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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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6-21-1984

**June 21, 1984**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# Do Justice and Love Kindness

(Micah 6:8 RSV)

Christian Citizenship  
Sunday July 1



June 28, 1984

Arkansas Baptist  
NEWSMAGAZINE



Liberty and justice for all, a cherished American dream is symbolized by the Statue of Liberty. During this election year, Christian citizenship, characterized by commitment to doing justice and loving kindness (Micah 6:8) is vitally important.

## "Do justice and love kindness"

By Larry Braidfoot

God requires that we do justice. The prophet Micah tell us: "... and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8, RSV).

Actions for justice cannot be done grudgingly or without the commitment of our whole being. Our commitment must also be done out of a sense of love. We are to love kindness. We cannot approach the doing of justice as an abstract puzzle to be solved with impartiality. God's justice not only involves moral standards for men, women and nations, but requires that our actions related to justice result in kindness toward others.

The words of the prophet cannot be trivialized by restricting them solely to individual actions. The command about justice and kindness was given to the people as a whole, to the nation Israel. Micah's words express God's expectations of all nations.

As Christians citizens we have a responsibility and an opportunity. We have the responsibility to proclaim God's command for our society and for all societies. But we also have a unique opportunity. We live in a time when our nation is in the throes of

indecision and transition. Our nation, with its heritage of compassion for the homeless and the downtrodden, is torn by uncertainty.

Will our nation be both just and kind to its citizens? Will our government truly regard all men as being "created equal"? Is our kindness really reflected in an attitude which our citizens and our nation want expressed through the actions of our government?

There are many among us who need actions of justice and kindness from our government: the poor, the unemployed, the elderly, the sick and the children.

Now is a day of opportunity. We can make the difference.

Christian Citizenship Sunday, set on the denominational calendar for July 1, 1984, is an opportunity for you and your church to emphasize Christian citizenship and to make a commitment to practice Christian citizenship in pursuit of the goals of justice and kindness in our nation. It truly is a day to "do justice and love kindness."

Larry Braidfoot is director of Christian citizenship development for the SBC Christian Life Commission.

## In this issue

### 7 proving a small church can

Needs in a small Northeast Arkansas community sparked a "small" church to do something, and they found a ministry well within their money and people reach.

### 8 more SBC reports

Reporting of the events during and preceding the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at Kansas City continues.

### Correction

On the Editor's page in the June 21 issue, it was incorrectly stated that messengers to the SBC voted on "defunding" the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Technically, the motion was to refer action on the budget line item for the BJCPA to a later session, at which time the amount might be reallocated.

### No issue July 12

Remember, no issue of the ABN the second week of July.

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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23 24 25 26 27 28 29	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30

## Next month in Arkansas

**July 1, Christian Citizenship Day.** Opportunity for Baptists to emphasize Christian citizenship and make a commitment to pursue goals of justice and kindness in the nation.

**July 2-6, Girls in Action camp.** Paron. First of four weeks of missions education camping for girls in grades four through six.

**July 2-7, Arkansas Baptist Assembly,** Siloam Springs. Fourth of seven weeks for Arkansas Baptists to enjoy worship, Bible study and recreation in a place apart.

**July 9-13, Girls in Action/Aceteens camp,** Paron. Second week of missions education camping. Includes girls in grades four through twelve.

**July 9-14, Arkansas Baptist Assembly,** Siloam Springs. Fifth of seven weeks of camping for Arkansas Baptists of all ages.

**July 12, Large church stewardship conference,** Baptist Building, Little Rock. First-ever meeting to provide information for church staff on budget administration, computer use, insurance programs and stewardship methods.

**July 13-14, Girls in Action mother/daughter camp,** Paron. Second of

two overnight missions education camps for GAs in grades one through three and their mothers.

**July 16-20, Girls in Action camp,** Paron. Third of four weeks of camping for girls in grades four through six.

**July 16-21, Arkansas Baptist Assembly,** Siloam Springs. Sixth of seven weeks of camping for Arkansas Baptists of all ages.

**July 19-21, Basic marriage enrichment retreat,** Fairfield Bay. Will provide couples a time away to strengthen skills essential to a quality marriage, under the guidance of leaders certified through Southern Baptists' Family Ministry Department.

**July 23-27, Music Arkansas,** Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia. Conference for youth and adults providing training (voice, instruments and music theory), worship and recreation. Emphasis on vocations this year.

**July 23-27, Girls in Action camp,** Paron. Fourth of four weeks of missions education camping for girls in grades four through six.

**July 23-28, Arkansas Baptist Assembly,** Siloam Springs. Last of seven weeks of camping for Arkansas Baptists of all ages.



Someone has said, "A lifetime of happiness! No man alive could bear it; it would be hell on earth." Although the scripture does not endorse this statement, "happiness," in the contemporary sense of the word, is not promoted in the Bible. The Bible does abound in stressing the quality of life that is experienced by a person who has an eternal relationship with God through Christ. The word that is used to connote the Christian who is firmly abiding in Christ is "joy."

The critics may argue that we have no great cause for joy today. There is continuing turbulence across the world that could, at any time, plunge the entire globe into a nuclear holocaust. There is poverty so dire that a large percentage of the world will go to bed hungry this very evening. There are many who do not have basic necessities such as shelter and clothing. Even in our own country, there is unrest which touches the lives of countless thousands.

The tragic situation of our world today, however, is not a cause for melancholy. The "joy" of the Christian is not based on temporal pleasures but on an abiding relationship with God through Christ. Two truths are clearly taught in the New Testament for the Christian. These are the agony and the ecstasy. The book of Acts tells us of the "the great joy" that appeared here and there among believers who were living in a pagan world. On one occasion after being harassed by a Jewish Council, the scripture says of the believers, "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41). One might think that, rather than threatening them, the council had given them permission to go everywhere telling people about Christ.

Early Christians rejoiced over their persecution for Christ's sake. Paul and Silas sang in jail at midnight symbolizing the incomparable spirit of Christians in that day. Paul was loathed by his countrymen, imprisoned, flogged, shipwrecked and beaten with a rod of iron. Yet, he was able to say, "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

Jesus, en route to the dark and agonizing experience of the way of sorrows, paused briefly with his followers. The weight of an ungodly world was being placed upon his shoulders. It was as if heaven had held the gate while he had his quiet moment with his friends. He told them that things

would get bad. They would be as sheep ravaged by wolves. They would be hunted and hated. But the light glowed upon his face as he said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Later he promised to them, "... your joy no man taketh from you."

How was it possible for Christ to have joy as he faced the cross? How is it possible for modern day Christians to have joy in the face of difficulty? There are but three possible responses. These are: (1) to blame God; (2) to suffer in silence; or (3) to depend upon the indwelling Holy Spirit for joy and victory over the day.

Jesus declared, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Jesus continued by saying, "I have chosen you..." (John 15:16). So the purpose of Christ's ministry was to choose or set apart followers who would possess joy. It is a contradiction for a person to be a gloomy Christian.

We usually think of joy as "a feeling of pleasure produced by a momentary stimulus." The New Testament views life as dependent, not upon external fleeting events, but upon an internal presence. The writer of Hebrews said, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2).

In Galatians 5:22, we learn that joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Hence, joy is ours for the taking through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

This principle should help each Christian in his day-by-day life. Joy is not pleasure. Joy is not predicated upon a person's wealth. Joy is not connected with our power or influence. Joy is not freedom from problems. Circumstances will change but our joy is unchangeable.

Christian joy is freedom from guilt. It is freedom to serve. It is freedom from anxiety. It is the abiding presence of God's love. It is a Christian's right to give himself to God and others. It is our right to belong to the Master and to know the peace that belonging produces.

Joy is the by-product of a life committed to Christ. When a person accepts God's invitation, he gives us love, patience, kindness, goodness, fruitfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God's purpose and destiny for each life is readily available.

# Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 83 NUMBER 25  
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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.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (USPS 031-280) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., Little Rock, AR. Subscription rates are \$6.36 per year (individual), \$5.40 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.00 per year (Group Plan) and \$18.00 per year (foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.



