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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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6-7-1984

**June 7, 1984**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

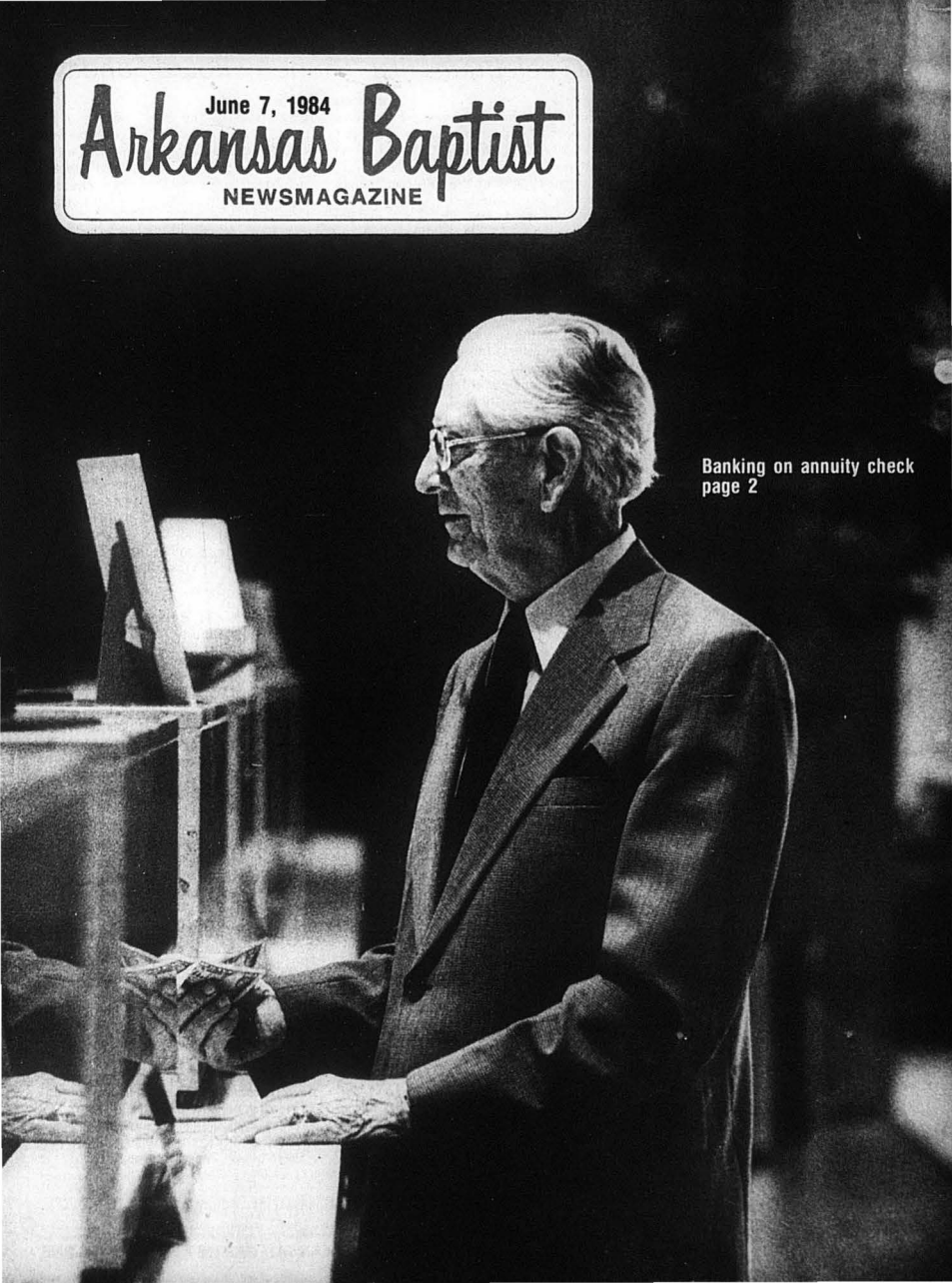
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June 7, 1984  
**Arkansas Baptist**  
NEWSMAGAZINE



Banking on annuity check  
page 2



ABN photo / Betty J. Kennedy

It's money in the bank for W. Harold Hicks, 78, one of 414 retired Southern Baptist servants in Arkansas whose monthly income is supplemented by benefits from the SBC Annuity Board. Ministers like Dr. Hicks, who retired in 1971 from a 29-year pastorate at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, will be honored as Baptists mark the first "Annuity Board Sunday" June 24.

## SBC celebrates first "Annuity Board Sunday"

by James Walker

Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, June 24 has been set aside as the first "Annuity Board Sunday." At the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh, messengers approved the emphasis to be added to the SBC calendar.

Although the Annuity Board is one of the four boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, the theme "The Best Kept Secret in the SBC" indicates the lack of information the average Southern Baptist has about the board's ministry.

"This will be an opportunity for churches to focus on the service of retired Southern Baptist ministers, missionaries and other denominational workers," said Darold H. Morgan, Annuity Board president. "We encourage congregations to seek them out, honor them and respectfully recognize their contributions to our Lord's work."

The Annuity Board sends retirement benefits from its base in Dallas, Texas to 13,000 Southern Baptists each month. "Unfortunately, most of these servants receive less than adequate retirement incomes," Morgan reports. "Many served in churches which did not provide sufficient funds needed to build a sound retirement benefit, and inflation continues to eat away their retirement incomes."

As of January 31, 1984, Arkansas has 414 annuitants receiving benefits from the An-

nuity Board. Of the 414, 224 receive less than \$100 a month and 126 receive between \$100 and \$200 a month. Time is essential in building retirement benefits. Some receive such small sums because their churches waited too late to put money into the church retirement program.

Morgan, who has served as board president since 1972, underscores that the Annuity Board is addressing these problems through its Endowment Department and other programs. "Not only is the Endowment Department building funds to supplement the incomes of annuitants (those who receive retirement benefits from the Annuity Board), but our trustees have recently formulated a new retirement program. Many Baptist state conventions have already approved this retirement program which goes into effect in January of 1988."

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention in its annual session will consider the New Church Annuity Plan. Brochures on the new retirement program are available from the state annuity representative, James Walker.

A poster with emphases' suggestions has been mailed to churches through *The Baptist Program* and to the directors of associational missions.

James Walker is director of the ABSBC Stewardship/Annuity Department.

## In this issue

### 4 readers write

Letters from the readers cover a variety of subjects, including some directly related to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting next week.

### 13 nominee challenge

An Amarillo pastor has said he plans to challenge the nomination of fellow Texan Paul Pressler to the SBC Executive Committee next week. Messengers to the annual meeting in Kansas City will be electing persons to boards and committees, and C. Winfred Moore will offer an alternative name for that position.

## BTN, ACTS satellite launch successful

WASHINGTON (BP)—The satellite to carry radio telecommunications signals for two Southern Baptist Convention television networks was successfully placed into orbit May 22.

Spacenet I, a GTE Spacenet satellite, was launched on an Arianespace rocket from Kourou, French Guiana. It was the first commercial launch for the French space launch company. The GTE Spacenet I launch also marked the first time a U.S. satellite has been sent into space on a commercial carrier or by a foreign company.

BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Net-

work), an educational network venture for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and ACTS (American Christian Television System), a Christian family network of the Radio and Television Commission, will be only two of the several customers using transponders on the GTE communications satellite.

BTN and ACTS expect to gain access to their satellite transponders by July 1, 1984, after GTE Spacenet tests the satellite systems, said Dave Piske, vice-president and general manager of GTE satellite corporation.

## Missionary kid saves neighbor from intruder

ARUSHA, Tanzania (BP)—Derek Akin, 13-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries, possibly saved the life of a neighbor as an intruder tried to break into her home in Arusha, Tanzania.

Derek and his sister, Chaundel, 15, heard a loud banging and a woman shouting for help in the house next door about 9:30 p.m. Their parents, missionaries Cordell and Marty Akin of Nashville, Tenn., and Long Beach, Calif., were not at home.

Derek and Chaundel waited for awhile but the sounds next door kept getting worse.

Finally, Derek got his B-B gun, a gift from his parents, cautiously slipped outside and went next door.

A man with an ax was battering in the door. Through a window, Derek saw the woman had been injured before she locked herself in the house. Derek took careful aim and fired, hitting the man, who appeared drunk, in the hand. He was so startled he dropped the ax and fled.

"He's got courage and compassion," said his mother of her son's willingness to take a risk to help someone else.

## No casino gambling

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



This guest editorial, by John Finn, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., contains important information for Arkansas Baptists.

The Garland County Wagering Committee has begun a petition drive to put a constitutional amendment legalizing casino gambling on the November General Election ballot. To get the issue on the ballot, the committee needs to obtain the signatures of 80,000 registered voters by July 6.

