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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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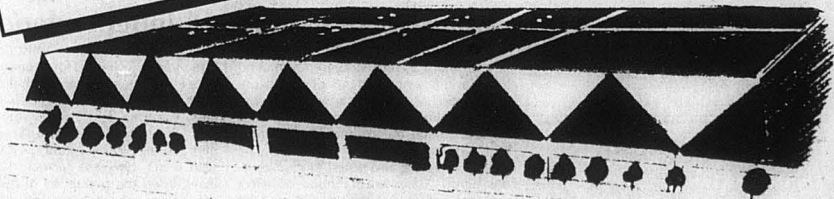
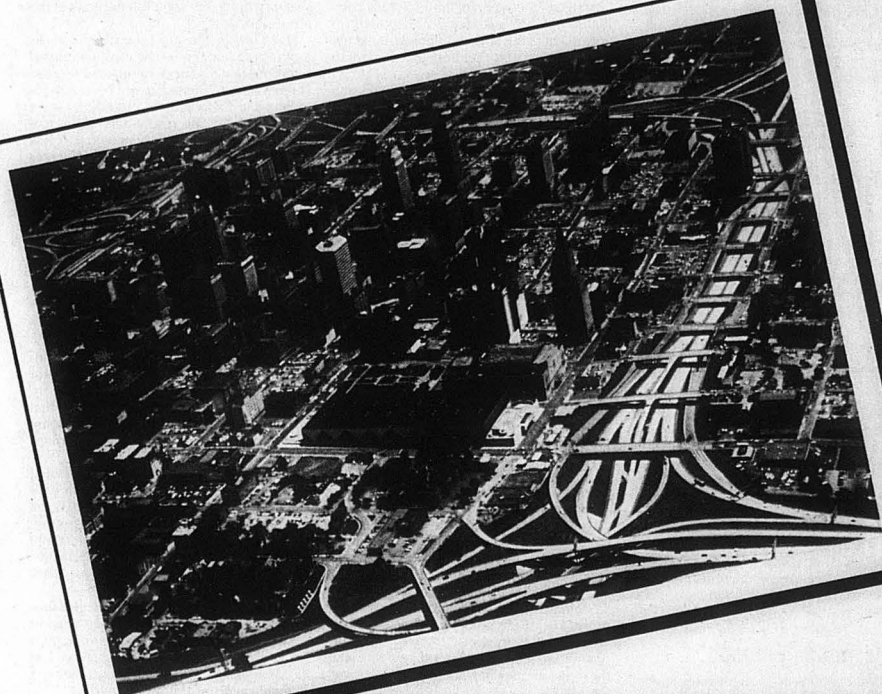
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May 24, 1984

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Inside: SBC preview



June 10-14, Southern Baptist Convention & related meetings, Kansas City



Kansas City is the place and Roe Hall is the site for Southern Baptists to discuss their business, find inspiration and fellowship next month. A look at the events and the issues is included in this issue.

In this issue

12 clergy housing

The U.S. Senate has voted a moratorium on the IRS ruling prohibiting clergy with tax-free housing allowances from deducting mortgage interest and real estate taxes. The issue is not settled, however, says a Southern Baptist leader who urges people to write and enlist support for the bill, which is in conference committee.

16 'common ground'

SBC President Jimmy Draper expresses grief that Southern Baptists—himself included—have understood so little about missions, their "common ground." After a 25-day tour of six foreign mission fields, he has some suggestions for the SBC.

Canadian conference endorses study report

EDMONTON, Alberta (BP)—Expressing appreciation to those who sought seating for Canadian Southern Baptists in the Southern Baptist Convention, messengers to the 1984 Canadian Conference May 1-3 formally endorsed the SBC Canada Study Committee Report to be presented to the June SBC meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Although the report of the SBC study committee outlines a strategy of increased involvement of the SBC and Canada, it did not recommend the seating of Canadian messengers.

A record number of Canadian pastors and laypersons were on hand. The 88 registered messengers voted unanimously on the following formal response to the SBC report:

"We, the messengers to the 1984 annual meeting of the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference express our deepest appreciation to all who have labored on our behalf in seeking the seating of Canadian Southern Baptists at the Southern Baptist Convention and we also express appreciation to the Southern Baptist Convention as a whole for its efforts and desires to promote the evangelization of Canada.

"Without prejudice to the later possibility of our being seated, we have complete confidence in the conclusion reached by the SBC Canada Study Committee and we do in this meeting endorse the SBC Canada Study Committee's recommendation and humbly solicit the continued support of all our friends in our effort to reach all of Canada for Christ."

In the original motion made by Jim Wallace, pastor of Faith Church, Calgary, Alberta, no reference was made to the future possibility of being seated in the SBC but an amendment by Allen Schmidt, coordinator for Southern Baptist churches in Canada, added the phrase "without prejudice to the later possibility of being seated."

Schmidt said he had complete confidence in the SBC study committee but, "we still want to let everyone know we would be open to be seated at a later date if that was the desire of Canadian Southern Baptists and the SBC."

Canadians move toward independence

EDMONTON, Alberta (BP)—The Canadian Southern Baptist Conference moved closer to independent status during its annual meeting May 1-3 by adopting a long-range planning report which sets a number of goals leaning the conference toward a pre-convention status.

The conference also voted to change its constitution's Statement of Purpose to reflect more than a fellowship body and elected the constitution's phase-in committee to review the current constitution and suggest appropriate revisions at the 1985 meeting.

The 88 conference messengers decided to adopt the Statement of Purpose contained in the long-range report. "The purpose of

SBC Canada Study Committee Chairman Fred Roach, a layman from Dallas, said the fact seating wouldn't necessarily help evangelize Canada was the basis of the committee's decision. He added that there isn't anybody in the SBC who wouldn't want Canadians to be seated from the fellowship standpoint but that the committee felt seating wouldn't accomplish the goals of the group involved.

SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said one of the most emotional questions that had been raised was why the Foreign Mission Board had not been actively involved in Canada up to this point. "It's a judgment call," he responded. "We may have made the wrong judgment in it. It was an honest effort to take the limited resources that Southern Baptists made available and try to apply them at point of greatest need as we understand it."

He explained that in the 1950s some decisions were made that Baptists had to live with "right or wrong, good or bad." Those decisions meant the Foreign Mission Board would direct its resources to areas where there was no evangelical witness.

He added, "We are in about half of the countries of the world. We could be criticized for not being in any of the other countries... it's a matter of choice; it's a matter of priorities. It is not that we are not interested in evangelizing Canada. It's not that we do not love the Canadians and some other things some people have perhaps assumed."

Parks turned to his interpretation of what the Canada Study Committee report means for missions in Canada. "It means that the guiding shaping role of strategy for the evangelization... of Canada would be in the hearts and hands of the people who live here... I believe that is very, very important.

"Speaking for the Foreign Mission Board... I commit to you the best support we know how to give within the limitations we have placed on us, to be responsive and to assist every way we can to help in evangelization of this great nation."

the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference is to provide a channel for cooperating churches to work together and with the Southern Baptist Convention boards and agencies to carry out the Great Commission."

The purpose clause does not specifically mention the Northwest Baptist Convention with which they are currently aligned, to leave open the possibility of relating to a number of state conventions as work expands to include all of Canada.

The committee's report listed several growth goals, including the establishment of 50 new churches and church-type missions and eight area Baptist Student Unions and increasing membership to 10,000 by 1989.



The 1984 Southern Baptist Convention can be good or bad. The outcome depends on the messengers. If the messengers are prepared spiritually and factually to deal with a number of sensitive issues, this year's convention will be productive. If they are not properly informed and allow their votes to be determined by pressure groups, the outcome can be very harmful to the work of the SBC. There will be a number of important issues which require knowledge and prayer.

Messengers who attend the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in annual session June 12-14 in Kansas City, should be aware that two groups on opposite ends of Southern Baptist opinion will be vying for their vote. On doctrinal issues, one group is to the extreme right of traditional Southern Baptist teachings, and the other is to the left. It is important that each messenger make his own decision, with facts in hand, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

One major issue confronting Southern Baptists will be the election of a new president. James Draper is ineligible for a third term. Among the names being mentioned as possible nominees are John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., and first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, Ga., and current president of the Pastors' Conference; Grady C. Cothen, retired president of the Sunday School Board; H. Edward Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, Texas; and Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz. Though no one can know definitely that all these individuals will be nominated, only Stanley has not yet indicated his availability.

