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June 14, 1984

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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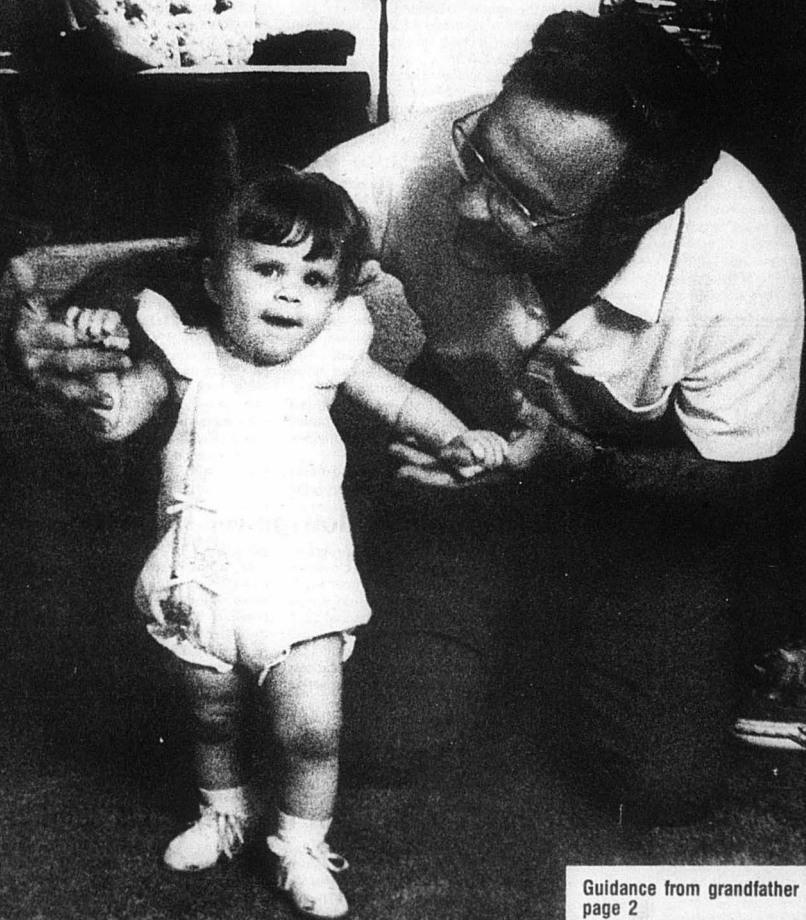


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June 14, 1984

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



Guidance from grandfather
page 2



ABN photo / Missie Gill

Grandfathers are for guidance, whether the help is with those halting first steps or in teaching by word and example about a spiritual walk. Like fathers, grandfathers can lead a child in the right direction.

In this issue

7 united effort

Citizens in Garland County have formed an organization to oppose legalizing wagering there as another group collects signatures to get it on the ballot statewide. A Baptist pastor is co-chairman.

8 'AMAR' marks mission

The concept of partnership missions is explained in an article which looks at the Arkansas/Brazil project.

May CP receipts up; shortfall still threatens

by Betty J. Kennedy

May Cooperative Program receipts are the second bright spot in the year's giving through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Last month and February are the only months this year in which gifts exceeded the requirements of the 1984 budget that messengers to the annual meeting adopted last November.

Total Cooperative Program receipts for the month are \$922,748.72, which is \$19,980.97 over the amount budgeted. However, gifts at the end of April were \$335,206.92 short and the May receipts only reduce this shortfall to \$315,225.95.

Executive Secretary Don Moore wrote an article in the June 7 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* expressing his concern about effects of the decline in giving on the work Arkansas Baptists support.

Noting how many Arkansas churches were

currently below last year's level of giving and how many had sent nothing in April, he called the statistics staggering. "They will be devastating if continued," he wrote. He also cited the shortfall as pro-rated for several areas of Arkansas Baptist work.

Now that May receipts have been tabulated, Moore is appreciative, but still concerned about the shortfall that remains. "All of our ministries are budgeted so tightly that the loss of any monies from any church is felt throughout every agency, institution and program in Arkansas and throughout the world," Moore stressed. "How grateful we are to God," he said, "for the encouragement our churches have provided through their May Cooperative Program gifts."

Betty Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Lottie misses 1983 goal but tops inflation rate

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Final receipts for the 1983 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions fell nearly \$2 million short of the \$60 million goal. When the books closed May 31 the total was \$58,025,336.79, or 96.7 percent of the goal.

But Southern Baptists topped their 1982 offering receipts by nearly \$4 million, with the 1983 offering running 7.3 percent ahead of the previous year and well ahead of the 5.5 percent national inflation rate.

The 1983 offering goal was lowered last summer after the previous year's receipts fell \$4 million short of the goal. It was originally set for \$66 million.

Carl Johnson, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board treasurer, says he believes the

1983 goal would have been met if extremely cold weather in December, the primary month the offering is received in churches, had not kept many Southern Baptists from attending church services. Cooperative Program receipts for the month of December increased only 2.2 percent over December of the previous year, making it the ninth lowest monthly percentage increase in the past 10 years.

The 1984 offering goal is \$66 million. All of it will be budgeted, Johnson says, because the money is needed and he and other board officials are convinced Southern Baptists can reach the goal. Meeting it will require a 13.74 percent increase, which Johnson says is possible.

ACTS continues low-power success

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The American Christian Television System (ACTS) continues to thrive in the Federal Communications Commission's low-power television lottery with the May 30 awarding of channel 22 in Flagstaff, Ariz., to the network.

ACTS' success in the most recent FCC computer-assisted random selection process allows the network to receive a construction permit for the Flagstaff station.

The permit goes into effect immediately, after a mandatory 15-day waiting period in which anyone who objects to the lottery decision may appeal to the FCC. Once the permit is granted, ACTS has one year to build

the station.

ACTS has been awarded low-power TV construction permits in Anchorage, Alaska; Brownwood, Texas, and Honolulu in previous FCC lotteries, and has received through other means permits to build low-power stations in Paragould, Ark., and Tyler, Texas, as well.

Charles Roden, Radio and Television Commission vice-president for support services, said ACTS has "done very well" in its acquisition of low-power station permits, and he hoped the network's pending applications for nearly 100 stations in 29 states would go as smoothly.

Holman to publish five million Testaments

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—More than five million New Testaments will be published at cost by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Holman Bible division as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's 1985-86 "Good News America, God Loves, You" project.

Good News America New Testament will be available April 1985 on the undated literature order form. The New Testaments will be available in King James, New American Standard and Spanish versions. Helps and marked passages will show the reader how to become a Christian.



March 16 - April 6, 1986, can and should be one of the most important dates in the future for Arkansas Baptists. These are the dates set for simultaneous revivals all across our state and the nation. If prepared properly, these revivals could reap the greatest number of baptisms ever harvested in our state. It is important for preparation to begin now.

A simultaneous revival is an evangelistic effort within a given area in which all the churches start revival on the same day and close on the same day. It is churches planning, promoting and participating together to reach an area for Christ. Historical records prove the value of simultaneous revivals. The greatest ingathering of souls in Southern Baptist history have been during simultaneous revivals.

This simultaneous revival called, "Good News America—God Loves You," should be coordinated in each local association. This means that every church should check with the associational leadership, prior to scheduling the revival. As soon as a church has voted to participate in this important endeavor, evangelistic help should be secured. Since churches all across the country will be participating at approximately the same date, early selection of evangelists and music directors is desirable.

This effort was instituted in 1981 by the Home Mission Board, in conjunction with state evangelistic secretaries. It was brought through proper committees and the messengers of the 1982 Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted unanimously to participate.

Preparation for simultaneous revivals is essential. The Evangelism Workshop, Dec. 6-7, will provide training for associational directors of missions and associational chairmen of evangelism. They, in turn, will provide training for local church leadership within the association. The countdown is intended to coordinate all efforts across the state.

One of the most important preparation aspects of this effort will be a prospect search and scripture distribution in the fall of 1985. Often, churches fail to reap results in a revival, because they do not know their prospects. In most church revivals, people are won to the Lord through personal evangelism. The distribution of Bibles or scripture portions will, also, help to confront people with God's saving grace.