In 1964, the voters of Arkansas, by a vast majority, defeated a constitutional amendment that would have legalized casino gambling at Hot Springs. The citizens of 72 counties demonstrated sane thinking and righteous indignation by voting to defeat the amendment. This should have given the issue a permanent burial. The greedy gambling interests, however, have resurrected the issue.

The Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., is diametrically opposed to the current move to legalize casino gambling in this state. Yet, the gambling interests are dangling carrots and juicy plums before the citizens in an attempt to assure success.

Proponents are making the same appeal made by those pushing state lottery gambling. Supporters claim that \$25 million to \$30 million in annual tax revenues would be raised. State lottery gambling interests promised approximately \$40 million. Arkansas have not bought the proposal. At last report, approximately 15,000 names had been obtained for state lottery gambling. It appears that a natural death of the issue is inevitable and we will be glad to provide the burial. What makes the casino gambling interests think they will be exempt from the same fate? Arkansas will be glad to bury the issue deeper than the 1964 burial.

A plum is being offered to the counties. Five percent of the gross earnings of the casinos would go to the state. Of these funds, 40 percent would be distributed to the counties on a per capita basis. Arkansas counties need funds, but the vast majority are willing to do without the tainted money. The gambling interests at Hot Springs have short memories, for in 1964, 72 of 75 counties said "no."

Proponents are offering the cities a carrot. These, of course, must be the state's 100 first-class cities, based on population. The folks out at "Possum Hollow" will take a dim view of the proposition, for it is discriminatory.

"The casinos would be strictly regulated," proponents argue. The Las Vegas story and the present scandal in Atlantic City,

N. J., offer glaring contradictions to the argument. Before accepting this promise from the glib tongue of greedy gambling interests, we will have to be convinced that angels are holding the deck of cards, spinning the wheel or pulling the handle of the slot machine.

If legalized, it will become a fertile breeding ground for other activities of organized crime. The proponents of casino gambling will use big propaganda guns, attempting to convince us that safeguards will be taken to keep the mob out. However, we are not convinced that the mob is not already in the state, involved in pornography and gambling operations. The citizens of Atlantic City, N. J., were assured that organized crime would not become involved in that city's casino gambling. The former governor of New Jersey told the underworld to keep out of Atlantic City and its newly formed Eastern Las Vegas. The underworld ignored the warning and extended greedy tentacles into the office of mayor.

On December 6 of last year, federal officials say an FBI agent approached Michael J. Matthews, mayor of Atlantic City, and advised him he was the subject of a federal investigation. Within hours, the then mayor of Atlantic City "confessed" to receiving payments from organized crime figures and participating in a conspiracy to extort money from two businesses. Matthews was indicted on March 27 on charges of conspiring to commit extortion, attempted extortion and extortion.

Could a thief be trusted to guard our valuables while we are on vacation? Would we trust a bank robber to guard a vault filled with money? Could we trust a Communist to guard our military secrets? We are not prepared to trust the gambling interests' glowing promises to keep the slimy fingers of the underworld off casino gambling in Garland County.

Proponents argue that the promise will be written on paper, thereby assuring us of enforcement. Our reply is, "So what?" Does the mob respect the law? There are laws against prostitution, but the underworld is not deterred from luring thousands of teenage girls and boys into prostitution. There are laws against child pornography, but the underworld ignores them and continues to fill their coffers. Does the mob pay attention to the laws relating to the sale of illegal drugs? We do not accept the assurances and promises of the gambling interests. We will join others in refusing to sign a petition. Should the sponsors obtain the 80,000 signatures, we will join other voters and give the same "no" in November that was given in 1964.

The carrots are pretty, the plum appears juicy, but Arkansas are too smart to accept the platter offered by gambling interests.

# Arkansas Baptist

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

VOLUME 83

NUMBER 22

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Betty Kennedy ..... Managing Editor

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

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

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## Letters to the editor

### Mistaken about CLC

As a participant in the Christian Life Commission's national seminar on "Christian Citizenship", I would like to respond to the letter that was critical of the event in the May 17 issue of this magazine.

Mrs. Anderson was incorrect in stating that Cooperative Program money is used to support the seminar. The registration fees paid by the participants directly finance the cost of the seminar. The individuals who choose to attend provide the opportunity for such an event.

I believe Mrs. Anderson does not fully understand the purpose of the seminar in light of the comments in the letter. I wish to communicate the purpose in the following way.

I, along with other university professor and six students, attended the activity to learn more about how we could be more responsible as Christian citizens. Education did happen! We found a group of individuals committed to proclaiming and to applying the gospel in the world community. To complement that unifying goal, we found a great diversity of individuals and ideas about how that goal could be reached. That diversity was seen in the vocations represented on the platform and in the audience—pastors, politicians, doctors, pollsters, university instructors, school teachers, etc.

That diversity surfaced in varying gifts that individuals are seeking to exercise in addressing the issues of 1984 under the leadership of God's spirit. Blind assent to every word spoken at the seminar was not required, but openness, understanding and dialogue were primary. We discovered individuals who differed from our personal theological beliefs, but that did not end conversation, it provided opportunities for growth and new insights. We came away with expanded visions, awareness of challenges to which we must respond, and renewed commitments to live the "high calling of God in Christ Jesus!

I am grateful that CLC does help "set the agenda for action," for I believe it is a biblical agenda. I will pray for the CLC leaders, for they are brothers and sisters in Christ, seeking to do the gospel, in work and deed.—Wes Lites, Arkadelphia

### Love one another

I was deeply troubled by the letter to the editor concerning the SBC Forum in the May 24th *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Many derogatory remarks were made concerning the "SBC Forum" to be held at this year's convention. It is my understanding that the meeting is simply to provide a different emphasis and style for one afternoon session, and that most of those who participate will attend the regular pastors conference all the other sessions.

The writer of the letter, however, labeled

this group as liberal, as denying the Bible, and supporting such things as abortion and the gay movement. Surely it is not right to make such sweeping accusations and judgements about a group of people.

The saddest part of the letter was the last two sentences. It was said of those who attend this meeting that, "God is not with them. He never has been nor will he ever be with them." I could not believe what I read. What has become of us that we say such things? The letter broke my heart. It illustrates a growing attitude of intolerance, arrogance, harsh judgment and even viciousness which can be found in both extremes of our convention.

There should be no room for such attitudes in the SBC nor the Kingdom of God. We must learn to have unity in spite of our diversity. We must remember Jesus' command to "judge not." I plead with my fellow Southern Baptist brothers and sisters, let us hear again the Word of God as it is recorded in I John 4:7-8. It begins with, "Beloved, let us love one another."—Martin Thielen, Augusta

### Just as free as any

Quite frequently someone suggests that we follow Gamaliel's advice (Acts 5) and refrain from opposing or exposing religious movements of our day. If this be true, then we ought never to lift our voice against the errors of Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, Unitarianism, the Moonies, and a host of other religious movements. Should we sit idly by while error is taught, our churches are divided, and our people become confused?

Jude admonishes us to "contend for the faith". We are to point out false doctrine, as well as teach true doctrine. Anyone vaguely familiar with the writings of the apostles knows full well that these men constantly and vigorously exposed error wherever they found it, be it inside or outside of the church.

Some people seem to feel that the James Robison movement has discovered new truths and new power for our day and that Baptists ought to rejoice in this. Evidently they are not aware that much of what the Robison movement advocates is simply an embracement of Pentecostal doctrines. Throughout my ministry of nearly 40 years, I have prayerfully, carefully, and diligently searched the Bible to see if the Pentecostal claims regarding speaking in tongues, healings, new revelation, miracles, demon possession, etc. are true. Again and again, I have found that the Pentecostal teaching concerning spiritual gifts are not supported by the Scriptures, but rest mainly on experience, emotionalism and faulty Bible exegesis.

Attempts to accommodate Pentecostal doctrine in Baptist churches will result in confusion and division. Those of us who reject

the Pentecostal and "Neo-Pentecostal" views concerning spiritual gifts are not spiritually dead, as some would claim. Neither are our churches dead. We love the Lord, believe his Word, love lost souls, care for people, believe in the power of the Holy Spirit and are just as free and happy in the Lord as anyone else.

Moreover, I believe that the Baptist papers of our state conventions have a sacred duty to keep our people informed of any all movements which would divide our churches, discredit our ministers, and distort our faith.—C.A. Johnson, Jonesboro

### Disservice done

I, too, feel that a disservice was done by printing the articles regarding James Robison. I have been listening to his messages and feel that his motive is right, that he is only trying to deliver God's message to a people who desperately need it and don't realize how much they need it.

I feel it is wrong to keep bringing up the past, as in the case of Milton Green. If God forgives a man's mistakes, can't we do the same?—Debbie McCoy, Gould

### Don't criticize

I have been disappointed in the tendency of the *Arkansas Baptist* to publish articles that are liberal and one-sided.