## On the moral scene

John Finn

### \$67.1 million in credit owed to gambling casinos

Atlantic City casinos have been unable to collect \$67.1 million in outstanding debts on more than 10,000 credit accounts since the gambling operation began in 1978. Is this what we want in Garland County?

The staff of the Casino Control Commission did a study and reached the following conclusion:

"Fraud and financial troubles among patrons produced a pervasive credit problem in Atlantic City's gambling halls." This writer believes that casino gambling helped to produce the fraud and brought additional financial troubles to those attempting to gamble themselves out of debt.

The report also said, "Although the casino industry has represented that it does not intend to over-extend credit to its patrons and that it can regulate its credit activity, the study indicates otherwise."

The staff indicated that in reviewing past accounts there appeared to be a number of cases where the casinos acted irresponsibly in issuing credit.

The Casino Control Commission looked at credit accounts opened between Memorial Day weekend in 1978, when Resorts International opened as the city's first gambling hall, and Dec. 31, 1982. In some cases, the casinos issued so much credit that patrons got into financial troubles from which they could not recover, the study found.

New Jersey gambling casinos pay an eight percent tax on the amount of money they win from gamblers, but may write off up to four percent of the win as bad debts. State gambling investigators have complained that as a result of free-wheeling credit practices at the casinos, the state has lost money in revenues levied.

The report gave an example of the credit history of one gambler who could not be located for the collection of past debts. This individual caused one casino to write off \$2,000.

The study showed that the same patron also had caused gambling halls in the

Bahamas and Las Vegas to write off debts. The player, after the debts were written off, began playing with cash and was able to obtain a new line of credit for \$5,000.

In Arkansas, we are in bondage to the alcoholic beverage interests. Money from these interests helps to elect and sustain people in political office. The chains grow tighter and little effort is put forth to apply the proper pressure to break them.

We also are in bondage to the pornography interests. This writer is weary of having elected officials state that "their hands are tied" and they can do little, if anything.

We must not pull the chains of bondage tighter by permitting the gambling interests to put a noose around our necks. The signing of a petition could be the first step toward placing the noose. We, therefore, refuse to sign and urge others to follow our example.

**John Finn is executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas.**



## The Southern accent

Jim E. Tillman

### Proud owners

"Come here and see my new car." Now that's a proud owner! He is proud of the color, the make, the extras, and the status this vehicle brings.

Over 400,000 Arkansas Baptists can proudly say, "Come see our Christian colleges." You own Ouachita and Southern.

This ownership represents over 100 years of quality Christian higher education between the schools. Untold thousands of men and women have found their place of service with lasting influence of OBU and SBC.

"Ownership" means participation in and involvement with these institutions. These schools have been molded by the owners through the years. The end result, to date, is two strong institutions of higher learning with a biblical base.

The investment of millions of dollars through the years is another indication of proud ownership. These resources have built buildings, provided programs, and trained leaders.

The challenge of the future is upon us, and the need for these institutions is even greater. The need for even more involvement by the

owners is critical. In fact, the ownership concept is the key for future excellence.

The benefits of ownership are always an important factor. You must feel you are receiving dividends for your involvement, participation and investment to remain a proud owner.

How many pastors, how many missionaries, how many dedicated lay leaders received part or all of their training at one or both of these Arkansas Baptist schools? Benefits? Yes, the benefits are very evident throughout our state and the world.

As the churches of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention participate in the Cooperative Program, and as individuals make personal investments in the ongoing programs of Southern and Ouachita, the ownership belongs to each of you. We pray you are "proud owners", but even more, we pray our Lord is well pleased with this ministry in his name.

**Jim Tillman is vice president for development at Southern Baptist College.**

### New lesson writer begins

Doug Dickens, pastor of First Church, Hot Springs, begins this week writing the Bible Book series Sunday school lessons in "Lessons for living."

Dickens is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Booneville, he has been pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas.



Dickens

### Air Force Academy BSU offers welcome, help

The Baptist Student Union at the U.S. Air Force Academy is offering incoming appointees a welcome to Colorado Springs. Provided they are sent the arrival date (July 4 or 5), airline, flight number and time, they will meet the appointee at the municipal airport. They also will provide free housing with a local family and meals until time to report to the academy on July 6.

Information should be sent to Dwain Gregory, 2825 Roundtop Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. His phone number is (303)599-9094. (If no answer, call Charles Baldwin at 303-472-0643.)

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

Don Moore

...We can pull together! The gambling menace is advancing on our fair state like a giant prehistoric creature that is impervious to bullets, spears or arrows. Forces and finances outside and inside our state have united with all determination to inject one more dreadful evil



Moore

into our society. Deception, indifference, insensitivity, greed and moral irresponsibility are just a few of the words that most surely characterize the behavior of people who would ask for casino gambling or the lottery, for that matter. Both are facing us with the hope that Arkansas might choose the lesser of the two evils. My conviction is that Arkansas will reject both. Hopefully, they would be rejected so overwhelmingly that this monster would not rear its ugly head for another century.

May I encourage everyone of our Baptist people to stand together and with one voice resoundingly and convincingly say "no" to these forces.

Begin by refusing to sign petitions calling for an amendment to the constitution allowing casino gambling. Second, inform yourself about the evils of gambling and take a firm and vocal stand against it in your business and professional life. Let it be known that you oppose the proposal.

Then, refuse to sign the petitions that call for an election on a state-operated lottery. Can you imagine a state taking advantage of the weakness and depravity of their people when the state exists for the protection of its citizens, rather than the exploitation of them?

It seems that the depravity of man is disgraceful and pitiful enough, without adding to it by the endorsement and encouragement of it through further legalized gambling.

I commend the leadership of our churches in Central and Garland Associations for coming together in such a strong fashion. I believe all of us will do the same as we need to all over the state.

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

## 1984 annual associational meetings

Arkansas Valley	Oct. 22	Lexa
Ashley	Oct. 15-16	Shiloh; Jarvis Chapel
Bartholomew	Oct. 15-16	Immanuel, Warren; Northside, Monticello
Benet	Oct. 15-16	Gum Springs; Siloam Springs
Big Creek	Oct. 18-19	Viola; Enterprise
Black River	Oct. 15-16	Immanuel, Newport; Hoxie
Buckner	Oct. 16-18	Hartford; Parks
Buckville	Sept. 29-30	Rock Springs
Caddo River	Oct. 15-16	Norman; Refuse
Calvary	Oct. 11	Central, Bald Knob
Carey	Oct. 8-9	Hampton, First; Faith, Camden
Caroline	Oct. 16	Ward
Centennial	Oct. 8-9	Aberdeen; Almyra
Central	Oct. 18	Hot Springs, First
Clear Creek	Oct. 16	Webb City, Ozark
Concord	Oct. 15-16	Greenwood
Conway-Perry	Oct. 16-18	Oppelo; Bigelow
Current Gains	Oct. 15-16	Rector; Oak Grove, Pocahontas
Dardanelle-Russellville	Oct. 15-18	London; Plainview; Bakers Creek
Delta	Oct. 15-16	Montrose; Kelso
Faulkner	Oct. 22-23-25	Naylor; Bono; Cadron Ridge
Garland	Oct. 8-9	Harveys Chapel; Jessieville
Greene	Oct. 15-16	Paragould
Harmony	Oct. 15	Matthews Memorial, Pine Bluff
Independence	Oct. 15-18	Floral; Sulphur Rock; West, Batesville
Liberty	Oct. 16	East Main, El Dorado
Little Red River	Oct. 15-16	Quitman
Little River	Oct. 9-10	Ashdown; Ridgeway, Nashville
Mississippi	Oct. 16	Calvary, Blytheville
Mt. Zion	Oct. 15-16	Caraway; Philadelphia
North Arkansas	Oct. 25-26	Northvale, Harrison
North Central	Oct. 8-9	Fairfield Bay; Friendship
North Pulaski	Oct. 15	Baring Cross, North Little Rock
Ouachita	Oct. 8-9	Cherry Hill; DeQueen
Pulaski	Oct. 15-16	Life Line; Otter Creek
Red River	Oct. 11-12	Park Hill, Arkadelphia; Curtis
Rocky Bayou	Oct. 18-19	Evening Shade, Belview; Melbourne
Southwest Arkansas	Oct. 18	Calvary, Hope
Tri-County	Oct. 15	Earle
Trinity	Oct. 8-9	Calvary, Harrisburg; Marked Tree
Washington-Madison	Oct. 15-16	Fayetteville, First
White River	Oct. 15-16	Mt. Home; Yellville

## Cooperating for ministry on the campus

Arkansas Baptists, through their ministry of Baptist Student Union, are working together to minister to students on the college campus and building churchmen (and women) for today and the future.