A messenger should have clearly fixed in mind the type of individual that he feels would make an effective president of the Southern Baptist Convention. We submit the following characteristics as being basic.

First, our president should possess and demonstrate Christian love. One who is truly committed to the Scripture, will love the brethren.

He should be a proven leader, one who has a deep understanding of the historical ideals of Baptists. A thorough knowledge of our past provides a sense of direction for the future. Such an individual will be committed to all that

Southern Baptists are doing, as determined by denominational service, loyalty, and commitment to the Cooperative Program. A loyal Southern Baptist will lead his church to give a worthy percentage of its budget to the Cooperative Program.

He should come from the mainstream of Southern Baptists, not associated with any special interest group. He should be willing to consider each issue on its merit, with no design to manipulate or control any agency or board.

He should be one who knows, appreciates and encourages the major tasks of Southern Baptists. Our major programs are represented by boards, agencies and commissions. Whether an agency is concerned with the printing of literature or the sending of missionaries, our priorities are always evangelism, baptism and training.

Finally, he should be an individual of the highest integrity and one who relies upon the Holy Spirit. Regardless of other abilities, an individual who is not led by God will be inadequate for this important task.

A second major decision of the convention will be the election of individuals to serve on boards, agencies and institutions. The Committee on Boards is composed of two members from each state convention who are nominated by the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees, according to Bylaw 21, is composed of two members from each qualified state and the District of Columbia, appointed by the president in consultation with the vice presidents. Their report must be released not later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting of the convention. The Arkansas nominees were named in a Baptist Press story of May 10.

The Nominating Committee's report is likely to be accepted, unless the nominee represents an extreme doctrinal position. Certainly the messengers have the right and obligation to make the final decision.

Finally, each messenger should be aware that he or she is to operate independently, in a well-informed manner under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. A Baptist messenger is to be a representative of God, not others. Though we see political groups within the Convention and differences of opinion among Southern Baptists, far more unites us than divides us. The Southern Baptist Convention will succeed as long as we make missions and evangelism our top priority.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 83 NUMBER 20

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Clean break needed

I understand the liberals in the convention are planning their own Pastors' Conference the week of the Southern Baptist Convention at Kansas City. I am glad they have banded together and have finally decided to do something on their own. This is the smartest move they have ever made. I also understand that they want to confront issues like the ERA, the gay movement, abortion, the prayer amendment and ordaining women. No doubt they will be for all these issues except the prayer amendment. The liberals have been very vocal against Mr. Reagan getting prayer reinstated in the public schools, and if I believed what these men believed I would be against prayer too.

My prayer to God is that they will not only separate themselves from the conservatives in Kansas City but will make a clean break from our historic Baptists. I am praying they will pick up their marbles and go start another game for themselves, somewhere else. We have played tiddie-winks with this bunch long enough. It is time the fundamentalists in the convention got back to Bible principles and quit trying to patch up and prop up these liberals (professors and people who deny the Bible). We must stop aiding, abetting and courting this crowd. God is not with them. He never has been nor will he ever be with them.

—Vaughn W. Denton, Memphis, Tenn.

Cancel Las Vegas SBC

The article "New Materials Help Churches Fight Gambling" appeared in the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine issue of May 3, 1984. I wish to commend the Southern Baptist Convention for taking a positive stand against gambling. Development of the packet "The Gambling Menace" was a good decision. I especially agree with comments in the following paragraphs quoted from the article:

"In a joint letter to Southern Baptist pastors and other church leaders, CLC executive director Foy Valentine and HMB president William G. Tanner expressed 'a great sense of urgency' about the expansion of gambling interests."

"Southern Baptist response, they indicated, 'will affect our lives, our future and our total Christian witness, including Bold Mission Thrust.' This battle belongs to the

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. W. Rex Holt Jr., missionaries to Togo since 1975, resigned from service April 30. They served in Lome, Togo, where he was a student worker and she was a church/home worker. He was born in Jonesboro. She is the former Sherry Puckett of Paragould. Their address is Central Church, 1010 S. Main, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

Lord' they added, 'but we will have to work very hard to claim the victory.'"

I believe it is just a little hypocritical to hold a convention in Las Vegas, the gambling center of the USA, when we are attempting to convince people of the sins of gambling. The reasoning that would justify this would not wash with children, let alone lost adults. The world will learn more by our actions than our words. The convention in Las Vegas should be cancelled.

We should consider Jesus' words in Matthew 23:27-28 lest we as Baptists find ourselves counted among the Pharisees, scribes and hypocrites. — Alan L. Lasley, Little Rock.

Intellectual arrogance

Two recent examples of intellectual arrogance by writers in the Newsmagazine ought not be allowed to pass without comment.

The first is E. Glenn Hinson's statement that the paper did not prosper in the early 1900's because "Arkansas had too few literate people to assure a large circulation." This probably explains why he neglected his homework in early Arkansas Baptist history. He thought we would not know any better.

The other instance is Toby Druinn's characterization of James Robison's associate Milton Green as a "one time carpet cleaner with a ninth grade education." This is reminiscent of the Jews' assessment of Peter and John as "ignorant and unlearned men," or the contemporary descriptions of Bunyan as a "tinker."

I greatly respect the whole idea of study, though some recent products of the schools are disappointing. We need to get away from equating "education" with a given amount of time spent sitting in class. The most generally intelligent and informed man I ever knew finished his formal "education" in the third grade, but made up for it in a lifetime of study. — Clay Hale, El Dorado

No name calling

I was grieved by the article attacking James Robison and Milton Green in the May 3, 1984 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Such a biased story promotes controversy without helping resolve it. It devoted

more attention to attacking the character of two brothers than understanding their message and presenting information ABN readers could evaluate in light of Scripture. Much space was given to quoting "critics," with nothing from the many who have been blessed and enlightened through their ministry. Having heard Jimmy Draper preaching a powerful, anointed and loving message at a conference with James Robison and Milton Green last January, it is hard to believe that he was quoted accurately in context in the ABN.

Contrary to the article, these men are not anti-pastor or anti-local church. As pastor of a local Southern Baptist church I received encouragement and support from their messages. Nothing I have heard conflicts with the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. Most importantly, it does not conflict with the Word of God as best I comprehend it.

When we do disagree with the teaching of our brothers—whomever they may be—why can't we disagree in love, without casting aspersions on the men? Why should we charge them as being "anti" the church or the denomination when their own testimony is to the contrary?

"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Rom. 14:4,10).

Messages I have heard by James Robison and Milton Green stress the pre-eminence of Christ. There is no basis for labeling their ministry a "cult," and such name-calling has no place in our ABN. They do not exalt themselves, nor would I exalt them above others who, like they, are simply responding to God's call to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. — Sam Herrin, Patterson.

Lesson writer begins

Jerry Wilson, pastor of West Side Church, El Dorado, begins this week writing the Life and Work lessons for "Lessons For Living".

A Texas native, Wilson is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Zephyr and Waxahatchie, Texas, before coming to El Dorado.

He presently serves as president of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He is also Stewardship Director for the Liberty Association.



Wilson

You'll be glad to know...

Don Moore



Woman's viewpoint

Henri E. Walker

...More Arkansans can attend the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention this year! Unless housing has filled up rapidly in the last few days, this should be no major problem. With the meeting being held close to us in Kansas City we should take advantage of this opportunity to attend these sessions.



Moore

We have been requested to write "Arkansans" in the upper right hand corner of our registration cards. This is to help those registering us. Only those duly-elected messengers with proper credentials may be certified as messengers and given ballots enabling them to vote.

Now, a further request. If you or your church are going to spend the money to get you to the convention, it only seems right that you should stay for all of the convention. Every session should be attended. The convention is long. Much of it is business rather than inspiration. It's tiring! But it is the only way the convention can get the mind of the people about matters of far-reaching importance.

Also, some of you may be able to see some of the convention by satellite if you have a dish or if you are on a cable system that carries the ACTS network.

Pray for the convention. We are a powerful force in the hand of God. We need to discern and do his will that we may be more powerful. With 85 million new people on the earth this year, and with our having won around one half million, it seems we should pull together and harness every resource to get the gospel out to all the world. Pray that this convention may move in that direction.

The convention is not a gathering of employees, though denominational workers will be there. It is not a meeting of agency or institutional leaders. It is not a meeting of associational or state convention officials. It is a meeting of local church messengers. Every level of our work is dictated, controlled and regulated by the wishes of local church members. This is why the maximum participation of our people is important.

Hope to see you there!

Measuring good looks

Wanting to make a good impression, I took extra time and care preparing my hair, applying makeup, and choosing just the right outfit to wear.