An example is the May 3 article concerning the James Robison Evangelistic Association. The story was full of slander, innuendo, and outright lies. The chief complaint against Bro. Robison seemed to be that he isn't preaching a traditional "Baptist" sermon. In short, the article was a smear attack one would expect in the *Arkansas Gazette*, not in the *Arkansas Baptist*.

I'm afraid some people have forgotten that our mission is to evangelize the world for Jesus Christ, not for the Baptist church. While we have a responsibility to thoroughly study the Bible for God's appointed truths, we are not to worship our pet doctrines, but the God of these doctrines. And the God of those doctrines teaches us love, patience and understanding for our fellow Christians. I don't believe criticizing Christians simply because they have a viewpoint different from ours is God's way.—Jerry McCarty, Higden

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

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## Reject Pressler

As a Baptist and a Christian for the past 52 years I am deeply concerned about the appointment for Paul Pressler to our [SBC] Executive Committee. Pressler has been quoted as saying he is "going for the jugular vein" of our colleges, seminaries and institutions.

I am a former member of the Executive Committee and during my time of service on the group I did not know of any one on that group with that destructive attitude. If the statements attributed to Pressler are true, we are inviting a fox in to help guard the hen house.

The things I read and the information I receive lead me to believe that Pressler has organized a political network that will control the appointments of board members and seminary presidents.

I believe Pressler's nomination<sup>1</sup> is an evidence of political power and it is my opinion that his election would be a disaster for our convention. I respectfully urge his rejection as a member of the Executive Committee.—Henry Horrell, Nashville, Tenn.

## Defends presidents

Concerning your editorial of May 24, 1984, you speak of Jimmy Draper, Bailey Smith and Adrian Rogers as being to the extreme right of traditional Southern Baptist teachings. This is not true. My Southern Baptist heritage and roots go back for many generations. My dad, Homer G. Lindsay Sr., was a Southern Baptist pastor. Both of my grandfathers, Dr. L.S. Ewton and Rev. D.W. Lindsay, were Southern Baptist pastors and both graduates of the Southern Baptist Seminary.

You give five characteristics that are needed for the presidency. Adrian Rogers, Bailey Smith and Jimmy Draper fulfill all five of these. You say they should demonstrate Christian love. These brothers do. You say they should be proven leaders. These brothers are proven leaders. No one can build a great Southern Baptist church and not be a leader. You say they should come from the mainstream of Southern Baptists. I contend that they do. The liberals are the ones who have left the mainstream of Southern Baptists. You say they should know, appreciate and encourage the major task of Southern Baptists. The major task of Southern Baptists is to win the lost. These brothers major on our major task. Finally you say they should be individuals of the highest integrity. Who would question the integrity of these three wonderful brothers? Be careful, my brother, lest ye judge and find yourself being judged.—Homer G. Lindsay Jr., Jacksonville, Fla.

**Editor's note:** Thank you for your letter concerning my editorial of May 24 entitled, "Preparing for the SBC." I would encourage

you to re-read this editorial. In so doing you will discover that there was no mention made of Bailey Smith or Adrian Rogers. The only mention of Jimmy Draper was that he is ineligible for a third term (Bylaws prohibit more than two terms). Readers of the *ABN* will be aware that we have praised Dr. Draper for his efforts to unify the two factions within Southern Baptist life.

The editorial did not accuse any individual of "being to the extreme right of Southern Baptist teachings." It did say, "Messengers who attend the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in annual session June 12-14 in Kansas City, should be aware that two groups on opposing ends of Southern Baptist opinion will be vying for their vote." Perhaps this will clarify any confusion.—JES

## Puzzle pieces

I am a Tennessee Baptist layman who, in the past few months, has seen the light as to what is going on in our Southern Baptist Convention. Several things have helped me piece the puzzle together. One was when Paige Patterson admitted last year that he and Paul Pressler head a "network" to control the election of our convention officers. He also admitted this "network" has been in existence since 1979. At Wake Forest this spring, they further spelled out the "blueprint" to put only super-conservatives on our boards. Pressler's nomination to the Executive Committee is no accident. It is in keeping with the "blueprint."

Southern Baptists, we are being manipulated. The simple truth is a "political machine" is operating in our convention and, unless derailed, will soon rupture our fellowship, disrupt our mission work, and turn our seminaries into Jerry Falwell specials.—J.D. Cole, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

## missionary notes

**Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Hodges**, missionaries to Upper Volta, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Mission Baptiste, BP 580, Ouagadougou, Upper Volta). He lived in Alpena while growing up. The former Karen Atwood, she was born in Paragould. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

**Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Terry Jr.**, missionaries living in Singapore, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 1 Goldhill Plaza, #03-19, Singapore 1130). He serves as the Foreign Mission Board's media consultant for Asia. The former Mabelee Worthen, she was born in Fordyce. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1968.

## You'll be sad to know...

Don Moore

...Mission trends are most discouraging! Numerous state conventions reported shortfalls in Cooperative Program receipts last year. Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas are reported still falling behind their anticipated receipts. Now, Arkansas has



Moore

joined the group with \$335,000 less being received than had been anticipated for the first four months of 1984.

An attempt to evaluate the situation provides some significant information. There are 501 churches out of 1,264 which have given less this year than they had this time last year. Of these churches, 21 are more than \$3,000 below last year's contributions. The shortage is manifested in 20 associations out of our 42. We usually have as many as 95 percent of our churches give through the Cooperative Program. In April, 455 churches out of our 1,264 gave nothing. These are staggering statistics. They will be devastating if continued.

Closer study reveals that the decline is not in a given size church, a given locality or in a particular type church. It is general, widespread, non-theological, non-cause oriented. In other words, there are no problems we can address, no causes being favored, no protest being registered. We just are not receiving the contributions in our local churches or we are keeping more for ourselves. The first doesn't seem likely because our employment rate has improved faster than the national average. The latter could be true, though I hope and pray it isn't. Selfishness by a group is as objectionable to God as the selfishness of an individual.

So everyone will know what this means, it means we have cut back \$64,359.73 from foreign missions, \$29,464.69 from our seminaries, \$25,442.21 from our home missions, \$71,834.84 from Christian education in Arkansas, \$10,491.98 from our child care ministry, and \$15,117.83 from support of Baptist Student Union. I can't tell you what a grief this is to me. The support or lack of support of Cooperative Program causes is serious business.

Please check with your church to make sure that the wishes of the church are being carried out in mission support.

**Don Moore** is executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Larry Wood** resigned May 6 as pastor of the Garden Homes Church in Little Rock.

**Bill Duval** resigned May 27 as pastor of Forest Tower Church in Hensley.

**Elizabeth Bradley** has resigned from the staff of Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock where she served as youth director.

**Bobby Lamb** has resigned as pastor of the Bethel Church at Gould, effective June 10.

**James W. Mills** has been called to serve as pastor of the Hunter First Church. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Michigan, Colorado, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas. Mills and his wife, Dorothy, are parents of a son, Randy.

**W. R. Benton Jr.** of Fordyce died May 26 at age 71. He was chairman of the board of deacons at Fordyce First Church where his funeral services were held May 28. Benton, who served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Fordyce Bank and Trust Company, was a graduate of the University of Arkansas and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. Survivors include his wife, Sarah Kathryn Rhodes Benton; a son, William Evans Benton of Little Rock; a daughter, Mrs. Claibourne W. Patty Jr. of Little Rock; a brother and two grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Fordyce church organ fund.

**Ronald E. Coats** received his diploma of theology from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary May 11. He is pastor of the Snow Lake Church.

**Roger D. Haney** received his diploma of theology May 11 from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pastor of the Emmanuel Church at Blytheville.

**Dennis E. Smith** received his diploma of theology May 11 from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pastor of the Park Grove Church at Clarendon.

**Robin L. Allen**, pastor of the Joiner Church, was graduated May 11 from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree.

**Jerry E. McNeer**, pastor of the Lakeshore Church at Hughes, was graduated May 11 from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree.

**Steve P. Wilkes**, pastor of Maumelle First Church, was graduated May 11 from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary with a doctor of theology degree.

**Bryan Bullington** has joined the staff of Olivet Church in Little Rock as minister of youth. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University, majoring in biology.

**Fred Ball** is serving on the staff of Little Rock Calvary Church as interim youth minister. A native of Little Rock, he has been serving as an STS worker at Ouachita Baptist University. He will enroll this fall at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**David McCoy** resigned as pastor of the Douglas Church at Gould May 20. He and his wife, Debbie, have moved to Carbondale, Ill.

## briefly

**Prescott First Church** honored its new pastor, Bob Parsley, and his wife, Carole, with a May 6 reception.

**Fayetteville First Church** is holding its annual Vacation Bible School June 4-8 for children ages four through the sixth grade.

**Faulkner Association** sponsored a single adult conference June 1-2 at Cold Springs Retreat. William Kreis, director of missions, reported Maureen Freeze of Little Rock, Glenn Blevins of North Little Rock, and Tommy Crowe and Betty Titsworth, both of Paris as leaders.