**Your Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, in cooperation with BSU and state churches, presents a look at student ministry in our issue of July 19.**

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Ross B. Burton** will join the staff of Calvary Church in Little Rock as minister of education. He came to Little Rock



Burton

from Bolivar, Mo., where he served on the staff of First Church. Burton is a graduate of Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, Mo., Southwest University in Bolivar and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is listed in the *Directory of Distinguished Americans*. He did summer mission work for 11 consecutive years, working in Texas, New York, Florida, California, Washington, D. C., the West Indies, Wyoming, Wisconsin and Iowa. He is married to the former Elizabeth Jane Straight of Springdale, a graduate of Southwest Baptist University with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

**Olive N. Jones** of Little Rock died June 20 at age 94 as a result of a fall. Her funeral services were held June 22 in Crowley, La. Mrs. Jones, an active member of Little Rock Second Church, was its oldest member. Survivors include four daughters, Mrs. Blanche Laren of Little Rock; Lucille Brodbeck of Hilton Head Island, S. C.; Yvonne Nice of Lafayette, La.; and Lottie Faulk of Crowley; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and a brother.

**Jim Morrissey** resigned June 17 as pastor of the Whitten Church to move to Waco, Texas.

**Ralph Baker** has joined the staff of Clinton First Church as music/youth director. He came there from Birmingham, Ala., where he was attending Samford University.

**Earl Burks** has resigned as pastor of Anderson Church at Hope.

**James Hensley** has resigned as pastor of the Rocky Mound Church at Fouke.

**Wiley Drake** has resigned as pastor of the Canfield Church.

**Randel Everett** will begin serving July 15 as pastor of Benton First Church. He and his family will move to Benton on Grand Prairie, Texas, where he was serv-

ing as pastor of the Inglewood Church.

**Jerry Creek** will begin serving July 15 as pastor of Central Church at Hot Springs, coming there from Sherman, Texas.

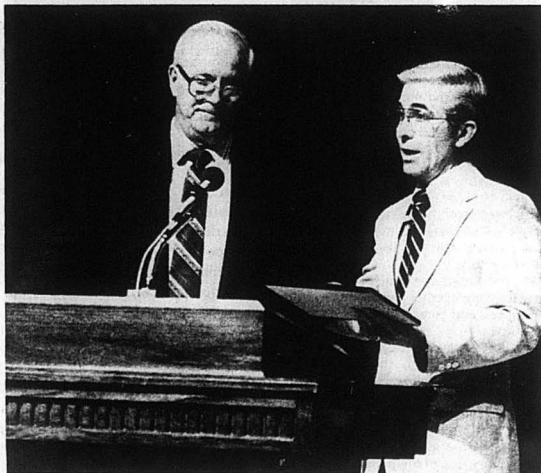
**Mack Davis** is serving as pastor of the Colt Church, coming there from the Brighton Church at Paragould.

**Gary Demmitt** has resigned as youth director at the Martindale Church in Lit-

tle Rock.

**Ronald Moss** is serving as pastor of the Pine Ridge. He will be ordained to the ministry Sept. 9 at the Nunley Church. He attended two Pennsylvania schools, the Bible School of Theology at Hatfield and Faith Bible Institute in Sellersville.

**Lance Massengill** has resigned as pastor of the Oak Church, having served there for 18 months.



Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock was recognized June 20 for its 1983 gift of \$10,000 to world hunger causes. Pastor Paul Sanders (right) was presented a plaque by Bob Parker, representing the World Hunger Committee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, recognizing the church as an outstanding contributor to world hunger causes as reported by the Foreign Mission Board. Sanders praised the congregation for sacrificial giving to both a building fund program and the regular budget which made possible this budgeted gift.

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# Small churches can minister, Lepanto pastor insists

by Mark Kelly

It's fortunate Jim Rawdon doesn't believe everything he reads.

Take, for example, the book that told him a small church can't do any significant community ministries. That didn't sit well at all with Rawdon, the part-time pastor of Calvary Church, Lepanto, a 60-member congregation in this northeast Arkansas community of almost 2,000 residents.

"A little church like ours barely pays the bills," observes Rawdon, a graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "It's hard to do anything besides Sunday school and visitation that shows people we really care."

But the needs in Lepanto demand a demonstration of concern. Census statistics indicate two-thirds of the community's citizens never finished high school; one-fourth live below the poverty line. Twenty percent of the town's homes consist of one person living alone, almost all of them over age 65, according to Rawdon.

For such persons, health care is a primary concern, Rawdon points out, noting that the nearest hospital is 40 miles away in Osceola. The closest county health nurse works out of Marked Tree, 10 miles away.

Rawdon cites the example of an older man in the community who suffers from emphysema. Once a month, a nurse drives in to check his breathing apparatus. The remainder of the month, he receives no medical oversight. Much of the day, he is completely alone at home.

Although publicly-funded medical care is available in the area, many in need are unaware of that fact, Rawdon points out.

To address such needs, Calvary recently hosted a one-day health fair, providing a series of diagnostic tests at little or no cost for health problems ranging from the commonplace (blood pressure, hearing and vision) to the rare (various cancers and blood disorders).

Supported by nine private and public organizations, the church opened its doors one Saturday to receive 71 members of the community who sought the health screenings offered. The church provided only the volunteers necessary for registration and a salad luncheon for the health care professionals who volunteered their services.

A series of 45 similar health fairs had been offered previously in the Memphis area, sponsored by the American Red Cross and Baptist Memorial Hospital. Many of the organizations helping out in Lepanto had been involved in those projects as well.

"Most people go to the doctor for some specific reason, like a cold or the flu," explained Paula Deckelman, a member of Calvary Church who is affiliated with East Arkansas Family Health Center, a federally-funded clinic in Lepanto. "A health fair like this screens people for health problems when there aren't any symptoms yet.



Judy Fox, Arkansas Home Health and Hospice, extracts a blood sample from Fred Courtney of Lepanto for a blood chemistry analysis which screens for 23 different disorders. The analysis, which ordinarily costs \$50 or more at a hospital, was available to Lepanto-area residents for \$8 at a health fair sponsored by Calvary Church, Lepanto. The health fair is intended to help persons spot health problems before they become too serious.

When people have no signs of illness, they often do not seek regular health care, especially if money is tight. Serious illness can often take a person unaware.

Deckelman concurs with Rawdon about awareness. "You'd be surprised how few people actually know we're here," she laments.

During the course of the day, examinations revealed two possible diabetics, three previously undetected breast lumps and one man suffering from an almost total hearing loss—of which he was unaware. All were referred to physicians for further examination.

"The idea is to provide examinations and education for persons, not to take the place of the regular care of a physician," explains Deckelman. "We hope to spot problems that will require a physician's attention before they become too serious."

The idea for the health fair was prompted by a world missions conference held at Calvary in February. Dean Preuett, of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department, spoke to the church about Christian social ministries. More than half of those attending approached him after the service to ask questions.

That show of interest sparked an idea previously suggested to Rawdon—that the congregation host one of the Red Cross/Memorial Hospital health fairs.

Rawdon felt like it was something his church could do to demonstrate their concern for people without overextending their resources.

"People are more motivated by events

than ideas, especially men," Rawdon theorizes. "Give them something to plug into, and they'll respond."

Another project that has attracted attention from the congregation is literacy work, a tutoring program aimed at sixth to eighth grade children to better prepare them for high school—with the hope of reducing the town's dropout rate.

Rawdon is trying to enlist and train 20 people from the church and community, hoping 12 will make a commitment to a literacy mission in Lepanto.

"Small churches can do significant community ministries. You just have to work on a longer time frame so you don't overload people," he adds.

"Any little church can do a health fair," asserts Rawdon. "These resources (state and federally funded health programs) exist in virtually any area.

