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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Building to be proposed
to state convention
page 7, page 12

October 14, 1976
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE





I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

Is God a tenant?

Any serious attempt to present the whole gospel to the whole world demands a whole new pattern of thought and computation. To present the whole counsel of God to a whole village is one thing, global evangelism is quite another. People of lesser mission orientation will be terrified by things which more enlightened, more invisioned, more committed people take in stride as purely routine procedures. Such people can build and pay for anything God wants with the same amount of energy others squander in opposition and fear.

Baptists have been thrust into the number one position as the largest, most evangelistic group in Arkansas. We are now in the Big League whether we like it or not. Our leadership is now setting the pace, norm and ideal which many of our fellow Christian groups are watching closely. As number one we have no choice but to hold the point position in the advance patrol.

Baptists have always provided their working quarters, whether it be a church plant, associational office, assembly place or their administrative offices. Baptists do not fare well as tenants nor do we voluntarily work our way into a situation where we are sitting on the door step of someone else with our hat in hand. We like the clean, pure, rare air which surrounds prime leadership and there is no option but to furnish it cheerfully as well as courageously.

Baptists will arrange for their needs because of their pride in their victories and because their witness is inextricably tied into their business integrity and responsibility. We are good business people and we are in big business.

We will now face our new needs in the same customary fashion we have faced all others. We will never place our Lord who is the Lord of creation, the Lord of life and the Lord of all Baptists, in the position of a tenant whose lease may be canceled by an earthly landlord. He who owns the vast universe is entitled to be the Lord of his own business establishment. There is no shortage of funds.

More is expected of those whom God has thrust into the number one position. Any weakness at the point of this divine mandate jeopardizes all the units of God's kingdom. Ancient Israel did not rise to God's dream as the number one people and the world was worse because of it. Our only defeat can come by default, and that must never be, so help us God!

I must say it!

In this issue

State convention special issue:

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The story behind the cover is a proposal to be presented to the state convention. Arkansas Baptists will be asked to approve a \$3,650,000 building to be built on the Baptist Building parking lot.

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Because Baptists believe that human freedom goes hand-in-hand with religious liberty, they should find out the positions of presidential candidates on personal freedom issues. The suggestion comes from Welton Gaddy in an article about Christians as informed voters.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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Salvation is forever

Baptists are sometimes accused of believing that a person can be a Christian and willfully commit sin without losing their salvation. Those making this accusation may phrase it "If I were a Baptist, I would just get saved and live like the devil." It is true that when one is saved the relationship is eternal. But it is also true that salvation changes a person's basic desires.

Those insisting that Baptists have a weak doctrine of sin have completely misunderstood the doctrine of salvation. Salvation is an encounter with the living Christ in which a person accepts the invitation of the Holy Spirit to have his whole life changed. The experience produces a change just as radical as does the first or physical birth. A person is controlled just as much by the spiritual birth as they are by the natural birth.

It is probable that we, as Baptists, have over reacted by leaving the impression that one is saved by "mere" faith and grace. But grace and faith are no small matter. When one is truly saved, the greatest power in the universe comes into his life — the living Christ.

Paul placed this relationship in perspective as he said "Ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, . . ." But he goes on to say that we are " . . . created in Christ Jesus unto good works. . ." (Eph. 2:8-10).

The apostle plainly declares that we have nothing to do with our salvation. We have not earned it, and could not earn it. All anyone can do is to accept it in faith which is the free offer of God.

There are two reasons a person could never have right standing with God through works. First, God is perfect and nothing that any individual could ever do could satisfy the perfection of God. Man, by his very

Guest editorial

Please don't label me

The fellowship of our convention could be disrupted by a handful who lean either to the right or to the left. Recently we hear the term "middle of the road" used in an attempt to identify the common ground on which all Baptists can walk. I dislike all tags. We are not politicians divided by party lines. We are Christians united in Christ.

If we must be tagged let us be called the Koinonia, the fellowship, members of local churches assembled together at a convention for the purpose of sharing in common, contributing to the cause of Christ, partaking of Christ, and partners in the communication of the gospel. I feel this tag best describes Arkansas Baptists. I feel our constitution is based on these principles. This November let us build on fellowship and not tags.

If we have the true Koinonia as our basis of fellowship our goals will be missions and evangelism. When division is eliminated, we will reach more souls for

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



nature, is imperfect. Paul says in effect "Even when a man knows the right, he will not do it because he can not." (See Rom. 7:15-17).

Second, sin breaks the heart of a loving God. The greatest crime of sin is not that it transgresses law, but that it is a thrust against God's love. A person might make restoration for a broken law. But it is impossible to make satisfactory atonement for a broken heart.

Each person finds himself totally inadequate for salvation. He must rely entirely upon God. In salvation man receives a new nature, since God's love is implanted in his heart. Receiving this new nature with the full knowledge that he has obtained a gift for which he can never pay, one's lifelong effort will be to show his gratitude to God. Hence, there is something radically wrong if salvation does not produce good works.

It is obvious, that if a person can do nothing to earn or deserve salvation, he can do nothing to lose it. Just as one can do nothing to change his natural birth relationship, he can do nothing to change or lose his spiritual relationship with Christ.

Jesus himself summarized the Christian's relationship as he said "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." (John 6:37-39).

Each of us, as Christians, should praise him for the marvelous work he has wrought in us. He has given us life eternal which we can never lose. But it behooves us as children of the heavenly King to show that we are his children in our daily works.

Christ. It seems to me a worthy tag for any Christian would be soul winner.

We need to identify as brothers and sisters in Christ and not be tagged by those who oppose our views as liberals, conservatives, fundamentalists, or middle of the roaders. For these tags only tend to breach our fellowship with one another.

By the grace of God I was led to the Southern Baptist Convention as all of you were. We must not allow race, background, education, or tradition to breach our fellowship which is our bond of love in Jesus Christ. Some good men of various theological persuasions have been shelved or set aside because they have been tagged by others of different persuasions. As we assemble in November, let us come together as Baptists. Let the **Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by Arkansas Baptists** be the guideline for our convention. **We need no more, we can not accept less.** — W. H. Jenkins, First Church, Atkins

Opinions on the proposed building

I, for one, question the proposal to build new office and parking facilities at a cost of 3.65 million dollars. The average Baptist person is already concerned that we have become too top-heavy, and to add such an expensive building now is unthinkable.

In order to justify a growth at the top, there should be, in my opinion, some comparable growth in the number of churches affiliated with the State Convention. We moved into our present building in 1969. According to the

actual count from the 1969 and 1975 minutes, there has been an increase of 1.8 percent in cooperating Baptist churches. However, the same minutes show a staff increase of 42 percent.