At last the time arrived. Excitement stirred within me, mixed with a twinge of nervousness. What would I say? How should I act? After all, it had been years since I had returned to my home town.

In a few moments, though, I would be attending my class of '64 high school reunion. That's right, all this fuss and attention for a mere high school reunion!

Having moved away after graduating, I hadn't seen any of these people in 20 years. Probably I wouldn't see them again for another 20 years. They had become almost strangers to me. And yet, I wanted to look and act my best because I cared about their opinion of me.

My appearance really mattered to me at the time. But now, as I ponder this experience, I recall these Old Testament words, "...the Lord seeth not as man seeth;

for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7b).

As I prepare my outward appearance for the satisfaction of man, do I just as carefully prepare my heart and spirit and mind to come before the Lord? Do I work as hard at beautifying my inner self as I do my outer self?

Certainly I should. For "who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He who hath clean hands and a pure heart" (Ps. 24:3-4a).

God surely deserves my best. He gives me life. He loves and cares for me as no one else can. His spirit continually guides and protects me. Should I not at least offer God a heart pleasing and acceptable in his sight?

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me" (Ps. 51:10).

Henri E. Walker is a home-maker and part-time employee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

'Lottery!' loses in TV ratings

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—"Lottery!" has come up a loser. The controversial television series has been cancelled by ABC-TV following consistently dismal ratings.

When the show was introduced last fall, it triggered a protest from a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member for its "pro-gambling propaganda."

Larry Braidfoot, director of citizenship development for the national agency, urged Southern Baptists to express their opinions to the show's sponsors and to ABC-TV.

The series was dropped, but months later was reintroduced and its executive producer threatened to take "all appropriate legal action" against Braidfoot and the SBC agency if the protest resulted in "prejudicing the commercial value and future" of the series.

In turn, Braidfoot and CLC Director Foy Valentine called the threat a "transparent publicity gimmick" aimed at boosting the program's sagging ratings. The show's cancellation, said Braidfoot, is "an obvious indication the gamble never paid off."

Cooperative Program report: April

Summary for April, 1984

Received	\$737,230.84
Budget	902,777.75
Under	(165,546.91)

January-April Gifts

Year	Over (under) Three months budget	% increase Over previous year
1979	(64,263.62)	7.18
1980	5,802.32	11.81
1981	17,046.19	13.68
1982	(41,666.75)	11.24
1983	12,895.17	12.41
1984	(335,206.92)	(2.10)

The above report reflects the most serious financial condition Arkansas Baptists have faced since recovery from the depression. Without a significant change, services for the agencies and institutions of both the Arkansas and Southern Baptist Convention will be drastically affected. — L.L. Collins Jr.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Jim Davis has resigned as pastor of the Manila Westside Church and is residing in Jonesboro.

Jack L. Ramsey has resigned as director of missions for North Arkansas Association, effective May 31 to become pastor of the Lee Memorial Church at White Hall. He has previously served churches in Harrison, Clear Creek Association and in Oklahoma.

Lannie Smith has resigned as pastor of the Sulphur Springs Church in Harmony Association to become pastor of the Second Church of Jackson, Ga.

Harold McConnell has resigned as pastor of the Fellowship Church at Witcherville to become pastor of the First Church of Keota, Okla.

Carl M. Overton, director of missions for Central Association, recently attended a meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in Nashville, Tenn. Overton, who is rotating off the commission, received a plaque in recognition of his service.

Kenneth W. Nichols has joined the staff of Camden Grace Church as youth director.

Freddie M. Martin is serving as interim pastor of the Grace Church in Camden.

James S. Linck was one of 12 students receiving a Paul Horner scholarship May 5 at Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky. This scholarship is awarded annually to students having a minimum of 48 hours credit, an approved grade point average and those who are committed to a Christian vocation.

Fran Coulter has been selected as a participant in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Overseas Program for this summer. Her appointment is to a summer seminar in Pakistan for 15 college and university faculty members from the United States, June 27-Aug. 4. Coulter is assistant professor of history at Ouachita Baptist University.

J. Randall O'Brien has been chosen as chairman of a committee to prepare a book of Scriptures and other material to be distributed in the 1984 Olympic games by the American Bible Society. O'Brien is instructor in religion at Ouachita Baptist University.

briefly

Scranton First Church was in a revival April 16-20 led by Danny Veteto, pastor of Mulberry First Church. Jimmy Walker of the Mulberry church directed congregational singing. Pastor Jan Akins reported 17 professions of faith.

Mount Pisgah Church near Jonesboro held ordination services May 6 to ordain pastor Bob Rennie to the ministry. Rennie, a student at Arkansas State University, is a graduate of Southern Baptist College. Those assisting with his ordination service were Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association, John Basinger, Marvin Boggs, Chris Clements and Jim Wilson.

Olivet Church in Little Rock held a recognition banquet May 15 for members doing volunteer work at nursing homes in Little Rock, including the Williamsburg, Leisure Lodge and Arkansas Nursing Home. Leroy Sisk, director of chaplaincy work for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was banquet speaker. Members were recognized for their efforts as Sunday School teachers, hospital visitors and assistants at monthly birthday parties, according to pastor Lamar Lifer. George Carroll and Jim Osborne are ministry coordinators.

Union Church at Harrison has launched a tape ministry for homebound members. Brotherhood members coordinate this ministry.

Swifton Church observed Senior Adult Day May 6 when senior adults presented the musical "The Times of Our Lives" at the morning worship hour.

University Church at Jonesboro broke ground April 22 for an educational and family life unit. Value of the 5,000 square foot addition is estimated to be \$100,000. It will provide the church with new office space, three classrooms, a multi-media library, rest rooms, a kitchen, utility/storage space and a multi-purpose fellowship center.

Camden First Church has presented a \$500 gift to the building fund of Southern Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union in recognition of Mrs. Roy Snider. Mrs. Snider is both a former president of Arkansas WMU and recording secretary of the SBC WMU.

youth

Swifton Church children's choir, directed by Teresa Nettles, presented a musical April 29.

Olivet Church in Little Rock youth choir is planning a summer tour that will include performances in First Church of Clinton, Okla., First Church of Los Alamos, N. M., Bethel Church of Flagstaff, Ariz., Western Plaza Mall of Amarillo, Texas and Hickory Street Church in Texarkana.

buildings



Philadelphia Church in Jonesboro recently celebrated payment on its family life center with a noteburning service. The center, constructed in 1981, is valued at approximately \$120,000. Participating in the service were (left to right) Larry Dunn, church treasurer, James Acklin, chairman of deacons, pastor Roy Hargrave and Bob Atwood of Central Church in Owasso, Okla., a former pastor.

Convention program features emphasis on revival

KANSAS CITY (BP)—Spiritual renewal and "real revival for the people of God" will be emphasized during the three-day annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14 in Kansas City, Mo.

Fred H. Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church of Mobile, Ala., and chairman of the order of business committee for the 1984 meeting, said the seven-member committee selected a revival verse from Second Chronicles as the theme of the meeting.

"We came together thinking that some of our themes of the past have been on reaching out and reaching the world with the gospel. That certainly is our basic goal, but we feel if we are to reach the goal and to accomplish the purposes of Bold Mission Thrust, there must be a spiritual awakening and a real revival for the people of God," he said.

"We choose a revival verse, praying that the convention will be given new life and new power so Bold Mission Thrust can become a reality," he added. Bold Mission

Thrust is the denomination's plan to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000 AD.

He added the committee believes "real unity in our denomination will come out of God doing a new and deeper work spiritually in the lives of those of us who are his children."

The theme of revival will be carried through in five theme interpretation messages by Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"He is a real authority on the history of revival and spiritual awakening in our denomination," Wolfe said. "We have asked to use the theme of II Chronicles 7:14 to speak to us on revival."

Wolfe said another highlight will be ceremonies launching American Christian Television System (ACTS) and Baptist TelNet, two new telecommunications efforts of Southern Baptists.

"We believe it (the launch) will be a

historic occasion. We will look back on this as one of the greatest things we have ever done to reach our nation for Christ and to strengthen our churches," he said.

ACTS, designed as a television network to present alternative broadcasting, is an effort of the SBC Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas. Baptist TelNet, a program of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., is a plan to provide teaching and training programs to churches via satellite transmission.

Wolfe said another highlight of the program will be a Thursday night emphasis on laymen, featuring addresses by well-known athlete James (Jeff) Jeffries and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar, a member of First Church, Dallas.