"This is something we can do that doesn't cost us very much: time, energy and lunch for the workers," he continues. "But it convinces people you are interested in them, along with your visitation or whatever you're doing.

"All people have to be willing to give what God wants them to give most: our selves, time, energy and love," Rawdon concludes. "If we've got those, we can do ministries like these that cost little or no money.

"But people will never sense our concern if we limit ourselves to just giving money. Actions convince people we care."

Mark Kelly is an intern with the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



## Resolutions oppose women's ordination, Vatican ambassador

KANSAS CITY, Mo.(BP)—Messengers to the 127th Southern Baptist Convention overwhelmingly adopted 11 resolutions Thursday, June 14, on a wide range of issues, including opposition to the ordination of women and a U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, while favoring equal access legislation.

SBC President James T. Draper Jr. of Eules, Texas, emphasized that the actions merely represented opinions of the messengers attending this annual meeting of the denomination and are not binding on local Southern Baptist churches.

A strongly-worded resolution opposing ordination of women was passed by a vote of 4,793 to 3,466 after an unsuccessful attempt by Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky., to have the resolution ruled unconstitutional on the grounds it attempted to instruct local churches.

"The conclusion of this resolution tells the local church to exclude certain persons from serving as pastors," said Dehoney. "That is dealing with something that is the affair of the local church entirely. We have the Bible, the Holy Spirit and the free autonomy of local churches in this matter."

Draper's ruling against Dehoney's point of order was challenged by Bill Cox, First Church, Nevada, Mo., but messengers voted to sustain the ruling.

The resolution takes the position that the Bible excludes women from pastoral leadership positions.

"We encourage the service of women in all aspects of church life and work other than pastoral functions and leadership roles entailing ordination," the resolution concludes.

Susan Lockwood Wright, an ordained minister and pastor of Cornell Avenue Church, Chicago, Ill., was on the platform when the resolution was discussed and had sought to speak on a point of personal privilege. She repeated her request when the vote was announced but was turned down on both occasions, she said.

After the session, Wright told Draper that she understood the dilemma of granting personal privileges to messengers but "women feel shut out because there wasn't enough time to discuss" the resolution.

Draper reiterated the non-binding nature of the resolution. "The more we say, the more emotional and complicated the issue becomes," he said, adding that a lack of time was a major factor in refusing to allow Wright to address the messengers.

Earlier, the messengers voted to limit themselves to eight minutes of discussion on each resolution.

Resolutions Committee chairman Bailey Stone of Odessa, Texas, said after the morn-

**Reports on the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in this issue and the June 21 issue were written by Southern Baptist journalists, who covered the convention as volunteers, and ABN staff.**

ing session, "I feel it would be against the intent of the committee and certainly my intent were anyone to use this resolution to withdraw fellowship from any church that happens to believe in ordination of women."

"This was a statement of the convention," Stone emphasized. "It binds no church or association. Please remember the first part of the resolution reaffirms... the authority and autonomy of the local church."

A resolution registering continuing opposition to a U. S. ambassador to the Vatican, authorized earlier this year by Congress at the request of President Ronald Reagan, was adopted virtually unanimously.

An amendment expressing indignation at Reagan's action in initiating the appointment of an ambassador failed after Resolutions Committee member David Simpson, Indianapolis, Ind., said the amendment "car-

ries political overtones we need to avoid."

A resolution supporting equal access legislation to allow students to use school facilities for religious meetings was also passed with little opposition.

Ira Peak, a messenger from Memorial Church, Columbia, Mo., said, "This is an issue on which we must speak definitely and profoundly. Equal access legislation calls on us to allow people free speech in the public schools and not have this right abridged because the voice is a religious voice."

A resolution on secular humanism passed by a wide margin after a failed attempt to have it referred to the SBC Executive Committee for further study.

Bill Blackburn, Trinity Church, Kerrville, Texas, called the resolution "vague, confusing and contradictory." In addition to secular humanism, Blackburn charged the resolution dealt with prayer in public schools, equal access, hedonism, mass media and calls on public schools to teach doctrine.

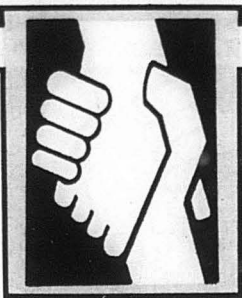
George Schroeder, Resolutions Committee secretary and an ophthalmologist from Little Rock, Ark., said the resolution, "rather than vague, is all-encompassing. It deals with the invasion of humanism into American life."

A third resolution relating to religious liber-



Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Tippett, First Church, Lewisville, like other Arkansas messengers check the convention bulletin for information regarding the second day of the SBC.

ABN photo / Barry J. Kennedy



ty and separation of church and state called for changes in the 1984 Civil Rights Act currently under consideration in Congress in which religious schools and institutions are being defined as "recipients" of federal financial assistance. The resolution asked Congress to redefine the term "recipients" or clearly exempt exclusively religious organizations, religious schools and institutions.

Urging support for the resolution, Richard Land, First Church, Dallas, called the legislation the "greatest federal power grab in the history of the federal government. It would put all private education under federal legislation."

Resolutions condemning alcohol and to-

bacco were adopted with amendments.

A wide-ranging resolution against cigarette smoking urged increased efforts at educating people to the dangers of smoking and asked church leaders to encourage people not to smoke.

Messengers added amendments which encouraged Congress to terminate subsidies to those who plant, grow or sell tobacco products; encouraging Southern Baptist who grow tobacco to cease doing so and switch to another crop; and urging efforts at every level of the denomination "in encouraging people, pastors and SBC leaders to refrain from using tobacco in any form."

The alcohol resolution urged support for raising the minimum drinking age to 21 as well as warning of the dangers of alcohol and drunk driving.

Messengers accepted an amendment from Woodrow Robbins, Balfour Church, Asheville, N. C., asking for a ban on alcohol advertisements especially during athletic contests and urging Congress to put warning labels on all beverage alcohol containers.

A resolution opposing abortion for any purpose except to save the life of the mother and urging the passage of appropriate legisla-

tion and/or a constitutional amendment was adopted. The resolution also urged Southern Baptist institutions to provide counseling and adoption services.

An amendment by Dick Maples, pastor of First Church, Bryan, Texas, that would have broadened the language of the resolution to allow for abortion in cases of rape or incest failed by a vote of 3,494 to 3,316.

The remaining three resolutions voiced strong opposition to legalized gambling, urged increased efforts toward worldwide evangelism and expressed appreciation to the host city, state conventions and officers of the convention.

A total of 30 resolutions were submitted by convention messengers. The committee recommended no action on nine. Six others were not acted upon because they related to issues addressed in recent resolutions.

One resolution was referred to the Foreign Mission Board and 14 were incorporated into seven of the 11 resolutions the committee submitted to the convention.

Resolutions on cigarette smoking, the Civil Rights Act of 1984, worldwide evangelism, and appreciation to the host city were initiated by the committee.

## Messengers affirm opposition to gambling despite Las Vegas site

KANSAS CITY, Mo.(BP)—The 1983 decision by the Southern Baptist Convention to meet in Las Vegas in 1989 may be hurting efforts by Arkansas Baptists to defeat a movement to legalize casino gambling in their state, SBC messengers learned Thursday, June 14.

Doug Dickens, pastor of First Church, Hot Springs, Ark., introduced a forcefully-worded resolution on gambling which was approved unanimously on the closing day of the SBC's annual meeting at Bartle Convention Center.

Dickens, whose church is located across the street from the Oaklawn thoroughbred race track, said he hopes the resolution will counter efforts by pro-gambling forces to use the Las Vegas convention to discredit Arkansas Baptists' opposed to legalization of casino gambling.

In addition to a strong attack on the "moral tragedies wrought by legalized gambling," the resolutions expressed "grave concern" that the decision to meet in Las Vegas has been "unscrupulously twisted... to imply that Southern Baptists are compromising their opposition to gambling."

According to the resolution, the Las Vegas meeting is "an expression of our mission to give support to Baptist work and to share Christ with the people of that area."