I believe that proposing such a building is quite controversial and, therefore, divisive. This was indicated somewhat at the Executive Board meeting. This recommendation was not unanimously endorsed. I spoke to three Executive Board members. One voted for the proposal but has since changed his mind and said he would not support it at the convention. Another said he was absolutely against it, voted against

it, and questioned the "morality" of it. Another said, "I do not believe that, in an issue involving so much money, I possess enough information to make an intelligent decision." He did not vote at all.

The new proposed building will have one floor of office space which will be leased to secular enterprises. I do not think Arkansas Baptists are ready to spend God's money for that. In all fairness, this arrangement is said to be temporary, but I do not think that Baptists want to get into commercial rentals even on a temporary basis. Can you imagine a local church voting to build a large educational building and renting the Sunday School rooms until they are needed? I can't.

Twenty-five thousand dollars has been spent and thirty thousand more dollars may be spent for architectural fees on a building that has not been approved by convention messengers. That, in my opinion, is not good stewardship. Furthermore, I do not think that we would be good stewards of God's money if we vote for this building and thus add 3.65 million dollars to that which has already been spent. — Kendell W. Black, pastor, Second Church, Conway

* * *

At this year's State Convention, Arkansas Baptists will be asked to vote to erect a new office and parking complex. I must vote "no" for the following reasons:

1. When I lead my church to give through the cooperative program we are giving for missions worldwide. I cannot see how this project can be considered a mission endeavor.

2. We are told that the building will cost approximately \$3,650,000 to construct with an annual repayment of \$487,420 for 25 years. The repayment is to be made from anticipated rental income of \$366,320 and \$121,100 from cooperative program funds. I seriously doubt that we could keep 100 percent rental, which would mean that any deficit would have to come from cooperative funds, this seems too risky a venture.

3. \$121,000 per year for 25 years amounts to \$3,027,500. This money could be used to start new missions or pay the salaries of missionaries. This past year our church started a mission with an expenditure of approximately \$13,000. If we allow \$25,000 per mission, in 25 years the \$3,027,500 could be used to start 121 new missions that would become new churches and reach many people for the Lord. The first year our mission had 10 for baptism and 20 by



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

Joining the anti-cliche' crusade

America is known as a nation of joiners. We probably have more clubs, organizations, and movements per acre than any other country in the world. Some of these organizations are of obvious value while others are not. I heard of a new one just the other day and I was very much attracted to its purpose. It is the Unicorn Hunters, a tongue-in-cheek group at Lake Superior College, dedicated to stamping out overused words. Each year it adopts and publishes a list of "target cliches."

The annual list of target cliches for 1976 included the following: "meaningful," "input," "scenario," "detente," "dialogue," and its doubly objectionable form, "meaningful dialogue." The Unicorn Hunters claim their 1975 campaign was successful in exterminating the phrase, "point in time."

I have noticed that some cliches come and go. Like many of the pop tunes that have a meteoric rise on the radio and television hit parade, many cliches "strut and fret their hour upon the stage and then are heard no more." I never fully welcomed the arrival on the scene of such phrases as "let it all hang out," "doing your own thing," "getting down to the nitty gritty," and "making it innovative and relevant," although I am probably just as guilty as the next one in using them. When one of these current cliches reaches the top of the hit parade, it almost becomes a language requirement in order to communicate with other people.

Some cliches, on the other hand, seem to come and stay. The sad part about these overused words that re-

main on the scene is that they often have lost whatever original meaning they once had. Two such words that I would like to see either stamped out or replaced are "liberal" and "conservative." These words really have taken on so many different meanings that they are the cause of defective communication more often than not. This is true both in politics and in religion.

The Southern Baptist image of liberal is often used to brand a person who believes in open communion, who approves the use of guitars in a church service (especially if it is the Sunday morning service), who approves the election of women as deacons, who does not believe the miracles in the Bible, who opposes racial restrictions on church membership, who favors couples' classes in the Sunday School, who favors borrowing large sums to construct a new church building, who favors cooperation with other denominations for a community Thanksgiving or Easter sunrise service, and so on ad infinitum. An equally diversified list might be given for people we often brand as conservatives.

In truth, neither liberal nor conservative has an exact meaning anymore, and all too often we are very unfair to someone when we pin the label on him or her. I suppose name-calling has its proper place if the name really fits and accurately describes, but I am ready to join an anti-cliche crusade if it will help stamp out unfair labels. Come to think of it, I still have never seen two people who are exactly alike.

letter. I cannot see how a parking complex could be used to reach people for the Lord.

4. We are told that we will need additional office space. My answer is this, personally, I cannot see a continued addition to the staff of our state workers. I deeply respect the work our present staff is doing. They have been a tremendous blessing to my life and my church, but I cannot see the need of further enlargement. If we do need to enlarge, another floor can be added to our present facilities.

As Dr. Ashcraft says, "I must say it." So must I, believing that an expenditure of our funds for a parking complex would be an unwarranted expenditure of mission monies. — Oscar N. Golden, member of Executive Board and pastor of Calvary Church, Benton

Editor's note

Arkansas Baptists are exceedingly fortunate that every area of our work has experienced phenomenal growth in the last few years. The budget of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, for example, was \$2,667,207 in 1969, and was \$4,294,074 in 1975, or an increase of 61 percent. For the years 1971 through 1975 the convention received more money than the budget called for. The total receipts on the church field were \$24,120,608 in 1969, and \$47,960,215 in 1975. Although statistics are not readily available on the addition of church staff members and ministries added by our churches, it is obvious that they have greatly increased in the past seven years.

While the churches of the State Convention experienced tremendous growth, the State Convention professional staff housed in the Baptist Building has grown quite modestly. In 1969, there were 21 professional staff members housed in the Baptist Building, while in 1975 there were 23. Professional staff positions are those people whose responsibilities are such that they are elected directly by the Executive Board. (In 1969 there were 20 secretarial and technical employees who worked in the Baptist Building, and in 1975 there were 24. Field workers in 1969 were 19 persons, and there were 24 in 1975.)

Part-time teachers

Thank you so much for your gracious write-up about our Institute of Theology several issues past in the *Arkansas Baptist*. A question of interpretation has arisen, however, that I think needs some clarification.

We mentioned that some outstanding men from our Southern Baptist Seminaries would be teaching in the Institute. However, we did not mean to imply they would be leaving our own seminaries and coming here on a full-time basis. Their time commitment to us would be no more than on a two to four day basis. I hope if any further confusion arises at this point you will make the necessary clarification.

