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October 6, 1977

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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October 6, 1977

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Inside:

Your guide to the 1977 meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. This section contains programs, recommendations to be considered and other information for messengers. File it for reference later.



I must say it

God's things

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

(First in a series)

God owns all things, but some things belong to him in a very special way. God accepts gifts and these things are quite special to him. Some things he has reserved for himself, and they also are special. These things, however, are all for the good of his people, so really God is not selfish in the sense we understand it.

What things belong to God in this special sense? (1) The tithe is the Lord's. It belongs to him because it is a gift attempting to properly acknowledge his Lordship, and may not be appropriated for anything less. (2) The Lord's day is the Lord's. It belongs to him in a special way, different from all the other days of the week and may not be used but for him. (3) His people belong to him in a very special way, differing from others because they have become his by a special price and are not their own anymore (1 Cor. 6:20), nor may they use themselves for personal concerns. (4) The church is the Lord's. He owns the church in a very special way (Eph. 5:25-27), and it relates to him in such a way only the church would understand. (5) The Lord's Supper is the Lord's (Matt. 26:26-29). (6) Certain other items such as the vessels of the Temple were exclusively God's, and God's eye was upon them even when desecrated by Belshazzar. (7) Certain talents, gifts, endowments belong to God because they have been dedicated to him. God owns the voices of many singers, and he owns many of the gifts he has distributed among his saints (1 Cor. 7:7; 1 Cor. 12:4-31). It is good when God owns the whole person (Rom. 12:1-2). (8) All things dedicated in a worship context to God are God's. Academies, institutes, colleges, seminaries, Bible chairs and the like belong to God when they are dedicated to him in a worship experience.

All God owns is not for himself, but for the good of people, and he is quite particular about what is his. He does not relinquish, give back, allow to be taken back anything given in good faith and accepted in good faith. What is accepted by him can never ever be destroyed. It remains forever as a trophy of stewardship and witness and will greet the giver in the world beyond.

One of the main concerns of this generation could well be the restoration, care, custodianship and the protection from desecration of God's things. Belshazzar desecrated the 4500 vessels ransacked from the Temple in Jerusalem by drinking wine and praising material gods. For this the universal phrase, "handwriting on the Wall" was born. Let's learn. When there is no difference between our things and God's things, we have arrived. Please join me for a series on sacred things and our responsibility toward them.

I must say it!

In this issue

Convention ahead 8

Information on the 1977 meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention begins on page 8. Recommendations to be made by the Executive Board and several committees and agencies are published for advance consideration by the messengers who will be voting on them. The program for the meeting and programs for the auxiliary meetings are a part of this special section. Information on this convention site and some of the housing available is found on page 11. This section is intended as a resource for Arkansas Baptists who attend the meetings and should be kept for reference.

On stewardship 17

Because October is Cooperative Program Month, a series of articles will emphasize the work of the Cooperative Program and stewardship concepts. Articles by Roy F. Lewis and James Walker will be used each week.

Easy answers 24

Looking for answers to today's moral questions? Don't expect it to be easy, warns a Southern Baptist leader who gives some direction for using the Bible in finding answers.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor
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The state convention

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The 1977 annual session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will consider many important and far-reaching matters. There will likely be differing opinions on some of them. But it is our sincere hope that our messengers will be able to deal with these in the spirit of Christian love. It well may be that the attitude we exhibit is of more importance than the decisions of our messengers.

Among the issues to be considered are the election of a new president, the adoption of the largest budget in our history and the report of the Study Committee on Ministry. Each of these items will require prayerful consideration.

Spiritual preparation for the convention can prevent the kind of unchristian conduct which occurred last year. Both simple etiquette and parliamentary procedure require that each person have opportunity to express his opinion on the matter under consideration. Christian love makes even greater demands than courteous conduct.

Baptist meetings are open meetings, and we believe that this is the way it should be. But the very fact of openness places additional importance on the behavior of the messengers. When we conduct ourselves in a disorderly or discourteous fashion, it creates a very bad image for Baptists and the cause of Christ.

We believe that our messengers want to conduct themselves in a Christian manner. Sometimes, however, people are caught up in mass hysteria and forget appearances. This can be avoided by advance preparation through prayer. Remember, it is always out of order to yell, hiss or boo. When a messenger wants to speak, he should approach a microphone and wait for the president to recognize him.

Dr. Wilbur Herring has served with distinction. He has provided balanced leadership with emphasis on evangelism, missions, Christian education and every facet of the work of the church. Our constitution limits the term of the president to two years, so this conven-

tion must choose another to fill this important post. Arkansas Baptists are fortunate to have many who are well qualified to serve our Convention as president.

- First, our president should be one who possesses and demonstrates Christian love. When one is truly committed to the scriptures, he will love the brethren.

- Our president should be a proven leader. The best leader is 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. A knowledge of who we are and where we should go is of utmost importance.

- Our president should be an individual of great integrity. The demands of this office will require someone who will place the interest of Baptists above personal friendship.

- Our president should be one who has the ability to preside over a sometimes difficult meeting. The president, to a large extent, determines the spirit of the convention. It is essential that he preside firmly, yet fairly.

- Finally, the president should be a person 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.

The Executive Board's only recommendation to the convention this year is a record budget of \$5.8 million. This is very important because it again includes an increase to world missions. If this year's budget is passed, Arkansas Baptists will be the only state Convention to increase its percentage to SBC causes for seven consecutive years.

We predict that this convention will prepare us for a great 1978, a year in which Arkansas Baptists will reach many people for the Master. We are confident that, as good Baptists, we will all joyfully accept the decision of our convention whether the majority votes our way or not. As Arkansas Baptists keep the spirit of Christian love and depend on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, our success is assured.

Guest editorial

Not conformed to the world

The attacks of Satan seem to become more intense and subtle on our American culture as the weeks go by. It is an old trick — but being tried in many new ways in these days. The Devil is trying to make sin look respectable.

And he is succeeding with a great many people around us. We hope this will not be offensive to individuals, but he appears to be particularly successful with the young people. Although some churches and homes have failed in providing proper guidance, this is not necessary. Young people, too, can live godly lives in a corrupt, money mad, sex oriented society.

The Apostle Paul did not point out any exceptions

among those who profess faith in Christ when he wrote the following words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

When the days are evil the opportunities are even greater. The truly dedicated Christian can live a "transformed" life and the difference between him or her and the people of the world will be even more apparent. By your lifestyle you can "prove" what is the will of God. Each of us should be our best for him at all times. — **Editor Jack L. Gritz in the "Baptist Messenger" of Oklahoma**



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

Bumper sticker advice on loving Jesus

Recently I have been thinking quite a bit about bumper sticker religion. One who drives the highways of Arkansas as much as I do can get a pretty comprehensive course in comparative religion just by reading all the bumper stickers. It would seem, for example, that those people who love Jesus are supposed to honk their horns. I have heard some people praise that particular bumper sticker as a good form of Christian testimony, but I have heard others ridicule it as cheapening the meaning of loving Jesus.

My pastor tells of seeing a bumper sticker that says, "If you love Jesus, tithe — anyone can blow his horn." That has a pretty good message for churches in the fall of the year when budgets are being adopted, stewardship programs are being launched, and tithing is being stressed as the Christian's responsibility. That particular message would make our bumper sticker religion a little more demanding.

And then there is the bumper sticker that proclaims, "In case of rapture, this car will be driverless." I would guess only the more knowledgeable Bible students even understand that one, and

non-Christians certainly know little or nothing about the rapture. It would, therefore, have to be classified as an "inner circle" bumper sticker that is a light-hearted joke among very dedicated Christians.

Bumper stickers, like billboards or advertisements on television, radio and the press, can be effective instruments for communicating Christian truth in a highly secularized world. I am for any effective means of communicating the authentic Christian gospel. However, one thing in particular concerns me about bumper stickers as a means of Christian communication. It is possible we will depend so much on the Christian label on our bumper that we will forget the power of the life we live. Christian courtesy (or unchristian discourtesy) in our driving has a far greater impact than a dozen bumper stickers. If I were not so vulnerable personally in this regard, I would even suggest that obeying the speed limit does more than a bumper sticker.

I have been thinking about manufacturing and distributing a bumper sticker for Christians that says, "I live Jesus so I don't need a bumper sticker."

Mountain echoes of church growth

The philosophy of church growth

by Kenneth Threet
(Second in a series)

There are two things that make or break a church. They are the church's philosophy and its organization. The divine task of the church has been well defined — "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19-20). Some of the mechanics of going, discipling and teaching are left for us to work out under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.



Dr. Threet

The summation of the work of the church into one word can probably best be expressed in the word "care". Care in the noun form expresses concern, interest, responsibility, anxiety, vigilance, watchfulness, heedfulness, alertness, forethought, exactness and management. All of these synonyms for care are an aspect of the expression of the compassion a church should have for its assigned commission.

The very heartthrob of the Christian movement has always been its compassionate concern for people. Compassion, concern, caring characterized the life and ministry of Jesus. His caring is observed as he encounters the spiritual blind and the physically infirmed. It is seen as he deals with the rich as well as the poor. It is expressed in times of joy at a wedding feast as well as in times of sorrow at the tomb of Lazarus, a dear

Seminary extension courses set at OBU

Beginning this fall, Ouachita Baptist University will be offering laymen and ministers the opportunity to take Christian training courses through a Seminary Extension Program co-sponsored by OBU, the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Any person, 16 years of age or older, who is interested in increasing his knowledge and skills for Christian service is eligible for enrollment in the program. Two nine-week semesters will be offered each school year, according to Jim Berryman, professor of religion and philosophy at OBU.

Sixteen courses are required to earn the diploma in either Pastoral Ministries or Christian Leadership. Credits are recorded with the Southern Baptist Convention Seminary Extension Department.

All courses offered will be taught by OBU religion department faculty members. Instructor for the first course offered this fall, "A Study in Exodus", will be Robert Stagg, associate professor of religion.

Fees may be paid at registration Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in OBU's Berry Bible Building.

Classes will meet from 7-9 each Monday evening in Berry Bible Building. The first nine-week semester begins Oct. 17. For more information contact Dr. Jim Berryman, OBU Box 767, Arkadelphia, 71923 or call (501) 246-4531, ext. 574.

friend. Jesus cared about all people everywhere without respect to condition or circumstance.

The church, the body of Christ, will grow in direct proportion as it is motivated by compassionate concern, "care" like that of Jesus, and organized to give expression to it. The mechanics without the proper motivation are little more than Phariseeism and an exercise in endurance both physical and mental. How can we motivate people to care? A match that will not light itself will not light another. Someone in the congregation, either clergy or laity, must stay with Jesus until they are like him in concern and care. They, in turn, can motivate others to seek the spirit of caring. Nothing in heaven will and nothing on earth or in hell can stop the triumphant march of a church that really cares.

Booneville First Church will hold its fall revival October 9-14 with Gene Petty, professor at Ouachita University, as evangelist. Lew King from Eastside Church, Fort Smith, will be musician. Guy R. Wade is pastor.

Henderson First Church will observe homecoming on Oct. 30. "Great Day in the Morning," will be theme for activities which will include special music and dinner on the grounds. G. E. Robey is pastor.