Churches are being asked to schedule 8-day revivals. Statistics from the Home Mission Board show that longer revivals produce more conversions.

The first national simultaneous revival for Southern Baptists was

in 1950. But the roots for area cooperative efforts go back to the 1900's. In 1907, Southern Baptists conducted city-wide efforts. In 1915 these campaigns were expanded to associations and in 1927 to state-wide efforts.

In 1937, Roland Q. Leavell came to the Home Mission Board to lead evangelism. He placed a major emphasis on simultaneous revivals. He was succeeded by C. E. Matthews who accelerated the emphasis. In 1947, the messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention voted to hold the first national-wide simultaneous revivals, which were conducted in 1950. Arkansas had the greatest number of baptisms in history during this effort. The second largest number of baptisms came with another simultaneous revival.

There are a number of reasons why simultaneous revivals are successful. First, they are church-centered efforts using the people, programs and organization of local congregations. This makes it possible to more easily conserve results.

It is a concerted effort of all of the churches in a given area, providing opportunity for unity of organization and publicity. Better preparation can be made for the revivals, and the entire area can be blanketed with publicity.

It provides opportunity for both personal and mass evangelism techniques. Churches can share in member visitation and witnessing. When the entire area is looking forward to revival, attendance and enthusiasm is encouraged.

It promotes the acceptance of responsibility. Because church members must work to prepare for a simultaneous revival, more people are involved in carrying out plans and task assignments.

It gives every church, large or small, the same assistance in directed leadership. Since extensive training will be offered in the preparation for the 1986 Good News America simultaneous revivals, every church will have ample opportunity to be properly prepared.

Just as important as preparation is the follow-up to any revival. The Good News America—God Loves You revivals will train individuals to follow up on the results occurring in the local churches. The individuals involved in the organized follow-up will be known as "encouragers."

The possibilities of the 1986 simultaneous revivals are exciting indeed. At the present, each church in Arkansas needs to vote to participate. The date should be set, in conjunction with one's own association, and revival personnel should be secured. As we prepare and pray, 1986 could be the greatest year Arkansas has ever known.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 83 NUMBER 23
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

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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.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising rates on request.

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Letters to the editor

Meeting a great need

I would like to express my appreciation for the investment that Southern Baptists are making in the Seminary Studies program that has just concluded the spring term in Little Rock. I have been enrolled for three terms now, and I have been privileged to sit under some of the finest professors that our seminaries have to offer.

This program is meeting a great need in our state by supplying seminary training to those of us who did not go on to one of the seminary campuses after graduation from college or who left before completing the degree. I would highly recommend this program to any pastor, staff member or layperson who would like to work towards a seminary degree. We can do up to two-thirds of the required degree work at the Little Rock center. The classes are also open to a limited number of non-college graduates and auditors.

Even though we are "off-campus," we are seminary students. Many of us can attest to this by showing some of the work we have done and tests we have taken. The thought of seminary training had become somewhat distant for me until this program came along. I believe that it is one of the best programs to come down from Nashville and I hope that it will continue.

The fall semester begins Sept. 17, meeting on Mondays, and concludes Dec. 3. I want to encourage as many as I can to get enrolled in Seminary Studies so that the program will be able to continue. The cost is only \$250 for six semester hours.

Lehman Webb, our center's coordinator and Immanuel Church, the host for our classes, have been extremely helpful to all of us. Brother Webb can supply information and enrollment materials. Anyone wishing to carpool from the Arkadelphia/Murfreesboro area can contact me. Our professors this fall include from Southwestern Seminary David Garland (Old Testament) and Leon McBeth (church history), and Jimmy Sheffield, administrator at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, serving as adjunct professor for Midwestern Seminary (church staff development).—Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro

missionary notes

Dr. and Mrs. Jack E. Tolar Jr., missionaries to Nigeria, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 3914 Starhill, San Antonio, Texas 78218). He is a native of San Antonio, Texas, and she is the former Barbara Corrington of Hot Springs, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin L. Fox, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for

Retreat was a help

For the past two years an annual pastors' retreat has been sponsored by the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. I attended this year.

At first I was reluctant to go to the retreat because of an idea that it was a "therapy group" for troubled pastors. In the past I have noticed that persons having stress-related problems often deal with the problems like a child who picks at a bad sore. What is needed is a lancing of the boil rather than picking which just spreads the infection. A number of pastors perhaps felt that in such a retreat they would be identified as "one of the losers." As a result many pastors passed up attending the retreat.

I am glad now that another pastor insisted that I go for several reasons. First, the retreat was designed as a helpful conference for busy pastors who need to take time for fellowship with other pastors. We were able to begin friendships that will doubtless last for the rest of our lives.

Second, we were able to relax in a pleasant environment without the rush of business or constant telephone calls. Camp Paron is a beautiful retreat setting.

Third, we were able to develop a personal relationship with some of the leaders of our state convention. As Baptists in Arkansas we are blessed to have such a man of spiritual strength as Don Moore for our executive director. Glenn McCriff also offers an invaluable service to our state convention.

I urge other pastors to take advantage of this opportunity in 1985.—Wayne Blue, Pine Bluff

A parable

Hear a parable that could be spoken to Arkansas Baptists.

To our churches a word of mission came, inviting us to join with Indiana Baptists in establishing missions and strengthening new work.

Some churches paid absolutely no attention to the need in Indiana. Neither were they attentive to Jesus Christ's command to share him with those lost ones.

Other churches jumped on the bandwagon. They went and sent. The excitement

of "mission work" motivated men and money. But, after one, two or three years the men and money dried up.

Still others felt deeply the need of Indiana churches. They sensed the call of the Lord to mission. But other demands closer to home tied up the Lord's resources. There was no room in their budgets for Indiana. They knew the commission but couldn't act upon the Lord's priorities.

A few churches awakened to the needs of the lost in Indiana. They committed persons and support which they had previously planned to use at home. Being willing to show Christ's love, they chose to do without at home and thus enable some others an opportunity to know Jesus Christ. They do this year after year.

God's love is alive only in the churches who, having God's provisions and seeing another in need, share His loving supply.—

Thomas G. Darter, Dermott

Leave judging to God

I have been reading the articles criticizing James Robison and Milt Green and was greatly disturbed. I am continually amazed as to why we as Southern Baptists are so quick to criticize the brethren. We are the only denomination that I know of that seems to delight in shooting its own soldiers and trying to fix things that aren't broken.

I hate to see a Christian newsmagazine stoop to the level of the secular media. We expect that of them. Statistics tell us the 90 percent of them claim not to believe in God; however, we are Christians and it is not expected of us.

I know James Robison and Milt Green personally and have attended the much criticized seminar. Never has there been anything said against the local church or the pastor. On the contrary, they are for them.

Things are being said about people leaving the churches. I think we get so concerned about additions in order to increase our number, that we fail to realize that we sometimes need some good subtractions in order that God might do a greater work.

Let's leave the judging to God. I think he is better qualified (Matt. 7:1-2, John 8:7).—Don Grendell, Russellville

furlough (address: 315 W. Maple, Fayetteville, Ark. 72702). He is native of Centry, Ark., and she is the former Margaret Cotton of Paris, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

Miss Gerry Odom, missionary to Taiwan, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Mrs. J. G. Odom, Box 355, Northlet, Ark. 71759). Born in El Dorado, Ark., she lived in Smackover, Ark., Washington,

Miss., and Alvin, Texas, while growing up. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis G. Folds, missionaries to Japan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 910 Nella St., Minden, La. 71055). The former Judith Synco, she was born in Crossett, Ark., and also lived in Hot Springs, Ark., and Minden, La. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Sunday tradition

If you were raised as I was, "Sunday dinner" was the biggest meal of the week. This tradition is so strongly ingrained in me, I still feel that I have to continue it with my own family. Never mind the fact that the meals in my childhood memory were prepared by my grandmother at her house, while my mother frantically rushed to get four children ready for church.