We are grateful to have these outstanding men of God teaching some of our students the riches of His Word. We do covet your prayers and the prayers of all Arkansas Baptists as we seek to exalt the living Christ. — H. D. McCarty, University Church, Fayetteville

Estate planning

Let me commend you on your editorial "A gift that lives on" in the Sept. 16, 1976, issue and to commend the Arkansas Baptist Foundation on its progress. Earlier this year I wrote to Mr. True-love expressing my gratitude for his very capable leadership and my concern for the increased need of estate planning across our convention as a means

of enlarging our stewardship ministry and opportunities.

You state a three-fold purpose of the Foundation which is excellent and as it should be. However something is lacking in the stated purpose. It all seems to be directed to the benefit of Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Very little is stated as to what benefits the donor or what he can expect to benefit his heirs in the distribution of his estate.

I believe it is very important in total Christian Financial Planning to discover first what may be the potential Federal estate and Arkansas state inheritance tax consequences. This tax bite can be a serious problem upon a person's death and critical on the second death (spouse). Unless this amount is determined one cannot really plan the distribution of his estate until he knows what amount will be left after estate settlement costs. Many times families have thought they were in good financial condition but the tax assessment proved disastrous.

Perhaps with the knowledge that people can reduce estate taxes by proper counsel and planning through wills and trusts, thereby having more to distribute to heirs and charitable causes will bring more Christians to seek the services of our Arkansas Baptist Foundation staff and in turn will produce more gifts to the Foundation, other charitable institutions or churches for the propagation of the gospel. — Les Stanley, minister of education, Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro



ARKADELPHIA — For the sixth consecutive year, Ouachita University hosted Youth Choir Day, Sept. 25. More than 3,500 young choristers from across the state spent a Saturday afternoon presenting a mass concert at halftime of the OBU-Southeastern (OKLA) football game. Charles Wright and Paul Hammond were directors of the choir, while Marvin A. Lawson directed the Tiger band, which accompanied the choir.

Sammy G. Turner has begun serving as director of missions for Ashley County Association. Turner, a native of Van Buren, is a graduate of Ouachita University and Midwestern Seminary. He is currently enrolled in the doctor of ministers program at the seminary. He and his wife, the former Bonnie Sherman, are parents of two children James David and Elizabeth Ann. The Turner family has just returned from doing foreign mission work in Thika, Kenya, East Africa. Turner, who was ordained to the ministry at Woodlawn Church in Little Rock, has pastored churches in both Arkansas and Missouri.

Miss Nancy McClure is now serving as coordinator of ministries for Oak



Turner



Miss McClure

Grove Church near Van Buren. Miss McClure, who for several years served the church part-time as program coordinator, is a graduate of West Arkansas College in Fort Smith and College of the Ozarks, Clarksville. Wayne B. Davis is church pastor.



Jackson

Financial Aid Administrator at Southern Baptist College, was elected President of the Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators at the fall meeting in Hot Springs. Jackson has served as the Director of Student Aid at Southern for the past 10 years.

Freddy Blevins has accepted the call to be pastor of Grandview Church, Berryville. Blevins has served as youth director and been in charge of bus ministry of Green Forest Church the past four years. Carl Nelson of Huntsville has been serving as interim pastor of the Grandview Church.

Lester Aldridge is pastoring Cross Roads Church in Little Rock. Aldridge was formerly pastor of Lambrook Church, Lambrook, where he served for five years.

John Gearing began his 24th year as Director of Missions for Mississippi County on Sept. 1. In the 23 years that Gearing and his family have worked in this association records have been set in Vacation Bible School work; gifts to missions have increased; there has been growth in gifts to the Cooperative Program; church properties have improved and the latest endeavor is the construction and equipping of a new campsite near Paragould.



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Home fellowship

"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts." — Acts 2:46 RSV

There are many ways in everyday contemporary life to bring happiness and pleasure to those around us by "breaking bread" together in our homes. The larger church family is made up of smaller segments that live, meet, and fellowship together. Among these segments are the nuclear family, Sunday School classes, committees, and those miscellaneous groups who like to congregate after church on Sunday night. Home fellowship among members can include young, old, singles, couples, and shut-ins, whether they live in an apartment, a trailer, or a house.

Look first at your shut-in friends. We enjoyed having a small birthday party for a confined friend in her own home. Refreshments were simple: cake and a fruit punch. We shared the cost, and invited only a few guests and the pastor. Everyone was blessed. With an affair like this, even those who have no "home" could entertain and fellowship with church friends.

Recently, one of our deacons and his wife invited several couples to their home for a dinner of "wild" food, "wild" meaning duck, smoked turkey, squirrel, fish, and quail. He had frozen the efforts of hunting and fishing trips

and saved them for this special occasion. Besides other church couples, they asked a few non-church friends.

Always remember your own family. Make your meals and snacks a happy part of life. Children, husbands, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers — whatever composes your "family" — appreciate well-planned and attractive food. Be thankful for what the Lord has given you whether it is great or small.

Our recipe this month is a make-ahead, handy for fellowship occasions.

Pumpkin Nut Squares

This is an elegant cake/pie substitute for pumpkin pie; the recipe can be easily halved. It is very quick to mix and is best served cold.

- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- 2 sixteen ounce cans pumpkin
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon cloves
- 3 cups milk (can be evaporated or light cream)
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 stick melted margarine
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Mix first eight ingredients and pour into a greased 13x9x2 pan. Sprinkle with cake mix. Drizzle melted margarine over the top. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake in 350 degree oven for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Serve cold with whipped cream. If glass baking dish is used, reduce heat to 325. Serves 16.

briefly

Ronnie P. Sparks, Educational Assistant for the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, will be guest speaker at the annual convention of **Arkansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union** to be held in First Nazarene Church in North Little Rock, Oct. 12 beginning at 10 a.m. Wayne I. Gash, pastor of the host church, will welcome guests and give the morning devotional. At this meeting officers for the new year will be elected and installed; reports of the past year's work, both on a state and local level will be given; and work for the new year will be discussed.

Monticello Second Church held a revival Sept. 19-23 with Herb Shreve as evangelist. Richard Wade was in charge of music. There were six professions of faith and five joined the church by letter. John C. Robbins is pastor.

Bill Fitzhugh was evangelist and Bill Holcomb led music when **Watson Chapel Church** at Pine Bluff held a revival Sept. 29-24. There were 39 professions of faith and six came by letter. Edwin L. Hindson is pastor.