"We are concerned about the development of laymen . . . so we have set up Thursday night as layman's night. We hope to involve laypeople from Kansas City in the program," Wolfe said.

Local church provides key to messenger registration

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Like everything else in the Southern Baptist Convention, messenger registration for the annual meeting is the province of the local church.

"It is the responsibility of each local church to see that they follow the provisions of the convention constitution in selecting their messengers and in making sure the messengers are properly certified," said Lee Porter, registration secretary for the SBC.

"If registration cards are properly filled out and presented in Kansas City (site of the 1984 SBC meeting, June 12-14) it should take about five minutes for a messenger to register."

Since estimates of the number of messengers range from 15,000 to 20,000, the phrase "properly filled out" and "properly certified" are very important.

Messenger registration cards are available from all state convention offices and many associational offices. Churches must approve specific people as messengers at a regular or called business meeting. Each church is responsible for determining how many messengers they are entitled to elect.

Each Southern Baptist church is entitled to one messenger with additional messengers for each 250 members or for each \$250 "contributed to convention causes" during 1983. No church may have more than 10 messengers. The \$250 figure has been in use since 1931.

The provisions are printed on each messenger card.

The main insurance that the messengers are properly elected and certified belongs to local churches and the messenger's conscience, Porter admitted. It is important

churches assume the responsibility to "police" themselves, even though "checks are being made to see churches do not violate provisions of the constitution."

If messenger cards are filled out "completely" and signed by either the church clerk or moderator, the messenger should have no problem being issued his badge and ballots when he comes to the registration area, Porter said.

However, cards improperly filled out will send those individuals to the credentials committee, along with would-be messengers who do not bring cards at all. Individuals may also present the credentials committee with a letter on church stationery and signed by the church clerk or moderator, listing the church membership and convention contributions during 1983 and certifying that the individual is a properly elected messenger for that church. The committee will also consider telegrams from churches, containing the same information.

If everything is in order, the messenger will then be allowed to register but the extra time and expense involved can be avoided by following the card procedures, Porter stressed.

Many problems can be avoided if churches will remember "alternate" messengers are not allowed and each messenger must be a member of the certifying church.

"No messenger will be registered whose card is marked 'alternate,'" Porter said. "If an elected messenger needs to be replaced just prior to the convention the church is responsible for either securing a card for the replacement or for meeting the requirements by letter or telegram. Churches can elect alternates if they want but they can

only certify 'messengers.'"

Also, no one is automatically a messenger, and the church is the only source for messengers to the SBC, he explained. "Missionaries, seminary presidents, interim pastors, denominational employees—no one—may be a messenger except as elected and certified by the church of which they are a member." And they count as one of the certifying church's messengers.

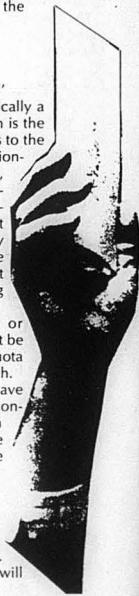
Members of mission or satellite congregations must be elected as part of the quota from the sponsoring church.

New churches must have been constituted and contributed to convention causes during 1983 to be eligible for messengers at the 1984 meeting.

Registration will open at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 10, off the main lobby of Roe Bartle Hall in Kansas City, site of the convention. June 11-14 registration will open at 8:30 a.m.

Following:

- pre-convention meetings
- child care information
- shuttle bus plans
- Kansas City feature



Emphasis on partnership reflected at WMU annual meeting

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—“Laborers Together” is the theme of the 1984 Woman’s Missionary Union’s annual meeting to be held June 10-11 in Kansas City, Mo.

The meeting will climax WMU’s year-long emphasis on Partnership in Prayer and Ministry. Sessions will explore partnership roles of church, associations, state and national levels.

The meeting, immediately preceding the Southern Baptist Convention, will be a practical expression of WMU’s commitment to accomplishing goals of Bold Mission Thrust. “Perhaps at no other time in history has it been as expedient that we work together to

proclaim the Good News as it is today,” said June Whitlow, WMU associate director.

The WMU sponsored national prayer conference on June 9 will also carry the Laborers Together theme. The conference will focus on praying for the partnerships to be explored at the annual meeting session. The prayer conference will be held at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel and the annual meeting at the municipal auditorium area.

“Speakers at both meetings were chosen as good role models of partnership” according to Whitlow. Home and foreign missionary speakers will share their unique perspective on the subject of partnership.

SBC President James T. Draper Jr., will address “Partners Through the Church” in Monday’s closing session.

Bobbie Sorrell, author of the new biography, *Annie Armstrong: Dreamer in Action*, will sign copies of the book at an annual meeting autograph party.

Three men representing Baptist agencies which were closely tied to Annie Armstrong will speak in annual meeting sessions about those special relationships. The men are Lloyd Elder, Sunday School Board president; R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president; and William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board president.

Woman’s conference emphasizes gifts, call of women in ministry

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—For the second year, Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will sponsor a pre-Southern Baptist Convention meeting to stress the role of women in ministry within the SBC.

The Women in Ministry, SBC, conference, slated for June 9-10, 1984, at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, is designed for women who, out of a sense of God’s call, minister professionally in a local church in either a paid or volunteer staff position, and women who, because of skills and vocational calling, are employed by institutions, agencies and churches of the SBC, said Anne Neil, emeritus missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and pastoral counselor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Neil is chairperson of the Women in Min-

istry, SBC, steering committee which planned this year’s meeting. The conference also is open to both men and women who share an interest and concern for women in ministry, Neil said.

Participants will explore the theme, “Exercising Our Gifts,” she added, while also building support for women in ministry and creating awareness in the SBC of women in ministry. Promoting more understanding between men and women in ministry is also a goal of the conference, she said.

“The Holy Spirit gives gifts to all Christians,” explained Neil, “and women need full opportunity for expression of their gifts.”

She pointed out Southern Baptist male ministers have had a variety of support groups but Women in Ministry is the first organization for professional women mini-

sters. As Southern Baptist women have entered into professional ministry roles, they have been isolated from others who share and understand their experiences, said Neil.

“Women who are called to ministry want to fellowship together, share common concerns, build support and clarify issues and directions,” explained Betty Pierce, a Louisville, Ky., teacher and co-editor of *Folio*, a newsletter for women in ministry. “We are concerned that the gifts of women in ministry be recognized and their callings (to minister) be affirmed.”

Women in Ministry, SBC, held its first meeting during the 1983 convention meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., where more than 70 Southern Baptist Women attended. This year, Neil expects the conference to draw about 100 people.

‘SBC Forum’ to offer messengers pre-convention option

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—The “SBC Forum,” a meeting aimed at pastors and other ministers, is being planned to offer “another pre-convention option” for messengers to the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Forum, being organized by a loosely-knit group of pastors, will be in the Music Hall of the Roe Bartle Convention Center in Kansas City, 1:30-5 p.m., Monday, June 11.

“The Forum is not an attempt to pre-empt any other pre-convention meeting,” said Bill Bruster, pastor of Central-Bearden Church

in Knoxville, Tenn., and publicity chairman for the event. “The Forum is an attempt to provide a meeting for those messengers not attending any other... gathering.”

Other sessions preceding the annual meeting include the Pastor’s Conference, Woman’s Missionary Union, and specialized gatherings for religious educators, music ministers, directors of missions, student ministers and women in ministry.

Major messages will be delivered by Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Church of Houston; David L. Matthews, pastor of

First Church of Greenville, S. C.; Duke K. McCall, president of the Baptist World Alliance and chancellor of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Another feature will be a “pro and con discussion” on ordination of women. Although several prominent SBC leaders have been approached to take part in the program, presenters of the opposing views have not been named, Crouch said. “This will not be a debate, but just a presentation of points of view,” he explained.

Preschool child care planned for Kansas City SBC

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Child care for preschool age children will be provided at the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14 in the Kansas City Convention Center.

According to child care chairman Linda Graham, adults from area churches will care for children of non-local conference participants each day of the convention. The child care center will be open 15 minutes

prior to each session of the convention until 15 minutes following each session. Meals will not be provided, she said.

Parents of children to be kept at the child care center are requested to personally deliver and pick up the children at the child care center.

Preschool pre-registration forms are available. Persons desiring to use the child care service are asked to obtain the

pre-registration forms by writing to Linda Graham, 9307 E. 80th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64138, or by telephoning Graham at 816-358-1347, or the Blue River-Kansas City Association at 816-524-5328.