In Arkansas, casino supporters have distributed a leaflet which asks how Dickens, who chairs a grassroots movement of Citizens United Against Gambling, and other

Southern Baptists could oppose "legal controlled gaming," and still "justify going to Las Vegas, the gambling center of the world, for their convention."

Leaders of the pro-casino Garland County Lawful Wagering Committee also noted in a recent news conference that the Visitors Bureau in Las Vegas predicts Southern Baptist messengers will spend as much as \$10 million there during the '89 meeting.

The *Arkansas Gazette*, which editorialized against the casino drive, nevertheless "wondered how the 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 wasn't too impressed with the pro-gambling folks' concern for Baptists' money and morals. "Knowing Baptists as I think I do," he said, "Baptists will go to Las Vegas in 1989 with the Ten Commandments in one hand and a \$100 bill in the other. Chances are they won't break either one."

## Executive Committee organizes for 1984-85

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—The 69-member Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention chose three lay persons to lead them in 1984-85 during an organizational meeting here Wednesday, June 13.

They were W. Dewey Presley of Dallas, re-elected chairman; David C. Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., vice chairman, and Mrs.

During last year's SBC meeting in Pittsburgh, messengers debated extensively the Executive Committee's recommendation to go to Las Vegas in '89 before finally adopting the proposal. Supporters argued that going to Las Vegas would provide an opportunity to extend a positive witness to an area where Southern Baptists are few in number.

A motion at the Kansas City convention asking that the SBC Executive Committee be instructed to select an alternate site for the 1989 convention was ruled out of order.

Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Executive Committee, told Baptist Press that if the SBC elected for any reason to rescind its decision to go to Las Vegas, the potential liability to the convention would be "tremendous."

Hedquist said 14 letters of intent have been sent to hotels in Las Vegas and that legal counsel to the Executive Committee has determined that the letters may be considered legitimate legal contracts.

Lois H. Wenger of Orlando, Fla., recording secretary.

Harold C. Bennett of Nashville was named executive secretary-treasurer for a sixth term.

Another feature was the introduction of the nine new members of the committee elected earlier in the week.



Pre-convention round-ups

Forum debuts before near-capacity audience

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—About 2,000 persons attended the premier meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Forum Monday afternoon, June 11, which Duke K. McCall, president of the Baptist World Alliance, described as "the biggest baby ever born in a Southern Baptist Convention setting."

The addition of The Forum brings to nine the number of groups which meet prior to the annual meeting of the denomination. A tenth, the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, meets on Wednesday afternoon during the convention.

Meeting in direct competition with an afternoon session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference which attracted 10,000, organizers labeled the Forum a success and said they will consider plans for another meeting in 1985.

Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N. C., and one of the organizers for the conference, said, "You can come to the Southern Baptist Convention and the pre-meetings and never hear from this side of the house. But there is some magnificent thinking going on inside the minds of some Southern Baptist pastors. They needed a place to speak and now there's the platform."

Speakers addressed a variety of issues facing Southern Baptists, including the role of women in ministry and efforts to make SBC colleges and seminaries take a more conservative line.

WMU 'missions conscience'

More than 2,500 women were challenged at the three-day annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union to continue as the "missions conscience of Southern Baptists" and to attempt missions ventures never tried before.

Foreign and home missionaries and leaders of Southern Baptist Convention mission boards issued stirring challenges backed by flags of the 103 nations where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

The women unanimously elected Dorothy E. Sample of Flint, Mich., to a fourth consecutive term as their president.

Mrs. Sample sized up the Convention theme, "Laborers Together," when she said, "We must do things we've never done before, think thoughts we've never thought before, even fail in ventures we've never attempted before."

"For together we have the potential to transform hopelessness into hope, problems into promise, despair into discovery and liberty into true freedom found only in Jesus Christ."

Southern Baptist missions leaders called WMU "the missions conscience of Southern Baptists and challenged them to help reverse an "erosion" in missions support.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Richmond-based Foreign Mission Board, expressed concern that the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions provides more foreign missions support than the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' main method of undergirding missions work.

"Throughout the Convention, an erosion has taken place in Cooperative Program giving," Parks said. "Except for what you're doing, we'd have to reduce by more than 40 percent what is happening in world missions."

Southern Baptists have about 3,400 foreign missionaries and about 3,792 home missionaries supported through the Cooperative Program and special offerings.

Strong stands urged

Admonitions to take stronger stands against abortion and pornography mingled with words of personal encouragement at the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Crowds estimated at more than 12,000 applauded 11 preachers and inspirational speakers during four sessions of the annual pastors' gathering.

A strongly conservative theme dominated many of the messages and the pastors elected as their new president, O. S. Hawkins, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., pastor described by former president Adrian Rogers

as "straight as an arrow theologically."

Along with advice on how to be more loving parents, better stewards of their money and more effective proclaimers of the gospel, pastors got tips on how to deal with stress and how to cope with the temptation to quit when the going gets rough.

The anti-abortion thrust was spearheaded by a Presbyterian filmmaker, Franky Schaefer of Los Altos, Calif., who received standing applause after urging Southern Baptists to lead out in the fight against abortion and to "defend your theology." Zig Ziglar, a motivation specialist from Dallas, urged Southern Baptists to consider boycotting convenience stores that sell pornographic magazines.

In addition to Hawkins, the pastors elected Robert Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Church, Morganton, N. C., as vice-president, and had to divide the secretary-treasurer job because it couldn't give a conclusive vote between the two nominees.

Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Church, Omaha, Neb., was named secretary, and Tom Melzoni Sr., pastor of Miami Shores Church, Dayton, Ohio, was designated treasurer.



Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference officers for 1984-85 are (l to r) O.S. Hawkins, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Robert Tenery, Morganton, N.C.; Calvin Miller, Omaha, Neb.; and Tom Melzoni Sr., Dayton, Ohio.

SBC photo / David Hayward

### 'Pursue God's call'

Opposition to women in ministry can be expected but it will not deter Southern Baptist women from pursuing God's call to vocational ministry, a Southern Baptist woman pastor said Saturday, June 10.

Lynda Weaver-Williams, co-pastor of Goshen Church in Goshen, Ky., told more than 125 Southern Baptist men and women that opposition to women in professional ministerial roles has reached an all-time high in the Southern Baptist Convention and that SBC woman ministers could expect further opposition during the 127th annual meeting of the denomination.

But attempts to thwart increased opportunities for women ministers in SBC life do not lessen women's responsibilities to answer God's call to vocational ministry, Weaver-Williams reminded them.

"As Southern Baptist women and men, we have always depended upon God's calling as the criterion for ministry," she recalled. "We are not called for our choice personalities, abilities or talents. We are chosen by God's good grace."

About 180 people registered for this year's meeting, more than twice the number of the group's first meeting last year in Pittsburgh.

The doubled attendance, contended Anne Davis, dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., makes the meeting "by any Baptist standard a success."

Following a year of financial struggle, Anne Neal, chairperson of the Women in Ministry,

SBC, steering committee, announced that Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, intends to include Women in Ministry, S.B.C. as a line item in their 1985 budget. WMU also allowed the fledgling group to use its meeting facilities at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel during off-hours of their own pre-SBC meeting.

### Evangelists' rebound

More than 2,500 Southern Baptist pastors and evangelists turned out Wednesday, June 13, for an evangelism conference that almost never happened.

They were challenged to become true men of God, to not become "castaways" in the Lord's ministry and to develop ministries that will be known for the integrity of their motives, sound management of their abilities and an intensity for the cause of Christ.

The inspirational meeting was sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists—an organization that one year ago was ready to disband and merge with the annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"One year ago, our conference was in the intensive care ward," said the newly elected president of the conference, Mike Gilchrist of Shreveport, La. At that time, the evangelists were financially strapped and morale was low, he said.

With assistance from the evangelism division of the Home Mission Board with the strong support of Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy Draper, the conference leaders worked throughout the year to rebuild the organization.

In response to those efforts, Southern Bap-

tist pastors and evangelists packed the Music Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center to hear sermons by evangelists Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala., and Ron Dunn of Irving, Texas, and former SBC president Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn. The sermons were peppered with applause, "amen's" and shouts of "Preach it, brother!" throughout the conference.