Associate Executive Secretary answers questions about proposed building

Editor's Note: On Aug. 17 the state Executive Board heard a recommendation from its Parking Lot Development Committee that a new office and parking facility be constructed on the present parking lot adjacent to the Baptist Building, at an estimated cost of \$3,650,000. The Executive Board approved the report and is recommending the proposal to the full convention in November. In a recent issue Executive Secretary Charles Ashcraft answered some basic questions about the proposed project, and in the following interview Associate Executive Secretary Roy F. Lewis was asked some additional questions. A later issue will carry some drawings of the proposed building.

1. Question: What kind and size building is being proposed?

Answer: The proposed building will occupy all of the present parking lot, and will be connected to the present building by an enclosed walkway over Arch Street. The building will have eight floors; the ground level will be retail and office space; the next five levels will be parking decks, providing 295 parking spaces; and the two top floors will be office space.

2. Question: Could we build a smaller or less expensive structure?

Answer: Certainly, but it would cost more in the long run. If we build now for our anticipated needs in the foreseeable future, we can save a considerable amount in construction and financing costs.

3. Question: Why can't we just add another floor to the present building? Wasn't it designed for a third floor?

Answer: Yes, it was, and a third floor could be added, but that would do nothing to alleviate the critical need for additional parking facilities; it would actually increase the parking problems.

4. Question: How can Arkansas Baptists finance such a large building project?

Answer: We already have a tentative loan commitment from a Little Rock bank for a 25-year loan at 9 percent interest on favorable terms.

5. Question: Won't the payments on such a loan be prohibitive?

Answer: The estimated annual costs on the proposed building are projected at \$487,420. That includes debt retirement, insurance, taxes, utilities, security, and custodial services. Anticipated rental income is projected at \$366,320, leaving a net difference of \$121,100 to be funded through the regular budget process. By way of comparison, we are now budgeting \$95,000 annually for our present building.

6. Question: What guarantee do we have on rental income?

Answer: There is no absolute guarantee, but the projected rental income is based on a careful study and analysis of current building and economic conditions, and the anticipated income is, as nearly as possible, a conservative and realistic estimate. It is quite possi-

ble, and even probable, that rental income will rise with the national economy in the immediate years ahead.

7. Question: Is it wise or desirable for Baptists to get involved in the rental business?

Answer: Certainly not on a permanent basis, or solely for the purpose of "making money." However, it would also be extremely short-sighted planning, and poor stewardship, to build only the space immediately needed. Therefore, the only prudent solution is to build now for future needs and to temporarily rent out the space not immediately needed; it would be available for us to "grow into" later, but the rental income would make it feasible to build now before construction costs get any higher. Parking is another problem. There are days when we need a large number of spaces for those attending meetings or having business in the Baptist Building, but it would again be poor stewardship to build the spaces needed and have many of them sitting idle for days at a time. Therefore, renting those spaces on a daily or hourly basis makes it financially feasible for us to build for our present and future needs.

8. Question: Is it true that the Baptist Book Store will move back downtown and occupy space in the new building?

Answer: While no firm commitment has yet been made, the Sunday School Board has definitely indicated a strong interest in opening a branch store in the proposed new building without vacating their present facilities. Negotiations are currently underway with appropriate personnel at the Sunday School Board, and we are hopeful that we can publicly announce a definite decision by convention time in November.

9. Question: Do you believe this proposed building program represents good stewardship for Arkansas Baptists?

Answer: I certainly do, and that's why I am enthusiastic about it. I realize that the very size of the proposal is frightening to many people, and that many do not understand the need for additional building. However, after working with the committee for many hours while this matter was being studied and researched, I have become thoroughly convinced that our failure to build now will either hinder our future growth as a convention, or cost us considerably more money later. I believe that the proposal is financially sound and prudent, and well within the ability of Arkansas Baptists to handle without hindering any other ministry or program.

On the cover



The proposed building would look like this drawing.

Program
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
 Nov. 16-18

Theme: The ministering church

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

Eph. 4:11-12

Tuesday evening, Nov. 16

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

- 6:30 p.m. Choral praise Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas
Hymn No. 61 "Come Christians, Join To Sing" congregation
- 6:40 Prayer Harold White
- 6:45 **Bible study** Ron Dunn
- 7:15 Call to order R. Wilbur Herring
- Welcome Cary Heard
- Fraternal greetings, acknowledgements
- Recognition of former presidents
- 7:30 **Enrollment of messengers**
Appointment of committees
Statement of committee chairmen
Adoption of order of business
Announcements
- 8:00 **Resolutions and constitutional amendments**
- 8:10 Hymn no. 177 "I Am Resolved" congregation
- 8:15 Special music . . . Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas
- 8:30 **President's address** R. Wilbur Herring
- Benediction Johnny Jackson

Wednesday morning, Nov. 17

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

- 8:45 a.m. Songs of Praise congregation
- Prayer Jerry Tracy
- 9:00 **Bible study** Ron Dunn
- 9:30 Memorial moments Mrs. James Sawyer
- 9:40 Welcome to new Arkansans, . . Charles H. Ashcraft
- Tribute to senior ministers
- 9:55 Hymn no. 459 "The Lily of the Valley" congregation
- 10:00 **Arkansas Baptist Foundation** Harry Trulove
- 10:30 **Election of officers**
- 10:45 Miscellaneous business
- 11:05 Christian Civic Foundation Edward W. Harris
- 11:15 Hymn no. 312, "Teach Me, O Lord, To Care" congregation
- Special music Roy Chatham
- 11:25 **Annual sermon** Loyd Hunnicutt
(Alternate - Elmer F. Cox)
- Benediction Conway Sawyers

Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 17

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

- 1:45 p.m. Choral praise "Unity" - Central, Jonesboro
Directed by Laverne F. Pickett, Jr.
- Prayer Harold Elmore
- 2:00 **Bible study** Ron Dunn

2:30 **Election of officers** (continued)

2:40 **Report of Nominating Committee**

Cline Ellis, Chairman

2:50 **Executive Board Report** Andrew Setliffe,
President

- 3:50 Special music "Unity" - Central, Jonesboro
- 4:00 **Message**, "The Church Ministering To The World Through Evangelism and Missions" Jack Stanton
- Benediction Larry Baker