**Immanuel Church** in Marion recently broke ground for a new church plant. Pastor J. C. Nanney led the service.

**Little Rock Second Church** has launched a summer Sunday School growth program that will include Wednesday night outreach blitzes, family night fellowships, eight special Sunday School emphases and Lake Nixon picnics. Pastor Billy White, Barbara Long, minister of education, and Maeline Hornbeck, Sunday School director, are coordinators of the growth program.



*Elmdale Church in Springdale recently installed equipment to be used in reception of Baptist TelNet, according to pastor Mark Brook. Under the direction of Gary Underwood, minister of music/media, and media staff members, BTN will be used to train lay leadership and to strengthen the church's educational program. Elmdale plans to kick off its BTN participation with the Southern Baptist Convention coverage June 12-13. Pictured (left to right) are Brooks, Gary Rogers, Darrell Netherton and Underwood.*

## OBU couple to serve 10 months in Venezuela

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced this week that Barry and Sonia Burnett of Arkadelphia have been assigned for a 10-month tour of service to the nation of Venezuela beginning in August.

The Burnetts are a part of the Board's auxiliary personnel program, under which Southern Baptist church members can work overseas for several months to a year or longer assisting convention missionaries. He will work as a Bible teacher, while she will serve as a dietitian.

For the past year, Barry has served as acting director of student activities and Evans Student Center at Ouachita Baptist University. Sonia has been a dietitian with Twin Rivers Medical Center in Arkadelphia. Both are graduates of OBU.

## Sisk urges President Reagan to listen to Nicaraguan Baptists

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A Christian Life Commission staff member has appealed to President Reagan to "consider the humble plea" of Nicaraguan Baptist leaders for changes in U.S. policy toward that country.

Ronald D. Sisk, who coordinates the Southern Baptist Convention's agency program of peace with justice, wrote Reagan in response to the Nicaraguan's recent "pastoral letter" to Baptists around the world.

The letter, signed by three Baptist Convention of Nicaragua leaders, criticized U.S. support of rebels fighting the Nicaraguan

government.

"It is urgent that we make an all-out effort, now while there is still time, to stop the plans for war and destruction designed against us. We need your help to achieve peace," the leaders wrote to fellow Baptists.

Sisk, writing "as one American Christian," urged Reagan to respond to the pleas "for negotiations rather than armed intervention" in Nicaragua. Reagan administration officials have acknowledged the use of "covert" CIA support for anti-government rebels in Nicaragua, maintaining that such efforts will pres-

sure the Nicaraguan government to halt arms shipments to rebels in El Salvador.

Although the appeal of the Nicaraguan Baptist leaders "is couched in the language of faith," Sisk noted, that their concerns raise "legitimate questions" about U.S. policy.

"In the midst of many voices of counsel about a complex and sensitive political situation in Nicaragua," he added, "my prayer is that you will give serious consideration to the opinions of these Christian brothers and sisters who are intimately acquainted with the hopes and fears of (their) people."

## Eighteen graduate from Southern, Southwestern seminaries



Hill



Smith



Burks



Berry



Deaton



Duck



Grubbs



Hubbard



Miller



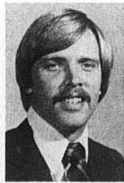
Moore



Inman



Johnson



Key



Lee



Tollett



Vire



Williams



Simmons

Eighteen Arkansans were among 656 persons graduating from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in May.

Michael Eugene Hill, Helena, and Stephen Gregory Smith, Hot Springs, received the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, where 223 graduates participated in the 153rd commencement of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary.

Southwestern Seminary graduated 433 students from 32 states and 14 countries at its May 11 commencement. Arkansans receiving degrees were:

Master of arts in communications, Susan Jan Burks, Conway.

Master of arts in religious education: Bobby Bruce Terry, Newport; Bobby Orlin Deaton, Texarkana; L. Nolan Duck, formerly of Little Rock; Robert Douglas Grubbs, North Little Rock; Donald Ray Hubbard, minister of education at First Church, Stuttgart; Jerry Wayne Miller, Little Rock; and Willis Trueman Moore, Barling.

Master of divinity: William Keith Inman, Blytheville; Kenneth L. Johnson, Crossett; Jonathan Guy Key, formerly of North Little Rock; Richard Ernest Lee, Ashdown; William D. Tollett, Little Rock; Craig Vire, Little Rock; and Kenneth Robert Williams, Rogers.

Master of music: Marilyn Camille Simmons, Nashville.





## Woman's viewpoint

Pauline L. Tucker

### Mature mothers

"Every child is born into a different family." I don't remember when or where I first heard this statement, but I do remember giving it careful thought.

The first child has only his parents; the second has his parents and a sibling; the third is in a family of five, and so it goes.

More thought, especially into my own maturing process, was even more revealing. My first child had a totally inexperienced mother who had to experiment with each parenting procedure. The second child had a more confident, relaxed mother. The third, a "laid-back" mom who was sometimes too lenient.

I believe though, that my growth in experience had far less to do with my children's development than my stages of growth as a person, especially as a Christian. My children's personalities evidence traces of my insecurities, my fears, my selfishness.

These thoughts were reinforced by a person who told of desperate emotional struggles. She described her children. It seemed that each one's level of self-acceptance and maturity directly reflected whatever emotional state the mother was in at the point

of the child's greatest susceptibility.

Why am I sharing what may seem like random thoughts? After all, my children are grown and I cannot relive their growing up.

I can, however, praise and thank God for the lessons learned through rearing children. I believe this is his plan and that he wants us to grow even as our children are growing.

I can ask my children's forgiveness if I detect weaknesses in them for which I am responsible. I can discuss this openly with them and tell them how God dealt with me in that area.

As a pastor's wife, Bible teacher and friend to young mothers I can lead them to an awareness of their responsibility to become whole persons in order to be better mothers. I can pray with them for God's daily guidance in the most important task they'll ever have—rearing children.

**Pauline L. Tucker, a former elementary school teacher, has been a curriculum writer for the Baptist Sunday School Board since 1977. Her husband, Carter, pastor of Melbourne First Church, is a retired Army chaplain.**

## New lesson writer begins

Stanley Daniel, pastor of First Church, Van Buren, has begun writing the International series Sunday School lessons in "Lessons for Living."

Daniel, 53, a native of Gainesville, Texas, is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary.

He served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Arizona before coming to Van Buren in 1980.

Daniel and his wife, the former Martha Nell Fox, have four children.



Daniel

## Roberts replaced as committee member

EULESS, Texas (BP)—Roger Roberts has been replaced on the 1984 Committee on Committees by Paul Payne, according to SBC President James T. Draper Jr.

Draper told Baptist Press Roberts has resigned his Ohio pastorate to accept one in Kansas, making him ineligible to serve as the Ohio representative on the committee.

In Roberts' place, Draper has nominated Payne, pastor of Huber Heights First Church of Dayton. Payne, a former director of missions, has been pastor of the Huber Heights church more than 10 years.



## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### Male ego and the acceptance of truth

Generally speaking, my wife is very loving, supportive, and fair-minded. She affirms me generously in my achievements, comforts me in my failures, and is fair-minded and wise in assuring me that I am right when there are disagreements.

The arrival of "Trivial Pursuit" on the social scene has provided the occasion for a distressing weakening in Betty Joe's supporting, affirming, and understanding role as a wife. This came to light all because of shameful sex discrimination in the production design of the thousands of questions and answers printed on the cards for that game.

The reader can judge for himself (or herself) from the simple facts. My son Ross and his wife Liz recently visited us and brought along that popular new game, and we invited two other couples to join us for an enjoyable evening of friendly competition.

The couples were Frances and Mary

McBeth (he is Ouachita professor of music and one of the nation's most distinguished composers of band music), and Tom and Marie Turner (he is the Ouachita vice-president for academic affairs and outstanding scholar in physics). Ross is band director at DeSoto (Texas) High School, nearing his doctorate at North Texas State University.

Any fair-minded person would know that it would be unfair for the men in this group, with all that combined scholarship, knowledge, and informational brilliance, to team up against the four women who have not had the benefit of all of that additional graduate study.

We offered to split up, but the women wanted to team up against the men. We agreed, reluctantly, feeling that we had at least given them the opportunity to avoid certain defeat.

We men soon learned an unusual thing about the questions in that game. Consistently, question after question, they were

easier for women to answer than for men. I know enough about statistics to know that this could happen by coincidence for two or three questions, but certainly not consistently all evening, which was clearly the case.

It really is a shame for a nationally advertised game, sweeping the country by storm, to have built into it such flagrant sex discrimination in the form of easier questions for women.

Perhaps the saddest part of all of this is that my usually fair-minded, loving, and supportive wife, was so unkind as to suggest that the problem lives in my male ego, rather than in the way those questions are asked. Betty Joe and I have had an outstanding marriage for almost 37 years, so surely we can find a way to overcome this latest threat to married bliss.

**Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.**

## Pre-medical chair endowed at Ouachita

A gift of more than \$700,000 has been left to Ouachita Baptist University by the estate of Alice L. Burch of Hughes for the establishment of an endowed chair of instruction for pre-medical studies.

The chair was placed in Mrs. Burch's will to honor her husband, William D. Burch, who was a practicing physician in Hughes up to the time of his death in 1948. Mrs. Burch died in 1983.

Although neither of them attended OBU, they were active members of First Church of Hughes, where Mrs. Burch taught Sunday School, was active in the Woman's Missionary Union and served as treasurer.

A niece, Betty Rea Allen, who is a 1959 graduate of Ouachita, said Mrs. Burch had taught in elementary school and had provided for the endowed chair not only as a way to honor her husband but also to strengthen

Christian higher education.

Expressing his gratitude and noting "the tremendous impact of such a gift on the future of Ouachita," OBU President Daniel R. Grant said more and more alumni, former students and other friends of the university are including Ouachita in their wills.

"Such gifts," he said, "are exceptionally powerful ways for people to express their belief in Christian higher education in general and in Ouachita Baptist University in particular."

The choice of an endowed chair also makes it possible, he said, to strengthen significantly a particular academic discipline that has special meaning to a family.

"The William D. and Alice Burch Chair of Pre-Medical Studies," he said, "is a living memorial that does great honor not only to these two fine people but also to Ouachita."

## John Baker returns to Northern Plains Convention

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP)—John P. Baker, 72, who retired in 1976 as executive secretary of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention, has been elected to that position again.

Baker, who was the first executive secretary of the convention, succeeds Roy W. Owens, who had followed Baker as executive secretary of the convention which

includes North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

The Northern Plains executive board turned to Baker to complete the unique goal of the convention—to be the only state convention in the Southern Baptist Convention to dissolve. No timetable has been adopted for the process.

## Crucial Questions for Christians

Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, so much is being said about "minister burnout" that one gets the feeling that the church is "killing" those who serve. As a deacon and lay-member who loves the pastor, what can I do?

There is need for concerned persons to address the matter of stress and burnout among ministers today. The level of stress experienced has risen significantly in the western world in recent years. Ministers are not immune to such cultural conditions.



McGriff

Your interest and concern indicates that you might be in a position to do much in reducing the level of stress experienced by your pastor. It might prove helpful to remind the pastor that while he is a servant to the church, he is also a steward of God-given resources. One of the primary resources of any church is the gifted person called to serve as pastor. When pastors disregard their own health and wholeness, they cannot adequately meet the needs of their members. Without the nurture demanded for one's own wholeness, there can be no ability in meeting the countless demands made upon the modern pastor. So, you can insist that your pastor take care of the precious resources God has given to your church.

You can help your pastor erect some doors on personal boundaries. No one can bear the stress of other people's unrestricted access into their lives. The pastor is exceedingly vulnerable to this danger. Being conscientious and caring the pastor is reluctant to restrict his availability. Some restriction or personal boundary protection is usually mandatory for most pastors.

Remind the pastor that human bodies are not inexhaustible natural resources. We have been aware in recent years that our precious resources of clean air, fresh water, and precious minerals were not inexhaustible. Pastors cannot ignore their own physical and emotional limitations without serious results.

Tell the pastor that God's love is inclusive of him and his family. He is part of the body of Christ and therefore an object of caring ministry. Many ministers have difficulty in being ministered unto by others. God's primary call is not to proclaim redemption, but to receive redemption. Participation precedes proclamation. Should one engage in caring for others who will not learn to care for himself as precious in God's sight?



**Jubilee**—The instrumental ensemble of East Side Church, Fort Smith, placed first in its category at the State Music Tournament and Ensemble Jubilee May 12 at Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock. Winners in the Ensemble Jubilee were: Duet, FBC, Atkins; Duet, Temple Crossett; Chara, FBC, Mt. Home; Living Free and Happy Side, Beech Street, Texarkana. Vocal solo: Sr. High, Brian Smith, FBC, Searcy; Jr. High, Wendy Bryant, Second, Conway. Hymn playing: Sr. High, Carol Hunt, FBC, Plainview; Jr. High, Tammy Ezell, FBC, Harrison. Song leading: Jr. High, Curtis Arnold, FBC, Duvalis Bluff. Instrumental solo: 11-12 grades, Laura Douglas, violin, East Side, Fort Smith; 9-10 grades, Sean Gushing, trumpet, East Side, Fort Smith; 7-8 grades, Alex Ennes, violin, Geyer Springs, Little Rock. 308 youngsters from 27 churches participated in the program. Ensemble winners were presented trophies, and solo winners received full scholarships to Music Arkansas, July 23-27, at Ouachita Baptist University.

# Your state convention at work

## Evangelism

### The Roman Road

It is good to remember the plan of salvation doesn't save people. The plan points people to the person, Jesus, who does the saving. The Roman Road is another plan in God's beautiful process of leading people to Christ. In my 30 years as a minister, I am sure I have led more people to Jesus by using the Roman Road than all other methods and processes.



Shell

A person will never come to the Savior until he knows he is a sinner. Romans 3:23 states "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." This means that a person can go as far as he can go, be as good as he can be, do as much as he can do and still miss the glory of God.

A lost sinner needs to know the truth about eternity without God. Romans 6:23 states "For the wages of sin is death." This means separation from God through all eternity. A person who continues in sin will pay the wages in hell forever.

Our loving God has done everything possible to keep sinners from going to hell. Romans 5:8 states "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." This is a beautiful truth that Jesus loved us even while we were yet sinners and willingly gave his life as a substitute on the cross.

The Road will continue next week to our destination. — Clarence Shell, director

## Church Music

### Learning is forever

I keep thinking . . . someday it will happen.

The learning process occurs in many different ways and one of the most effective means is to have a guest "expert" in a particular area come and spend a concentrated amount of time with your people in training. The "expert" will have the complete attention of the group. He may simply reinforce much of what your local leader has been saying all along, but because he is the "expert," his words will have more authority. He may present a fresh and different approach that will speak directly to someone who is ready to be challenged in a new way on a particular subject.

Sometimes we are intimidated by the presence of an "expert," so we do not invite him into our situation. My experience has been that the excitement and growth that has occurred because of this experience brings greater unity of purpose

within the organization, and everyone shares in the joy of doing a better job.

Our District Music Directors are our resident "experts" in each of the eight districts in Arkansas. Invite your District Director to be your guest for a special choral rehearsal and enjoy the results. Call your District Music Director (his phone number is listed in the leadership section of the Minister of Music Handbook), or call the Church Music Department (376-4791), and Make it happen! — Glen Ennes, department associate

## Family Ministry

### Enriching marriages

Fairfield Bay will be the site of a Marriage Enrichment Retreat sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention July 19-21. Retreat sessions will be at the Fairfield Bay Church and couples will be lodged at the Fairfield Bay Resort. Fairfield Bay is located on Greers Ferry Lake about 15 miles east of Clinton via Arkansas Highway 16.



Jackson

Bruce and Marie Morrison will lead the retreat. Bruce and Marie are certified retreat leaders and leader trainers for the Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board. They live in Manchester, Mo., and have led retreats in several states.

Southern Baptist's 1984 Bold Mission Thrust emphasis, "Christian Marriage: Growing in Oneness," highlights this retreat as an effective growth experience for couples who have a good marriage and want to make it better. The retreat will provide couples a time away to nurture and strengthen skills essential for a quality marriage.

Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 for detailed information about costs and registration procedures. The retreat is limited to a small group and reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. — Gerald Jackson, associate in Church Training

## Family and Child Care Services

### Shelter from abuse

*Child abuse is a reality:* Thousands of children are abused, neglected, and abandoned each year in Arkansas. Some of you don't know that: some of you don't believe it.

*Agency response:* Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Agency wants you to know it, believe it, and join our ministry to these children.

*Report for 1983:* We cared for 205 children in Little Rock and Sherwood in our Emergency Receiving Homes. Some were abused, some abandoned, some neglected. All were hurt, frightened and needing safety and love. Our staff and program met each child's needs; 205 children in Pulaski County alone!

*Ministry enlarging:* We are preparing during 1984 to open a fourth Emergency Receiving Home in Searcy in cooperation with the Calvary Baptist Association. The association has plans to build the building and our agency will provide the program and budget.

*Prayer, support sought:* No, we have not changed from our central ministry to children and families through the Children's Home and area offices' work in counseling and foster care. We are just going to do more. We are not going to neglect so great a need of these, God's children.

Pray for us, and pray for how you can join with us in our ministries. — Doug McWhirter, director, Little Rock Area Office

## Christian Life Council

### No No No No No

If your response was "no" upon being asked to affix your signature to a petition calling for an election to advocate a state

lottery, then, concerning casino gambling, it must be "no, no, a thousand times no." Casino gambling is hard core gambling. Those who study the problem say it is the most addictive type of gambling.