Monticello Second Church held a series of special services in observance of "Miracle Week," Sept. 25-Oct. 2. Jerry Wayne Bernard, former director of a ministry to young victims of drug abuse, was featured speaker. John C. Robbins is pastor and Richard Wade is minister of music and youth at the Monticello church.

Wakefield First Church, Little Rock, was in revival Sept. 25-30. Glenn C. Riggs and Glenn R. Lewis, a revival team from Hot Springs, conducted services. Larry Stovall is pastor.

Men of **Nettleton Church,** for the first time, held a revival prayer retreat at Mount Zion Camp on Saturday, Sept. 24. Brad Eads was in charge.

West Church, Batesville, held "Jimmy Watkins Appreciation Day" on Sunday, Sept. 25. Watkins was honored for 12 years of volunteer service as church music director. The church has called a full-time music and youth director, Richard Gates, who will arrive on the field this week.

The adult choir of **El Dorado Second Church** presented the musical drama, "The Gospel Bard," by Don Hustad, in the church's evening worship service Sept. 25. Jerry Wright is minister of music.

Arkadelphia First Church added another new ministry to its program of outreach ministries. The Woman's Missionary Union and church missions committee accepted the challenge to provide refreshments for amusement workers as they set up for the Clark County Fair, Sept. 22-24. This provided a witnessing opportunity for those participating. The WMU also sponsored a booth at the fair to make people aware of the ministries of the church.

"Get on Board, Children," a musical drama, was presented by the choir of **Van Buren First Church** on Sept. 25. Richard Gray was narrator for the musical. Featured soloists were Bill Vickery Jr., Susan Terry, Hope Wimberly, Debbie Gray and Andrea Sutton. Mrs. Jesse N. Sutton directed the choir, and was assisted with the presentation by Mrs. Dorothy Gray, Mrs. Ruth Hobson, Charles Wimberly and Bruce Carter.

Immanuel Church, Fayetteville, was in revival Sept. 18-25. Jimmy Maidment of Independence, Mo., was evangelist. Music was directed by Bill Martin. Gary Urich is pastor.

Berry Street Church, Springdale, celebrated their 25th anniversary on Sept. 18. Cliff Palmer, pastor of Springdale First Church, the youth choir of First Church, and The Patriots, a gospel group from Springdale, were featured in the anniversary services. Berry Street Church was in revival Sept. 18-25 with Stanley Jordan as evangelist. Paul Hussey is pastor.

Friendship Church near Springdale recently honored their pastor, Edgar Hall, in recognition of his 79th birthday.

Greenland First Church was in revival Sept. 19-25. Jack Parchman was evangelist and Mike Sonnier directed music. Don Warford is pastor.

First Church, Palestine, was in revival Sept. 26-Oct. 2. Freddie Gay of Wheatley was evangelist. Homecoming was observed on Oct. 2 with a potluck lunch at noon, and special music in the afternoon. James F. Peck is pastor.

Brookland Church held ordination services on Sept. 11. Ordained as deacons were Ralph Crain, Jerry Hays, Tim Hudson, and Alan Groves. John Eason is pastor.

Leslie First Church was in revival Sept. 11-17. Phil Lineberger, pastor of Calvary Church, Little Rock, was evangelist. Music was directed by Ron Cox, minister of music at First Church,

Brinkley. There was one profession of faith and one joined by letter. J. R. DeBusk is pastor.

Dr. and Mrs. Clint Nichols presented a sacred concert at **Batesville First Church** on Sunday evening, Sept. 25. Dr. Nichols is chairman of the music department of New Orleans Seminary.

The Young Musicians Choir of **Blytheville First Church** presented the musical "The Story-Tellin' Man," by Ken Medema. It was presented in the church's Sunday evening worship services on Sept. 25. Dunaway Conner was director.

Elmdale Church, Springdale, will be in revival Oct. 2-9. Jim White, pastor of Capitol Hill Church, Oklahoma City, will be evangelist. Jim Walker, minister of music and youth of the Elmdale Church, will direct music. W. R. Edwards is pastor.

Perryville First Church will be in revival Oct. 10-16. J. J. Thornburg will be evangelist. William F. Howard is pastor.

First Church, Newport, will observe their 85th anniversary Sunday with special services that include an old-fashioned dinner on the ground following morning worship services. Afternoon services will include special music and messages from former pastors of the church. Leslie Riherd, pastor, will deliver the morning message.

Russellville First Church held a service on Sept. 11 to ordain Robert Cole as a deacon of the church. Jack T. Riley is pastor and led in the ordination service.

Ouachita gets challenge grant

A challenge grant of \$100,000 has been made to Ouachita University, Ben Elrod, vice president of development at OBU, has announced.

Donor of the gift is Birkett L. Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, a 1910 alumnus of Ouachita who has contributed more than any other living person to OBU, said Elrod.

The \$100,000 grant will be used to create an endowed lecture series fund on the condition that the Williams' gift is matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The matching funds will be used to provide improved seating and lighting at A. U. Williams Field which is named in honor of Williams' father, the late Dr. A. U. Williams of Hot Springs.

The lecture fund, which will be administered by a special committee appointed by the OBU administration, will

bring national and international figures to Ouachita's campus.

Daniel R. Grant, president of OBU, praised Williams for his continued support of Ouachita. Williams has given more than half a million dollars to OBU and a total of more than one million dollars to various causes in his lifetime.

It was during his years at Ouachita that Williams learned "that sharing the good things that happened to me was the right thing to do," he said. He also said that Ouachita taught him that integrity and trustworthiness were the most important ingredients in life.

As a young man, Williams left Hot Springs to go to Cleveland, where he became the number one Ford dealer in the country. He is the past president of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Boyce Bible School opens second term

The second term of the Little Rock Boyce Bible School Center will begin on October 21. Pre-enrollment for the school, a division of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7, 14 and 21 at 5 to 7 p.m., and on Saturday morning, Oct. 15, at 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. The school is housed in the educational building of the Central Baptist Hospital at Twelfth and Wolfe Streets in Little Rock.

Boyce Bible School is planned primarily for Southern Baptist ministers who have not had a chance to attend college or seminary. Philip L. Jackman, pastor of the Black Oak Church, Fayetteville, said, "Boyce Bible School has come to play a very important role in my life over the past several months. I have found it not only a source of Biblical and doctrinal instruction, but, also, one of inspiration and fellowship, where like-minded individuals can gather together to participate in a learning experience."

Mickey Holt, pastor of the Third Street Church, Arkadelphia, said, "About two years ago I became a student at Boyce Bible School when it first opened in Little Rock. I feel the opportunity for preparation was opened for me at this time, so I commuted from Hope to Little Rock. I was pastor of a church but worked 40 hours a week and attended night classes at Henderson State University. But the best part of the week was when I had opportunity to study at Boyce. I plan to graduate this coming January and should be the second graduate from the Little Rock center. It is my joy to recommend to any minister the opportunity God offers at Boyce Bible School."

R. H. Dorris, director of State Missions, said that some scholarships are

available through the continuing education program of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for students who attend Boyce Bible School. The Missions Department is also offering expenses to students who use their own automobiles to bring other students to and from Boyce Bible School. Any student interested in scholarships or mileage should contact Director W. T. Holland.

Dr. Holland said, "Since the beginning of Boyce Bible School, we have en-

rolled 104 students, offered 58 classes in 19 fields of study which have been taught by six instructors besides the director. The faculty members have been Raymond Coppenger, Erwin L. McDonald, Everett Sneed, Charles Ashcraft, Mrs. Charles Ashcraft and Lawson Hatfield

"We feel the school is making a significant contribution to the work of Arkansas Baptists and that it will make an even greater one in the future."



Garland Brackett (left) was the first graduate of the Little Rock Division of the Boyce Bible School, and two of his sons graduated in May of this year. Richard (center) graduated from Ouachita University, while Randy graduated from high school in Arkadelphia. Randy is now a student at Ouachita University. Garland, pastor of Park Hill Church, Arkadelphia, is also a student at Ouachita. He was able to apply several hours of his Boyce Bible School courses on his college degree.

Second term schedule

Fri., 6:00-7:55 p.m.	TH 6265b	New Testament Theology	J. Everett Sneed
Fri., 6:00-7:55 p.m.	CA 6325	Deacons & Church Committees	W. T. Holland
Fri., 8:00-8:15 p.m.	Assembly	(All Friday students)	
Fri., 8:20-10:15 p.m.	OT 6224b	Interpreting Jeremiah	Raymond Coppenger
Fri., 8:20-10:15 p.m.	CA 6324	Growing a Giving Church	W. T. Holland
Fri., 10:20-11:15 p.m.	FE 6001b	Field Education	W. T. Holland
Sat., 7:45-9:40 a.m.	NT 6241b	Interpreting Mark's Gospel	Raymond Coppenger
Sat., 9:45-10:10 a.m.	Chapel	(All Saturday students)	
Sat., 10:15-12:10 (Noon)	RE 6342	Pastor's Role, Church Ed. Prog.	Lawson Hatfield
Sat., 12:50-2:45 p.m.	PM 6131	Methods of Pastoral Care	W. T. Holland

For further information, contact Director W. T. Holland, 60 Warwick Road, Little Rock, Ark. 72205.

Kenneth W.

Overton is pastoring First Church, Norman. A graduate of Ouachita University and Southwestern Seminary, he also has pastored Pleasant Grove Church near Warren. Overton is the son of Carl Overton, director of missions of Central Association, and Mrs. Overton.



Overton



Hurt



Mills

Leland Hurt Jr. has been called to serve as minister of music and education at First Church, North Little Rock. Hurt, an ordained minister of music and education, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. He has served on the staff of Sunny Glen Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Pleasant Hills Church, New Albany, Miss.; East Heights Church, Tupelo, Miss., and Trinity Church, Blytheville. Hurt works with instrumental ensembles. He is active in associational work, Ministerial Alliance, and state organizations. He has led music for revivals and crusades throughout the South.

Monte G. Mills has been called as pastor of the Earle Church. A native of Wichita Falls, Tex., he is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene and is now enrolled in Mid-America Seminary where he is working on the master of divinity degree. Mills has been active in Baptist student work, serving as summer missions chairman, and as a member of the BSU executive council, and preaching BSU weekend revivals. His other pastorates have been in Texas churches. He and his wife, Linda, are parents of three daughters, Melinda, Angie, and Tova.

On Sept. 11 **Mrs. E. B. Warnock**, a member of Elliott Church, Camden, observed her 80th birthday and marked 47 years of as an adult Sunday School teacher. Gene Pritchard, pastor, paid tribute to Mrs. Warnock in the worship service for her faithfulness to her class and her influence in the church and community.

Jeff Cheatham Jr. has terminated his pastorate at First Church, Siloam Springs, to accept a call to serve as an industrial chaplain for Valmac Corporation. He and his family are living in Center, Tex.

Ron Budenich is serving as interim music director for Forrest Park Church, Pine Bluff. He is a native of Louisiana and a recent graduate of Southeastern University there.