Wednesday evening, Nov. 17

Barton Coliseum, Little Rock

P. J. James, G. R. Mazique and R. Wilbur Herring presiding

- 6:30 p.m. Hymn "Life and Liberty" congregation
- 6:35 Prayer O. C. Jones
- 6:40 **Bible study** Ron Dunn
- 7:10 Introduction of College Presidents and Choirs
York Williams - Morris Booker Memorial College
Jack Nicholas - Southern Baptist College
J. C. Oliver - Arkansas Baptist College
Daniel Grant - Ouachita Baptist University
- 8:10 Report of Life and Liberty Campaign . . Don Moore
- 8:40 Hymn "Amazing Grace" congregation
- 8:45 **Message**, "The Church Ministering Through Education and Training" Grady Cothen
- Benediction W. O. Lindsey

Thursday morning, Nov. 18

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

- 8:45 a.m. Songs of praise . . Roger Copeland and Tim Blann
- Prayer Phil Lineberger
- 9:00 **Bible study** Ron Dunn
- 9:30 Executive Secretary's message
Charles H. Ashcraft
- 10:00 **Report of Resolutions Committee**
- 10:15 Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care
Johnny Biggs
- 10:30 Hymn 316 "Do You Really Care?" . . congregation
- Miscellaneous business
- 10:55 **Report of Review Committee on Ministry** Paul Sanders, Chairman
- 11:05 **Our larger family** Porter Routh
- Report of Executive Committee, SBC
- 11:25 Hymn 208 "Like A River Glorious" . . congregation
- Special music Tanner Riley
- 11:30 **Message**, "The Church Ministering To Her Families" Jim Henry
- Benediction Clayburn Bratton
- Adjourn

Convention program personalities



Cothen



Dunn

Grady Cothen is executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He will bring the Wednesday evening message.

Ron Dunn works with Life Style Ministries of Irving, Tex. He will lead Bible study.



Herring



Hunnicuttt

R. Wilbur Herring is convention president and pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro. He will be the presiding officer.

Loyd Hunnicutt is pastor of Central Church, Magnolia. He will preach the annual sermon.



Henry



Stanton

Jim Henry is pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, Tenn. He will bring the closing message.

Jack Stanton is director of the institute of evangelism, Southwest Baptist College, Boliver, Mo. He is scheduled to bring a message Wednesday afternoon.

Pastors' conference

Nov. 15-16, 1976

Park Hill Church
North Little Rock

Theme — A Pastor's Role

Monday afternoon — A pastor's role in political life

1:15 p.m.	Hymns	Ervin Keathley
	Scripture and prayer	Andy Kerr
	Special music	Ann Rice
1:25	Biblical prophets and political life	Bernes K. Selph
1:55	The pastor and public affairs	James E. Wood Jr.
2:25	Hymn	
	Special music	Ann Rice and Ervin Keathley
2:35	Early American preachers and political life	Larry Baker
3:05	Present day pastors and the moral issues	Johnny Jackson
3:35	Benediction	

Monday evening — A pastor's role in personal and family life

6:30 p.m.	Hymns	Bob Hatfield
	Scripture and prayer	Glenn Nicholson
	Special music	Park Hill choir
6:45	A pastor's responsibility to his family	John Wright
7:15	A pastor's personal life before God	R. D. Harrington
7:45	Hymn	
	Special music	Park Hill choir
7:55	A pastor's responsibility to his church	Roy Hilton
8:25	A pastor's role in retirement	Lloyd Sparkman
8:55	Benediction	

Tuesday morning — A pastor's role in world outreach

9:00 a.m.	Hymn	Adella Gray
	Scripture and prayer	W. A. Jenkins
	Special music	Adella Gray
9:10	A pastor's role in the denomination	Kenneth Threet
9:40	Election of officers	
	Hymn	
9:55	A pastor's role in evangelism	Bill Lewis
10:25	A pastor's role in keeping fellowship	Dillard Miller
10:55	Hymn	
11:00	Concert by the Singing Women of Arkansas	
11:30	A pastor's highest responsibility	W. O. Vaught Jr.
12:00 Noon	Benediction	

Officers:

John Finn, Harrison	President
Jimmy Taylor, Hardy	First Vice President
Harry Wigger, Bentonville	Second Vice President

Convention wives luncheon

Park Hill Church North Little Rock

Nov. 16 — noon

Fellowship together	Dr. Otho Hesterly
Invocation	Mrs. Willard Zeiser
Business and recognition of new officers	Mrs. Jerry Warmath
Program introduction	Mrs. John Wright
Special music	
The Singing Women of Arkansas	Mrs. Robert Pilcher, director
"Just believing you can do things, can often get things done"	Mrs. Acie Ford

Officers

Mrs. Jerry Warmath, President
Mrs. John Wright, Vice President
Mrs. Mason Bonderant, Secretary
Mrs. Willard Zeiser, Social Chairman



Foundation to recommend changes in its charter

In addition to the routine recommendation concerning the disbursement of income earned from undesignated gifts, the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation will bring to the Convention two recommended charter changes and a revised set of by laws.

The recommended changes in the by laws are in harmony with the request from the executive board that the various agencies update their by laws to conform with the Convention's Constitution and the by laws of the Executive Board. While there has been no conflict there have been several areas that were not clearly defined.

The other changes in the by laws have to do with the titles of board and staff officers. The proposed changes will allow these titles to more nearly conform with those used in the banking and business world in which the Foundation operates.

The recommended charter changes and a paragraph of explanation for each follows:

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted by The Arkansas Baptist State Convention and placed in the minutes of this meeting: "Resolved that the Arkansas Baptist Foundation be authorized, without requiring that it be immediately implemented, to amend paragraph 2 of its Charter to allow the Foundation to hereafter manage endowment funds for any benevolent, charitable, educational or missionary undertaking, institution, or agency so that paragraph 2 of the Charter shall hereafter read as follows:

Paragraph 2 — The purpose for which it is formed is to serve any benevolent, charitable, educational or missionary undertaking, institution or agency, fostered by, or having the official sanction of, The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, such conjoined purposes to be executed simultaneously in the furtherance and development of benevolent, charitable, educational and missionary, activities in, and for the benefit of, schools, hospitals, orphanages, and other enterprises operated under the supervision of, or supported by, The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and to such end may receive by bequest, devise, gift, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in trust, any property, real, personal or mixed; and to administer such property, to convey such property, to invest and reinvest the same, or the proceeds thereof, in such manner as in the judgement of the Directors will best promote such objects. **Where a substantial portion is for the benefit of Baptist causes, the corporation may also receive and administer any property for any benevolent, charitable, educational or missionary undertaking, institution, or agency, provided the undertaking, institution or agency is organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, and qualifies as a publicly supported organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, and is compatible with the purpose of the corporation.**

Explanation

This proposed change, if approved would allow the Foundation to provide a broader base of service to our people. There are those who have indicated a desire to provide a very small percentage for ministries that are compatible with the work of Arkansas Baptists, but not directly related to the Convention. One case in point is an estate in excess of one-quarter million dollars. Over 90 percent of the income is to go to Baptist work, with the remainder for ministries that are compatible, but not Baptist by name. This charter change would allow us to serve as trustee for the total estate.