For years after I married and established my own home in another town, I felt I had to prepare the same type Sunday dinners my grandmother had, while also struggling to get two children ready for church. Some Sundays I would be so tired from all the rushing that I would wonder if it was worth it.

I tried suggestions of friends, such as serving a light lunch of sandwiches and preparing a more substantial evening meal. But that fit neither our Sunday schedule nor my need for keeping this tradition as a link to my past. I have finally hit upon a strategy that uses a combination of preparation techniques that works well for me and perhaps will work for you.

Use a combination of slow cooking in the oven or electric slow-cooker, fast cooking in the microwave or top of range, and pre-preparation. For example, put a whole chicken on a rack in the slow-cooker before church and let it roast unattended. Upon arrival home, bake potatoes in the microwave, or cook rice on the surface unit. Cook another canned or frozen vegetable. Add the salad and dessert prepared the day before, and the meal can be on the table almost as fast as other family members can change from their Sunday clothes to more casual ones.

Good make-ahead salads include layered vegetable salads, congealed salads, pasta salads or this marinated vegetable salad, which is also a great dish for church potlucks or family reunions.

Marinated vegetable salad

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16 oz. can shoe peg corn | 1 c. green pepper, finely chopped |
| 16 oz. French style green beans | ½ c. onion, finely chopped |
| 16 oz. can small English peas | ¾ c. sugar |
| 2 oz. jar chopped pimiento | ½ c. salad oil |
| 1 c. celery, finely chopped | ½ c. plus 1 tablespoon vinegar |

Drain canned vegetables. Mix all vegetables together in a 2-quart refrigerator storage bowl with a seal-type lid.

Heat sugar, vinegar, oil. Cool and pour over vegetables. Refrigerate overnight to mix flavors. Turn bowl upside down occasionally. This salad will keep for several days and improve with age.

Our guest columnist this month is Ramona Gordon, County Extension Agent-Home Economics, Independence County. She is a homemaker and mother of two children.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle is on the staff of Christian Counseling and Teaching Center in Syria, Virginia. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

Eight on OBU faculty promoted

Eight faculty members at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia have been promoted to higher academic rank, according to Thomas Turner, vice president for academic affairs.

Promotions include: Michael E. Arrington to assistant dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and assistant professor of history; Larry Van Barrett to assistant professor of

physical education; Roy E. Buckelew to assistant professor of speech; Frances Ann Coulter to assistant professor of history; Alton R. Crawley to professor of mathematics and computer science; James Clois Rothwell to assistant professor of accounting; Emma Jean Turner to assistant professor of office administration; and Tona Wright to assistant professor of physical education.

You'll be glad to know...

Don Moore

... Southern Baptists are expected to continue to grow! I was glad to hear that positive forecast by the growth specialists. Win Arn, along with others whose total ministry is in analyzing, encouraging and advising leaders on church growth matters, made this prediction in *Christianity Today*. They are not Southern Baptists. Theirs should be a fairly objective estimate. They watch Southern Baptists closely because no group has ever reached our size and continued to grow.



Moore

A typical example of a large denomination's pattern of performance can be seen in the report given at the recent meeting of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. "Current membership is about 9.4 million - a decline of nearly 1.5 million in 15 or so years" (*Commercial Appeal*, May 6, 1984, page 1). "A decline to about 5 million members by the year 2000 unless the church re-emphasizes personal evangelism, rather than liberal social change" were forecast by H.T. Maclin, executive director of the Mission Society of United Methodists.

Can Southern Baptist churches avoid the same occurrence as has happened to Methodist and other mainline denominations? I believe we can, but it will not be easy. There are many forces that tear at us to move in the same direction and same areas those groups have. Doctrinal dilution, social distraction, and conformity to the world's values may be the major factors in the loss of vitality of mainline denominations. It is my considered opinion that we are faced with the same subtle possibilities.

Growth specialists predict our growth for the next 10 years will be no more than 10 percent. At least six groups are predicted to grow by as much as 20 percent. We need to watch our priorities and programs. We can keep growing. If we can, we must. It happens in the local church! Let us help, if we can.

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

100th Haitian well drilled

Haitian Baptists recently drilled their 100th clean water well in an effort led by Southern Baptist missionary Jack Hancox.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

H. O. Shultz of Paragould died May 28 at age 74. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having pastored the New Liberty Church in Greene County Association from 1975 until August, 1982. Survivors are his wife, Lennie Shultz; a son, Darrel Shultz of West Covina, Calif.; four daughters, Lamona Hatton and Janis Reddick, both of Paragould, Marieda Dortch of Rock Falls, Ill., and Sonya Gammill of Cottage Hills, Ill.; two sisters; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Kent Holt has resigned from the staff of the Bentonville First Church, having served there for four years as minister of education and youth.

Jim Pritchard is serving as pastor of the Elliott Church at Camden, coming there from the First Church of Gould, Okla. He is a graduate of both Sam Houston State University at Huntsville, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jeannette, have two children, James and John.

Hal Gallop Sr. is serving as interim pastor of the Zion Hall Church at Zion.

Robert James of Little Rock was awarded the diploma in Christian ministry from Boyce Bible School during spring commencement May 25 in Louisville, Ky.

Midwestern, Golden Gate Seminaries graduate eight Arkansans

Southern Baptist seminaries in Kansas City, Mo., and San Francisco, Calif., honored eight Arkansans with degrees in May.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City conferred degrees on 96 people May 26. Receiving the master of divinity degree were Scott H. Dalrymple, a graduate of the University of Arkansas; Tommie E. Elliott, a graduate of Southern Baptist College; and Michael R. Gordon, a graduate of Arkansas Tech University.

Catherine A. Pittman, a graduate of Arkansas Tech, received the master of religious education degree, graduating with honors.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in San Francisco bestowed degrees on 86 students May 25.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were James E. Allison, Siloam Springs; Willis M. Fort, Fort Smith; Charles E. Hall, Wynne; and William A. Putnam, Rogers.

Gabriel Adebayo Ojo, a Nigerian student and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, received a master of religious education degree from Golden Gate. He had previously earned the master of divinity degree.

Mrs. Hugh McKnight has resigned as children's director at Immanuel Church in Little Rock following 17 years of service. The church held a day of recognition in her honor June 3.

Harry B. Wilson died in a Fort Smith hospital May 27 at age 73. He was pastor of the Westside Church in Fort Smith, a veteran of World War II and treasurer of Concord Association. He is survived by his wife, Ethyl, one daughter, Jackie Railey of Fort Smith; four sisters, one brother, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Westside Church building fund.

Elvis Smith of Little Rock was awarded the diploma in Christian ministry from Boyce Bible School during spring commencement May 25 in Louisville, Ky.

Larry Pillow was in Nashville, Tenn., recently to attend an 11-day "Personal and Professional Growth" seminar sponsored by the Sunday School Board. Pillow is pastor of the Second Church in Conway.

briefly

Nichols Road Church in Little Rock was in a revival May 13-23 that resulted in two professions of faith, one baptism and

three additions by letter. Elbert Warren was evangelist. Musicians were Chester Caldwell and Terri Warren. Revival activities included a Brotherhood prayer breakfast and a recognition day for pastor Robert Nordman and Mrs. Nordman.

Faith Church at Jenny Lind dedicated a new building June 3 in a 2 p. m. service coordinated by pastor Wesley Hogue. Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, was speaker.

Newport First Church licensed Mark Williams, a recent graduate of Newport High School, to the ministry May 27. Also recognized in the service were Cathy Isch and Rockey Smith who have made commitments to full-time Christian vocations. Certificates of recognition were presented to the three by pastor Gene Crawley.

youth

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana had 15 youth and nine sponsors in Shirley recently to direct vacation Bible schools for the First Church of Shirley and the Shady Grove Church.

Heber Springs First Church youth will leave Aug. 3 to do mission work in New Orleans, leading a day camp in one of the parks there and worship services in the Jackson Square section of the city.