Cost for the child care will be \$9 per day per child if pre-registered or \$12 per child per day if registered at the convention.

The deadline for pre-registration is May 31, Graham said.

Pastors' conference announces theme of 'encouragement'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—"Encouraging the Servant of God" will be the theme of the 1984 Pastors' Conference in H. Roe Bartle Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center.

Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, and Pastors' Conference president, said the theme of encouragement is "exactly what we want to do. Every facet of the program is committed to helping the pastor in a specific area."

"We will not just be preaching to each other, but encouraging one another in areas in which we have to live every day."

Stanley added: "I think what motivated us to move in this direction is that we have seen so many pastors hurting in so many areas of their lives: finances, conflict in the church, families. Hundreds are fired every year. All of the turmoil that happens and the distress that occurs eventually takes place in the lives

of the wives and children, too.

"We asked ourselves where these men were hurting and who could speak most effectively to these subjects."

Stanley added the criteria for selecting speakers was based primarily on seeking persons who could speak most effectively to the areas of need.

Speakers include Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Church of Del City, Okla., and immediate past president of the SBC, who will speak on the topic of "Encouraging the Servant of God."

Others are Charles Lowery, director of counseling services at First Church, Dallas, on the topic of handling stress; Larry Burkett, president of Christian Financial Concepts in Dahlonega, Ga., on finances; Stephen Olford of Encounter Ministries in Wheaton, Ill., on personal discipline, and O.S. Haw-

kins, pastor of First Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on reaching goals.

Monday evening will feature Zig Ziglar, motivational speaker, on moral standards; Edwin Young, pastor of Second Church in Houston, on family life, and David Seamands, pastor of Wilmore United Methodist Church in Wilmore, Ky., on inner healing.

"We are trusting the concluding night will be a great night of spiritual and emotional healing for people who are hurting," Stanley said, adding Seamands will speak on inner healing, a real need among many ministers.

"He (Seamands) has said 75 percent of the people who come to him for counseling are church staffers who are disillusioned, who have been deeply hurt, who feel rejected, who feel people are ungrateful for their labors or have strife in their family life," Stanley added.

Religious educators to feature Hendricks, enrichment conferences

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Theologian William Hendricks will speak three times and eight enrichment conferences will be offered at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, June 10-11 in Kansas City.

The conferences will offer specific training in the areas of family life, leadership, stress, professional growth, social security changes, physical fitness and discovering

prospects for the church.

Hendricks is professor of systematic theology and philosophy of religion at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Also Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Church in Tyler, Texas and Dennis Parrott, minister of education at the same church, will have a presentation on staff relations. Featured musicians will be Phil Briggs, pro-

fessor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Rosemary Hoover, a layperson from Kansas City, Mo.

The 1984 theme is "Being! . . . Becoming!" The meeting will meet Sunday afternoon, Sunday evening, Monday morning, Monday afternoon and Monday evening. All sessions will be at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Kansas City. SBREA President-elect is Bruce Powers, Southeastern Seminary.

Music conference program emphasizes worship

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Worship will be emphasized at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, June 10-11 in First Church of Raytown, a suburb of Kansas City.

Fes Robertson, music conference president, said the "main thrust of the program is on worship," and said there will be two major addresses on worship as well as three worship services during the meeting.

Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Church in Omaha, Neb., and a noted author, will lead one of the worship services and will address the music specialists on "The Lure of

Worship," and "The Cross In Worship."

Alton McEachern, pastor of First Church of Greensboro, N.C., will lead two of the worship services.

"The first worship service will be not formally structured, the second will be very evangelical in nature and the third a more liturgically-oriented service," said Robertson, Church Music Department supervisor at the Baptist Sunday School Board. "The three worship services will be the most predominate patterns of worship in the convention and hopefully out of these models will come some new ideas."

Coordinating the music for the worship services will be Don Hustad, a former musician with the Billy Graham evangelistic team currently on the faculty of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"Worship is something every minister of music is vitally concerned with," said Robertson. "The most visible part of his ministry is that corporate time when the church is gathered in worship. Most pastors and ministers of music have an interest in developing those corporate times so that they will have the most meaning for the worshiper."

SBC day camp to be provided by Brotherhood

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—The Brotherhood Commission will again sponsor a missions day camp during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Kansas City.

Boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 are eligible to attend the day camp which will be held at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., about 20 miles from the Kansas City Convention Center.

Missionary speakers, crafts, games, nature trails and sports are planned. Transportation to and from the convention center will be provided, as will snacks and lunch.

Registration for the day camp will begin Monday morning, June 11, at the day camp booth in the registration area of the convention center. Children will participate in the day camp all day Tuesday and Thursday and half a day Wednesday.

Parents will leave their children at a designated place at the convention center beginning Tuesday morning and pick them up at the close of the afternoon sessions Tuesday and Thursday and at the close of the morning session Wednesday.

Camp cost is \$7 per person per day or \$20

for three days for one child. For two children in the same family the cost will be \$40 for three days; and for three children in the same family the cost for three days will be \$55. The cost covers insurance, supplies, two lunches, snacks and the charge for the campsite and transportation.

The Brotherhood Commission, along with the Missouri State Brotherhood Department and the Blue River (Kansas City) Association, is sponsoring the missions day camp. Karl Bozeman, Brotherhood Commission, is day camp coordinator.

Communication, motivation to be featured at DOM conference

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Communication and motivation will be featured at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Directors of Missions Conference, June 10-14 at the Inn at Executive Park in Kansas City, Mo.

The opening session will feature two addresses on communicating the association, said Bill Moyle, director of missions of the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Association, the second-term president of the group.

"The first message will be by James Lewis, director of the associational missions division at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta," Moyle said. "His part will be to help us communicate associational missions to the denomination. We have ask-

ed him to speak not of the role and function of the director of missions, but of the role and function of the association in denominational life."

Moyle said the second address will be by Wilmer C. Fields, director of public relations and assistant to the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

"We have asked him to help us communicate to the people of the convention that the association is a viable institution," Moyle said, adding that while the church is a visible institution, "the association tends to be nebulous and people have difficulty relating to it."

Another feature of the program will be three addresses by William H. Hinson, pastor of First Church of New Orleans, and a noted motivational speaker. Hinson will speak on self-motivation, motivating the ministers of the association and motivating the association.

James H. Smith, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission, will speak at the annual banquet. His topic will be "The Importance of the Brotherhood in Associational Missions."

Directors of missions will be recognized during the conference according to their terms of service, with a special recognition for those with 30 years, Moyle said.

Evangelists plan 'festival of praise', restructured meeting

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—After a year of studying its future, the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists is planning a restructured program for the 1984 meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention.

After several years of acrimonious controversy, the 1983 annual meeting of the conference voted to abolish the meeting and to study merging the group into the Pastors' Conference. However, after a year of study and a mail poll of the 350 members of the conference, it was decided to continue having an annual meeting in conjunction with the SBC.

"Last year, in an effort to bury the controversy, we voted to completely abolish the whole thing," said Rick Scarborough, an evangelist from Mobile, Ala., who is serving his second term as president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

"But in July, Jimmy Draper (president of the SBC) called me into his office and asked me not to eliminate it. After talking to several key people we found we were meeting a real need in the lives of many folks. We decided we needed to eliminate the

controversy but not the program," Scarborough said.

Scarborough, whose election to a second term at the helm of the group was a departure from tradition, said much of the controversy centered on finances and revolved around two men.

While saying he does not know if the controversy between the two "strong personalities" has died down yet, he said steps have been taken to eliminate the financial burden on the small organization by eliminating two items which "produced a financial straitjacket"—the annual banquet and a directory of CSBE members. The Home Mission Board Evangelism Section has taken over the directory, which will go to every church in the SBC and list evangelists regardless of CSBE membership.

With the elimination of the banquet and the directory, the conference will "settle back into being a fellowship, which was what it was intended to be when it started," he said.

The program will have three features: a formal program from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Wed-

nesday (June 13) in the Music Hall at the H. Roe Bartle Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center, a Festival of Praise June 11 and 12 from 10 to 11:30 p.m. in the Colonial Ballroom of the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel, and a breakfast business meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday for the conference, in the Trianon Room at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel.

The program Wednesday is designed "to strengthen the pastors and messengers there for the convention," Scarborough said.

Speaking at the program will be Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention 1979-80 and pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala.; and Ron Dunn, a conference leader from Irving, Texas.

The Festival will feature six musical groups, and other music evangelists who wish to perform. It also will have testimonies and a devotional and prayer time. "We will ask one of the preachers present each night to "share a word and lead a prayer time in a spontaneous way," Scarborough said.