David Dillard has accepted the call to be the pastor of Sylvan Hills Church, Camden. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. L. H. Dillard of Red River Association. He will live in Gurdon where he is

**Woman's viewpoint**

Betty Seay Crews

Churchtown, U.S.A., Anytime, 1977

Dear Church Family,

Many weeks prior to my husband's resignation, I have been under an emotional strain. Trying to decide God's will in our life concerning this church and our relationship to it was no easy task. We finally decided that a new place of service was God's will for our life. Since making that decision, the signs of assurance have come in a real way that perhaps only we can understand.

There were many times in the past when we wanted to leave, but God always closed the door! God has his own timetable. When God is ready, the door swings wide open. God is so good to let his children know his divine will.

The week of resigning was such a great strain. Deciding how it should be done was difficult. There are so many lovely people whom I love and know that they must be left behind in my church here. Flashbacks of sweet memories engulf my thoughts so many times. But resignation had to be done!

The lonely walls of the parsonage have become a haven for shedding tears without anyone around to notice. A time of solitude takes place here and has helped me prepare the family for a new beginning in a new congregation. It hurts deeply to leave a church family behind. Yet, we know that we are all one in the family of God.

The days of packing to leave my home where my children have grown into young adults is sometimes frustrating. My toddler is now a young lady and has

employed.

Dr. Ralph Bethea, missionary surgeon and professor, serving under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at the Kenyatta Medical College and General Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, recently visited in Walnut Ridge. He was guest of Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Williams who met Dr. Bethea and his family while serving in Kenya in 1976. Dr. Bethea was honored with a reception attended by faculty members of Southern College on Tuesday evening at the Williams' home. Wednesday he spoke at the college's chapel service and was presented with a plaque by D. Jack Nicholas, president of the college.

never really remembered moving before. Will she adjust? Will the new church really receive my family? Questions, questions, questions! Lord, they keep coming as I pack these boxes!

The telephone rings. A familiar voice calls and wishes me goodbye and sends their love. The postman delivers a note from others. These are followed by tears, but tears have a way of cleansing the soul.

As I continue to pack the many, many boxes that bring back many fond memories of the past, I know that God's will is being done. In a way, working in a church is like working for God here on earth. It is only temporal. I will only change my residence when God is ready to call me home. Eventually, we will all meet again as a family in the twinkling of an eye.

In closing, I want you to know you will never be forgotten and my love for you will continue with you, even though my residence is in another city. God made us unique in that the more love you give away, the more love you receive. I am reaping that love now even as I prepare to leave you. Thank you for loving me as your pastor's wife.

Sincerely,

Your Pastor's Wife

P.S. This was written to First Church, Osceola, at 3 a.m. the week prior to our leaving for Heber Springs. However, this could be written by any pastor's wife to most churches in our state or convention.

Tentative program

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Nov. 8-10, 1977

Theme: "Let the Church Reach Out"

Tuesday evening

Nov. 8, 1977

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

- 6:30 p.m. Choral praise
Hymn Congregation
- 6:40 p.m. Prayer D. Bernard Beasley
- 6:45 p.m. **Bible study** William B. Tolar
- 7:15 p.m. Call to order R. Wilbur Herring
- Welcome W. O. Vaught Jr.
- Fraternal greetings, acknowledgements
- Recognition of former presidents
- 7:30 p.m. **Enrollment of messengers** Mason Craig
- Appointment of committees
- Statements of committee chairmen
- Adoption of order of business J. W. L. Adams Jr.
- Announcements
- 8:00 p.m. **Resolutions and constitutional amendments**
- 8:10 p.m. Hymn Congregation
- 8:15 p.m. Special music
- 8:30 p.m. **President's address** R. Wilbur Herring
- 9:00 p.m. Benediction Curtis B. Smith

Wednesday morning

Nov. 9, 1977

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

- 8:45 a.m. Choral praise
Hymn Congregation
- Prayer R. Fred Selby Jr.
- 9:00 a.m. **Bible study** William B. Tolar
- 9:30 a.m. Memorial moments Elmer Griever Jr.
- 9:40 a.m. Welcome to new Arkansans
- Tribute to senior ministers Charles H. Ashcraft
- 9:55 a.m. Hymn Congregation
- 10:00 a.m. **Report of Study Committee on Ministry** Paul R. Sanders
- 10:20 a.m. Miscellaneous business
- 10:40 a.m. **BSU Third Century Campaign** Jamie Jones
- 10:55 a.m. **Election of officers**
- 11:15 a.m. Hymn Congregation
- 11:20 a.m. Special music
- 11:25 a.m. **Annual sermon** Johnny Jackson
- Alternate Don A. Nall
- 11:55 a.m. Benediction Truman R. Spurgin

Wednesday afternoon

Nov. 9, 1977

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

- 1:30 p.m. Choral praise
- Prayer Kerry G. Powell
- 1:45 p.m. **Bible study** William B. Tolar
- 2:15 p.m. **Election of officers (continued)**
- 2:30 p.m. **Report of Nominating Committee** Johnny Jackson Sr.
- 2:45 p.m. **Executive Board report** Andrew Setliffe
- 3:15 p.m. Special music
- 3:30 p.m. **Message** James Pleitz
- 4:00 p.m. Benediction James C. Wright

Wednesday evening

Nov. 9, 1977

Robinson Auditorium, Little Rock

6:30-9 p.m.

"Let the Church Reach Out" in boldness

A live newscast presentation of the total program of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, its institutions and agencies.

Anchor Desk Dave Woodman and Beth Ward

Script Lonnie Gibbons

Thursday morning

Nov. 10, 1977

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

- 8:45 a.m. Choral praise
- Prayer Andrew Kerr
- 9:00 a.m. **Bible study** William B. Tolar
- 9:30 a.m. **Report of Resolutions Committee**
- 9:45 a.m. Miscellaneous business
- 10:00 a.m. **Report of Special Constitution Study Committee** S. Ray Crews
- 10:10 a.m. Hymn Congregation
- 10:15 a.m. Ouachita Baptist University Daniel R. Grant
- 10:25 a.m. Southern Baptist College Jack Nicholas
- 10:35 a.m. Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services Johnny G. Biggs
- 10:45 a.m. Arkansas Baptist Foundation Harry D. Trulove
- 10:55 a.m. Hymn Congregation
- 11:00 a.m. Christian Civic Foundation Edward W. Harris
- 11:15 a.m. Special Music
- 11:20 a.m. **Message** Ralph M. Smith
- 11:50 a.m. Changing of the gavel and introduction of new officers
- 12:00 Benediction
- Adjourn

On the program

R. Wilbur Herring, serving his second term as president of the convention, is pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro. He will be presiding officer.

Johnny Jackson, pastor of Forrest Highlands Church, Little Rock, will deliver the annual sermon on Wednesday morning.



Herring



Jackson

James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Church, Pensacola, Fla., is a native of Jonesboro, Ark., and a graduate of Ouachita University. Dr. Pleitz will bring the message Wednesday afternoon.



Pleitz

Ralph M. Smith will bring the closing message Thursday morning. Dr. Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, Tex., is a native of Hot Springs, Ark., and is a graduate of Ouachita University.

William Bert Tolar will be Bible study teacher for the meeting. He is Professor in Biblical Backgrounds at Southwestern Seminary, and has been a pastor in Texas.



Smith



Tolar

Pastor's Conference

Nov. 7-8, 1977

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Theme: Let the Church Reach Out — Preaching Jesus

Monday, Nov. 7 / Afternoon session

1:15 Music	Carbon Sims
Scripture and prayer	
Special music	
1:30 "Jesus, The Head of the Church"	Tommy Hinson
2:00 Music	
2:15 "Jesus, The Message of Evangelism" (Acts)	Paul Jackson
2:45 Music	
3:00 "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit — Making Jesus Real"	William Cook
3:30 Benediction	

Monday, Nov. 7 / Evening Session

6:45 Music	Robert Hatzfeld
Scripture and prayer	
Special music	
7:00 "Preaching Jesus from The Old Testament"	Homer Shirley
7:30 Music	
7:45 "Preaching Jesus from The Gospels"	C. A. Johnson
8:15 Music	
8:30 "Preaching Jesus from The Revelation"	Don Moore
9:00 Benediction	

Tuesday, Nov. 8 / Morning session

9:00 Music	Charles Butler
Scripture and prayer	
Special music	
9:15 "The Matchless Name of Jesus"	Jim Wright
9:45 Election of officers	
10:00 Music	
10:15 "The Miraculous Salvation of Jesus"	Joe Atchison
10:45 Music concert (Music Men and Singing Women)	
11:15 "The Fullness of Christ"	William Cook
11:45 Benediction	

Officers:

Ferrell Morgan, president
 Robert Tucker, first vice president
 Johnny Jackson, second vice president

Convention wives conference

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Nov. 8, 1977

2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Refreshments and fellowship in small groups Group leaders
 Business session and program introduction Mrs. Jerry Wilcox
 Program

Singing Women of Arkansas Mrs. Jean Pilcher, director
 "Biblical Gifts of the Spirit" Mrs. Mary Cosby

*Adjournment Mrs. Boots Adams

*Door prize to be given away
 (Nursery provided)

Officers

President	Mrs. Jerry Wilcox Lakeshore Drive, Little Rock
Vice President	Mrs. J. W. Adams, Beech St. Beech Street First, Texarkana
Secretary	Mrs. Jerre Hassell First, Stuttgart
Social Chairperson	Mrs. Ron Ford Central, North Little Rock Mrs. Amon Baker Immanuel, Little Rock

Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1977

First Church, Little Rock

Rodney Parham and Pleasant Valley

Lew King, president, presiding

- 11:00-12:00 Registration
- 12:00- 1:00 Lunch, Special entertainment by Ouachitones
- 1:00- 1:15 Welcome and Who's New
- 1:15- 2:00 Staying Fit for the Ministry, Jerry Johnson
- 2:00- 3:00 "Miracle of Pentecost", Torger Thompson
- 3:00- 3:15 Break
- 3:15- 4:15 Bold Mission Thrust and the Local Church, Home Mission Board representative, Reid Hardin
- 4:15- 4:30 Election of officers
- 4:30 Adjourn



Immanuel pastor welcomes messengers

The entire membership of Immanuel joins me in this welcome to you. The coming of the State Baptist Convention to our church is always an exciting experience. We have put on a new dress since you were here before, and we will be dressed up waiting for your arrival.

The church staff will clear their calendar so they can devote their time to this meeting. If we can serve you while you are here, we want you to command us.

Let me ask you to come prayerfully and expectantly. We trust that every moment you spend here will be profitable and happy.

In friendship,
W. O. Vaught



Dr. Vaught

Other meetings

Midwestern Seminary Alumni will meet for breakfast at the Sam Peck Motor Inn, 625 West Capitol, at 7:15 a.m. Wednesday. Dennis H. Coop, president, says the meeting will adjourn in time for messengers to get to the convention site.

New Orleans Seminary Alumni Association will meet at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Golden Host Cafeteria in the First National Bank Building, Broadway at Capitol Ave. R. M. Blackwood is president of the group.