As in the case of the lottery gambling proposal it is suggested again that "you don't have to dance to the devil's fiddling."

If ever in Arkansas we are forced into circumstances where a statewide vote on casino gambling is necessary, it would be in face of proponents spending vast amounts of money. Gambling merchants in our country are not penny ante operators. All one has to do is read about what's happening in Nevada, New Jersey, the Bahamas, Monte Carlo and other areas of the world where casino gambling is promoted. Multi-millions of dollars are involved; the larger part of it going to just a few people.

As a citizen of Arkansas, please "count the cost" before using your signature to further extend the problem of gambling. Urge others also to refuse to sign a petition which would give gambling interests unfair advantage. "Righteousness exalteth a nation,



Parker

but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 13:34) — Bob Parker, director

### Woman's Missionary Union

### GA camps - a GA's view

GA Camp is a missions-education and fun experience for girls finished 3rd-6th grades. One GA writes:

Hi there! My name is Brandey Jones. I'm a sixth grader, a GA, and a member of Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock. I've been to GA camp since first grade. (Brandey came to GA Mother-Daughter Camps for 1st-3rd grade girls and their mothers before coming to the week long GA Camps.) I think my favorite activity at GA Camp was making a cabin in the woods. (This is a nature activity.) Some other fun activities were roasting marshmallows, going swimming, singing Christmas songs for Christmas in July (a mission activity where girls bring small items such as soap and toothpaste to be used at the Baptist Migrant Missions centers.) I also liked singing fun songs and seeing skits.

Early in the morning we had quiet time. I especially liked that! At night we had Bible study with our unit leader and devotions with our counselor. Some nights we had group Bible study around a campfire. We also met home and foreign missionaries.

One year I was the only one from my church to go to GA Camp, but that was okay. I made lots of new friends, including my counselor and Pat Glascock, our State GA Director! We had a great time at GA Camp, so I hope to see you there!

Camp dates are July 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27. For more information about GA Camp contact the state WMU office. — Pat Glascock, GA director

### Bus tour to Yellowstone

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72115; Phone: (501) 753-8280

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- Couples desiring to serve 2 to 3 years as a mission project will be considered

## Communication

# A Family Tradition

It continues with our coverage  
of the 1984  
Southern Baptist Convention

in the issue of June 21

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## Baptist agency to join suit opposing Vatican ambassador

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs announced May 23 it will join a suit challenging the constitutionality of the Reagan administration's establishment of diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

"If we are to be faithful to our 40-year history, we have no option but to join in a suit which seeks to halt President Reagan's appointment of an ambassador to the Roman Catholic Church," Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel John W. Baker said announcing the Washington-D.C.-based agency's intention.

Meanwhile, the Vatican's official representative to the U.S. has disagreed with persistent claims by supporters of the move that the new diplomatic ties would be with Vatican City rather than with the Roman Catholic Church.

In a speech at Catholic University of America, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio Pio Laghi

contradicted arguments repeatedly made by State Department officials and congressional backers to answer charges that the reversal of long-standing U.S. policy violated the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion.

"Some mistakenly tried to justify the American government's action by implying that it was entering into a diplomatic relationship not with the Roman Catholic Church as such, the Holy See, but rather with the sovereign Vatican City-State," Laghi said.

Citing a Roman Catholic authority, Laghi asserted papal diplomacy "rests essentially upon the spiritual sovereignty of the Holy See and not upon dominion over a few acres in the heart of Rome."

It is the Pope's "religious authority," Laghi concluded, which gives him diplomatic standing in the world.

"Those who interpret papal diplomacy as

emanating from the Pope's temporal sovereignty are failing to understand the true nature of the mission of the Holy See."

BJCPA Executive Director James M. Dunn said Laghi's remarks support the contention by Baptists and other religious groups that the administration's action violated the Constitution, despite claims to the contrary.

"The political push for an ambassador with the Roman Catholic Church was riddled with contradictions and misrepresentations," Dunn said.

"For instance, in February, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth W. Dam insisted that 'we are not establishing relations with the Catholic Church,' while now, Archbishop Laghi rightly acknowledges that it is the Roman Catholic Church as such with whom we have exchanged ambassadors."

Dunn called Laghi's comments "further evidence of the unequal jockeying of church and state which we strongly oppose."

## Southern Baptist renewal means best still ahead: Elder

WACO, Texas (BP)—Liberal scholars have written the Southern Baptist denomination is over and done with, that the SBC has already had its finest day.

Not so, says Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder. In fact, he has begun a personal crusade to change that thinking—a crusade for denominational renewal.

"It's a crusade which has been in the making for 32 years, Elder explained, and has been born of concerted thought. "I feel deeply about this message, and I want to say it to multiplied audiences throughout the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Elder made the remarks while in Waco, Texas, May 22 to speak to area pastors and to the National Conference on Aging for Southern Baptists, held at Baylor University.

"I am here to affirm that Southern Baptists are indeed a great people of God," Elder said. "That does not affirm a perfect people. That does not say there aren't small people in the denomination who would try to tear it apart. But I can say from my experience that Southern Baptists are a great people."

The convention has a life cycle with identifiable stages of development, Elder said. After the birth of the SBC, the convention went through a period of survival and ex-

pansion. "If the Southern Baptist Convention were not of God, it had plenty of ways and means to die during those early days," he said. Just after its beginning, "the young convention suffered the horrors of a civil war and survived despite all that was hurled against it."

Next came the convention's youth, and therefore its stability and identity, Elder said followed by a stage of heightened pride and reputation in which Southern Baptists became a "proud people who delighted in our enlargements and expansion."

That expansion led to fragmentation, Elder said, which now brings the convention to its "most favorable place." The SBC "can now be seen as being at the very edge of adult maturity," Elder said. "If we are willing, we can move through turbulent times to a time of maturity as Southern Baptists. The critical thing about maturity is when and how to change."

In Southern Baptist life today, "ours is not primarily a doctrinal problem," Elder said. "Ours is primarily a crisis of change. If we deal correctly with the issue of change, we'll nail down solidly the things that are eternal and cut loose those things that are not." Only then, he said, will Southern Baptists earn

the "well done" of our Lord."

Elder listed several symptoms and problems that are calling for denominational renewal—the sensitive debate among "liberals" and "fundamentalists," the emergence of secular humanism, an aging denomination, a convention structure bigger and more diverse than ever in its history, limited resources, communication that is "not always accurate and at least inadequate," and a loss of a sense of mission, among many other problems. "It would sound as if we are already in the intensive care ward as a denomination," Elder said.

In light of these issues and problems, "we will do well to look them right in the eye and deal with those problems," Elder said.

The true measure of success for Southern Baptists will be seen in the local churches, he said. "We need to focus our attention back on the local church. If we do that effectively, the denomination will be dynamic and flourish. Our institutions and agencies may whimper, but if we do what we're supposed to do, they'll be service organizations for local churches."

With the time ripe for denominational renewal Elder said, "This may be the grandest hour we've ever had."

## Senior adult ministry plagued by lack of churches' awareness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Lack of awareness concerning senior adults—both their number and their problems—is an acute problem in Southern Baptist churches, according to a senior adult specialist.

Horace Kerr, of the Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, noted while the number of persons 65 and older has increased dramatically during the last decade, the average church has not been aware of the growth and is missing a significant ministry opportunity.

By the year 2000, census figures predict

Americans over 55 will comprise slightly more than 20 percent of the population.

This lack of awareness is a result of churches stereotyping senior adults, Kerr said. "Church leaders generally observe the small minority of senior adults who are home-bound or institutionalized. The fact is 85 percent of all persons 65 or older are active and usually maintain their own household."

Kerr attributed the rapidly increasing senior adult population to medical advances such as coronary by-pass surgery, cancer research and pre- and post-natal care. In

1978, the average male celebrating his 65th birthday could expect to live to be 81.3 years old, while the average female at 65 could expect to live to be 83.4.

Because the older segment of the population is increasing daily, Kerr believes the number of senior adult church members equals or exceeds the number of youth in a local church.

"This is staggering information to a church who is busy ministering to tomorrow's church when today's church is available for ministry to them," Kerr said.

## Challenge of Pressler nomination planned for Kansas City

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A challenge to the nomination of Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and leader of the inerrancy movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, is being planned for the annual meeting of the SBC June 12-14.

Pressler, a member of First Church of Houston, was nominated to fill an unexpired three-year term on the SBC Executive Committee by the 1984 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees. He must be elected at the annual meeting in order to serve.

In addition to the Pressler nomination, a challenge to at least one other action is scheduled, and challenges are rumored from Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The Committee on Boards subcommittee, scheduled to meet prior to the Kansas City convention to fill any vacancies caused by death, relocation or other reason, will hear a protest from Richard Eskew, pastor of First Church of Yadkinville, N.C., who was eligible for a second term on the Home Mission Board but was not renominated.