Dalrymple



Elliott



Gordon



Pittman



Allison



Fort



Hall



Putnam

Arkansans organize against legalized casino gambling

by J. Everett Sneed

More than 650 citizens concerned about the proposed legalized casino gambling amendment to the Arkansas Constitution met and formally organized Thursday, May 31, at First Church, Hot Springs. The newly formed group is using the acronym CUAG—Citizens United Against Gambling.

The proposed legislation would open up seven major locations for gambling and 10 minor ones. In order to get it on the November ballot, 80,000 registered voters must sign a petition. Then it must receive a majority vote in the November election.

Those elected to serve the Garland County organization in leadership include: Doug Dickens, pastor, First Church, Hot Springs, co-chairman; Gary Thorson, past president of Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and downtown businessman, co-chairman; Fred Ferraz, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, secretary-treasurer. Those elected to serve on steering committees were: John Trischmann, local pediatrician, Dick Gladden, Hot Springs insurance agent; Ish Stivers, retired educator; Jake King, retired accountant; Tom Harris, pastor of Park Place Church, Hot Springs; and William Whittaker, pastor of Roanoke National Baptist Church.

Dickens listed the agenda that the steering

committee plans to follow in its efforts to defeat legalized casino gambling in Arkansas and encouraged other concerned citizens to be committed to the following:

(1) Church participation—churches are urged to designate a Sunday in June to address the gambling issue and to collect money for CUAG.

(2) Brochure distribution—individuals are asked to circulate the brochure entitled, "Gambling, Fiction and Fact."

(3) Petition effort—individuals are encouraged to refuse to sign the casino gambling petition and to sign a CUAG petition pledging their efforts in defeating the gambling proposal.

(4) Voter registration—individuals are asked to register to vote so that pro-gambling legislation will be defeated if the proposal makes it to the November general election.

(5) Politicians—elected officials will be urged to take a public stand prior to the election stating their position on the casino gambling issue.

(6) Civic clubs—organizations will be contacted and asked to let both those favoring and those opposing casino gambling present their viewpoint for public consideration.

(7) Civic concern—individuals supporting

CUAG will be asked to avoid the use of scripture (except in the pulpit) and to attack the problem on the basis of economic, political and sociological issues, for wider appeal. The group is asked to be sensitive to the fact that downtown Hot Springs is having economic problems and those supporting the amendment may be doing so because of the economic situation. However, Dickens suggested that no one should be lulled into doing nothing. He said, "With the investment that the hotels in Hot Springs have already made with money from backers in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, it is clear they will be working hard to win the passage of the amendment."

Among those present and speaking against the proposed constitutional amendment were businessmen, religious leaders, doctors and politicians. Resolutions have already been passed by the United Methodist, United Presbyterian, Church of the Nazarene, and the Lutheran Church. Others pledging support included a representative of the Church of Christ and John Finn of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation.

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

Hot Springs pastor seeks change

Las Vegas SBC site proves embarrassing to gambling opponents

by Betty J. Kennedy

Southern Baptists' decision last year to hold their 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas has become a thorn in the flesh for those who oppose legalized wagering in Hot Springs.

Doug Dickens, pastor of First Church Hot Springs and co-chairman of the committee fighting legalizing casino gambling in the city, was planning to try to get that thorn removed as Southern Baptists met this week in Kansas City.

Dr. Dickens said June 7 that he was in the process of writing a motion to bring to the convention. The proposal would replace the 1989 site with some other place. He said he had no specific alternative place in mind.

Not only has the decision to meet in Las Vegas brought charges of Southern Baptists' being hypocritical from the Garland County Lawful Wagering Committee, but it has caused considerable debate among Baptists themselves.

An extended discussion at the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh followed the committee-to-committee process to recommend Las Vegas as the 1989 place. The motion came to the messengers only after approval 32 to 20 by the convention's Executive Committee in February, 1983. Before that a subcommittee of that Executive Committee con-

sidered several sites for 1989, and the full committee lacked consensus on the Nevada city.

When the proposal appeared likely to be headed for debate at the Pittsburgh sessions, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* offered space in the pre-convention issue of May 19 for two state pastors to present pro and con views.

Despite a vocal minority, the 1983 messengers adopted Las Vegas for 1989 by an approximately 80 to 20 percent majority vote by raised hands.

Proponents of the meeting in Las Vegas maintained that it would be an opportunity to make an impact for Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptists' plan to evangelize the world by the year 2000). "There is the gambling, but we felt the impact Baptists can make in Nevada far outweighs the disadvantages," explained W. LeRay Fowler, chairman of the convention arrangements subcommittee.

"We look at this as an invitation to do mission work in a state where 85 out of 100 persons voice no religious preference," contended Ernest Myers, Nevada Baptists' executive director.

Opponents raised the issue of exposing Baptists and their families to "raucous enter-

tainment, pornography, prostitution, gambling and every other moral evil..." besides asking how meeting there would look to outsiders.

That very issue came up again as the Garland County pro-wagering group held a news conference June 4. They distributed leaflets reporting on Southern Baptists' Las Vegas meeting and claiming that the messengers were expected to spend as much as \$10 million dollars there.

"If gambling creates all the crime and violence they [church groups] claim... how can they justify going to Las Vegas, the gambling center of the world, for their convention?" the leaflet asked.

Three days later an editorial in the *Arkansas Gazette* asked how Southern Baptists could be so naive as to hold their annual meeting in "a city that is the 20th century equivalent of Sodom-and-Gomorrah."

Dickens said he fears Southern Baptists' decision will remain a target for charges by the gambling proponents in the future, and hoped to thwart the plans to embarrass Hot Springs area Baptists by asking the SBC to change the site.

Betty J. Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Arkansas/Brazil partnership to show 'AMAR' (love)

by Glendon Grober

Partnership Missions is new for many Southern Baptists.

The linking of Arkansas Baptists with Baptists in the Amazon River Basin—dubbed AMAR, which is the Portuguese word for love—undoubtedly raises questions. Three are basic questions.

What is a Partnership Mission?

Partnership Mission matches an overseas convention with a Baptist state convention for joint planning and implementation of mutually agreed upon projects. The duration is usually three to five years.

The projects may include church development, evangelism, church planting, education, health care and development ministries.

The written objective of the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission includes a basic statement of methodology: "by encouraging and complementing the work of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, Arkansas Baptists will key their efforts to help Brazilian Baptist work through our missionaries in the projects they indicate for us as priority needs."

What kind of projects are a part of Partnership Missions?

(1) Evangelistic outreach ministries.

Evangelistic outreach ministries may be carried out in rural or metropolitan areas. Evangelistic activities are held in local churches, in area meetings and with specific target groups. (Target groups could include businessmen, scientists, educators, artists, medical personnel, athletes, government employees, selected skill groups, etc.)

(2) Church development ministries.

Church development ministries include enlargement programs and strengthening programs for the local churches, stewardship development, training in personal evangelism, discipleship, church growth, Sunday School enlargement, WMU leadership training, retreat speakers and leaders, home Bible study programs, and other activities agreed upon.

(3) Community development.

Community development may include literacy projects, agricultural projects, the development and staffing by volunteers of a center for vocational training in social ser-

VICES, personal health care, water resource development, nutrition projects, community health projects, etc.

(4) Personal evangelism.

Personal evangelism is lay-involved direct evangelism, usually pastor led. It often is coordinated with a series of revival meetings in a local church. One of the most effective things in Partnership Missions in Brazil has been the sharing of personal testimony in homes on the street.

(5) Church planting.

The Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission (AMAR) will include a new type of project. Local churches in Arkansas will link up with local churches in Brazil to start new missions. The activity will include whatever projects are necessary to reach the goal: a new Baptist church.

(6) Major city evangelization.

Major city evangelization involves a vari-



ABN photo / Millie Gail

Members of the Brazil-Arkansas Partnership Mission steering committee are (from back left) Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Secretary Don Moore; Gary Scott and Kerry Powell, both of Forrest City; J.W.L. Adams Jr., Texarkana; John Maddox, Wynne; Julia Ketner, George Sims and Neal Guthrie, all of the ABCS staff; J. Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine; Curtis Mathes, Harrison; Marjorie Grober, Little Rock; and Glendon Grober, ABCS staff. Not pictured is James Bryant, Fort Smith.