Southern Baptist College Former Students Association will hold their annual after convention fellowship Wednesday evening, Nov. 9, in the plaza west of the Camelot Inn. A slide presentation and remarks by D. Jack Nicholas, president of the school, will be featured.

Southern Seminary Alumni will meet at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, for a luncheon at Pulaski Heights Church. Bryant Hicks, missions professor at the seminary, will be seminary representative. Steve Hyde is president of the alumni group.

Southwestern Seminary Alumni will meet at Immanuel Church for a luncheon at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Speaker will be Bill Tolar, Professor in Biblical Backgrounds at the seminary. President of the alumni chapter is J. W. L. Adams Jr.

Convention to hear Annuity staffer

DALLAS, Tex. — Emphasizing participation in the Annuity Board's new Southern Baptist Retirement Program, I. Doyle Maricle, vice president, Member Services, will speak at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock, November 8-10.



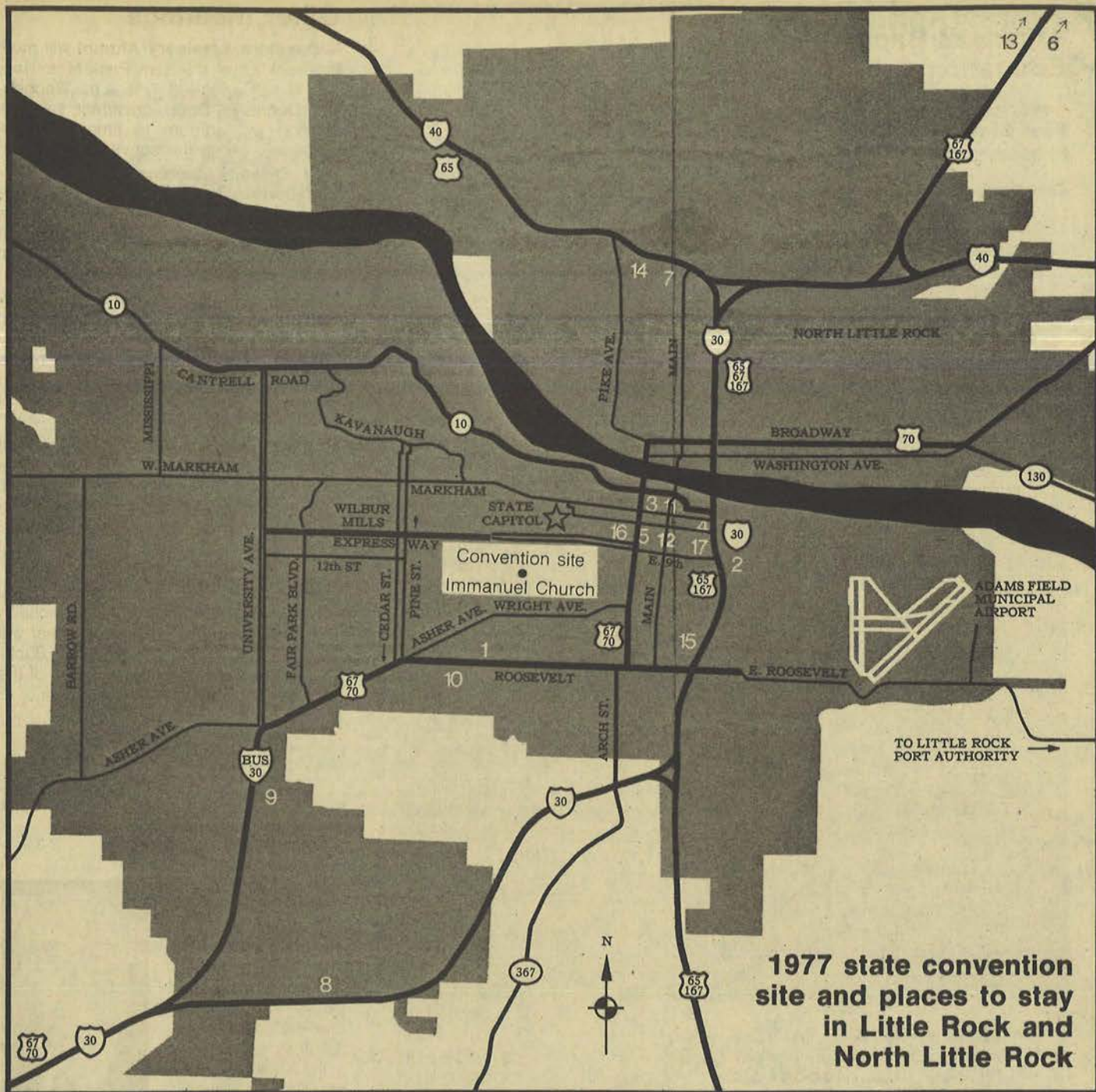
Maricle

Maricle will outline the Annuity Board's retirement and insurance programs for Southern Baptists who serve in church-related vocations. He will also be available for personal conferences.

The new retirement program, designed specially for career ministerial personnel, goes into effect Jan. 1. The program offers both retirement and survivor and disability benefits for participants.

Besides retirement, the Board also administers life, medical and disability insurance.

Annually, benefits are paid to more than 12,000 annuitants, including disabled persons, widows and retirees.



1977 state convention site and places to stay in Little Rock and North Little Rock

Hotels/motels

Little Rock/North Little Rock/Jacksonville

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Alamo Plaza
3200 W. Roosevelt Rd. | 111 West Pershing Blvd. | 13 Ramada Inn Jacksonville
200 Highway 67 North |
| 2 Americana Inn
707 Interstate 30 | 8 Holiday Inn South
2600 West 65th St. | 14 Ramada Inn North
Orange & Pershing |
| 3 Camelot Inn
Markham & Broadway | 9 Best Western
University Inn
4115 S. University Ave. | 15 Red Carpet Inn
East 21st & Interstate 30 |
| 4 Coachman's Inn
E. Capitol & Ferry | 10 Magnolia Inn
3601 W. Roosevelt | 16 Sam Peck Downtown
Motor Inn
625 West Capitol |
| 5 Holiday Inn Convention Center
6th & Broadway St. | 11 Manning Motor Hotel
Markham & Main | 17 Sheraton Little Rock
6th & Ferry St. |
| 6 Holiday Inn Jacksonville
Highway 67 at Gregory St. | 12 Ramada Inn Downtown
6th & Center | |
| 7 Holiday Inn North | | |

Recommendations

1 1978 budget

(Recommended by the Executive Board)

I. State causes	
1. Administration	\$ 61,969.00
2. Business Services	171,720.00
3. Departments:	
(1) Annuity - operating	12,350.00
(2) "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine"	93,298.00
(3) Baptist Student Union - operating	270,383.00
- buildings	12,289.00
(4) Brotherhood	39,950.00
(5) Camp Paron - operating	27,779.00
- improvements	9,000.00
(6) Church Music	60,808.00
(7) Church Training	78,509.00
(8) Evangelism	93,236.00
(9) Missions	180,690.00
(10) National Baptists	57,899.00
(11) Siloam Springs - operating	21,425.00
- improvements	19,941.00
(12) Stewardship	58,760.00
(13) Sunday School	113,654.00
	<u>\$1,149,971.00</u>
4. Other Services:	
(1) Baptist Building Debt	85,500.00
(2) Baptist Building Repairs	23,000.00
(3) Reserve for Severance Pay	7,536.00
(4) Reserve for Medical Insurance Premium Insurance	8,300.00
(5) Insurance for Disabled & Retired Employees	10,000.00
(6) Contingency	10,000.00
(7) Reserve	17,250.00
(8) Annuity Dues	150,000.00
(9) Convention	35,545.00
	<u>\$ 347,131.00</u>
5. Woman's Missionary Union	130,297.00
6. Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	149,175.00
7. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	71,127.00
8. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	702,093.00
(2) Southern Baptist College	175,523.00
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	69,241.00
	<u>\$ 946,857.00</u>
Total state causes	\$3,028,247.00
II. Southern Baptist Convention	2,110,464.00
Total state causes and SBC	\$5,138,711.00
III. Advance	
1. Christian Education:	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	362,333.00
(2) Southern Baptist College	90,583.00
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	38,256.00
	<u>\$ 491,172.00</u>
2. Other:	
(1) Baptist Student Union	51,167.00
(2) New Mission Sites	40,933.00
(3) Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	58,216.00
(4) Arkansas Baptist Foundation	3,458.00
(5) Assembly Improvements	52,300.00
(6) Camp Improvements	17,436.00
(7) Baptist Building Improvements	14,026.00
(8) Contingency - for History Committee	14,814.00
	<u>\$ 252,350.00</u>
Total advance	\$ 743,522.00
Grand total	\$5,882,233.00

2 Study Committee

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

We recommend:

1. That a ministry of crisis support be created by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention;

2. That its purpose will be to provide concerned, confidential and Biblical counseling for any person or family member of said person who is or has been in a church-related vocation within our state convention and who, in going through a period of personal crisis, needs the support and fellowship of such a ministry;

3. That the state convention's Executive Board, upon recommendation from its Operating Committee and the Study Committee on Ministry, select an individual who will be responsible for coordinating such a ministry among Arkansas Baptists, and for personal counseling among our ministers and their families;

4. That, in addition to said coordinator, resource persons be sought out among pastors and other ministers and qualified laymen within the state who give unusual evidence of the gifts and anointing of the Holy Spirit in the area of Christian counseling, and who would make themselves available, on a voluntary basis, to assist the coordinator by giving time to fellow ministers or their families for counseling and personal support in times of crisis;

5. That the proposed coordinator of crisis ministries meet the qualifications given below;

6. That, to insure mobility of said coordinator, so that he can be over the state counseling, training and otherwise encouraging our church and denominational workers, he be required to live in a part of the state easily accessible to the other parts of the state;

7. That, to insure confidentiality with respect to his ministry, and with respect to those who may seek his help, his office **not** be located in the Baptist Building, or in any other place frequented by ministers or denominational workers.

Qualifications for coordinator of crisis ministries

1. **Spiritual** - A person considered for this ministry must be commonly known for his obedience to the Holy Spirit, for the transparency and integrity of his moral life, and for his conscious and consistent practice of the presence of Christ. He must not be a spiritual novice, but evidence maturity in the New Testament faith both in doctrine and works.

4 Constitution Study Committee

on Ministry

2. **Theological** — A person considered for this ministry must be known for his faithful and consistent commitment to the Holy Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, and to that theological persuasion epitomized by our historic Baptist faith, and expressed in "The Baptist Faith and Message", adopted May 9, 1963, by the Southern Baptist Convention.

3. **Denominational** — A person considered as coordinator of crisis ministries must be known for his faithful acceptance of, and participation in, the cooperative ministries of Southern Baptists, Arkansas Baptists, his association and his local church.