Pressler, who emerged into the SBC spotlight in 1979 with charges the denomination was becoming increasingly liberal, was nominated to fill the unexpired term of C. Welton Gaddy, who moved from Texas to Georgia and became ineligible to serve on the Executive Committee.

C. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church of Amarillo, Texas, and president of the 2.2-million member Baptist General Convention of Texas, told Baptist Press he will nominate Bruce W. McIver, pastor of Wilshire Church of Dallas, as Gaddy's replacement.

In a letter to Charles Fuller, chairman of the Committee on Boards, Moore did not mention Pressler, but instead focused on McIver's qualifications.

The letter pointed out McIver is immediate past chairman of the Texas Baptist Executive Board, immediate past chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, and is a past vice-president of the BGCT and chair-

man of the board of trustees of the SBC Auxiliary Board.

"Dr. McIver is a respected and proven leader. He knows Baptists and represents the broad mainstream of Texas Baptists," Moore wrote. "In these days when close scrutiny is required in the planning and administration of Southern Baptist mission dollars, Bruce McIver can lend proven experience and wisdom."

Moore concluded by noting the "proposed amendment will be offered out of a sincere love for our convention and a heartfelt desire to see it move forward in unity and harmony." He added the nomination is "not an 'anti' movement of any kind," but said he believes "we should elect people who are in the mainstream and not 'one-project people.'"

Admitting he does not know Pressler, Moore said: "I really haven't talked to that many people about it. I have talked to some (people) since I decided something should be done to present someone who is in the mainstream."

Pressler told Baptist Press "everyone is free to nominate whomever they wish. . . ." He said "contest of the report. . . can be disruptive and disharmonious. I would have hoped Dr. Moore, whom I do not know, would have made an effort to get to know me before he took the step of proposing someone against me."

Pressler said: "I prayed about accepting the nomination for a long time and finally decided it would be best to work within the system on a diverse and diversified committee of 69 persons where I could consider the opinions of others and they could consider my opinions. Then we could make a realistic effort to harmonize differences."

"It is my desire to work within the system to harmonize with other Southern Baptists and to seek to promote the great evangelistic and missionary emphasis of Southern Baptists which has been motivated by an allegiance to and belief in the truth of God's Word."

When the seven-member subcommittee meets in Kansas City, Fuller said he will ask it to review the Eskew case. "In response to a number of letters, and in response to a personal appeal by Richard Eskew, I will present the matter to the subcommittee," Fuller said. "In order to maintain our integrity and in order to be totally fair, we need to hear the appeal."

Eskew served a three-year unexpired term and then a full four-year term on the HMB. Under convention guidelines, he is eligible for a second term. North Carolina representatives said they felt 11 years as a trustee was an "excessively long time," Fuller said.

Fuller added the Committee on Boards, which accepted the rationalization, was fully aware of the action. It also was aware, Fuller said, that another HMB trustee, Kenneth Fournet of Lafayette, La., under exactly the same circumstances, was renominated.

"The committee was not oblivious that one man was not renominated while another man with the exact set of circumstances was. While the action was not unanimous, the committee went along with Louisiana in one case and with North Carolina in the other," Fuller said.

Fuller said he does not know what action the subcommittee can take since its duties are limited to "filling vacancies. The circumstances are very plain: replacing persons who decline to serve, resign, move from the state, die or otherwise become ineligible to serve."

He said in the case of Eskew a "subcommittee report" could be offered, "although I don't know what purpose that might serve." He noted he does not believe the subcommittee has the privilege of substituting nominees, except in the specified conditions.

Other possibilities include floor action, in which Eskew could be reinstated, or Thomas S. Freeman, pastor of First Church of Dunn, N.C., who replaced Eskew, declining the nomination, leaving the subcommittee free to act.

## Alabama-Nigeria partnership yields 13,000 new Christians

IBADAN, Nigeria (BP)—More than 13,000 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ in 12 major Nigerian cities as a result of a partnership between Alabama and Nigerian Baptists.

Now the two Baptist groups are moving into follow-up activities designed to strengthen churches and bring new believers into the churches.

An Alabama team recently returned from leading stewardship clinics in four cities. Four teams will travel to Nigeria in August to teach outreach through Sunday school. Lay evangelism clinics are also planned.

From the beginning of the partnership, Nigerian Baptists said they wanted follow-up to be a vital part of the program, according to John Mills, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for West Africa. It is not unusual to see large numbers make professions, he explained, but rarely do they become active church members.

More than 200 Alabama volunteers, most of whom have worked with evangelistic crusades, have gone to Nigeria since the partnership began in 1983. In return, about 20 Nigerians have traveled to Alabama to

speak to churches and Baptist groups there.

Between November and March the two groups conducted services in at least 72 open-air locations and in hundreds of churches and schools in "a gigantic effort to move Nigeria closer to God," said Russell Locke, Southern Baptist missionary and crusade coordinator.

Locke reported the crusades yielded at least one new church in most major cities. In Jos, three new churches were started.

Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, said a Sunday afternoon rally for all of Ogbomoso was the highlight of crusades for him. After the crowd stood in the heat for his sermon, 800 to 1,000 of them came forward to make decisions.



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# Survey/Scripture distribution combination called effective

DALLAS(BP)—Combining a door-to-door survey for prospects for Bible study with distribution of New Testaments to people in their homes apparently resulted in a higher-than-average willingness of persons to acknowledge they do not attend church, according to four persons who participated in a recent statewide effort in Texas.

Bernard Spooner, director of the Sunday school division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, estimated that more than 250,000 prospects were discovered in the April 8 Scripture distribution/prospect discovery project.

Approximately 1,300 Texas Southern Baptist churches participated in distributing one

million New Testaments published by the Holman Division of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Spooner said in most census projects, the average number of prospects discovered equals approximately 15 percent of the number of homes where personal contacts are made. "We almost doubled that in this project," said Spooner. "This is a concrete, simplistic approach that a lot of people could see themselves doing."

He attributed the results to three possible factors: (1) being able to give Bibles to people enabling surveyors to be more confident in participating in the survey; (2) receiving a Bible caused respondents to be more open

to acknowledge they did not attend any church and (3) the number of potential prospects was simply greater than earlier estimates.

"A church must have a lot of prospects to grow. Giving a New Testament is an overwhelming way of letting persons have an immediate positive feeling toward anybody who would express an interest in them," said Spooner.

Southern Baptists' 37 state conventions will cooperate in the nationwide prospect discovery/Scripture distribution project slated for October 1985 as a prelude to 1986 Good News America revivals.

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## ACTS Program Guide (effective Tuesday, June 12, 1984)

Eastern Time	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00	Changed Lives						
8:30	One In The Spirit	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Cisco Kid
9:00	Insight						
9:30	This Is The Life	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
10:00	Journeys in Christian Growth	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	
10:30	Bobby Jones	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	
11:00	Prime Timers	Prime Timers	David Wade	Super Handyman	Plant Groom	Human Dimension	Sunshine Factory
11:30	Athletes	Praise Song	Insight	At Home W/Bible	America Sings	This Is The Life	
Noon	Great Churches	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	
12:30			SBC#1				
1:00	At Home W/Bible	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	
1:30	Praise Song	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel
2:00	Profiles						
2:30	Our World	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
3:00	Invitation To Life	Country Crossroads	Our World	Glorieta Quiz	Athletes	In Concert	Prime Timers
3:30			Profiles	Listen	Our World		
4:00	In Concert	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Super Handyman
4:30		Success	Success	Success	Success	Success	Plant Groom
5:00	Great Churches	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	David Wade
5:30		Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	
6:00	At Home W/Bible	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Laff Movie
6:30	Changed Lives	David Wade	Super Handyman	Plant Groom	Glorieta Quiz	Prime Timers	Funny Man
7:00	This Is The Life						Shari Lewis
7:30	Insight	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Bill Cosby
8:00	Human Dimension	Our World		SBC#2	SBC#3	Profiles	Country Crossroads
8:30	Listen	Athletes	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation To Life	Our World	
9:00	Journeys in Christian Growth						
9:30	One In The Spirit	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	La Vida Hispana de Hoy
10:00	Bobby Jones						
10:30	Praise Song	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	In Concert
11:00	Our World						Our World
11:30	Country Crossroads	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Insight
12:00		In Concert	Athletes	Great Churches	Our World	Country Crossroads	This Is The Life
12:30	America Sings		Our World		Profiles		
1:00	La Vida Hispana de Hoy	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Saturday Cinema
1:30							

● TUESDAY, JUNE 12: SBC#1—SBC Presentation / SBC#2—SBC Presentation / SBC#3—Home Mission Board Report / SBC#4—ACTS/BTN Report  
● WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13: SBC#5—SBC Sermon / SBC#6—SBC Sermon / SBC#7—Foreign Mission Board Report

For more information visit the ACTS booth at the SBC or write: ACTS Promotion / 6350 West Freeway / Fort Worth, TX 76150

## International

### When jealousy dominates

by Stanley Daniel, First Church, Van Buren  
**Basic passage:** 1 Samuel 18:1-29

**Focal passage:** 1 Samuel 18:5-16

**Central truth:** Jealousy has a destructive effect.

Saul is anointed by Samuel and assumes the role of king over the people of God (1 Sam. 10:1). The prophet warns them that, in accepting Saul as king, they are rejecting God and his will for them. Since it is the way of God to honor man's right to choose, he allows them to have a king, and Saul is presented to them.