Shuttle bus routes for SBC announced

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Shuttle bus transportation will be provided for visitors and messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 12-14 in Kansas City, Mo.

Bus transportation between some local motels and the convention site at H. Roe Bartle Hall will be available at 15 to 30 minute intervals from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. each day.

Six routes will facilitate travel to Travelodge, Howard Johnson's downtown, central, north and east locations, Adam's Mark Kansas City, Drury Inn, Inn at Executive Park, Worlds of Fun Holiday Inn, Red Roof Inn's east and north locations, Alameda Plaza Hotel, The Raphael Hotel, Granada Royale Homestay, Hilton Plaza Inn,

Westin Crown Center Hotel, Hyatt Regency at Crown Center, Ramada Inn's north and east locations, Budget Inn, Thrifty Scot Motel, Antioch Motor Inn and Shoney's Inn.

Shuttle buses also will be provided to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The shuttle bus service has been arranged at strategic points to provide the best possible service to our messengers," said Paul Lambert, chairman of shuttle bus service for the local arrangements committee. "Obviously you can't cover an entire metropolitan area. Based on the projected hotel and motel accommodations, the six shuttle bus routes are designed to care for the messengers in a most adequate way."

According to Lambert, buses will be color coded according to route for passenger

convenience. Lambert added the shuttle service would utilize "large buses, fully air-conditioned and maintained in the highest standards."

Convention messengers and visitors are encouraged to use the shuttle bus service to avoid traffic congestion in the convention center parking garage and the downtown area. Due to renovation, 50 percent of the convention center parking area will not be available for parking.

Cost for the shuttle service is 50 cents per ride. Signs in hotels with shuttle service will list pick-up and delivery times. A shuttle bus supervisor and dispatcher will staff the shuttle bus both in the convention center lobby throughout the convention for the convenience of the messengers.

Kansas City Baptists minister to community in varied ways

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—The Kansas City area is nearing 1.5 million in population, pushing outward in all directions. With growth comes change, and with that change comes the need for Southern Baptists to alter and expand their ministry programs.

Churches in the Kansas City area are armed with the resources of three Baptist associations, a Baptist seminary, college and hospital. Together, these institutions have quite an impact.

For instance:

● In Oak Grove, Mo., east of Kansas City local church members voluntarily staff the chaplain's office at the busy Oak Grove Truck Stop.

Volunteers from local churches were trained to minister to truck drivers, but soon found themselves ministering also to vacationers, transients, local residents and truck stop employees. They distribute Bibles and tracts and keep a log of all contacts.

Ken Taylor, director of Christian social and special ministries for Blue River-Kansas City Association, is excited about truck stop ministry. "During the first month, the volunteers led a trucker from Pennsylvania to the Lord," Taylor said. "We contacted a Baptist church in his hometown to follow up on the man's decision."

Volunteers hope to staff the chaplain's office 24 hours a day.

● Arcade ministry is another unusual ministry program designed for people who frequent video arcades. In the midst of flashing lights, buzzes and beeps, local church members befriend and witness to people caught up in the excitement of video games.

Ellen Riffe, a divinity student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, pioneered the arcade ministry program in Kansas City.

Riffe believes there is tremendous potential in arcade ministry. In "Arcade Ministry Manual" Riffe writes, "Nearly all ages have come to know Christ, including a little four-year-old girl who was hardly able to reach the Pac-Man game to a thirty-year-old divorced woman with two children whose lifestyle has been changed by salvation, friendship and Bible study—all a result of the arcade ministry."

According to Riffe, as many as 20 local churches have adopted neighborhood arcades and minister to customers by witnessing, leaving tracts and befriending them.

● Covenant church in downtown Kansas City is dedicated to ministering to the needs of transients and street people. As many as 150 transients crowd into covenant Church every Sunday morning at 7:30 for coffee, doughnuts and companionship.

Church members talk with the street people and befriend them. Some break into small groups for a prayer time and others

eat, enjoy the warmth of the church and leave. "All who come to the fellowship are invited to attend the Sunday morning worship service," says Darrell Rickard, pastor of Covenant Church. "Forty to 60 usually stay for our morning service. The response has been very positive. We're re-building bridges that have been broken down through the years."

The church is in the process of renovating an old apartment building to house street people who become Christians and are serious about changing their lives.

● Other programs for single adults, senior adults, handicapped persons, ethnic groups, youth and shut-ins are active throughout the Blue River-Kansas City Association. Resort ministry, literacy missions, disaster relief programs and emergency assistance programs also operate in the area.

Clay-Platte Association stretches from northern Kansas City to St. Joseph, Mo. The association stays busy trying to meet technical, specialized needs of urban churches while also assisting rural churches with basic needs.

Bob Perry, director of missions for Clay-Platte Association since March 1, 1984, plans to strengthen and intensify existing ministry in multi-family dwellings and resort areas in addition to providing general support and assistance for churches.

"Baptists are doing more now than they ever have," Perry said. "We are making substantial difference in the community. Because of the growth of the area, we're large enough to have strength, yet small enough to work efficiently. Clay-Platte Association is in a good position to grow and do some good things."

Kansas City (Kansas) Association also encompasses rural and urban areas. The association supports special programs for seven ethnic groups, a local truck stop and a deaf congregation, a prison ministry and a hunger program.

Sunday services are held at Leavenworth Federal Prison and Kansas State Penitentiary, according to Steve Aycock, mission action/ministries consultant for Kansas City, Kan., Association. A special service for Spanish-speaking inmates at Leavenworth attracts 40-45 inmates each Sunday. In the past year, more than 60 inmates made professions of faith.

Wyandotte Ministry provides assistance for the poor and hungry. Local churches furnish food and volunteers to help run the ministry, now in its third year. Workers follow up on contacts made, and some aid recipients have become Christians and have joined local churches.

Since its founding in 1957, Midwestern Seminary has emerged as a leader in preparing students for service in missions. More

than 725 students representing 37 states and nine foreign countries attended Midwestern during the 1983-84 school year.

More than half of the student body works in area churches. Each year during spring break, student teams travel throughout the Midwest building churches, leading revivals, surveying, ministering through drama, and helping small churches get a foothold.

Evening classes at Midwestern attract area pastors and community laypersons. Seminary facilities are used by churches and civic organizations and lectureships and conferences scheduled throughout the year attract many area church members.

William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., with 1,400 students recently celebrated its sesquicentennial. Charles Spurgeon's personal library is kept at the college. The school was ranked third among smaller comprehensive universities west of the Mississippi River by 662 college presidents in a recent survey.

Student-led musical and dramatic groups perform in churches throughout the Kansas City area. Campus facilities, including dormitories and the Mabey Center for Physical Education are often used for banquets and church staff and youth retreats.

William Jewell meets many public educational needs by offering evening classes at reduced rates, continuing education programs for children, and seminars for adults.

The Baptist Medical Center, located in south-central Kansas City, is a non-profit acute care health center. Established in 1960, the 401-bed hospital provides comprehensive services for all patients and specializes in ophthalmology, oncology, urology and orthopedic medicines. Recovery "Careunit" provides a rehabilitative program for drug and alcohol dependency.

As part of its Fitness Enhancing Programs, Baptist Medical Center organized the first triathlon ever held in Kansas City. Last summer, 400 persons participated in the triathlon, which consisted of an 8 mile swim, a 19.25 mile bike race and a 6.2 mile run.

As Kansas City continues to grow, the needs of the community continue to change. Kansas City Baptists plan to work to meet those needs and spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all they encounter.

OBU fellowship set

Ouachita Baptist University will host a fellowship for alumni, former students and friends of the school following the Tuesday evening, June 12, session of the SBC.

The fellowship is scheduled for 9:30-11:30 p.m. in the Trianon Room of the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel.

For more information, contact Mrs. Agnes Coppenger, Box 3762, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, or call 246-4531, ext. 576.

Morgan urges clergy to write letters on housing ruling

Although the Senate has voted to override an Internal Revenue Service ruling that would prohibit clergy with tax-free housing allowances from deducting mortgage interest and real estate taxes, Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan is encouraging ministers and interested persons to enlist additional support for the Senate's action.

"The recent action taken by the Senate to place a moratorium on the application of Revenue Ruling 83-3 could extend the housing tax break for ministers to Jan. 1, 1986," said Morgan.

Morgan said that though the Senate's action was encouraging, the bill has not been signed into law. He noted that the bill has been referred to a House-Senate conference committee where decisions on what will be included in the final bill will soon be made.