3. **Professional** — A person considered for this ministry must himself have been involved in vocational ministries in a Southern Baptist Church for such time as would be necessary to make him identifiable with the pressures, problems and special calling of ministers. His ministry must have been of a sustained duration, and not evidencing insecurity in his own life, nor uncertainty as to his calling to the ministry. He must have received training in college or university, and seminary, and he must have had such specialized training and experience in counseling as to make him thoroughly knowledgeable of the spiritual, psychological and physical makeup of the human person, and of his liabilities to error and failure as a result of the Adamic nature. He, furthermore, must have had such specialized training and experience as to qualify him for dealing with the spiritual and emotional problems of ministers and their families. He will be expected to supplement his present training and experience with such ongoing study and experience as is needed for him to deal with the increasingly complex problems of our ministers and their families.

5. **Personal** — A person considered for this ministry must meet the personal qualifications given for elders (bishops) in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

Relationship to Arkansas Baptist State Convention

The proposed ministry of crisis support will be a ministry by and for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and shall be responsible to the Convention proper, and the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Any form of "placement service" disclaimed

The proposed ministry of crisis support will not be a ministerial placement service, nor will it serve in this capacity.

Continuation of Study Committee on Ministry

The present Study Committee on Ministry recommends that this Study Committee on Ministry be kept intact and active for at least one more year following the inauguration of the proposed ministry of crisis support, so as to offer that ministry the committee's assistance, in interviewing and recommending a coordinator, to oversee the organization and development of said ministry, and to continue research in the areas of ministerial stress that must be dealt with by said ministry. This, we feel, will be consistent with the directives given to the Study Committee on Ministry by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1974. Coexistent with the discontinuation of the Study Committee on Ministry, we recommend the formation of a permanent rotating committee of six to oversee this ministry, recommended by the Nominating Committee of the State Convention, and approved by the State Convention, which committee would be under the direction of the Executive Board of our Convention. — Paul Sanders, chairman; William Probasco, sub-chairman; and Thomas Hinson, sub-chairman

Other committee members: Al Sparkman, Gerald Taylor, Bernes K. Selph, Leslie Riherd, Jerry Tracy, Ray McClung, Peter L. Petty, Vester Wolber, Earl Humble, Jimmy Shults, Dr. Bob Langston and Mrs. John Wright.

3 Arkansas Baptist Foundation

The Board of Directors of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation will bring the following recommendation to the Convention on Thursday morning, Nov. 10:

It is recommended that in 1978, the income from undesignated receipts be distributed to the B.S.U. Third Century Campaign.

Statement of assignment and purpose of committee:

"... the purpose of this committee will be to make a study of the Constitution and By-laws of our convention to determine the power that the executive board has to spend money and transact business that has not been authorized by the Convention at its annual meeting." (Item no. 13, page 37, "1976 Annual of the Arkansas Baptist Convention".)

Committee:

*Frank Lady, Jonesboro; *Russell Miller, Mountain Home; *Wayne Ellison, Little Rock; *Mrs. Clayburn G. Bratton, Stamps; *Mrs. Agnes Coppenger, Arkadelphia; John McClanahan, Pine Bluff; and S. Ray Crews, Heber Springs, chairman (*identifies laypersons)

Background:

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention serves the Convention as the legally constituted Board of Trustees. As the legal trustees for the Convention, the Board is charged with the responsibility of handling the day-to-day business of the Convention when the Convention is not in session, within the scope of their authority as defined in the Articles and By-laws of the Constitution. This authority, which is direct and implied as to routine matters in carrying out the purpose and function of the Convention, cannot and should not be extended to business matters of extraordinary proportions.

The wording of the Charter, Constitution, and By-laws is firm in directing the Board to seek Convention approval of any new or extraordinary programs or projects before their projection rather than seeking approval after such programs or projects are started. The Constitution requires that the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention obtain the approval of the full convention for the expenditure of convention funds, which should be submitted in the form of a budget at the annual convention for approval.

The authority is implied that the Board can and should seek professional counsel and aid to properly undergird any recommendations to the Convention in its annual meeting. Adequate provisions should be made in the annual budget of the Convention for the employment of this professional help and the expenditure of

(Continued on page 14)

Constitution Study Committee

From page 13

feasibility studies by the committees of the Executive Board and/or committees appointed directly by the Convention in session.

The Board, as an agent of the Convention, is without authority except that which is granted to it by the Convention. Routine matters are properly cared for through present and future budget allocations and assigned tasks of the various departments of the Convention. Any state of emergency is also adequately covered in the Constitution and By-laws.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That the Executive Board request a budget allocation in the annual budget of the Convention for planning, development, and other studies which are necessary to fully support the recommendations to be made by the Executive Board to the State Convention.

2. That the charter of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention as a nonprofit organization in the state of Arkansas as granted and approved on November 19, 1956, by the Pulaski County Circuit Court be amended to comply with the present Constitution and By-laws.

3. That any future questions regarding the actions of the Executive Board and their authority should be referred to the Constitution and By-laws Committee, since the Constitution and By-laws are the sources from which the Executive Board derives its authority.

Constitution changes

Messengers wanting to offer amendments to the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention must present them on the first day of the convention, according to Don Hook of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Proposed changes should be given to Hook in writing at that time and may be submitted for publication in the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" no later than Oct. 21.



Arkansas all over



The fire in the building of First Church, Bearden, began in the baptistry (center) and burned through the roof. Parts of the building besides the immediate area suffered heavy smoke and water damage.

Bearden building burns

On Sunday, Sept. 18, Bearden First Church's building was gutted by fire which started with the baptistry heater.

At 1:15 p.m., smoke began pouring from under the eaves of the church. The volunteer fire department arrived immediately, but since there was a dense haze of smoke enveloping the church, the men with the hoses found difficulty finding the center of the blaze. As they were chopping into the roof, a loud explosion erupted, shooting flames through the roof and above tree-top level. The firemen scrambled back down the roof and none of them were burned. The explosion was what saved the building from complete destruction because the firemen were able to pour water into the blaze, finally conquering it. The smoke and water damage was extensive and the sanctuary was a charred, sodden mess. The building that had been built in 1922 was ruined.

Yet, as Pastor W. R. Rogers led that night service in the school building, he called for a praise service. Members expressed their praise in statements like these:

"There are no accidents with God. He has a purpose. We must learn the lesson that the things of this earth are fragile and fading."

"Our building burned, but not our church. We, the people, are the church."

"There were no people in the building at the time of the fire, so no one was hurt, and the firemen were not harmed."

"Maybe we were too self-satisfied and the Lord would teach us to 'roll up our sleeves' and get to work."

"The people of the town banded together and have been wonderful."

"The cooperation at the time of the fire when the organ and piano and the pastor's valuable library were all saved, was unforgettable."

Then the people of First Church, Bearden, left with a song with a new determination to clean up and rebuild.

Beryl Church

Beryl Church near Vilonia in Faulkner County held groundbreaking ceremonies on Sept. 18 for a new auditorium and other facilities.

The building, 42 x 100 feet, will provide seating for 250, a pastor's study and workspace, and classrooms. O. D. Sisson of Vilonia is contractor.

Howard Murray, pastor, said that the church plans to remodel their existing facilities later.

Marvell First

Marvell First Church celebrated their 100th anniversary and held dedication services for their new education and recreation building on Sept. 18. The occasion was also homecoming day. Former pastors participating were John Riggs, Melvin Hampton and Harold Taylor. John Collier led the prayer of dedication.

The building dedicated is 60 x 90 feet and includes seven classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen and the kindergarten department. It is valued at approximately \$90,000.

Gene Crawley is pastor.



Volunteer labor provided most of the work on the Mt. Pleasant parsonage.

Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant Church, located south of Snyder, held open house Sept. 10 at their recently completed parsonage. The building committee and church trustees and their wives, assisted by James Judkins, deacon, Mrs. Edward Williamson, and Mrs. Baxter, the pastor's wife, were hosts for the occasion.

The parsonage, valued at \$45,000, is located just west of the church. The building features simulated antique bricks.

The house has 1,812 square feet of floor space, plus a double carport, front porch and back patio.

Volunteer labor was used for most of the construction program. The home was financed by Portland Bank with an \$18,000 loan, \$8,000 of which will be paid next February when saving securities mature, leaving a total indebtedness of \$10,000.

Building committee members were E. W. Ricks, Henry Austin, Earl Ladd, Mrs. David Brooks and Mrs. Joe Peacock. Trustees are David Brooks, Earl Ladd and Henry Austin. Dudley Baxter is pastor.



First Church, Hope, has held a note burning ceremony for indebtedness on the third unit of a church plant they began in 1940 under the leadership of S. A. Whitlow. The church first built a sanctuary, then an education unit and now has built and paid for the second education building. The church still plans a fourth unit — a chapel that will be tied into the present building complex. Burning the note were Pastor Richard Stiltner (left), Cecil O'Steen, chairman of deacons, and Ned Purtle, chairman of trustees.

New subscribers:

Church	Pastor	Association
New budget:		
Clear Lake, Blytheville	A. Harrison Weger	Mississippi Co.
Calvary, W. Helena	Wade McCarley	None
Valley Chapel	Danny Veteto	Calvary

Soviet Union religious freedom to be topic of interfaith meeting

The National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock and the American Jewish Committee of Arkansas will co-sponsor a visit and public address by Ann Gillen, Executive Director of the National Inter-religious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church.

Co-chairmen of this event are Richard C. Butler Jr., bank trust officer, attorney and Methodist layman of Little Rock and Daniel Grant, President of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia.

Representing the sponsoring organizations are Andrew J. McDonald, Bishop of Little Rock; Arnold L. Mayer-son, Chairman of the American Jewish Committee for Arkansas; and Mrs.

Covelle Harkins, Regional Director for Arkansas of The National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry was founded in Chicago in 1972, after the first Chicago Inter-religious Consultation on Soviet Jewry and includes among its leaders major personalities of the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Evangelical and Jewish communities.

The Honorary National Chairman is R. Sargent Shriver and the National Co-leaders are Andre Lacocque, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum and Margaret Ellen Traxler.

The Task Force, a major expression of human rights concerns shared by Christians and Jews, works in many ways to achieve freedom for the oppressed peo-

ples in the Soviet Union. It carries on an intensive program of education, interpretation and action. Ann Gillen is the former Director of the National Coalition of American Nuns.

This program is being sponsored by most of the major denominations of Arkansas.

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Your state convention at work

Missions

First summer ministry to deaf brings blessings to student

"The Lord constantly blessed me this summer with the opportunity to work with the deaf in Arkansas. The very first week Bob Parrish, my supervisor, told me that God was going to bless me through this mission. Every day, without fail, I saw God guiding our efforts and blessing the work he has prepared for us.

"My partner, Kim Osment, and I probably received more happiness in teaching backyard Bible clubs, Sunday School, Bible studies for adults and in-



Wellington

terpreting church services than the deaf themselves. I believe God took our lives and used them in a very special way. He showed us as individuals that we can do something for him. I constantly felt God's care for me this summer.

"It was my first time to be away from home for any length of time, and I learned to claim II Corinthians 5:7. God is still showing me how to walk the path of faith and not sight. I have learned that "God is my strength." Several times this summer I did not think I could handle certain situations, but God really let me know that he is all powerful. With Jesus Christ living in me, I have that same power.

"This past summer with the deaf has prepared me to start a ministry of out-

reach to the deaf in my hometown and college campus. My church is now starting a visitation program to let the deaf know we have a ministry for them.