Partnership Missions is:

- Becoming aware of the expressed needs of Brazilian Baptists.
- Praying for Baptist work and Arkansas mission opportunities in the Amazon region.
- Responding to specific project requests from Brazil.
- Planning Arkansas participation in these projects.
- Preparing Arkansas Baptists for effective mission ministry in Brazil.
- Traveling to Brazil and participating in meaningful mission activities.
- Evaluating Arkansas involvement in missions, to improve our effectiveness in overseas mission ministry.
- Fulfilling I John 4:10 "Herein is love..."

Baptist Men organize mission fellowships

by J. Everett Sneed

ety of evangelistic and church growth activities over some three years designed to impact or saturate an urban area with the Gospel. Witness training, church evangelism and crusade evangelism are all components of this program. Arkansas Baptists will be involved in this type of project in Manaus, Amazonas, a city of nearly one-half million people.

When will Arkansas Baptists go to Brazil? The Foreign Mission Board emphasizes a need for a time frame for Partnership Missions. Arkansas Baptists have, therefore, agreed that we will work with Brazil for 1984 to 1987.

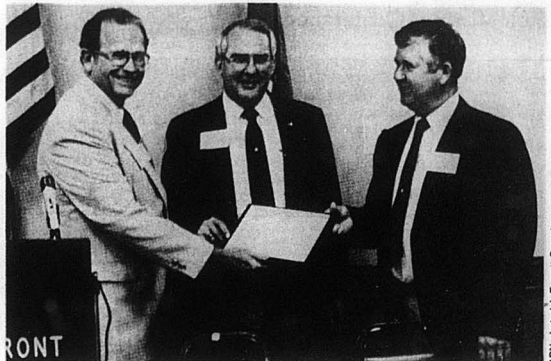
1984 will be our year of preparation and planning. During this time Arkansas Baptists will be involved in praying for Brazil. "Free Indeed: To Intercede" involves 66 days of specific praying for Brazil. Both WMU and Brotherhood sponsorship should lead entire churches into prayer. Arkansas Baptists will be receiving specific dated requests from Brazil. Churches, groups and associations will choose the ones to which they respond. This way, vacation dates can be planned ahead for going to Brazil in 1985, 1986 and 1987.

1984-1985 will begin the important phase of preparing those who will go. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention will offer, along with the Foreign Mission Board, careful orientation to all participants in AMAR.

1985-1987 are the years for the personal involvement of Arkansas Baptist laymen and pastors, in planned meaningful foreign mission service.

The 1987 meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention should include final reporting concerning the Amazon-Arkansas Mission Partnership (AMAR) and celebration.

Glendon Grober, ABSC evangelism associate, is the statewide coordinator of the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission. He was a Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil for 29 years.



Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board hunger consultant John Cheyne presented a plaque of appreciation to Arkansas Brotherhood Director Neal Guthrie and state Baptist Men President Russell Miller at the Baptist Men's Fellowship meeting May 25 in North Little Rock. Cheyne lauded Arkansans for their response to hunger needs in Ghana over the last eight months. Arkansas Baptists had contributed enough money to purchase eight 20-ton shipments of rice—two more than the goal—for that famine-stricken African nation. Cheyne said this had been the "smoothest" major distribution project he had ever been involved in.

The Arkansas Baptist Men's Fellowship, which was organized May 25, at the Riverfront Hilton, North Little Rock, will provide opportunity for men to meet needs in keeping with vocational skills.

Russell Miller, Mountain Home businessman and president of the State Baptist Men, said, "Baptist men will not meet just for the sake of meeting, but they will minister for God in areas where they are comfortable."

Fellowships were organized for aviators, amateur radio operators, attorneys, pastors, builders, medical personnel and those who will work to provide disaster relief. An Agrismision Fellowship had been formed previously. Arkansas is believed to be the first state to organize a Men's Lay Renewal Fellowship.

The Baptist Brotherhood Commission has an SBC-wide goal of one million men who are organized and ready to respond by Fall 1985. In commenting on the importance of this effort, Miller said, "I believe that this is the single most important meeting in which I have ever been involved."

The one million men who will be available to meet needs will be registered in a computer in Memphis, Tenn., at the Brotherhood

Commission. Miller pointed out that there are 300 Baptist laymen for every Baptist preacher in Arkansas. "The only way we can ever witness to the world is to involve lay people."

Executive Secretary Don Moore said, "The need for mission involvement is urgent. We are in a race with time. We are in a race with the communists. We are in a race with the cults. If we do not act now, it will be too late."

Other speakers for the meeting included John Cheyne, of the Foreign Mission Board; Nathan Porter, of the Home Mission Board; June Whitlow, of the SBC WMU; and Bill Bangham, of the Brotherhood Commission.

Porter said, "If these men wait for the Brotherhood to call them to help on a project, they will fail us in our efforts to meet needs. What is required is for men to develop a mission lifestyle."

Porter said that missions must begin where a person lives. "There are always many unmet needs in every community." Porter also emphasized that "missions must be done with no expectation of return."

Bangham said, "This project, when completed across the SBC, will provide a bank of people which can not be duplicated anywhere else in the world and cannot be purchased with money."

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

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Your state convention at work

Woman's Missionary Union

Youth Missions Conference

Pat Wolf, former missionary to Taiwan, and Sharon Utley, director of Christian Social Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Wolf

will be guest speakers for the Youth Missions Conference at Siloam Springs Assembly, June 25-30. Youth who choose the missions conference period will have the opportunity of learning about missions from these two experienced mission

aries, will participate in mission games, and spend one period learning about Acteans and Pioneer methods. This missions conference planned for both boys and girls of youth age is planned by Woman's Missionary Union with the cooperation of the Brotherhood Department and the Sunday School Department. — Betty Jo Lacy, Acteans director

Evangelism

The Roman Road continues

Many times people going on a trip cannot reach their destination in one day. They begin to look for a place to rest at night.



Shell

It is always a beautiful sight to see a motel that has an available room. We started on a trip with the Roman Road this past week in leading a person to know Christ. Due to space requirements, we were not able to finish our journey in the first article. We now continue the road to our destination in Christ.

The Bible clearly teaches that a sinner can be saved. Romans 10:9-10 states "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation". We need to take special note that Jesus is recognized as Lord. If a person is going to be saved, he must believe in the resurrection of Christ. With the innermost being of the heart, a person believes unto righteousness and then makes a public confession of faith by mouth.

The majestic truth of Christianity is that God saves whosoever. The beautiful gospel hymn states "Whosoever surely meaneth me". Romans 10:13 states "For whosoever

shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The lost person is to prayerfully and humbly call upon the Lord Jesus to receive salvation. — Clarence Shell, director

Missions

A call to prayer

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God will give the increase." I Cor. 3:6

The Bible tells us that extending God's kingdom by new work will require the efforts of both God and people. Someone has said that we should work as if everything depended on us and pray as if everything depended on God.

At this stage of starting new work, I feel the need of your prayers for God's leadership in several areas. What should be our strategies and goals for new work in Arkansas? Who are the qualified, committed sponsors? Where are the places and who are the people who need a new church?

We want to find God's will and direction, then join him in what he wants to do in Arkansas. Prayer is basic to success in new work. God must bring the increase!

Please make new work a prayer item in your family prayer time, at church, and in your association. It will encourage us if you will let us know by card, phone call, or personal contact that you are praying for new work. — Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director

Stewardship

The average gift

How can one measure the average Baptist? With our soul freedom and individual priesthood, it is impossible to put an "Average Baptist" label on any individual.

But we do have our deliberate and not-so-deliberate standards of measurement. One has to do with contributions. Arkansas Baptists gave over \$100 million through their churches in 1983. When all of our gifts are lumped together and divided by the total participants, we arrive at average figures.

Last year the average gift of those attending Sunday School was \$15.40 a week. The annual individual total was raised to \$801.