Saul is exactly what the people want (1 Sam. 10:23,24). He is taller than all the people and there is no-one like him in all the land. They could show him off and brag on him to their neighbors. They made the mistake that always proves fatal: they judged by appearance only. Now they were like everyone else; they had a king to be proud of.

Saul made a series of bad choices and sinned away his right to be king. David was secretly anointed king in 1 Samuel 16. David was loyal to Saul and wise and God blessed him. God is always with the one who walks before him in obedience and wisdom. The people loved David and began to sing his praises, and Saul became jealous. In order to keep his power, Saul tried to kill David, but God protected him and blessed him in all he did while Saul was continually failing.

Jealousy and envy are deadly enemies to the people of God. They destroy individuals and churches. Saul's jealousy and envy of David stemmed from the fact that he lost his way with God. It is always so. Jealousy and envy with the people of God always are a result of losing touch with God and his will. Churches suffer from the dangers of these spiritually-fatal sins when they allow secondary matters to be primary. When winning people to Jesus and serving him are no longer the most important things, Satan offers these substitutes.

It is sad, but true, that in many churches today, position is more important than spiritual power.

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## Life and Work

### Greater than a building

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

**Basic passage:** Luke 2:41-50; 19:45-47; John 2:13-22; Matthew 12:6; 21:12-14; 26:55b

**Focal passage:** John 2:13-22; Matthew 12:6

**Central truth:** God's temple is for worship and evangelism.

Jesus went to Jerusalem at the time of the Jewish passover and "found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting" (John 2:14). He drove them out, saying, "make not My Father's house an house of merchandise." (Jn. 2:16).

The anger of Jesus is a sensitive issue. Isn't anger a sin? Anger is a characteristic of God and is one evidence of a healthy personality. It must, however, be a disciplined emotion, a harnessed anger.

What made our Lord so angry? The religious establishment had fallen into compromise and then into eager cooperation with the exploitation of the pilgrim worshippers who came by the thousands each day to the Temple. They had turned the house of the Lord into "a tourist trap."

What was the purpose of the house of God? God's house is to be a "house of prayer." John does not mention this, but the other gospel writers do. When the temple ceased to be the place of prayer, it began to move in the direction of idolatry. What does this say to us about the purpose of God's house today? How important is the priority of prayer in our worship.

God's house is to be a center of evangelism. The temple had different areas for different groups. There was a court of the Gentiles. Non-Jews could worship here. God intended his people to be a blessing to others. Guess where the traders were trafficking! It was the court of the Gentiles. They lost interest in reaching out to other people, and the result was the pollution of the whole process.

Our lessons are obvious. When we cease to pray, the place of worship ceases to be a place of prayer. When we cease to evangelize, we cease to be God's people.

The Jews wanted a sign. Jesus did not satisfy their demands immediately, but gave a prophecy of the cross and then of his resurrection. He was in effect saying, "I will not give you a sign now, but eventually you will have a sign." That sign was the greatest miracle of all.

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## Bible Book

### God's promise of pardon

by Coy Sample, First Church, Morrilton  
**Basic passage:** Hosea 13:1 to 14:9

**Focal passage:** Hosea 13:1-7,9; 14:1-7

**Central truth:** God's love is always extended, this is his very nature, but his forgiveness is conditioned upon the acceptance and response of the sinner.

As we come to the close of Hosea, it would be well for us to reflect on what he seeks to say to us. What did Hosea believe? What did he teach?

A careful study of his book will lead us to see that he teaches that God is a God of wrath because he is a God of infinite love. Because God has such matchless love, he also has a divine wrath. God has revealed his love, he has demonstrated his love, he has shared his love. Such love, rejected and spurned, demands retribution.

Hosea uses three figures to emphasize the relation of God to his people: first, that of husband and wife (2:16); second, the relationships of father and son (11:1); third, that of king and subjects (13:10).

Sin separates. It separated Hosea and his wife. It separated Israel and God. It separates us from God. Most of Hosea's message dealt with this separation.

But, like a star shining brightly in the dark sky, Hosea shows that God's love was willing to restore and bring healing. He indicated that if the people would return to God, wholeheartedly, he would graciously forgive, pardon and bless them. God's forgiveness carries with it restoration and the healing of old scars.

The lesson of Hosea, is a lesson for today. Even where people seem to have made complete shipwreck of their lives, he can bring about transformation and restoration to a marvelous degree.

The closing paragraph in Hosea's message reflects this conviction. Here God's grace is magnified. He says, "I will heal their backsliding" (14:4). The present picture was dark, but there was still "a door of hope." It was the greatness of God's love.

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## Women's discussion scratched at Forum

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Because of failure to recruit a spokesman for the anti-women's ordination position, planners of the SBC Forum have scrapped plans to stage a discussion of the volatile issue.

The Forum, a meeting aimed at pastors and other ministers, will meet from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 11, in the Music Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center. It marks the first time for the Forum, which will join a number of other meetings preliminary to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14.

"We made a strong effort to make this an inclusive program," said John Hewitt, pastor of Kirkwood Church in suburban St. Louis, local arrangements chairman for the Forum. "We made every effort to involve people on both sides of the issue and were not able to find someone to speak from a convictional, biblical standpoint against ordination of women."

Because of the inability to obtain a spokesman opposed to ordinating women, Hewitt said, the program now will feature an address by Sara Ann Hobbs, director of the missions division of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Hobbs, the only woman to occupy such a post in any of the 37 state Baptist conventions, will speak to the gathering on "Women as Ministers."

"She will not be half of a discussion," Hewitt said. "She was not even asked to speak to the Forum until the idea of a pro and con discussion broke down."

Bill Bruster, pastor of Central-Bearden Church of Knoxville, Tenn., and public in-

formation chairman for the Forum, said four prominent spokesmen opposing the ordination were asked to speak, but all declined.

Bruster said those asked were C. Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Church of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn.; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas and a co-leader of the inerrancy movement in the SBC, and Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

In response to the refusals, Hewitt said: "I personally am disappointed that Southern Baptists have been denied the opportunity to hear convictional, biblical treatment of the subject of women's ordination from differing viewpoints. I am disappointed that we have difficulty in our denomination celebrating our diversity in the spirit of open dialogue."

Hewitt also responded to charges the SBC Forum is a "rebel Pastors' Conference," or an alternate Pastors' Conference.

"We are inviting all persons in town (Kansas City) for the SBC to attend. The purpose is to draw more persons to the convention itself by offering this addition to existing pre-convention meetings. We are not anti-Pastors' Conference, we are pro-SBC."

"We are encouraging those messengers and visitors who are not going anywhere on Monday to try something different. There is a strong need (in the SBC) for a non-political, inclusive, positively helpful meeting like the SBC Forum. We are responding to that expressed need."

## Resolutions Committee plans for heavy work

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—For the second year, the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee has met in Nashville, Tenn., in late May to be briefed and to organize their efforts to handle another heavy year of work.

In briefing them, SBC President James T. Draper Jr. commented they probably will be expected to handle "some extremely controversial and emotional resolutions," which probably will include statements on the ordination of women, the school prayer issue, homosexuality, abortion, pornography.

The president, pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, also told them the May meeting is strictly for organization and planning, because their real work will not start until after the convention begins June 12.

Draper outlined the procedure he will follow in the introduction of resolutions; a process he initiated during the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh in an effort to speed up the process.

Draper urged persons who wish to introduce resolutions to present them as early as possible during the Tuesday morning session at a special desk set up adjacent to

the platform in the meeting hall. The desk will be manned by representatives of the Resolutions Committee as well as one of the two SBC parliamentarians.

He specifically asked that all proposed resolutions be presented at the desk before 10:30 a.m., so they can be introduced in the morning session, allowing the resolutions committee to begin deliberations immediately following the presidential address.

Also, he said, even if proposed resolutions were sent to the committee prior to its May meeting, elected messengers must present them at the Tuesday session in order for them to be considered. Resolutions submitted early will not be automatically entered, but must be introduced Tuesday.

The parliamentary will rule on whether the proposals are resolutions or motions, Draper said, explaining a "resolution expresses an opinion and a motion calls for action."

After the resolutions are presented at the desk, Draper said, they will be read into the minutes—only the topic of the resolution and the name of the messenger submitting it—by one of the officers of the convention.