chiefest of sinners. If God could save Paul, he can save anyone.

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Joe Westbury named HMB assistant news editor

ATLANTA (BP)—Joe Westbury, editor of *World Mission Journal* published by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has been named assistant news editor for the SBC Home Mission Board.

Westbury, a native of Florida, has been on the editorial staff of the Brotherhood Commission for three years, first as associate editor and recently as editor of the monthly tabloid newsmagazine for Baptist Men.

Evangelism leader urges SBC concert of prayer

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's vice-president for evangelism has issued a call for Southern Baptists to unite in a "Concert of Prayer" that Southern Baptists' simultaneous nationwide revivals in 1986 would begin another great spiritual awakening in America.

Robert L. Hamblin of Atlanta issued the appeal during the opening address of the national conference of SBC evangelism directors meeting at the Holiday Inn, Las Vegas. "My desire is for thousands and millions of believers in Christ to meet in small groups... offering up united prayers to God," Hamblin said.

Noting that every great awakening in history started as a result of prayer, Hamblin said Southern Baptists will never be successful in evangelism if they depend on programs and plans, no matter how good, instead of on God.

Hamblin said the second great awakening in America began after Isaac Baccus, a Baptist pastor and historian, led a group of pastors in 1784 to call for prayer groups all

Previously, he was public relations director for seven years at Union University, and religion news editor for three years at the *Jackson Sun*, both in Jackson, Tenn. He is a graduate of Union University.

Westbury succeeds Michael Tutterow, who resigned to enter seminary full-time and work part-time as associate editor of *SBC Today*, an independent monthly published and edited by Walker Knight of Decatur, Ga.

over New England to unite in prayer for spiritual awakening. Baccus used the term "Concert of Prayer" to describe the chorus of voices praying in harmony and unity for spiritual awakening.

Winford Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Tex., repeated a plea for unity in the Southern Baptist Convention. "Until we as Southern Baptists become one in purpose and mission in unity, we're not going to have much influence in the world," said Moore, who spoke three times.

"If there is anything in the world that will bring us together, it won't be resolving our theological differences in discussion (by a committee), it will be when we get so caught up in winning people to the Lord Jesus Christ that everything else is secondary," said Moore.

"We can't have a divided heart, a divided convention," Moore said. "We've got to get our priorities right and make a commitment that if it takes everything we have, we are willing to give it to see the world brought to the Lord Jesus Christ."

Court rejects appeal from fundamentalist school

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand lower rulings upholding an Iowa law that exempts the Amish community, but not independent fundamentalists, from sending their children to public schools or to private schools with state-certified teachers.

According to Iowa officials, that portion of the state's compulsory school attendance law was designed for groups such as the Amish who are "isolated from the mainstream of American life." All other children, the state contended in a legal brief asking the high court to reject the case, must attend a public school or a private institution with certified teachers because of the state's "compelling interest" in insuring the education of its citizens.

Ten parents of children enrolled in a Christian day school operated by the Calvary Church, Charles City, Iowa, brought a suit challenging the law after the state board of education approved a recommendation by superintendent of public instruction Robert Benton to reject the parents' application for exemption from the statute.

They contended that by limiting the exemption to groups such as the Amish, the

state unconstitutionally established religion by creating a "suspect classification" of religions exclusively entitled to be exempted. But at trial in a state district court and in the Iowa Supreme Court, the parents lost. Their unsuccessful appeal to the nation's high court marks the end of a three-year battle for exemption.

In asking the high court to take another look at the case, attorneys for the parents insisted the Iowa law discriminates against their clients by favoring one religion over all others and by denying free exercise of religion. They also asked the court to review the case in order to clear up "national confusion" over the issue of enforced teacher certification in sectarian schools.

In the state's brief, however, Iowa deputy attorney general Brent R. Appel argued the court had no jurisdiction to review a state supreme court decision interpreting state law. He also contended review of the Iowa law would not settle the issue of teacher certification nationwide in that the Constitution does not require state-by-state uniformity in educational standards. (85-671, *Pruessner v. Benton*)

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