The members of our 1,266 churches gave \$1,927,899 each week. Eighty percent of this dollars probably came from 20 percent of our members.

The average church received approximately \$1,523 weekly. This figure gives lit-

tle comfort to the 70 percent of our churches that received less than \$1,000 weekly in tithes and offerings.

Several factors have increased the dollars received by our churches. Increased percentage giving is not one of those factors. Cecil Ray, director of Planned Growth in Giving, has observed that Baptists were giving two percent of their income in the 1930's. We're still, on the average, giving two percent. We still need the challenge of proportionate giving. — James A. Walker, director

Family Ministry

Senior Adult Chautauqs

Over 10,000 senior adults from across the nation will gather at Ridgecrest or Glorieta this fall for one of the Senior Adult Chautauqs.

A chautauq is a conference that includes worship, Bible study, fellowship, inspiration and sightseeing in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina or New Mexico. There will be nine Chautauq Conferences this fall, six at Ridgecrest and three at Glorieta.

Arkansas has selected Sept. 24-28 at Glorieta and Oct. 8-12 at Ridgecrest as our weeks for special promotion. A charter bus will provide transportation to each of these two Chautauqs. In each case, the bus will leave from Little Rock on Saturday before the Chautauq and return the following Saturday.

The cost of the trip includes transportation, motels en route and lodging and meals at the Conference Center. For more information about registration and the cost write: Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — Robert Holley, director



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Christian Life Council
People most valuable

In the early 1860's my great-grandfather, Bob Parker, then 42, was in Hot Springs when the Civil War erupted. Discarding



Parker

natural beauty, agricultural opportunities and good people.

The most important thing about any state are its people. Too many in every age group in Arkansas are today being hurt by exploiters of human weaknesses. We must not add anything, such as casino gambling, to our economy and environment. It would only further human tragedy and suffering.

Look at Atlantic City, where such as teen compulsive gambling is a growing problem. There are already 3 million teen alcoholics in the U.S. As with any type of unwholesome compulsion, several family members of each are also sadly affected.

Defenders of problem-producing issues justify them by pointing to increased tax revenue. Please don't sign a petition calling for an extension of gambling in Hot Springs or anywhere else in Arkansas.

"Better is little with righteousness than great revenues without right" (Prov. 16:8).

— Robert Parker, director



The Southern accent

E. Fred Savage

Influence

So much has been written about the importance of influence that one may wonder why another article on influence. Many people have had varying amounts of influence on my life. I want to share how three men in different Baptist educational institutions have influenced my life and helped to mold my attitudes and actions.

In September 1938, I entered Louisiana College as a freshman ministerial student. Several times each semester, H.M. Weathersby, our academic dean, reminded the entire student body during a chapel service that they were able to attend Louisiana College because of the generosity of others. He pointed out that we paid tuition and fees only about one-third of what it cost to operate the college. The other two-thirds came from people who believed in Christian education and gave sacrificially to make our education possible. Then Dean Weathersby challenged us to give liberally in the future so that other students would have the opportunity to go to a Christian college. I determined then to give regularly to my alma mater.

The second instance occurred many years later while I was completing work on my Th.D. degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. One day the chapel speaker was W.A. Criswell, who was there to challenge the entire student body to make a three-year pledge to raise funds to build an apartment com-

plex for married students to be called the J. Howard Williams Student Village.

I accepted the challenge, took a card and signed for a \$300 gift. I was still in a student pastorate and did not know how I would be able to keep that commitment, but I knew that God would provide. Soon after this I was called as pastor of First Church, DeQueen, Ark., and while there I paid off my pledge.

I joined the faculty of Southern Baptist College in the fall of 1962. H.E. Williams pointed out that, without special gifts from many individuals, none of our Christian colleges could keep their doors open. This stressed the importance of what Dean Weathersby had said so often at Louisiana College.

I am the product of three Southern Baptist schools: Louisiana College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. I am deeply indebted to each of these institutions. For over 25 years, I have sent an annual gift to each of them. Since coming to Southern Baptist College, I have added it to the list of schools to which a gift is sent each year.

These three men influenced me to give regularly so that today's students could have the same opportunity for a Christian education that someone's gifts had made possible for me.

E. Fred Savage is professor of religion at Southern Baptist College.

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Missionary brings hope of 'living water' to an arid land

by Mike Creswell

Monica Keathley ministers in an oasis of hope.

The Baptist student center that missionary Keathley directs in Ouagadougou (pronounced WAH-gah-DOO-goo), Upper Volta, stands next to the West African nation's only university. The 3,600 students enrolled are the nation's best and brightest young people.

Hope is so apparent on campus, one can almost see it floating mid-air along with the thick, red dust kicked up by cars and mopeds passing across the sprawling grounds.

For the students, this is an ultimate opportunity—a chance to get a treasured university degree that might be a passport from the poverty most have known in the rural outback.

Most students are in their 20s, older than their counterparts in America, a fact in part reflecting the French educational system used. The nation's ties to France extend to language and to continued French financial aid that is putting up several large buildings and doubling classroom space.

The campus presents jarring images typical of struggling nations in West Africa: Ultra-modern buildings stand along unpaved streets. College students studying physics, engineering and other modern fields come from villages without electricity or running water.

Keathley points out that students also bring with them traditional religious beliefs, almost inevitably tied to traditional West African spiritism, even for those who have had some contact with Catholicism. Few are Christians, and she sees her job as reaching them with the gospel.

"Baptists are still relatively new to Upper Volta, and most don't understand denominational differences," she says.

Students at the center are ages 15 to the mid-20s and include some high school students, because several major high schools can be found in the surrounding Zogona area of the city. Though few students are well off financially, many receive government scholarships and so fare better than many average Voltaiacs.

Since the center's building was erected in 1981, student enrollment in center programs has climbed from 261 to more than 800. The building provides classrooms, a music room, a kitchen and a reading room stocked with magazines, books and textbooks that can be borrowed. Outside is a well-used volleyball court; a ping pong table on the front porch gets frequent use.

Center programs include a volleyball team and lessons in guitar, English and electronics. Students attend Christian films, concerts and

Mike Creswell is associate editor of The Commission, magazine of the Foreign Mission Board, from which this article is reprinted.



Monica Keathley finds her work with the future leaders of Upper Volta exciting.

coffeehouse discussions, most of which (except for the French language) would be familiar to Baptist Student Union students in the United States.

To stay within the purposes of the center, students who want to attend functions must have membership cards. Getting these cards involves at least contact with the Christian message. New students must set up appointments to talk with Keathley, providing her a chance to discuss their spiritual needs. They also must complete a study of the Gospel of John, the first time many ever have seen the Bible.

Such programs have reached many for Christ. "You can count one or two every week who have come to know the Lord," says Keathley. Still she is not yet satisfied with the center's effectiveness, noting, "We're still experimenting."

This is mainly because for the past couple of years she has spent much of her time helping to start a Baptist church. She felt the students needed a church in which to participate and grow. Good Shepherd Baptist Church, organized in November 1982, now has 45 to 60 persons attending most Sundays. She considers the church's formation the high point of her four-year term.

"To have worked with a committee of leaders, to see how they've grown and how they've organized and function as a church—it has been very, very rewarding," she says.

Next for the center will be more attention on outreach, she states. Even though she reaches many students for Christ, follow-up discipling that leads to full church membership is proving difficult. After students make professions of faith, she reports, "You invite them and encourage them to come to the church, and then they won't show up. It's very difficult because there are no street

names, and if you don't go to their house with them, you'll never know where they live. And if they don't come back, they're very hard to follow up on."

Her strategy? "I've asked the Lord to give us a very small group of very stable students that I can work with and disciple, and then through them reach out to the campus. And he's doing that," she says. She adds that in recent months she has begun discipling classes for responsible young people who seem an answer to prayer.

Keathley says she has learned prayer's value since becoming a foreign missionary. Although there are other Southern Baptist missionaries and other evangelical Christians in Ouagadougou, and while she is surrounded by students or assistants most days, she acknowledges that working alone at times

Monica Keathley, Southern Baptist missionary to Upper Volta, was one of the featured program personalities for the 1984 Acteans Encounters at First Church, Pine Bluff, and Eastside Church, Fort Smith.