"Believe me, the summer was not really easy. Traveling from town to town, getting readjusted and leaving new friends was a real challenge. But, looking back on these two months, I am encouraged to know that my Lord loves me so very much and he will be with me in all situations. I have already started to encourage the students at my school to seriously think about summer missions. I know that this is one growing experience every Christian needs."

Joni Wellington

Joni Wellington and Kim Osment were the first summer missionaries to work with the deaf in Arkansas.

Looking ahead: Arkansas events

October 1977

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MONTH

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

November 1977

- 3-5 Marriage Enrichment Retreat, DeGray State Park Lodge (Church Training)
- 4-6 International retreat (BSU)
- 6-12 Royal Ambassador Week in churches
- 7 State Royal Ambassador fellowship supper, Little Rock
- 7 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer (BWA)
- 8-10 ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, IMMANUEL, LITTLE ROCK
- 14-17 Area church recreation workshops (Church Training)
 - 14 - Central, Jonesboro
 - 15 - Calvary, Little Rock
 - 16 - First, El Dorado
 - 17 - Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith
- 20 Child Care Day
- 21-22 Weekday Early Education Workshop, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock (Sunday School and Missions)

Church Music

The 'Cassette Musician'

A new tool for church music leaders, "The Cassette Musician", is available from the literature department of the Sunday School Board beginning with the October-December, 1977 quarter.

The first issue features Charles Hirt, University of Southern California, discussing music as ministry, and Carlton Young, Scarritt College, dealing with the state of music today.

Future issues will include commentaries by experienced musicians and educators dealing with trends, philosophies and personal experiences.

Instructional portions of the tape will cover choral skills, vocal production and instrumental performance for professional performance.

The Cassette Musician will also include inspirational sections for spiritual enrichment, discussions of the facets of the ongoing music program of a local church and previews of music and music materials.

R. B. Easterling, church music department of the Sunday School Board, is editing *The Cassette Musician*. It will be issued quarterly and may be ordered on the church literature order form. — Ervin Keathley, Secretary

Why I support the Cooperative Program

(First in a series of four)

I support the Cooperative Program because it is Scriptural.

No, it is not mentioned by name in the New Testament, but neither is Sunday School, for that matter. And what Baptist needs to argue the Scriptural precedence for Sunday School? The principles are clearly evident in the New Testament.

The principles on which the Cooperative Program is based are just as evident. The Great Commission is a clear mandate to every born again believer and to every New Testament church to teach the Word of God, evangelize and spread the gospel. There can be no escape from that responsibility.

A church that gathers for worship but gives no thought to reaching others outside its own sphere of influence has simply not fulfilled its function as a church. But how does it accomplish

that? How does the small church with a limited membership and limited resources become involved in missions and evangelism in other places? The Cooperative Program makes it possible for every member of that church to participate in every phase of Southern Baptist work.

But there is another major problem. The Great Commission does not give us the option of selecting whatever type mission work appeals to us or whatever geographical location may be most convenient. The Great Commission talks about "all the world" being reached simultaneously. Even the large church can't accomplish that by itself.

The Cooperative Program provides a way. Admittedly, Southern Baptists have not yet taken the gospel into all the world. But when we are ready to respond to the New Testament command to do so, the Cooperative Program

provides a practical way to implement it.

By pooling our resources, which includes not only finances but also personnel, experience, expertise, etc., we can present the gospel in a multitude of ways, in all languages, in all cultures. Some denominations and some Baptist groups other than Southern Baptists have demonstrated a very fervent missionary zeal, but no other group in the history of Christendom has been able to implement the Great Commission on as wide and broad a scale as have Southern Baptists.

I believe the Great Commission is a mandate to every believer and every church. I believe our Lord intended for us to take it seriously. When someone shows me a better way to do that, I will be among the first to try it. Until then, I will support the Cooperative Program enthusiastically, because it is Scriptural. — Roy F. Lewis, Associate Executive Secretary

BOLD BELIEVERS IN GIVING

The church budget: Questions for effective budgeting

A lack of money isn't the big obstacle in church budgeting. Other barriers often stand between a church and effective ministry. Some important questions need to be asked and answered before a church starts putting figures on paper.

What is biblical stewardship? A church with false or limited concepts of stewardship is faced with a barrier in budget planning. A study session on what the Bible says about stewardship will broaden a church's base of ministry. Stewardship is more than raising dollars for a budget. It is a way of life. Giving money is but a portion of total stewardship.

How should our church minister? What areas or ministry are open for the church? Good church budgeting centers around ministry. A church looks at its opportunities and asks itself, "What is Christ's mission for this church?" Ministry extends beyond the local community. A church without vision dies. Local and world missions needs are worthy of first consideration in budget preparation.

Is our stewardship bold or timid? Timid leadership is a barrier to effective budgeting. Some church leaders rather evade stewardship in general and money in particular. A pastor who never talks about money wins some friends in the pew.

Jesus didn't neglect stewardship themes. He talked freely of a steward's responsibility to give life and possessions to God. Money wasn't a forbidden or dirty word. Bold leadership in stewardship undergirds bold evangelism and missions.

Are the members involved in decision making? Effective budgeting comes from people participation. The same two or three members shouldn't be strapped with budget development every year. Various committees support the budget committee with their suggestions. A church budget doesn't belong to the pastor, the deacons or any single committee. Input from members assures more interest in budget approval and support.

Does our church reach out? People

respond to missions. If a church budget is selfish, it elicits little support. When members can trace their dollars around the globe, they're more generous. Effective budgeting guides a church toward increased mission gifts.

Do we trust one another? A good budget has the support of the majority of the members. Christians trust their brothers and sisters when Christ's commission is at the heart of all they do. A good budget is free from suspicion and manipulation of church funds for pet projects.

Are the finances controlled by a small group? Church budgets are subject to church control. When a small group controls the giving or spending, the church faces a barrier.

Those responsible for planning the church budget may want to spend one session asking questions and determining ministries. The budget committee has valuable information after a church has discussed the question, "What is God's will for our church?" — James A. Walker, Secretary of Stewardship

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Sunday School

Adult 'Start-A-Class'

A major emphasis in Southern Baptist churches in 1977-79 calls for a bold and loving witness to millions of adults now involved in Bible study. The goal is for Southern Baptists to start at least 100,000 new adult classes by Sept. 30, 1980.



Cooper

The plan sets the second Sunday in each quarter as Adult Start-A-Class Sunday; calls for an enrollment week just prior to each Start-A-Class Sunday; uses an Adult Start-A-Class team or teams to begin the new classes; provides appropriate curriculum including new special units of study; calls for follow-up and planning meets for the Start-A-Class teams.

It takes a plan to fulfill a dream. The

plan for Adult Start-A-Class can help fulfill a dream of reaching more adults. The plan is simple enough to be understood, specific enough to be manageable and realistic enough to be attainable.

At the recent state Sunday School Convention in Little Rock, 56 Sunday School leaders committed themselves to starting 102 new adult Bible classes in the church year 1977-78. If it were possible to have 102 new classes for every 44 churches, there would be 2,750 new classes this year. If these classes reached 10 adults each, there would be 27,500 more adults involved in Bible study. It can be done!

Write to us at the Sunday School department for more details and a free church guide for Adult Start-A-Class.

This may or may not be the year of the Razorbacks, but it is certainly the Year of the Adult! — Don Cooper, Sunday School department

Child Care representatives

Renewed emphasis is being given to our associational child care representative program. This person will serve as a contact person in the association along with the associational missionary to inform people of the work of our agency. We will supply information concerning our ministry, our progress and our needs.

Each associational missionary has been asked to enlist a representative from his association. The response has been very encouraging. Listed below are those who have been enlisted.

Association/Representative

Calvary, James E. Thornton
Conway-Perry, Coy Sample
Dardanelle-Russellville, Don Hankins
Delta, David McLemore
Liberty, Van Evans
North Arkansas, Bob Eubanks
Ouachita, Jack Reeves
Pulaski, Bob Focht
Tri-County, George Fink
Trinity, Melvin Echols
Van Buren, Glenn Williams
White River, Mrs. Bonnie Margason

Hopefully, we will have a representative in each association by the time of the annual meetings. We are especially thankful for the cooperation of our associational missionaries in this matter. — Homer W. Shirley Jr., Director of Development, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services

Churches should budget literature increases

NASHVILLE — Church literature order forms for the April-May-June 1978 quarter, reflecting the first literature price increases by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in two years, should be in the hands of all church leaders by Jan. 1, 1978.

The literature rate increase, which will be effective April 1, 1978, was approved by Sunday School Board trustees at their August meeting. Early announcements of the increases are being made to help churches plan for their 1978 budgets.

The increases, when applied to sample church orders of varying order size, averaged 10 percent. The increases were necessary because of the continually higher costs of paper, printing, postage and handling.

The board has absorbed inflationary costs of 11 to 13 percent since the April 1, 1976, increase. According to a recent survey, the Board's literature prices will remain highly competitive with other publishers in the religious field.



Regional workshops for state annuity secretaries were held recently in Atlanta, Nashville and Little Rock. Attending the meeting in Little Rock Sept. 22 were (clockwise around the table) Nadine Bjorkman of Arkansas, Bill Roe of Texas, Lucian Conway of Louisiana, W. R. Roberts of Mississippi, Harold S. Bailey, Vice President for Church Development with the SBC Annuity, Dallas, and George E. Wheeler of Illinois. Discussion at the workshop was centered on the Cooperative Member Benefit statements being mailed this month to Plan A members who will soon be making decisions concerning the new plan to be effective Jan. 1. (ABN photo)

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Cauthen recovering after heart attack

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP) — Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was reported making a good recovery in a hospital here after suffering a heart attack Sept. 18.

His attending physician, treating Cauthen in the coronary care unit of Medical Center Hospital, said he expects Cauthen to make a "full recovery". Earlier reports indicated Cauthen had not suffered a heart attack, but more complete examination revealed that a coronary thrombosis had occurred.

The doctor reported that the attack damaged the lower front part of Cauthen's heart, but reported his condition as stable. He suggested two months of recuperation before Cauthen resumes his responsibilities.

Board President William L. Self, who

visited Cauthen in Huntsville Sept. 19, said that administrative responsibilities of the Foreign Mission Board will be carried by the staff's executive council during this interim period. The council comprises directors of the three divisions of the board — overseas, mission support and business services. Cauthen's administrative associate, Rogers M. Smith, will preside at the meetings in the executive director's absence.

Cauthen collapsed while speaking at the televised Sunday morning worship service of the Jackson Way Baptist Church here. The pastor, Dan L. Ireland, and an experienced nurse who is a member of the church choir, gave Cauthen attention until a rescue unit arrived to take him to the hospital.

He regained consciousness after less than a minute and talked with Ireland

and others who came to his aid. As he was being carried from the auditorium, he waved to the church members.

The congregation sang until the rescue unit arrived, and then the pastor gave a five-minute message based on the Scripture which Cauthen had just finished reading.

Five persons, including three who professed faith in Jesus Christ, made decisions at the close of the service. One man who came to move his membership to the church said he was greatly influenced by the way that Cauthen seemed at ease during this personal crisis. This man's son was one of the three who professed faith in Christ.