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted and placed in the minutes of this meeting: "Resolved, that the Arkansas Baptist Foundation be authorized, to amend paragraph 7 of its Charter to conform with the expansion of the Board of the Foundation as approved in the 1974 Convention, so that paragraph 7 of the Charter shall hereafter read as follows:

Paragraph 7 — The number of Directors shall be a **minimum of fifteen (15)** and they shall be elected by The Arkansas Baptist State Convention at its annual meeting. **One-third (1/3)** shall be elected by the State Convention at each annual session. In the event there should be a vacancy on the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, the remaining Directors shall fill such vacancy **until the annual meeting of The Arkansas Baptist State Convention.**

The corporation is without capital stock and no shares of stock are issued. The members thereof shall be the accredited messengers of The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and shall at all times include the Directors of the corporation, each of whom shall be a **faithful** member of a Baptist Church which is in active cooperation with The Arkansas Baptist State Convention. No Director of this corporation shall receive, or be lawfully entitled to receive, any salary or remuneration for services connected with the administration of the affairs of this corporation. Actual expenses incurred by such person may be refunded when authorized by the Directors.

Explanation

There are two reasons for this recommendation. (1) In 1974, the Convention approved a by law change that allowed the Board to be increased from nine to 15. The change in the charter was inadvertently overlooked at that time.

(2) The current charter allows for the Foundation Board to fill the vacancy of any unexpired term. The proposed change would limit this authority until the annual meeting of the Convention.

Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association

Nov. 16, 1976

First Church

62 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock

- 8:45 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Fellowship around the table
- 9:30 a.m. "Sing Along with Glynn and Friend"
- 9:45 a.m. Who's New, etc.
- 10:00 a.m. Special music
- 10:05 a.m. Ministry priorities — Bob Dale, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board
- 12:00 noon Lunch — Fellowship Hall
- 12:40 p.m. Entertainment
- 1:30 p.m. "Sing Along with Glynn and Friend"
- 1:35 p.m. Special music
- 1:40 p.m. Election of officers, business meeting, miscellaneous matters
- 1:50 p.m. Ministry priorities — Bob Dale
- 2:45 p.m. Dismiss

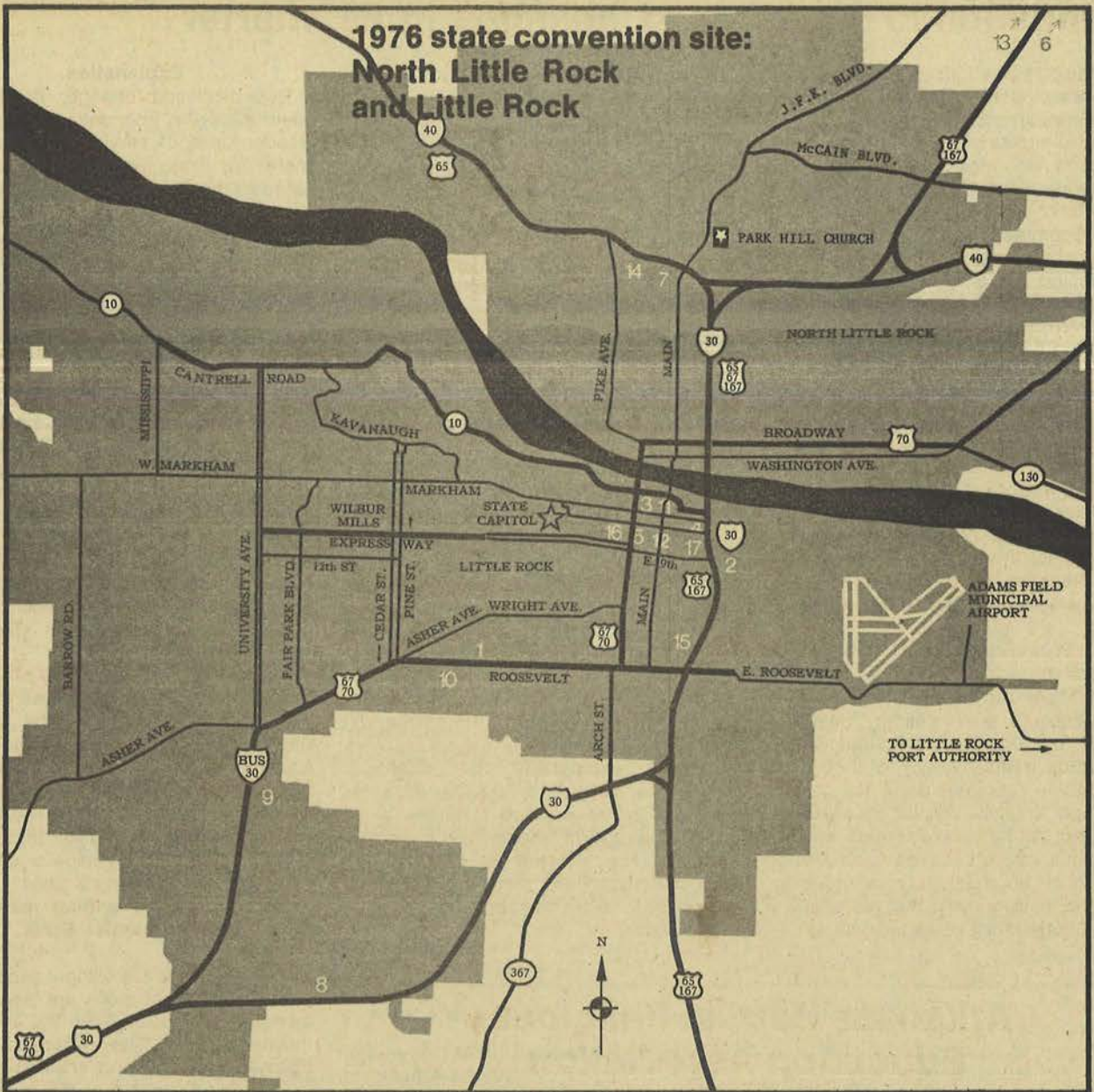
1975-76 Officers

President — John C. Parker

1st Vice President — Lew T. King

2nd Vice President — Jesse N. Sutton

Secretary-Treasurer — Pat Ratton



Hotels/motels

North Little Rock

Broadway Motel
2501 E. Broadway

Corns Motel
5504 McArthur Dr.