Keathley, who took the field in 1979, is the daughter of Ervin and Marsue Keathley. He is the director of the ABSC Music Department.

The 13-year-old Southern Baptist mission to Upper Volta "desperately needs the prayer support of people at home," Keathley emphasized. She asked special prayer for her student ministry and the congregation affiliated with it.

A graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Keathley felt called to special service at age 12. Before seminary, she served as a Journeyman in Ghana.

can be difficult and frustrating.

"Sometimes the work is not as much fun as it should be," as she puts it. Though she served two years as journeyman in Ghana, another West African nation; she admits it is sometimes hard to know when she is being successful in a culture so radically different from her experience in church youth ministry back in Missouri, where she grew up.

While being a woman generally is not a disadvantage to her ministry in the Voltaic culture, she faces some restrictions. For example, she is not free to visit students at home as a male worker could do.

Despite such normal valleys in her work, two things help provide a continuing zest for her. One is God's call to missions. She has felt that call since age 12. A second is the unshakable belief she is where God wants her.

"I figure the Lord called me here because he thought I was the best one for this place, so I figure I can live with those limitations," she concludes.

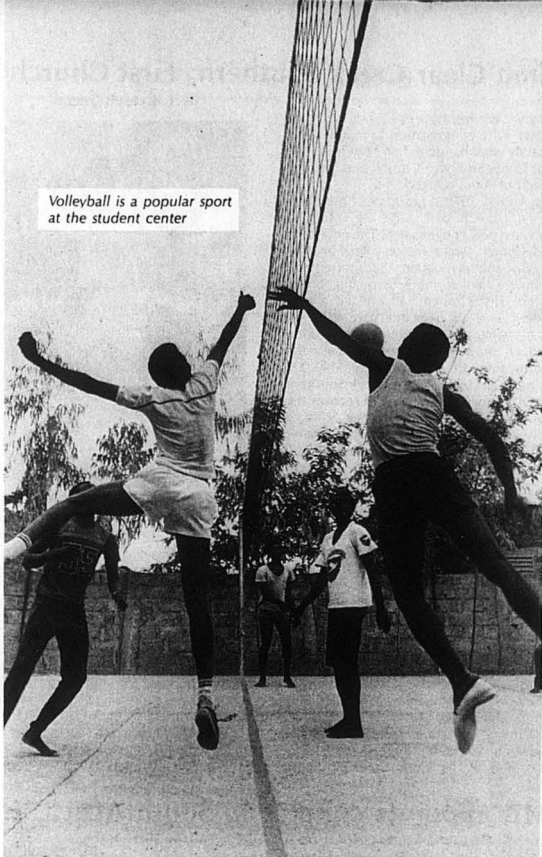
Along with that outlook, she sees her work as vital to future Baptist growth in Upper Volta.

"Ninety-five percent of the Voltaic population is rural, illiterate and speaks many dialects," she points out. "When you work with the students, you're working with the people who will be the leaders. If you can win them to the Lord and they become committed to the Lord and to his church, they can win their own people much more effectively than we ever could. You are reaching the people who are going to mold the country for years to come."

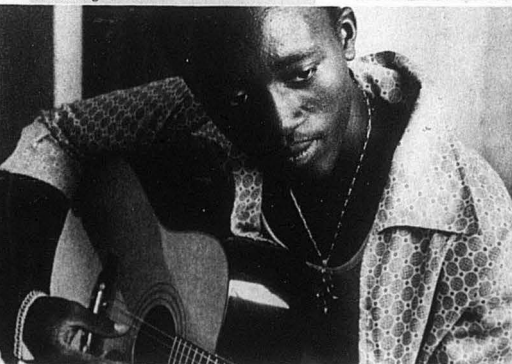
That's why on a campus that is an oasis of hope, missionary Monica Keathley may be the most hopeful of all.

Guitar instruction is one of several classes offered at the student center as avenues of witnessing

Volleyball is a popular sport at the student center



FMB photos / Joanna Pinnco



Since the basic purpose of the center is to reach students for Christ, missionary Monica Keathley says a nearby church was a necessary part of the center's operation.

Alma Clear Creek Southern, First Churches retrace steps, reunite

by J. Everett Sneed

Many churches have split, but it is most unusual for a congregation to reunite. This is exactly what happened on May 30, as the Clear Creek Southern Church and the First Church of Alma merged.

On April 8, 1978, a group of 94 members of First Church met, with 54 voting to organize a new congregation. The new Clear Creek Church, which was organized on April 28, was able to obtain the property in downtown Alma formerly belonging to First Church. First Church had erected a new building on a hill near Interstate 40.

In merging, the two congregations combined all property and assets except the building fund of approximately \$140,000 that was held by the Clear Creek Southern Church. Individuals wishing to recover the amount they contributed to the building fund will have until July 1 of this year, after which the fund will be transferred to the new congregation.

Approximately 270 individuals signed as charter members in the meeting, presided over by Paul Wilhelm, director of missions emeritus of the Clear Creek Association. Others joining before July 1 will also become charter members.

The first item of business in the service, attended by more than 400 people, was the selection of a new name for the church. Though numerous suggestions were made, the secret ballot indicated that the name "First Baptist Church Alma," was overwhelmingly preferred.

The new church unanimously called Billy Kimbrough as pastor, Larry Nelson as director of music and youth and Carol Butcher as church secretary, these having served as staff of the Clear Creek Southern



ABN photo/J. Everett Sneed

Pastor Billy Kimbrough chats with Paul Wilhelm, Clear Creek Association director of missions emeritus, while charter members of the new First Church, Alma, affix their signatures to the documents which reunited the Clear Creek Southern Church and First Church May 30.

Church. The deacons of both congregations will continue to serve the new church.

The new congregation will retain all properties formerly owned by both and will worship on the newer property located on the hill near the interstate. The downtown property will be used for youth activities.

Among those expressing elation and gratitude for the merging of the two congregations were the Director of Missions George Domereso and R.C. Wisner, who had served the old First Church as interim pastor.

The service was closed with an invitation in which two individuals united by transfer of letter and one by profession of faith as a candidate for baptism.

Pastor Billy Kimbrough said, "God has done a great work of grace as he has united these two churches. I believe our future is bright as we follow the leadership of the Lord."

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

FMB appoints couples to South Africa, Ivory Coast

Two couples with Arkansas ties have been appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for service on the African continent.

David and Carol Crutchley and William and Vicki Thomason were among 29 people named missionaries May 22 at Chamberlayne Church, Richmond, Va.

The Crutchleys will work in South Africa, where he will be a teacher and she will be a church and home worker.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, Mrs. Crutchley, the former Carol Fray, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Marion Fray, missionaries to South Africa. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

The Thomasons will work in Ivory Coast, where he will be an agricultural evangelist and she will be a church and home worker.

Born in Morris, Ill., Mrs. Thomason, the former Vicki Brannon, attended Middle Tennessee State University and North Arkansas Community College in Harrison. She has worked as a secretary in Springdale.



David and Carol Crutchley



William and Vicki Thomason

International

God's choice of a leader

by Stanley Daniel, First Church, Van Buren

Basic passage: II Samuel 5-7

Focal passage: II Samuel 5:1-3, 7:8-16

Central truth: It all points to Jesus.

David assumed the throne of Judah at the death of Saul, but it took a bloody civil war to gain him the throne of the Northern Tribes.

This civil war raged intermittently for several years before David's forces gained control when Joab killed Abner and Saul's son, Ishbosheth, was murdered. The Northern tribes sent a great multitude of people to accept David as their king.

The people did not make David king, God did; they could merely accept him. It took them a long time and great trouble before they would do this. We do not make Jesus Lord, God made him Lord. It is our privilege to accept him as our Lord, which we are often reluctant to do. We always suffer when we do not allow him the position he deserves in our lives.

God blessed the reign of David by giving the nation mastery over the land and rest from their enemies. They no longer suffered from periodic invasion of foreign forces; God gave them strength.