Morgan said that members of many religious denominations are urging members of the conference committee to support the moratorium provision on Revenue Ruling 83-3 contained in the Senate version of H. R. 2163.

Those conferees include Rep. John Duncan, R-Tenn., Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., Sen. Robert Packwood, R-Ore., and Rep. Barber Conable, R-N. Y.

Morgan and leaders in other denominations opposed the ruling calling it "arbitrary

and capricious" because the IRS failed to apply it to other groups such as members of the military, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration having tax-free housing allowances.

The ministers also argued that the IRS did not have the right to overturn a law that had been in existence for almost 30 years.

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The Baptist Medical System logo contains a circle centered within a Swiss cross formed by figures with outstretched and interlocking arms, illustrating that individuals are at the center of our healthcare focus and at the very core of our philosophy for existence. The individual, whether a patient, employee, physician, or visitor, is endowed with strengths, weaknesses, talents, and needs that must be recognized and addressed.

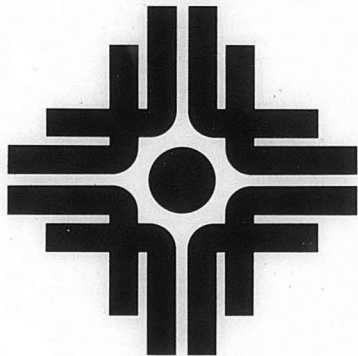
The outstretched and inter-

locking arms demonstrate our founding Christian precepts, and indicate an embracing of all people regardless of ethnic, religious, or national heritage or their social status. Recognizing that all people suffer and have needs, this logo symbolizes our desire to have them come to us for healthcare that is interwoven with loving concern just as Christ outstretches His arms to all people for salvation.

Use of the Swiss cross, the most recognized symbol in the world for medical care, demonstrates our basic mission of caring for the

sick and injured. However, the figures encircling the center and forming the cross symbolize our ultimate goal for all individuals, which is togetherness, wholeness and wellness.

The Swiss cross design with its exits and entrances graphically portrays the sharing of expertise and services throughout the System, while the inner circle which forms the head for all of the figures symbolizes that while we are many, we are also one.



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Parkway Village, Little Rock

At Baptist Medical System, the future starts today. Our new logo is a graphic attempt to express our intent and purpose, as well as to graphically unify our four hospitals.

While our philosophy of operation has not changed, we have broadened our bases by diversifying and will continue to do so as we move into the future.

The multidimensional aspects of our System create unique opportunities for employees.

They also offer alternative sources of revenue to help keep the cost of patient care at the lowest possible level while offering the latest technology to the people of Arkansas.

We feel our duty is to keep costs at a minimum without sacrificing

the quality of care our patients receive in any of our hospitals. Inpatient care in hospitals is declining in numbers nationwide as consumers opt for alternative methods of care where possible or postpone elective hospitalization. If hospitals continue to rely only on inpatient revenue as a source of income, particularly with the new federal reimbursement policies on Medicare and Medicaid and other possible future changes, their choices for survival may be to reduce the quality of care or escalate the costs to private pay citizens and insurance companies far beyond current costs. We do not choose to do that. We choose to trim our own costs through the buying power we gain in a shared

services program — by developing additional corporations that provide income by selling professional expertise to other smaller hospitals in Arkansas — and by considering joint-ventures in new outpatient offerings and other services.

Affiliation with the Voluntary Hospitals of America (an organization of 60 of the nation's largest not-for-profit hospitals) provides us with additional savings on equipment and medical/surgical supplies. We can make these national resources available to other hospitals in our state through a resource sharing affiliation with Baptist Medical System. This affiliation allows other hospitals to save money too.

As we get larger and broader, we also work even harder to maintain the warm and friendly atmosphere upon which we've built our System.

We dedicate ourselves to the symbolism in our new logo and to the symbolism in our new logo and to look forward to the challenges of the future.

We promise continued state-of-the-art medical care in our hospitals and to hold the cost of that care down to the very best of our ability.

Your health is still our first concern.



Russell D. Harrington, Jr.
President, Baptist Medical System

Your state convention at work

Evangelism

Revival in our day

In I Kings 18, the revival led by Elijah continues to unfold.

All of the people and the false prophets were invited to Mt. Carmel to hear the message of God. The message that Elijah preached was a direct message, a definite message and a decisive message. "How long halt ye between two opinions?" God's message to each of us is very direct. We know that God is speaking to us. In the definite message he said, "If the Lord be God, follow him". Elijah was sure that the Lord was God but this message became decisive when he stated, "But if Baal, then follow him". Every evangelistic message calls upon a person to make a decision.

A real revival is climaxed in a moving. Elijah, the man of God, moved to God in prayer. "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God". God moved to the people in power. The fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice and the altar and the dust. The people, who a moment ago would not commit themselves, now move to God in praise and repentance. They cried out, "The Lord, He is the God. The Lord, He is the God". Our prayer today is, "Do it again, Lord. Do it again". — Clarence Shell, director

Clarence Shell, director

Church Training

Baptist Youth Day 1984



Fields

Garrard

In a few months the gates of Magic Springs at Hot Springs will open to thousands of Arkansas Southern Baptist Youth for Baptist youth Day on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Baptist Youth Day will feature the wisdom and humor of George Fields and the astounding magical illusion of David Garrard. Both of these dedicated Christian ministers are used of God in many unique ways.

Changes at Magic Springs this year include a new amphitheater which will provide an excellent setting for our rally and better quality food service at lower prices.

Baptist Youth Day has become a unique experience of recreation, education and inspiration for the youth of our state. It has helped many youth and leaders become aware of the challenges of discipleship growth through Youth Church Training.

Your state Church Training Department is happy to sponsor this event. Let us know if you have questions—watch the mail at your church for further information—plan to join us on Sept. 8, 1984! — Bill Falkner, associate

Family and Child Care Services

A little girl's prayer

"Thank you, God, for those people out there who love us and provide for us, and they don't even know us." This prayer was voiced by a little girl as they were having their morning devotionals. I had spent the night at the Children's Home and was privileged to be a part of that prayer circle.

They prayed for their mothers, the sick, personal problems and special needs.

I was impressed by their interest in learning more about God's Word. Each of the eight girls take turns in giving the devotional from *Open Windows*. The housemother had to set up a schedule because each of them would beg her to let them "give the devotional." At different times, each of the girls has a chance to pray, read the Scriptures and to voice their concerns for others. These experiences are only one part of helping the youth build a firm foundation for their lives.

Children who have to be separated from their families often feel that they are at fault. Whatever the reason for the separation, feelings of abandonment, rejection, unworthiness, hopelessness, and despair usually surface and must be dealt with.

"The young need someone to listen to them, Lord.

Open my ears that much wider so that by talking to me,

They will be more willing to listen to

you.

Grant them confidence and guidance where they have a right to expect it. I really want their world to be better than mine. Amen."

After the devotional, they scrambled off to school dressed in the nice clothes that you provide for them, "even though you don't know them". — Johnny G. Biggs, executive director

Christian Life Council

Stifled compassion

God's chosen people gave evidence, according to the prophets, that they didn't really care about the hurting of people. The



Parker

New American Standard Bible records Amos prophesying that Edom's punishment would not be revoked because of their warlike spirit, excessive anger and because they stifled compassion. The King James Version, speaking of the latter offense, indicated

they "cast off all pity" (Amos 1:11). All three problems relate to our day, but consider further the matter of stifling compassion.

Genuine, sincere concern is sadly lacking for those millions of victims and their families resulting from unleashed marketing of the number one problem drug—ethynol—pornography and unnecessary risk-taking or gambling.

Compassion is stifled now for the same reasons it was during Amos day and throughout history—big financial profit for a few influential people and the "everybody's doing it" syndrome.

Bible preaching, teaching and discipleship training must not neglect encouraging real Christian compassion for these victims and others by joining hands in promoting preventive measures. This must be done educationally, legislatively as well as religiously. — Bob Parker, director

Houseparents needed

- Arkansas Baptist Home for Children
- Needs couples to minister to the needs of boys or girls
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- Individual family life cottage for each age group
- Excellent staff quarters in cottage that will accommodate couples only
- Questions and interest should be addressed to Charlie Belknap, P.O. Box 180; Monticello, Ark. 71655, Phone 501-367-5358
- Couples desiring to serve 2 to 3 years as a mission project will be considered

International

Be patient and steadfast

by Nick Garland, pastor, Second Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: James 5: 7-18

Focal passage: James 5: 7-18

Central truth: Our faith is only as strong as its capacity to endure hardships.