Days Inn – Park Hill
3100 North Main

Holiday Inn – North
27th and Main

Passport Inn
400 West 29th

Ramada Inn – North
120 W. Pershing

Rhodes Motel
4813 E. Broadway

Town House Motel
#1 Gray Road

Little Rock/Jacksonville

- 1 Alamo Plaza
3200 W. Roosevelt Rd.
- 2 Americana Inn
707 Interstate 30
- 3 Camelot Inn
Markham & Broadway
- 4 Coachman's Inn
E. Capitol & Ferry
- 5 Holiday Inn Convention Center
6th & Broadway St.
- 6 Holiday Inn Jacksonville
Highway 67 at Gregory St.
- 7 Holiday Inn North
111 West Pershing Blvd.
- 8 Holiday Inn South
2600 West 65th St.
- 9 Howard Johnson's
Motor Lodge
4155 S. University Ave.
- 10 Magnolia Inn
3601 W. Roosevelt
- 11 Manning Motor Hotel
Markham & Main
- 12 Ramada Inn Downtown
6th & Center
- 13 Ramada Inn Jacksonville
200 Highway 67 North
- 14 Ramada Inn North
Orange & Pershing
- 15 Red Carpet Inn
East 21st & Interstate 30
- 16 Sam Peck Downtown
Motor Inn
625 West Capitol
- 17 Sheraton Little Rock
6th & Ferry St.

Executive Board to make four recommendations to convention

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will make the following four recommendations to the annual meeting Nov. 17:

1

The Executive Board recommends that plans for the eight-level structure to be placed on convention property at Sixth and Arch be approved at the cost estimated at \$3,650,000.

2

The Executive Board recommends that the Baptist Student Union be authorized to launch a Third Century Endowment Campaign, with a goal of one million dollars, with earnings to be used for Baptist Student ministry.

4

Recognizing that the welfare of our people who serve our Lord in the ministry and other denominational work is a joint responsibility of the church, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention; and further, recognizing that the continued increase in the cost of living has created a pressing need for broader benefits at retirement and more flexible survivor and disability benefits, we join with other state conventions and associations in accepting the program suggested by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Therefore, upon the recommendation of the Annuity Board, we accept the following recommendations:

1. That we close the present Southern Baptist Protection Plan to new members as of January 1, 1978.

2. That the present members of the Southern Baptist Protection Program and the Southern Baptist Benefit Program may remain in their present plan or elect to transfer to the new Southern Baptist Retirement Program or the Southern Baptist Retirement Plan effective January 1, 1978.

3. That the new Southern Baptist Retirement Program be promoted through the individual churches urging them to contribute an amount equal to 10 percent of the career ministerial personnel's compensation for retirement purposes. The state convention's contribution to this Program (\$200 annually per member) will provide the survivor and disability benefits. Further, that the new Southern Baptist Retirement Plan be promoted through the churches urging them to con-

3 1977 budget

I. State Causes

1. Administration	\$ 58,365.00
2. Business services	144,551.00
3. Departments:	
(1) Annuity — operating	18,354.00
(2) "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine"	81,013.00
(3) Baptist Student Union — operating	262,888.00
(a) Baptist Student Union — buildings	11,593.00
(4) Brotherhood	38,360.00
(5) Camp Paron — operating	26,710.00
(a) Camp Paron — improvements	8,000.00
(6) Church Music	44,408.00
(7) Church Training	75,490.00
(8) Evangelism	89,649.00
(9) Missions	173,741.00
(10) National Baptist Ministries	55,351.00
(11) Siloam Springs — assembly operating	20,601.00
(a) Siloam Springs — assembly improvements	18,812.00
(12) Stewardship-Cooperative Program	57,058.00
(13) Sunday School	103,902.00
	<u>\$1,085,930.00</u>

4. Other services:

(1) Baptist Building debt	95,000.00
(2) Convention	32,928.00
(3) Contingency	10,000.00
(4) Reserve	25,250.00
(5) Retirement dues	135,000.00
(6) Reserve for severance pay	6,237.00
(7) Reserve for medical insurance premium increase	12,500.00
	<u>316,915.00</u>

5. Woman's Missionary Union	125,286.00
6. Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care Services	141,555.00
7. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	67,494.00
8. Christian education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	661,404.00
(2) Southern Baptist College	165,351.00
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	65,228.00
	<u>891,983.00</u>

Total state causes \$2,832,079.00

II. Southern Baptist Convention \$1,953,441.00
Total operating budget and SBC \$4,785,520.00

III. Advance

1. Christian education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	\$336,459.00
(2) Southern Baptist College	84,115.00
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	35,524.00
	<u>456,098.00</u>

2. Other

(1) Baptist Student Union	47,513.00
(2) New mission sites	38,010.00
(3) Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	54,059.00
(4) Arkansas Baptist Foundation	3,211.00
(5) Assembly improvements	48,565.00
(6) Camp improvements	16,191.00
(7) Baptist Building improvements	13,024.00
	<u>220,573.00</u>

Total Advance 676,671.00

Total, state causes, SBC & Advance \$5,462,191.00

tribute an amount equal to 10 percent of compensation of the non-ministerial personnel for retirement purposes. (The state convention makes no contribution to this Plan.)

4. That this Convention pledge to actively promote this program and that it seek to maintain and improve as a minimum its present percentage of participation and its present level of average age (not lower than the Southern Baptist Convention level) and that, in the event it fails to do so, this convention recognize and absorb any actuarial liability caused by such failure to do so. (The convention already has this obligation.)

5. That each church may, at its own election, pay dues on a \$4,000 salary basis even though the minister's salary is less than \$4,000.

Park Hill pastor extends welcome

In behalf of the congregation of the Park Hill Church, may I extend to all our brethren and friends this sincere word of welcome to the 123rd annual session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Dr. Heard

We count it a great honor to be your host church this year, and it is our desire to provide the convention with the finest facilities and the warmest hospitality possible. There are four motels within one mile of Park Hill Church which have 547 rooms between them. Within just another few miles that number increases to 1000 plus additional rooms.