Mrs. Cauthen flew to Huntsville Sept. 18 to be with her husband.



Every church can have a part

"Our church voted to give \$100 each year for the next five years. Our church is small with only 11 members in attendance, but we do want to share in this great need for our young people to have a place on college campuses for Christian guidance."



Jones

This note from Mrs. Bryan Bardwell, church treasurer, came with the BSU Third Century commitment card of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Heber Springs. Brother William O. Good is the pastor.

We hope that the concern and generosity of this church will motivate and inspire many other churches to share in the support of the BSU Third Century Campaign.

It is my prayer and hope that *all* of our 1200 churches will participate in this campaign. A church's numerical size and the size of its budget are not the primary factors here. *Every church can share* in this campaign to expand and strengthen our ministry on 27 campuses where 65,000 precious young people are enrolled.

We would welcome an invitation to present the campaign in your church. Contact the local BSU Director nearest you, your Director of Missions or my office if we may assist you. — Jamie Jones, Director of BSU Third Century Campaign

BWA reserves \$50,000 for theological seminary in USSR

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has designated \$110,251 from its relief fund for interchurch aid for the theological education of ministerial students speaking one or more of the Slavic languages in Eastern Europe.

A large portion of that amount — \$50,000 — was "reserved for an institution of theological training in the USSR, to be paid to the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists promptly upon request after the necessary permissions are obtained from the authorities for the opening of such an institution."

The council also said that the BWA division of relief and development should "seek additional donations for the account for theological training of ministerial students of Eastern Europe," if the \$110,251 figure proves to be insufficient.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the BWA, said that the funds have been made available from investment earnings of a fund which originated in 1908 and was augmented at the Baptist World Congress in Philadelphia in 1911 with a special offering "to train Slavic candidates for the gospel ministry." The initial corpus was less than \$50,000.

More than \$68,000 has been spent in two attempts to start a seminary in Russia, Denny said, noting that \$44,473 was spent in 1922-23 for establishment of a seminary at St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). The school operated for several years and educated about 400 persons. An additional \$24,500 was remitted to Moscow for a theological school opened there, with a 40-year lease, in late 1928. The school was closed and the lease cancelled a short time later, but perhaps as many as 250 received training there.

A Bible Correspondence School currently operates out of Baptist Union headquarters in Moscow. In addition, a limited number of ministerial students are permitted to attend schools outside the USSR. Statistics show 5,500 Baptist churches in the USSR with 545,000 baptized members.

Theological schools, with small enrollments, operate in Warsaw, Poland; East Berlin, East Germany; Budapest, Hungary; Bucharest, Romania; and Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

Approximately two thirds of the 1,172,000 Baptists in Europe live and witness in the Eastern section. However, most churches are led by lay persons without formal theological training.

Denny said that conversations with USSR Baptist leaders — six of whom were present for the Miami meetings — lead him to hope that the Soviet government will be receptive to the idea of the establishment of a Baptist Theological Center somewhere in that country.

Hearing and doing

Oct. 9, 1977

Luke 6:43-49; 8:19-21

No scripture could better identify the difference in hearing and doing the Word of God than that which is found in the epistle of James. In chapter one and verses 22 through 25 he gives a perfect description of what it



Dr. Bryant

means to do the Word and to continue doing it as well as what is involved in only hearing the Word.

The challenge of the passage is given in verse 22. Here the priority is set upon doing the Word and not hearing only. In addition to which he adds that one who is only a hearer of the Word is actually tricking himself. This self-deception results in a common attitude expressed by many today who feel satisfied just listening and not making any attempt to apply the truths they hear.

James continues by drawing from a common life scene to illustrate his principles. The hearer is likened to the man who gives little attention to his personal appearance. He is content to regard himself in the mirror, give his hair a "lick and a promise", dab his face lightly with water, say "that's good enough" and go his way, forgetting immediately what kind of image he presents to the world around him. There are many such individuals today who disclaim the necessity of a proper Christian appearance by their apathy of action in making day-by-day application of the Word.

The doer, on the other hand, is shown to be like the one who does not merely glance into the mirror, but who continues to look until he has corrected all blemishes in his appearance. He cares about the look of his Christian life enough that he will ensure that every hair or smudge is taken care of properly. The mirror he uses, God's perfect law, is the standard to show these flaws for correction and will result in his being free to express himself actively as a Christian.

With this description as a basis, Luke's Gospel outlines three steps in this process, "doing the Word".

At the heart of doing (Luke 6:43-45)

There is nothing more basic to the need for doing the Word than to have it happen as a result of one's heartfelt desire. Christian action must begin

because the individual has had a change of heart in life through the new birth in Jesus Christ.

Luke describes the results of two kinds of life. One is described as good and the other as evil. His analogy using the trees, thorns and bushes describe the natural order of God's creation. "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:12). As a result of this, he is saying that we cannot expect to find one kind of fruit growing on a different kind of tree. The good life cannot inhabit or produce evil fruit, nor can the evil life produce that which is good. As it is in God's natural order of creation, so it is with man and his heart.

The man without the new life of Christ indwelling his heart cannot be a true doer of the Word. He has not yet heard or has not made a primary application of the Word to his life to make the difference.

Obedience as doing (Luke 6:46-49)

Another basic principle to be considered in doing the Word is the principle of obedience. Having initially trusted the Lord with our lives, and out of a sincere faith in the trustworthiness of his words, we must of necessity be obedient to their counsel if we expect to fulfill the requirements of a doer.

Luke again poses a situation to describe the truth of this. The man who takes the Lord at his Word is the doer of the Word. He begins to build on the solid foundation. His life, like a house built on a rock, is built upon the perfect Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is of no small import that Jesus is known not only as the Rock but as the foundation. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). The man who builds on this foundation is basing his life upon the perfect trustworthiness of God's Word, and there is no danger of it ever being destroyed.

The hearer, on the other hand, though proclaiming the Lord as Lord, is not obedient to his counsel. This in itself condemns whatever is built, and the life

that is built is done so according to one's own design and will ultimately fall in ruin. Man's design cannot measure up to the perfect blueprint of God.

Responding in obedience to the perfect counsel of the Lord will ensure the eternal quality of the life. It also provides a perfect protection for the doing of the Word in life now.

Relationship through doing (Luke 8:19-21)

The third basic principle involved in doing the Word is that which involves the relationship established through it.

Of all the promises given to those who trust in the saving work of Christ, none gives greater joy and pleasure than the position that one gains in God's family. The Bible describes us as children of God and joint heirs with Christ. By faith we have become adopted by God the Father.

Luke expresses the reality of this relationship as the glorious result of doing the will of God. Christ used the example of his earthly family to set forth the principle. He then went beyond this realm to establish the relationship formed in an active commitment to the Word of God. All who hear and do the Word of the Father are closer in relations to him than even his earthly heritage. The Lord was not denying the importance of earthly ties, but exalting the tie which exists because one is willing to give greater priority to his relationship to Christ.

Hearing the Word of God is a primary step in the personal discovery of truth for our lives. But it is the active doer of that word of truth who completes the process and reaps the benefits.

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12 16-foot long, \$75 each
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A pattern for witnesses

John 1:19-23; 29-37

Oct. 9, 1977

Only the most creative can produce an original. Most of us need a pattern. A seamstress needs a pattern to make a usable garment. A cook needs a recipe to put together the main dish. A carpenter needs a blueprint to build a house. Man even needs a pattern for living a God-honoring life.



Cooper

Webster defines pattern as a style or type in general; an original or model proposed for or deserving of imitation; anything fashioned or designed to serve as a model or guide for something to be made, such as a paper pattern for a dress.

John the Baptist provides for us a pattern for witnessing. The aim of our study is for us to improve our testimony of Jesus. Our testimony is simply to tell what our experience with Jesus has been.

Keep in mind we have just begun a six-month study of the Gospel of John. The first unit is entitled "Witnesses to Jesus Christ". Last week we studied about John's purpose for writing, "that ye might believe" (20:31).

John the Apostle had a definite purpose in introducing John the Baptist early in his writing. John's primary purpose of the record was not to portray the Forerunner, but to set forth his evaluation of Jesus. One writer noted that the testimony of John the writer is so interwoven with that of John the Forerunner that in places we cannot be sure where one ends and the other begins. It is as if the witness of the two Johns is blended into one testimony of the Christ whom they would exalt.

Answering questions (1:19-23)

John the Baptist is identified simply as "a man sent from God". Such identification was not enough for the Jews. They sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to find out who he was.

From what we know about John the Baptist, it is not surprising that the religious leaders of his day had some question about him. You may want to read Matthew 3 for some more detail about John the Baptist. His habits of life

were rather unusual for his day. He certainly did not follow the traditional pattern of the leaders of the Jewish religion.

In answering the questions as to his identity, John turns the attention away from himself and toward the Messiah. This is such a practical lesson for every true witness. John was very implicit to answer the priests and Levites that he was not the Messiah.

John called himself a voice, a herald. No one is impressed by a herald. Everyone looks beyond him to the person he is announcing.

Taking a secondary role is not easy. Somehow it is human to want first place. However, when Christ has his proper place, first place, then the witness will always have a secondary role. The scripture reminds us that even the Holy Spirit's role is to bear witness to Jesus.

John the Baptist was a popular preacher. The Jews were looking for the Messiah. They were looking for the Old Testament promises to be fulfilled. It would have been easy for John to take advantage of the situation. But John was bigger than that. He made sure that he stayed in his place. His role was important, but he knew that he was one sent to prepare the way. He was faithful to his calling. By so doing he made a good pattern of witnessing to Jesus.

Announcing Jesus (1:29-34)

In answering questions, stating who he was not, John the Baptist was giving somewhat of a negative witness of Jesus. Now in these verses he turns to a positive, active witness. Attention is directed away from him and focused on Jesus the Messiah.

There were some 40 days between the time of Jesus' baptism and this announcement of John the Baptist in verse 29. In the baptism experience, John had seen the Spirit descending on Jesus and heard the voice from heaven. These expressions were convincing proof of Messiahship.

During the 40 days, John had time to reflect on his experience with Jesus. It was without hesitation that he could announce, "Behold, the Lamb of God." In the use of the term "Lamb", he suggests

the nature of Jesus' mission to the world.

John had come to know Jesus through his personal experience with him. As he announced, proclaimed Jesus, he could speak from his experience. This is the way that anyone comes to know Jesus, through personal experience. Such experience then becomes the testimony of the believer.

In announcing Jesus, John put Jesus in first place. John gave to Jesus the honor due him. He stated the purpose for Jesus' coming and praised him. In John's preaching to the people, he told them that Jesus must have first place.

Advised his own (1:35-37)

John had directed a general witness of the Messiah to the Jews. He must now offer that same witness specifically to his disciples. In our humanity, we would recognize it is easier to state sweeping convictions to the masses than it is to deliberately give up one's own close followers. John did not hesitate to advise his followers to turn now and follow Jesus. It was surely a mark of his effectiveness that they responded so readily. They heard John speak; they followed Jesus.