The most difficult part of a race is not the start but the finish. A runner can be a victim to pain, injury, or the discouragement of being behind and yield to the temptation to quit. James is acting as a coach here, encouraging the Christians (and us as well) to continue the race of life in spite of the obstacles of discouragement.

James enumerates various things that may hamper our desire. Beware of grumbling between brothers (v.9), because with the same judgment that you judge, you shall be judged (Mt. 7:2). We must realize that, under the pressure of temptation and persecution, a person tends to swear wrongfully, using abusive speech and vain expressions. The admonition here needs no further explanation, "Swear not." (v.12).

Other tests that demand patience are suffering (v.13) as well as a merry heart, which seems surprising that those who are merry need patience. Often times, those who feel good, have good income, and few family problems lose patience with those who struggle and friction results. James says that if you feel good, sing psalms rather than being critical of others in need. Lastly, we are to be aware of sickness (v.14) and the possibility of renouncing the faith due to long term illness.

So that we understand that James is not giving trite platitudes about fidelity without basis, he gives examples of the prophets (v.10) and Job (v.11) who endured affliction in order for their faith to be strengthened.

How can we be overcomers as well? We shall succeed through singing (v.13), which dispels discouragement; through prayer (v.14), which shall deliver and heal; and through confession (v.16), which enables one to demonstrate his realization that none are without sin. The steadfast practice of these things results in patience and a faith that is ever growing.

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Life and Work

The witness of scripture

by Jerry Wilson, pastor, West Side Church, El Dorado

Basic passage: Luke 4:4-21; 24:13-49; John 5:31-47

Focal passage: Luke 24:25-27, 44-48; John 5:37-40

Central truth: God's Word presents Christ as its grand theme.

The Bible proclaims Jesus as God's Son. God has given all the evidence anyone could want in the Old Testament scriptures (the only scriptures of Jesus' day) that Jesus is the promised Messiah. In spite of this, many refuse to believe because of the hardness of their hearts.

1. The prophecy of his ministry.
Dwight L. Moody tells of the account when the Prince of Wales visited America. People were anxious to know why he came. Had he come to look into the principles and results of the republican government, our form of government? Had he come for his health? He never gave his reason for coming. The people of that day were none the wiser when he left.

But when the Prince of Heaven came, he didn't come on a secret mission. He told us that he came: "to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

2. The perception of his death.
We cannot fully understand Jesus' death on our behalf apart from Scripture. Jesus gently rebuked the two disciples on the way to Emmaus because they were "slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken." Like these disciples we need our eyes opened to recognize him (v.31) and our minds opened to understand (v.45) all things written about Jesus in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms (v.44). His death, burial and resurrection is God's plan to save. Repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached in Jesus' name "to all nations."

3. The plausibility of his claims.
Besides the witness of John, Jesus pointed out the credibility of his claims as being verified by the words of the Father and the works he accomplished. But God's words and Jesus' works were not simply to validate Jesus' claims. They were to point people to Jesus, who alone could save. If you read the Bible and do not see your need for Jesus, you have mis-read the Scriptures.

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Bible Book

Israel's political decay

by W. Coy Sample, First Church, Morrilton
Basic passage: Hosea 7:3 to 10:15

Focal passage: Hosea 7:3-11, 16 to 8:4

Central truth: Nations as well as individuals face the temptation to solve their problems in the realm of their own resources rather than the realm of conviction and faith.

It was God's purpose that his chosen nation should be a theocracy, that is, a people governed by God himself. This plan was rejected when the people asked for a king.

During the years that followed, the kings of Israel and Judah often failed to put their trust in God. Political diplomacy, military alliances with other nations were the order of the day. They often followed the policy of expediency. Time after time the prophets had called upon the leadership to break off these entangling alliances.

The chaotic, directionless days in the latter part of Hosea's ministry found the leaders desperately seeking some way out of their dilemma and danger. Because of their moral corruption, Israel's leaders relied on alliances with other countries and their pagan gods to protect the nation.

In their confused state, the rulers ignored God. They did not call upon him for help. They felt they could handle things by themselves.

The policy of expediency is not new. Our days have seen such posturing.

Any people who operate only on the policy of expediency will ultimately reap the tragic consequence, even as Israel experienced. "Thus saith the Lord: cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord" (Jer. 7:5).

To the unbelieving heart, human friends and allies, armies and navies, atomic and hydrogen bombs, and missiles seem more concrete than the promises of God.

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Draper 'elated' over missions; 'grieved' SBC lacks awareness

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—James T. Draper Jr. ventured onto what he has called the Southern Baptist Convention's "common ground" of missions and will return to the United States "both elated and grieved."

"I'm elated in seeing our missionaries down with the people starting churches, witnessing for Jesus Christ, paying the price," said the SBC president from Eules, Texas, during a 25-day working tour of foreign missions. He preached, taught and worked with missionaries as they witnessed, dedicated a church, planned evangelism strategy and visited mission points.

"I'm grieved when I realize how little Southern Baptists really understand what the missionaries are doing," he declared during his tour of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. I find myself grieved in spirit and emotional at times because I realize I'm 48 years old and didn't fully realize that myself," he said. "Historically, Southern Baptists have found it convenient to give large sums of money to pay someone to do their mission work."

Draper said his experience on his trips to Southern Baptist foreign mission fields has proven "missions and evangelism are definitely the SBC's common ground and the glue which holds us together."

"I see missions as a common ground now more than ever," he declared. "We can never be held together through our academic institutions. We will always argue in academia. That can't be the glue. Evangelism and missions in the U.S. and overseas are going to have to be the things that bind us together."

He said the experiences continued to prove to his satisfaction foreign missionaries do the right kind of jobs in evangelism, Bible teaching and church development—despite "erroneous perception" to the contrary which some of his fellow itinerants have developed during the SBC inerrancy debate.

"There may be some duds on the foreign mission field," he said. "There probably are because we have some of them in the pastorate in the U.S. But the missionaries I've met out here want to see people get saved, and they're building churches and training national leaders. Man, that's what it's all about."

Draper also expressed "grief that Southern Baptists have treated missionaries more like novelties when they're home on furlough rather than as people who can make a real contribution to our ongoing missions consciousness."

"We've isolated them to missions emphases," he continued. "It's almost like a zoo. The missionaries are often our spiritual zoo and we parade them periodically. But we don't really use them effectively in our ongoing work."

Draper issued a call for more thought and planning by the Foreign Mission Board; na-

tional, state and associational leaders; pastors, church staffers and lay people to solve the problem.

He suggested a better information system of furloughing missionaries' availability and expertise, more missionaries on church staffs to increase missions awareness, and better use of SBC presidents and former presidents "as emissaries for missions."

"Every SBC president who's set foot on the mission field is sold on missions," Draper said. "He has to be impressed with what he sees. The missionaries are out here hitting the ball. I'm going to stop being president in a few weeks, and, if the pattern follows, there'll be no plan to utilize me in a positive way toward building missions consciousness and support."

"There ought to be. Do you realize we have more living former SBC presidents now than at any other time in history? Every one of them has stature in somebody's eyes and there ought to be a concerted effort to utilize their influence. The further you get from a man's presidency, the more stature he has. Even if his presidency has been controversial, he will be more accepted as time passes."

Draper said former presidents need a way to voice their support for missions. "We need to have a planned way of keeping missions alive. Don't make us do it from the back seat of a church and then criticize us for building a super-church. Let us help carry the ball."

Draper added if Southern Baptists "knew more of what was going on out on the mission field, they'd funnel more money over here and we'd have more youth surrendering to missions."

Elaborating on the SBC's Cooperative Program budget and missions offerings, he said: "We have a system which isn't perfect. The reason it isn't perfect is that none of us is perfect. I think Jesus had awfully good advice when he said the one without guilt should cast the first stone. None of us can cast the first stone. It's not a perfect system by any means," he continued, "but it is the best system that's ever been devised."

Draper said Southern Baptists should continue to feel it is worth their effort to support the Cooperative Program and missions offerings "as long as we're free to ask questions and do our best to correct things we think are wrong, and as long as denominational leaders will listen and give people a fair hearing." He said a lack of openness or a move of the SBC toward centralizing authority will create more polarization.

"But I see a tremendous move toward openness," he said. "Everyone I've talked to among the conservatives feels like there's more openness than there's ever been. I think our system works, and that it's worth cooperating together to help it get even better."