They also elected officers for 1984-85. Among those elected were Gilchrist, president; Rick Ingel, evangelist from Denton, Texas, vice president; and Larry Taylor, evangelist from San Antonio, Texas, to a second term as secretary-treasurer.

Sam Cathey, evangelist from Hot Springs, Ark., was elected parliamentarian.

### 'Paint life's rainbow'

The only guarantee people have in life is what they have committed to God, William H. Hinson, pastor of First Church, New Orleans, told the Southern Baptist Association Directors' Conference.

Hinson led a three-part motivational seminar during the directors of missions' conference June 10-11.

"What has happened to what happened to you?" Hinson asked the group, adding each person must decide how life's experiences will shape his or her personality. "We can pick up the brush God has given us and literally paint life's rainbow."

James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, emphasized the important link between missions involvement and the association. He said the local association's role matches a national trend of decentralization.

"If the metropolitan area or county where

## Ministers' wives honor Minette Drumwright

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Almost 520 ministers' wives from across the Southern Baptist Convention honored one of their own here Tuesday, June 12, at the 29th annual Conference of Ministers' Wives luncheon.

The naming of Mrs. Minette Drumwright as recipient of the Mrs. J. M. Dawson award was a highlight of this year's luncheon.

"I consider this a tribute to the minister whose life I shared for 31 years. Ours was a partnership of oneness at every level of ministry," Drumwright said.

Her husband, the late Huber L. Drumwright Jr., was executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, dean of the school of theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a former pastor.

Mrs. Drumwright is assistant to the executive vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

The Mrs. J. M. Dawson award, presented

only five other times, is given to a minister's wife who has made a distinct denominational contribution.

Mrs. Drumwright has served as a member of the board of trustees of several Southern Baptist agencies, including the Home Mission Board. She is a former president of Texas Woman's Missionary Union.

"We really do believe our strongest partners are ministers' wives. We're especially proud they've recognized one like Minette Drumwright, who has also made so many contributions to WMU," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union.

Officers for 1986 were presented at the luncheon. They are Mrs. Russell Dilday, Fort Worth, Texas, president; Mrs. Peter Rhea Jones, Atlanta, Ga., vice-president; Mrs. Ray Rust, Columbia, S. C., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. William Hinson, New Orleans, La., corresponding secretary.



ABN photo/Mark Kelly

Sam Cathey, evangelist from Hot Springs, rose to challenge a handout being circulated which detailed Cooperative Program gifts for churches to which a sampling of the nominees to SBC boards belonged.



you are is ever going to be evangelized, it will be through you," Smith reminded the directors.

Associational directors of missions have traded in their traditional roles as program promoters for the SBC and are becoming mission strategists. James Lewis Jr., director of the associational missions division of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, reported.

"The association is at the heart of Southern Baptist life," Lewis said. "It has the potential for being the most relevant organization in our denomination."

Among four men who received 30-year service certificates was Charles D. Conner, director of missions for Red River Association, Arkadelphia, Ark.

## Educators seek director

The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association took steps toward hiring its first executive director and its members were challenged to look at the past, present and future as primary ways of doing religious education during its 29th annual session.

During the two-day session, the SBREA authorized its board of directors to seek special funding for a part-time executive director and then voted to name veteran Southern Baptist religious educator Elaine Dickson to fill the post on a one-year contract basis as soon as funding is secured.

Dickson, an executive at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., until last year, is currently head of Life Transitions, Inc. The Brentwood, Tenn., organization, she said, assists groups and individuals in managing change and growth through consultation and training services.

## Challenges of campus ministry

College ministers are facing some of their most tension-filled times ever as they struggle against modern-day societal values while developing their own Christian marriages and ministering to college students who are considering marriage.

These tensions, problems and issues were developed in detail at the annual two-day meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers which ended Monday, June 11.

Theme of the meeting was "Our Bold Mission: Ministering Competently and Maintaining Personally Christian Marriages on Campus."

John Howell, professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, encouraged the college ministers to be wary of the male-dominated model of marriage as they counsel and minister to students considering marriage. Such a model of marriage only encourages male domination and female submissiveness which often leads to disharmony and destruction of marriages, he said.

Howell advocated a "companionship model" of marriage in which couples are encouraged to respect and nurture each other.

Couples can have harmony in their marriages when they share similar attitudes toward life; when they blend their unique contributions within the marriage; when they create an atmosphere in which intimacy can grow; and when they create an atmosphere of mutual need-meeting, he said.

## Worship emphasized

Musicians attending the two-day 28th annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference heard an array of concerts and were called to a new excellence in their role as leaders of worship.

Fes Robertson, president of the conference, urged the Southern Baptist Convention to take advantage of the skills of musicians by placing them on boards and committees of the denomination.

"I think our convention would be richer to include ministers of music and ministers of education with pastors and laymen on the boards and committees of agencies and the convention," Robertson said. He estimated that only two percent of the members of boards and committees are composed of ministers of music.

Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Church, Omaha, Neb., addressed the musicians in two sessions concerning worship. He called for a new excellence in worship in Southern Baptist churches, where members need to have their tastes of worship upgraded and expectations increased.

"If we practice false and plastic gospel, God's Holy Spirit will not attend the services no matter how they look," Miller said. "We can't have the Holy Spirit in worship where integrity is missing."

In the final address to musicians at First Church, Raytown, Mo., Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, examined some of the characteristics common to people who gather to worship in Baptist churches.

"When people gather to worship, they bring the burdens and wounds of sinful nature and the cares and needs of this

world," Elder said. "These people depend on their worship leaders with an expectation that those who stand before them have stood before God."

Elder said the musicians have a responsibility to lead worship so it makes a difference by encouraging church members who scatter into the world after the services.

## 'Sort of dumb'

Southern Baptist "liberals that like to be called moderates" were described as "sort of dumb" and accused of "devising a split to maintain control of the Southern Baptist Convention" at a pre-convention meeting of conservatives.

The conference, sponsored by Red Bridge Church, Kansas City, featured leaders of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, an organization of conservative Baptists formed in 1973.

Malone Cochran, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Jonesboro, Ga., and chairman of the executive committee of Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, said "the liberals around our convention that like to be called moderates, but are really liberals, say we don't need creeds."

"They're sort of dumb because a creed is just what you believe. I finally realized they really don't believe anything."

Cochran argued the SBC is turning away from the Bible and preached on upholding the inerrant word of God.

"Southern Baptists today can believe anything or nothing at all because we have so twisted the idea of the priesthood of believers around we believe we can interpret God's word according to our own whims rather than within its own context."

## Midwestern alumni recognize Arkansan

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—More than 800 persons attended the annual meeting of the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni association, an outdoor barbecue picnic held on the seminary campus.

Robert L. Perry, director of missions, Clay-Platte Association, Kansas City, was installed as national president. Michael D. Brown, South Milwaukee, Wis., was named president-elect.

Receiving an alumnus of the year award was Billy L. Bullington, associate area direc-

tor for West Africa, Foreign Mission Board.

An Arkansan native, Bullington is three times a graduate of Midwestern, earning the M. Div., 1962; M. Th., 1971; and D. Min., 1979. Before his missionary appointment, Bullington pastored churches in Arkansas and Missouri. He and his wife, Evelyn, were appointed to Togo, West Africa, in 1966. In 1973-74, Bullington was an adjunct professor of missions at Midwestern. In his present role, he is a liaison between missionaries in French-speaking West Africa and the FMB.



## International

### *Sowing seeds of destruction*

by Stanley Daniel, First Church, Van Buren  
 Basic passage: I Kings 9:1-11:13

Focal passage: I Kings 9:1-7, 11:9-12

**Central truth:** The destructive power of disobedience.

David's long and fruitful reign was coming to a close. Growing weaker by the day, David made arrangements for Zadok, the priest, and Nathan, the prophet, to anoint Solomon king in his place. The path to the throne for David was paved with struggle and adversity. These experiences in his life gave David a strength and insight that he needed for the difficult days ahead. He learned to depend on God, to appreciate hard work and hardship. He came to recognize the value of the good things of life.

Solomon did not have the advantage of adversity that his father had. The throne was handed to him along with the great power and advantages that were naturally attendant to it. Struggle and toil often build character. Churches and individual Christians often grow lax in their discipline when things come easily.