The key man was John the Baptist. He did his job well. He prepared the way for Jesus. As a result of his witness, two of his disciples followed Jesus. These two, Andrew and John, set out to bring others to Jesus. Thus, the chain of witnesses began. It continues even today.

Application

The pattern of witnessing is an easy one to understand. In the first place, the witness should not call attention to himself. He must point wholeheartedly to Jesus. Secondly, the witness must know Jesus by experience. Personal experience brings conviction and boldness in witnessing. The third part of the pattern in our study is that the witness will prepare his close followers to leave all and follow Jesus.

Any pattern must include proper motivation for witnessing. Motivation is that element that moves us to action. Motivation is the inward force that impels life. In following the pattern of John the Baptist, let us also follow the spiritual motivation that is involved in every aspect of his witness.

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'Country Crossroads' has birthday and listeners get the presents

Would you believe a birthday party where the honoree gives gifts instead of getting them?

That's what's happening in October when "Country Crossroads" observes its eighth birthday.

"Country Crossroads" is the country music show produced and syndicated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. It is heard on 626 stations across the United States and around the world on American Forces Radio Network.

"We're offering listeners a small record containing highlights from the show's first eight years," said Jim Rupe, who produces "Country Crossroads" for the Radio and Television Commission.

"Included on the record will be highlights from the very first show, recorded during a live broadcast from the Country Music Association's Hall of Fame in Nashville.

"We'll also have remarks from some of the stars we've interviewed on the show. Some of these are Loretta Lynn, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Minnie Pearl and Dolly Parton as well as excerpts from Jerry Clower's first visit to the show in 1971."

Clower's first visit to "Country Crossroads" was so well received that he has since become a regular on the program.

This year's birthday observance will feature Clower singing "Happy Birthday" to the show.

The other birthday present to listeners from "Country Crossroads" will be the third annual offer of a Country Music Calendar. The calendar contains birthdays of country stars and dates of important country music events.

"This year we're expanding the birthday list to include birthdays of some of the country music greats of the past," said Rupe.

"Country Crossroads" was heard on 35 stations when it was first aired in 1969. Today it is heard on 626 stations across the United States and on nearly 500 more around the world on the American Forces Radio Network.

"The 'Country Crossroads' theme is 'taking the cross of Christ to the crossroads of the world,'" said Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio and Television Commission.

"The show is an adaptation of a tool used by the industry. It was designed as a departure from the preaching format used by many religious broadcasters. We are using it to tell the story of Christ and how God can work in the lives of people.

"We speak to these people from spotlight to spotlight on their way to or from work, while they're working at home, or even while they're enjoying leisure activities. We speak to people who will either listen to us for just a few minutes or they'll never hear us at all."

In its eight years "Country Crossroads" has won numerous awards — special merit awards from the Country Music Association and from the Far East Broadcasting Company, a George Washington Freedom's Foundation Award, and an award from UNDA-USA, formerly the Catholic Broadcasters Association.

"Country Crossroads" can be heard in Arkansas on the following stations: Brinkley, KBRI, 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays; Camden, KAMD, 10 p.m. Thursdays; Corning, KCCB, 7 a.m. Sundays; Heber Springs, KAWW, 7 a.m. Sundays; Helena, KCRI, 8 a.m. Sundays; Hot Springs, KBHS, 4:30 p.m. Sundays; Little Rock, KXLR, 7 a.m. Sundays; Mena, KSKR, 1 p.m. Sundays; Morrilton, KVOM, 12 noon, Sundays; Osceola, KOSE, 2:25 p.m. Mondays; Paragould, KDRS, 6 p.m. Sundays; Pine Bluff, KYDE, 7 a.m. Sundays; and Siloam Springs, KUOA, 1 p.m. and 5:35 p.m. Saturdays.

Attendance report

Sept. 25, 1977

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church addns.
Alexander, First	120	45	
Alpena, First	71	23	
Ash Flat, First	68	48	
Batesville, First	251	130	5
Bentonville			
Central Avenue	71	33	
Mason Valley	83	29	2
Berryville			
First	178	70	
Freeman Heights	167	50	
Rock Springs	66	41	
Biscoe, First	83	40	
Booneville			
First	324		1
South Side	93	61	
Bryant, First Southern	213	125	
Cabot			
First	459	151	8
Mt. Carmel	320	172	2
Zion Hill	129		
Caledonia	47	30	
Camden, Cullendale First	589	149	
Charleston, First	177	64	1
Conway			
Pickles Gap	187	120	
Second	419	156	1
Crossett, Mt. Olive	301	104	1
Danville, First	186	44	
Des Arc, First	180	60	
El Dorado, West Side	459	454	3
Elkins, First	126		4
Ft. Smith			
First	1457		2
Grand Avenue	1058	230	15
Mission	23		
Haven Heights	216	110	2
Trinity	129		
Fouke, First	96	56	
Gentry, First	154	33	
Gillham	86	37	
Grandview	87	72	
Green Forest, First	201	63	
Greenwood, First	378	173	10
Hampton, First	184	81	4
Hardy, First	116	48	
Harrison, Woodland Heights	145	82	1
Hector, First	38	16	
Hope, First	339	99	
Hot Springs			
Harvey's Chapel	122	83	3
Park Place	274	84	1
Hughes, First	149	75	
Jacksonville, Marshall Road	210	78	2
Jonesboro, Nettleton	255	120	
Kingston, First	55	28	
Lavaca, First	378	143	4
Little Rock			
Cross Road	80	59	
Crystal Hill	126	40	
Life Line	476	126	2
Wakefield, First	94	35	
Magnolia, Central	584	178	
Monticello, Second	356	103	1
Mulberry, First	272	145	3
Murfreesboro			
First	142	56	
Mt. Moriah	54		
North Little Rock			
Calvary	396	101	1
Harmony	67	36	
Levy	462	100	9
Park Hill	970		8
Paragould			
Calvary	183	194	
East Side	237	194	3
First	342	119	1
Paris, First	404	69	
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	175	71	1
Central	128	62	
East Side	154	83	
First	663	100	3
Lee Memorial	261	150	3
South Side	550		3
Sulphur Springs	146	83	1
Watson Chapel	462	168	2
Rogers			
First	575	110	8
Immanuel	498	101	1
Russellville			
First	550		2
Second	145	48	
Sheridan, First	167	56	
Springdale			
Caudle Avenue	159	57	
Elmdale	318	125	
First	1987		6
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	191	73	3
Van Buren			
First	553	201	4
Mission	24		
Vandervoort, First	67	39	
Wabash, Immanuel	67	32	
West Helena, Second	181	111	
Wooster, First	119	81	
Yellville, First	165	48	2

Holy Land tour, cruise offered

Dr. Earl Hughes will take a group leaving March 6 on his 12th tour of the Holy Lands. They will tour 4 countries, Greece, Cyprus, Egypt, and Israel. They will fly by jet to Cyprus and board the cruise ship Il-liri from which they will visit Athens, Port Said, Cairo, Jerusalem, Gethsemane, Bethlehem and the Jordan. Those who wish will be baptized in the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. Anyone interested in going on the tour may write for a FREE brochure to Dr. Earl Hughes, 1601 Louisiana, Little Rock, Ark. 72206. Ministers are invited to go as tour hosts.

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Bible offers no easy answers

by David Wilkinson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The Christian who turns to the pages of the Bible for an all-inclusive set of rules to live by or for easy answers to today's difficult moral questions has some serious misunderstandings about the relationship of the Bible to moral decision making, according to the director of the Christian Life Commission conference held here.

Both men stressed the important position the Bible should have in Christian decision making, but they also emphasized that Scripture should be used to construct a useful framework for making decisions, not as a restrictive rule book.

Wood reminded conference participants that Jesus viewed the past and the present in his ministry "from a people perspective and not from a rule perspective.

"We need rules and guidelines," he commented, "but they are to be guideposts, not hitching posts. They are to be a compass, not a map. We get a sense of direction and motivation by viewing the intent of the rules that have been developed in the past, but we face each situation with a sense of newness and freshness and with our focus on the needs of people."

Wood warned that Southern Baptists should guard against becoming increasingly legalistic, pointing out that some institutions, including many churches, often base decisions more on "policy" than the needs of people.

Legalism, Wood added, "allows no space for my wants.

"Part of a legitimate Christian approach to decision making," he said, "involves a genuine assessment of your real wants. Just because we have unchristian lusts and greed doesn't mean that we have to mistrust all of our wants. God made us to desire and feel. To negate these functions is just as bad as to pervert and pamper them. One real task for Southern Baptists is to learn to say, under the Lordship of Christ, 'Here is what I want.'"

The Bible, Wood said, teaches that men are free to choose and act and that they are responsible for their own decisions.

Because God controls but does not manipulate the universe, it means that "freedom is real and not just psychological."

"My choices are really mine and what I do makes a difference in the universe," he explained. "What I do really counts. We are creatures, not robots. God shares his creativity with his creatures."

This also gives new meaning to prayer, Wood said.

"I can influence the world, history and God," the Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary graduate stated. "God does respond to what I ask and do.

Mystery is still here, but the fundamental truth is unchanged — God answers prayer. Prayer changes things. God works in a way in which He would not have worked had I not prayed."

In his address on the Christian calling, Matthews said that the nation and its churches are filled with people who are longing for some type of dramatic spiritual experience.

"The people of Jesus Christ are intended to have experiences with God," the former Waco, Tex., pastor said. "I believe we are meant to know peak experiences that fill our living with divine richness."

But he added a warning that "when given priority, our religious experiences can become quite unchristian, even instruments of Satan. Our preoccupation with spiritual experience may be ingeniously demonic, a vintage work of anti-Christ."

Matthews said that perhaps the Christian experience or calling cannot be had by simply wanting it or by "doing certain things to make it happen.

"The calling of God, Biblically, is not so much the occasion of ecstatic experience as it is the occasion of moral demand," he said. "God's calling to persons in history never had spiritual experience as a goal and end in itself. He calls us into a way, into a work, into a responsibility.

"When the Christian sense of calling is kept separate from the Christian concern for moral decision making, we either become gnostics who cannot redeem the world because we have already left it or we become semi-Biblical humanists whose God becomes theoretical and whose vision fades."

According to Matthews, the cross is also moral. Jesus carried "our cross," not his own, he explained.

"He was under our load, by his own choice, and I know of nothing more moral than that," Matthews said. "If I am merely bearing my own burden, so what? Pagans and animals do that. What morality is there in carrying my own load? My load is only a cross when it is the burden of someone else which I have chosen to put on my shoulder."

Choosing to bear another's burden, according to Matthews, is at the heart of Christian moral decision making.

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John A. Wood, director of program development for the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, led the morning sessions during the conference on "The Bible and Moral Decision Making" at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. C. David Matthews, pastor of First Church, Greenville, S.C., spoke each night.

In his presentations, Wood outlined the Biblical basis for moral decision making, demonstrated how a person's understanding of man and God affect the way he makes decisions, and gave some principles and guidelines to consider in decision making.

Matthews spoke on the relationship of the Christian calling, freedom, knowledge, confidence, and the cross to moral decision making.