God blesses the reign of Jesus in the lives of his church and his people. He gives us victory over the enemy of sin and the rest of knowing that eternal things are settled in the Savior.

God also promised David that his throne should be established forever. While David's descendants did reign for centuries, they were finally overthrown. It was left for Jesus to establish the lasting throne. Luke 1:32, 33 indicates that fact.

Jesus is God's Messiah and needs to be accepted as such in our hearts. His word is the absolute law, not the word of some man regardless of his seeming importance. The authority of King Jesus is not up for debate or vote, it is absolute and we must accept it.

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Life and Work

Experience for growth

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

Basic passage: Luke 4:14-44; 8:41; Matthew 6:2,5; 23:6; John 9:22

Focal passage: Luke 4:15-21, 31-32, 43-44

Central truth: God's word taught and preached, blended with fellowship and service, produces growth.

For the Christian, the worship of God is not an elective (something he may or may not do as his fancy leads). We cannot grow as Christians apart from regular worship of God and fellowship with the family of God. It is true that worship can be offered anywhere and at any time, but it is equally true that those who gibberish talk about worshipping God as well on the golf course as in church usually do not worship at all.

As Jesus grew up, his habit was to go to the synagogue each Sabbath. Established religion in his day was cold, callous, legalistic, and exclusive; yet Jesus participated. He sought to correct what was wrong, but he didn't quit. When in Jerusalem, he went to the Temple. When in the cities and villages, he went to the synagogue.

I have known people who got so pious and self-righteous they thought they were too good for the church. People who get "too spiritual" for the church might be more "spiritual" than Jesus.

This does not suggest, however, that we should not be constantly alert to any necessary changes. We act responsibly only by involving ourselves in worship and service to our Lord. This may include correcting errors and improving ministries in our fellowship (Heb. 10:24-25).

Reading, teaching, and preaching the Word of God has been the strength and strengthening of all of God's people. We cannot neglect the Word of God and grow. We Baptists claim to be a people of the Book. We claim the Bible is God's word, and yet we fail to read, study, and put into practice its precepts.

Power and popularity are often followed closely by skepticism and rejection. Jesus was limited by unbelief in Nazareth.

Steadfastness and consistency evidence growth and maturity. Jesus kept on teaching and preaching the Father's love and message. We are admonished to go into all the world preaching and baptizing, teaching and making disciples unto the end of the age.

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Bible Book

Jonah's flight from God's call

by W. Coy Sample, First Church, Morrilton

Basic passage: Jonah 1:1 to 2:10

Focal passage: Jonah 1:1-4, 9-11; 15 to 2:3, 10

Central truth: God's call cannot be ignored, neither can his summons for service be outdistanced by our disobedience.

One must not allow the controversy over the existence or size of the great fish that swallowed Jonah to detract from the importance of this book. Its lessons include the embracement of all nations by God's love, an illustration of repentance in Jonah, and the Ninevites.

The miraculous element of the book is twofold: (1) the physical, (2) the moral. The physical miracles are the experience of Jonah in the sea and gourd. The moral miracle is the salvation of the Ninevites.

The Assyrians to whom Jonah was sent were a very hard, militaristic people. Jonah knew about their cruelty in battle. Their atrocities would explain Jonah's reluctance to preach to them. They were also idolaters.

What makes Jonah unique is the fact that the book is an account of Jonah's personal experiences, rather than the message that he preached.

From the brief account in II Kings 14:25, one could not conclude that Jonah was willing to preach to his own people but not the people of a foreign land.

Jonah received a "divine call." Without it, no service should be attempted; with it, no service should be ignored. We too should listen for the words of our God and respond like Samuel, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

The call was to a service uncomfortable—the dreaded Ninevites. Jonah fled from God, he surely knew that he could not escape God, so his attempt was to flee from standing before God as a servant. This too is impossible.

God placed Jonah in a circumstance that brought him face-to-face with his disobedience. From the depths of the sea, Jonah remembered. No doubt he remembered God's commands and his rebellion. He must have remembered God's divine mercy, and that gave his soul a ray of hope.

This brought him to prayer. God heard the prophet's cry, though uttered from the ocean's depths. He heard, and he rescued.

If we see to repentance, God sees to our relief. We may receive mercy even as Jonah, but we are saved to serve—the call of service was still there for Jonah. Go to Nineveh!

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Missionaries warned:

'Don't allow controversy to prevent ministry'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A home missions leader warned Christian social ministries missionaries not to allow controversies in the denomination to sidetrack them from the task of meeting human needs in the name of Christ.

M. Wendell Belew, director of the SBC Home Mission Board's missions ministries division, told the missionaries Southern Baptists' attention to meeting needs has been diverted away to arguments about inerrancy and the place of women in ministry.

While controversy about the Bible rages in the Southern Baptist Convention, "the world must look at us in astonishment and God must look at us in despair that after thousands of years of his revelation to us we do not know him well," Belew lamented.

Although he predicted "those who would divide us (Baptists) will fade away," Belew observed convention bickerings would cause difficulty and damage to missions and ministry.

BGCO affirms OBU, constitution

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—A motion to prevent churches which ordain women or practice "speaking in tongues" being seated at annual meetings of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma has been withdrawn.

At the same meeting, directors of the convention expressed their confidence and appreciation of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee in response to recently published charges of "heresy" at the school.

The motion to bar churches from the state convention meeting was introduced last November by Hugo Lindquist, pastor of Bethel Church in Oklahoma City. It was withdrawn on his behalf by Sam Pace, director of missions for the Comanche-Cotton Association in southwest Oklahoma.

Pace then asked that a study committee be named to study all aspects of the constitution to determine if updating was necessary "to reflect the passing of time and doctrinal changes." The motion failed when other directors argued there was no apparent need

"It is much easier to preach at the world than to serve the world, to become a part of the suffering," Belew asserted. "When control does not become as important, then we will discover the great truths of Jesus" regarding Christian ministry.

Christian social ministries is sometimes viewed as secular, said Belew. He added the dichotomy between evangelism and ministry within the SBC still exists, even though some don't want to admit it.

Baptists once believed "the only true good news was that which was preached from a pulpit or a revival tent," said Belew. "The church has re-taken evangelism and preaches that perspective as if it were the only recourse today.

"But Jesus had no problem coupling service and evangelism," Belew noted. He called on Southern Baptists to balance their presentation of the gospel by following not only God's word but God's acts of love and compassion for people.

for changes.

The OBU motion expressed "deep appreciation and excitement for the splendid work going on at OBU," to the university president, Bob R. Agee. The Baptist Messenger said the stand was prompted by "an article in an obscure Georgia publication trying to resurrect a 1979 'heresy' paper published by several disgruntled OBU students."

The paper, the *Southern Baptist Journal*, is published by William Powell and has no official connection with any national, state or associational Southern Baptist organization. Powell said he mailed a copy of his paper to each Baptist church in the state.

The publication claimed nothing had been done about supposed liberals on the faculty and that state convention officials and the Baptist Messenger had conspired to cover up the alleged deficiencies on campus and allowed them to continue.

Agee is writing a letter to all state Baptist pastors answering the five-year-old charges.

WMU relocates national headquarters

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—After almost 33 years at the downtown location, Woman's Missionary Union relocated its national headquarters May 28. The new site at 100 Missionary Ridge, southeast of Birmingham, marks the eighth move for the Southern Baptist auxiliary in its near-100 year history.

The \$8.5 million project includes 24.5 acres of land and a \$6.4 million complex which links an office and conference center, distribution center and auditorium/television center. The white brick and black glass structure covers more than 137,000 square feet and is two and one-half times the size of the former offices.

The additional space enables the current 132 employees to offer new services to the approximately 1.2 million members of WMU. Production and broadcasting of video programming and an increase in the number of publications are among anticipated improvements. Faster channels of distribution and larger on-site conference and meeting areas are also provided.

Sale of the downtown building, WMU savings and a local bank loan have helped meet much of the relocation costs. Individuals and groups have contributed more than \$145,000, although no fund-raising campaign was established.