Solomon was handsome, rich and wise. God blessed him with a special gift of wisdom. He became the most important man in the Middle East. God allowed him to build a great palace, and a great temple, which God blessed with his personal presence. God promised Solomon that, as long as he walked in his ways, he would prosper, but if he or his children departed from that, the kingdom would be given to another.

Solomon made a fatal mistake. He allowed his heart to be turned aside by too many wives and too many gods, so that he no longer obeyed God.

God's people, like Solomon, have been given many gifts and privileges, and many responsibilities. We must not let wealth, or buildings or debate, keep us from obeying God's directives to us. What great opportunities Southern Baptists have now! We must not allow anything to turn our hearts from worshipping God and reaching people. We, too, will feel the wrath of the heavy hand of God if we refuse to accept and fulfill our directive from him.

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## Life and Work

### *God and Caesar*

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

Basic passage: Matthew 22:15-22; 5:38-41; Luke 13:31-33

Focal passage: Matthew 22:15-21; 5:41; Luke 13:31-33

**Central truth:** Christians are responsible to both God and government.

In God's economy, there is never any confusion about authority. God is a person of order and has established units of responsibility that are meant to mesh like synchronized gears. God and government are to be like this. God's laws and government's authority are from a common source: God.

The Pharisees and the Herodians sought to ensnare Jesus by a trick question. They asked, "Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?" If Jesus answered, "yes," the people would react, for they hated the Roman government. If Jesus answered, "no," then he would have been subject to arrest by the Roman authorities.

Jesus did not allow himself to be tricked. He knew governments were ordained by God and their tenure was controlled by God. Jesus requested a coin and asked them, "Whose is this image and superscription?" The emperor minted and circulated coins bearing his image. The coins belonged to him. If he requested their return, the people should give back what belonged to him.

But they must give back to God what belongs to him. Remember whose image you bear. Each of us bears God's image, and God wants each of us to give back what belongs to him.

Jesus pointed out there are duties to God and to the state. These duties ought not to conflict, so that whatever makes one a good Christian will also make him a good citizen.

Christians are not anarchists. Government is a part of God's plan. However, Paul's statement, "For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God," should not be pushed to the point that the state can do no wrong. Neither do I think that Paul's statement, "Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation", means citizens cannot seek to change a government that has ceased to be God's servant and has become Satan's.

Government is God's minister. God will Christians should cooperate with other citizens in the accomplishment of his purposes.

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## Bible Book

### *God's great salvation*

by Doug Dickens, First Church, Hot Springs  
 Basic passage: I Peter 1:1-12

Focal passage: I Peter 1:1,3-12

**Central truth:** God's salvation makes us special through a living hope, a promised inheritance, and a power for living.

There are certain books that are special because they offer hope in times of stress and distress. I Peter is one of these books (along with Hebrews and Revelation) in our New Testament. The key note of this book is "encouragement," and the Apostle encourages Christians to triumphantly endure and conquer through Christ-like conduct and character. The reality of suffering recurs some 16 times, described with at least seven different words.

In these 12 verses, the church is identified as a special people and our salvation as a great gift. The people of God are unusual in three ways: (1) We are a select people (elect, destined, v. 2) around which God "draws his circle" of ownership. (2) We are a scattered people (exiles of the dispersions, v. 1). Have you ever noticed that through the crises and choices of life God moves us beyond the security of church and home to be his people in strange places and situations around the world? It's easy to be a Christian at home. (3) We are a people with special gifts (grace, peace, v. 2; living hope, v. 3). God doesn't ask us to live under stressful circumstances without giving us unique gifts. ("Grace" means "gift.")

We are not only a special people who have been "born anew," by the power of God. This salvation God provides "blesses" us in several ways: (1) It gives us a living hope (v. 3) because God proved his power by raising Jesus from the middle of death. (2) It is an eternal inheritance (v. 4) which, unlike that of the late Howard Hughes with his multi-billion dollar inheritance, cannot be ravaged, spoiled, or even touched by death. (3) This salvation is also great because it makes available to us God's power, which guards us through faith until he opens all of his story to us (v. 5). (4) Ultimately this salvation allows us to sing in suffering (vv. 6-9). It's a great salvation, worth taking seriously because people past and unseen stand amazed (v. 10-12). When you study this lesson, note how this great salvation is viewed as rooted in a past act, a present experience, and a future fulfillment.

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# Your state convention at work

## Missions

### New work and the Bible

One of the goals of Bold Mission Trust is to "give every person the opportunity to be a part of the fellowship and ministry of a New Testament body of believers."



Tidsworth

Have you wondered who came up with that idea? I am not sure who put it in those exact words, but the basis for this concept is from Scripture. Jesus said "...upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus started the church. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) not only says to make disciples and baptize, but believers are to be taught to observe, all that Jesus commanded. The church continues to make disciples after the revival is over and the evangelist has gone. The church baptizes people. The church helps people learn, grow, and serve. The church is God's plan for carrying out the commission. No one has come up with a better system—nor dare we try!

Christianity spread by new churches starting in Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonica, Caesarea, etc. The gospel crossed barriers as new churches were started that included new groups of people. The church at Antioch had Greek (Gentile) members as well as Jewish. In my understanding new work is not just a 'denominational program.' It springs from scriptural teaching and example.

The mandate seems to be from God for Southern Baptists of Arkansas to do our best to give every person in this state an urgent opportunity to be part of a New Testament congregation. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., director, church extension**

### Family and Child Care Services Ninety years of caring

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Ministry. The name has changed and the services have expanded, but caring for children has remained our first concern.

Because of the concern, dedication and generosity of Arkansas Baptists, we have been able to meet the crucial needs of thousands of hurting children and families for the past 90 years.

We are grateful for the caring spirit of Arkansas Baptists who have historically supported our child care ministry with prayerful concern and financial resources. Ninety years of caring represents your reaching out to heal the hurts of children who needed care because of neglect,

abuse, abandonment or family conflict.

Many individuals throughout the state have responded generously each year to meet the needs of our children through the sponsorship program. You have provided clothes, allowance, special needs, education needs, religious education needs, and summer camp.

For our 90th birthday let me invite your Sunday School department to share in our celebration by joining our Birthday Club. Many departments already remember their members by encouraging them to give a birthday offering. — **John A. Ross, director of development**

### Christian Life Council A son named Hen

When I recently read the fourteenth verse of Zechariah, chapter 6, Johnny Cash's song *A Boy Named Sue* came into mind. Obviously the name Hen meant something other than poultry to the ancient Hebrew parents who named him. We do know that this is one name from the Bible not given sons or daughters of our day. There is something in a name.



Parker

Christians were first called Christians in Antioch of Syria. The reason was that they acted like Jesus. It was a name they could identify with if they were really followers of Jesus.

Many pressures and circumstances needing decisions and action are being thrust upon Christians in our day. Regardless of family name, there is a serious need to seek the mind of Christ regarding many issues. Just a few are as follows: the gambling threat, the devious problem of alcoholic beverages, pornography, incest, abortion, people abuse, poverty and many others.

Though a name may sometimes appear ridiculous, never is that name which is above all others. Bear his name proudly because he lives in our hearts and is reflected in our living and decisions. — **Bob Parker, director**

### Stewardship Which one is best?

Professional fund raisers and companies, when they offer their goods or services, are in the money-making business. When they advertise in religious publications and direct mail-outlets, they ask for customers. These companies offer many options, innovative ideas and attractive materials that produce results in the offering plates.

Southern Baptists, through the Steward-

ship Commission, offer churches the best in budget promotion programs. These have been tested in the churches. Programs are available for a church that averages 25 in attendance or one that reaches 5,000 people weekly.

The Basic Budgeting packet is designed especially for churches that have had little or no experience in budgeting. The program isn't complex, but it does offer a challenge. Churches with bi-vocational pastors will find this program helpful. It doesn't eat up the church calendar. Four or five hundred churches in Arkansas could use this budget promotion program. Contact the Stewardship Department for materials.

Other budget programs offered by the Stewardship Commission include: The Tither's Commitment Program, The Stewardship Revival, Growth in Christian Stewardship, Committed to Ministries, and the tried and proved Forward Program.

Some of these programs call for one- or two-Sunday emphasis while the Forward Program is a five-Sunday campaign. All programs are true to Biblical principles of stewardship. Information and materials on all programs are available from the Stewardship Department. — **James A. Walker, director**

### Woman's Missionary Union Grow a missionary

A missionary closed her family's newsletter with a P.S. that said, "GA camp is special to me because it is where God called me to mission service." Many missionaries have shared that it was their personal contact with missionaries at GA camp that helped plant that missions involvement interest. Home and foreign missionaries at GA Camp participate in the total camp program. In addition to their speaking times, camp missionaries share God's call to salvation and service with campers in one on one settings. This helps the camper to see that God can call and use those who are willing, even GAs.

Campers meet missionaries, have Bible study, worship, and learn about the Southern Baptist method of supporting missions. Swimming, crafts, nature, olympics, GA missions competition and Christmas in July are some of the other camp activities. A trained staff supervises all areas of the camping program.

The dates for GA Camp are July 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27. Girls finished 3rd-6th grades are invited to participate. Acteens Camp is July 9-13 for girls finished 7th-12th grades. GA/Acteens Camp is held at Camp Paron.

The camp missionaries will be Ginny Powers, Taiwan; Janet Herbert, El Paso, Texas; Gerry Odom, Taiwan; Nancy Bryant, Jordan; Julia Garner, Malawi.



Plant some missions involvement interest in a girl's life by encouraging her to attend a week of GA/Aceteens Camp. Contact the state WMU office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas for information. — **Pat Glascock, GA/Mission Friends director**

### Evangelism

## A summer event for youth

The 1984 Youth Evangelism Conference will be held in two locations, Aug. 6-7 at Second Church, Hot Springs and Aug. 7-8 at First Church, Harrison.



Kent

The program personalities are outstanding. Jim Dickson, Arkansas native and full-time evangelist and ventriloquist, will speak at both locations. We hope that the conference will introduce Jim to our churches. Rick Caldwell and David Burton will be our featured speakers the second day in the Hot Springs meeting. Luke Flesher will be the Bible teacher at Hot Springs. Eddie Graber will be teaching at Harrison.

Our musicians include Bill and Ivy Jean Sky-Eagle, full time music evangelists of Texas. We are also featuring Yo Yo Collins from Oklahoma. Yo Yo was involved in a diving accident in 1977 on the Illinois River. Brian Kinder, a full-time music evangelist, will be at both locations. Weston and Davis will be helping in Hot Springs on the second day of the meeting there.

Two moving testimonies will be given this year. Dale Perry of Fort Smith and Jerry Shepherd from Kentucky will be coming and sharing what God has done in their own lives.

Please make an all-out effort to bring lost young people to the meeting. Mark your calendar and pray for the Youth Evangelism Conference. — **Wes Kent, associate**

### Shelter needs director

Employment for a Christian couple to serve as houseparents for emergency receiving home in North Little Rock, ministering to children, infant through 12 years of age, includes:

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- Salary, fringe benefits and support group.
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For details about our ministry, call 376-4791, ext. 5119, or write to **Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care Services, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.**



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## Large Church Stewardship Conference

Baptist Building, Little Rock

July 12

9:30 a.m.

### Helpful information on:

- Ministry action budgeting
- Funding building projects
- Mission support
- Budget administration
- Computer use
- Insurance programs

Annuity/Stewardship Department

## Weekday Early Education Workshop

August 2

(sessions 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.)

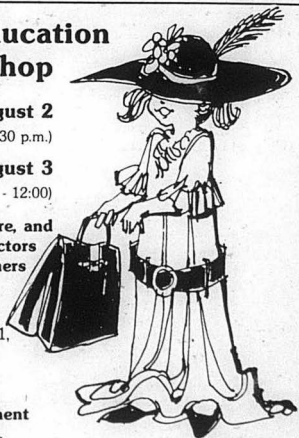
August 3

(sessions 8:30 a.m. - 12:00)

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## Simultaneous revivals could win 600,000

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptists can baptize a record 600,000 people in 1986 if 90 percent of the churches join in simultaneous revivals with commitment to personal soul-winning, according to SBC Home Mission Board Evangelism Director Bob Hamblen.

Hamblen met in Dallas with Texas Baptist Evangelism Director Carlos McLeod and pastors of a dozen large churches from across the state to help lay the groundwork for the 1986 "Good News America, God Loves You," simultaneous revivals.

Hamblen told the pastors that Southern Baptists had about half as many church members in the early 1950s as they do now. "But they baptized 396,000 in one year. Last year, we baptized just over 394,000."

One reason the churches baptized so many people 30 years ago was simultaneous revivals all over America, said Hamblen.

The evangelism leader said he is amazed in his travels across the country to hear peo-

ple say, "The day of revivals is over."

"The day of revivals will never be over 'til Jesus comes back," said Hamblen.

Hamblen said he sees "a real moving of the Holy Spirit for revival in America. There is a great hunger all over America to come back to God.

"We can't print materials fast enough to meet the demand..."

Evangelism is not just knocking on doors, but knocking on doors and telling them what Jesus has done and giving them an invitation to receive him as savior, said Hamblen. "Unless we present the gospel and ask them to accept Jesus, it's not evangelism."

W. Winfred Moore, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, urged pastors to lead people to "pray as earnestly as we can for the simultaneous revivals."

McLeod urged the pastors to lead out by contacting other churches and seeking to enlist them in simultaneous revivals.

## Korean Christian ranks grow at explosive rate

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—It was a familiar scene: more than one million people jammed the streets in May to greet Pope John Paul II when he toured Seoul.

But there was more at work than the pontiff's personality. As Korean Catholics celebrate two centuries of existence and the nation's Protestants observe 100 years of work in 1984, they behold one of the fastest growing Christian communities on earth.

South Korea now reports more than nine million Christians, about a fourth of the population. That represents 900 percent growth since 1950. By 2000, claim some observers, the total could double.

The famous Full Gospel Central Church in Seoul counts a staggering 370,000 members, the world's largest congregation. Baptists can point to smaller but no less exciting success stories. Yoido Baptist Church in Seoul, for example, began with 18 members in 1972 and now has more than 3,000. Almost anywhere a church begins, it grows.

By late 1983, Baptists were approaching 900 churches with 60,000 baptized believers and some 200,000 regular attenders. They aim for 2,000 churches by 1990. Working with them are 113 Southern Baptist missionaries promoting (and struggling to keep up with) the growth.

Evangelical leaders around the world know how fast Korean Christians are growing. They want to know why—especially leaders in less responsive Asian countries like Japan. What's behind the Korean boom?

"The obvious answer is the Holy Spirit," says Southern Baptist missionary Milton Womack, an associate to the Foreign Mission Board's director for East Asia. He believes the country is experiencing an ongoing spiritual revival that is part of God's plan and cannot be explained in nonspiritual terms. But Womack and other observers see other factors that have profoundly influenc-

ed the development of Christianity as a national force.

For one thing, China and Japan have dominated the Korean Peninsula for centuries, often using it as a staging ground for military assaults on each other. The Korean War tragically divided the peninsula and countless families.

Koreans have suffered long and deeply, but their struggle with the wider world has made them open to outside influences. Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Christianity all entered Korea from without.

"They're willing to attempt new things; they're not as tradition-bound," explains Womack. "The first Christians in Korea were Koreans. (They) went to China and had contact with a Catholic priest and came back as Christians and shared the gospel." Missionaries came later.

Womack also sees Koreans as "bold and outgoing," even emotional, in contrast to their traditionally reserved Chinese and Japanese neighbors.

Koreans responded to Protestant missionaries of the 19th Century, who generally taught self-support and self-government for churches and encouraged national independence.

Two other factors have built the Korean church: martyrs and prayer. Hundreds of priests, pastors and believers have paid for their faith with their lives—under the old Korean royal dynasty, under the Japanese and under communism.

In South Korea today, perhaps one million Christians from all denominations gather in churches every morning as early as 4 a.m., to pray. Many sponsor all-night prayer meetings on Fridays. The practice, according to Baptist leader Stephen No, is "not easy either for pastor or people, but Korean churches are never lazy about their prayer meetings."