Many of you are familiar with this area already, but if you are among those who may need a little help getting located, please feel free to contact us. This has been a great year in the Lord's service and we look forward to a great convention Nov. 16-18. — Cary Heard,

Pastor

Park Hill Church

201 East "C"

North Little Rock, Ark. 72116

Southwestern alumni to meet Nov. 17

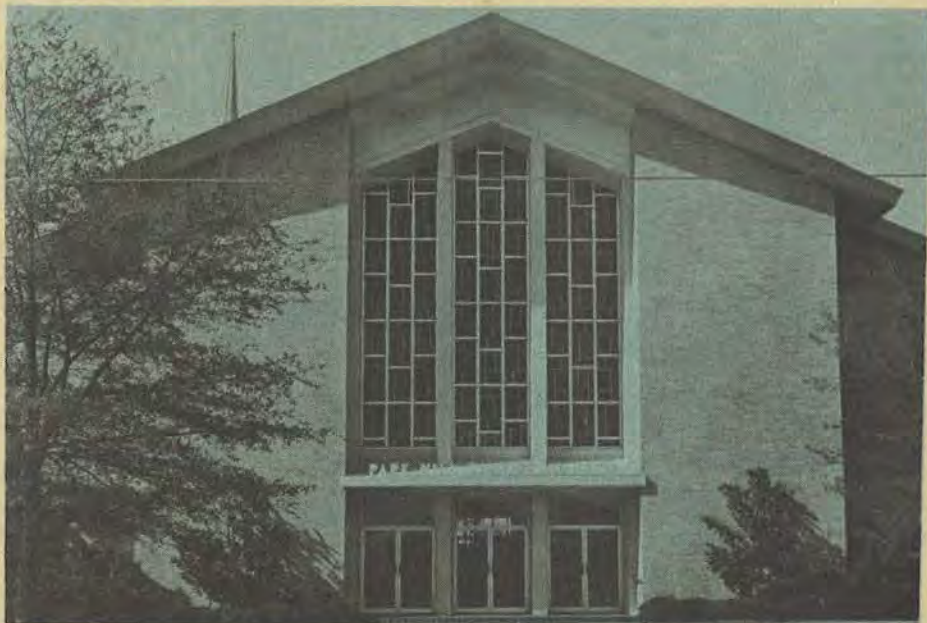
Boo Heflin, assistant professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Seminary, will speak at the annual meeting of the seminary's Arkansas alumni association on Nov. 17.

The group will meet at noon for lunch at First Church, North Little Rock. The meeting is being held during the Arkansas Baptist state convention.

October 14, 1976



STATE EDITORS MEET AT FMB — Seventeen editors of state Baptist papers met for a dialogue-briefing session at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board headquarters in Richmond, Va., recently. J. Everett Sneed (left), editor of the "Arkansas Baptist," and Hudson Baggett (right), editor of "The Alabama Baptist," talked with H. Cornell Goerner, the board's area secretary for West Africa. (FMB photo by James E. Legg)



Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, will be the site of the 1976 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The church is located off of JFK Boulevard, which is accessible from I-30 and I-40 (see map on page 11).

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Woman's viewpoint

Iris O'Neal Bowen

The all-American addiction

The men in my family would be the first to deny that they are addicted to television, but as sure as the leaves start to turn and Coach Broyles calls in his men, football takes over at our house. About all our living room hears is a mixture of end runs, field goals, huddles; ad infinitum, or at least till ten every night.

Yesterday, father and son got home from work, and I had their meal ready, but they headed for the living room and I had a hard time luring them away. Finally, they found time to slip out for a few minutes, and were soon putting their meal away.

I noticed T.V. was still on, but thought nothing about it, although I did remind them that they were being unusually quiet, even for them. Naturally, I got no answer, and we continued to eat in silence.

Suddenly, my husband dropped his fork and inquired, "What did they do?"

"What did who do?" I asked, all befuddled.

"It was sudden death," Danny explained.

"What do you mean, sudden death? Who died?" I asked, but again, I got no reply.

Their eyes had glazed over and they were frantically pushing their food into their mouths as fast as they could, so that they could get back to where the action was.

Later, after a lonely session in the kitchen with the dishes, I ventured into the living room, thinking I might find out first hand about sudden death, but apparently no more such crises were reached. No one got carried off the field, and it was hard for me to see what the excitement was all about.

I used to enjoy football when I could go up to the high school, sit in the bleachers, watch our big bruiser of a son do his bit, as I yelled and jumped up and down.

But when 22 men I never met tangle over that little ball, I want to say, "Now, see here, fellows, if all you want to do is fight, we will just put the ball away till you decide to behave!"

That used to work with my kids.

Annuity Board adjusts church medical insurance rates

Dallas, Tex. — For the first time in two years, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced a rate adjustment for its church medical insurance plan.

Darold H. Morgan, Board president, said an across-the-board increase of 35 percent will go into effect Jan. 1, 1977.

The rate adjustment stems from climbing medical costs and an increased percentage of claims.

"Considering the inflationary economic experience we've seen in recent years," Morgan said, "we believe our premium rate history has been commendable. We regret the increase, but we still believe we have done well in view of the economy."

Last rate adjustment for the plan occurred in October, 1974.

Besides the new rate adjustment, the Board also plans to age-rate its medical coverage according to five-year seg-

ments; these are: through age 29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-64.

Age-rating will result in an adjustment of less than 35 percent for some participants and slightly more than this for others.

Rates for participants under 39 years old will increase less than 35 percent, while those for members 40 to 49 will exceed the figure. The increase for participants between 50 and 64 years old will rise about 35 percent.

This month each participant will receive a letter comparing current premiums with adjusted rates.

Since Jan. 1, 1973, the Annuity Board has administered the church medical plan through Aetna Life Insurance Company.

Approximately 7,500 Southern Baptist ministers and salaried church employees in and outside the U. S. participate in the plan.

Constitution changes

Messengers wanting to offer amendments to the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention must present them on the first day of the convention, according to Don Hook of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Proposed changes should be given to Hook in writing at that time and may be submitted for publication in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* no later than Nov. 1.

131 Arkansans at Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Tex. — A record setting student enrollment of 3,202, including 131 students from the state of Arkansas, has been to a 10-year trend of increasing enrollments at Southwestern Seminary here. The final count includes 825 new students.

This year's enrollment is an 11 percent increase over last year. According to Director of Admissions, Dr. L. L. Collins, Southwestern Seminary has experienced a record high enrollment every fall semester since 1966. In that ten year period that fall enrollment has more than doubled from the then high of 1560, Collins noted.

Included in the enrollment figures are a total 164 students enrolled in the seminary's branch programs in Houston and Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The count divided between each of the seminary's three schools showed 1915 in Theology, 968 in Religious Education, and 319 in Church Music.

Southwestern Seminary is one of six seminaries owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

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WMU

'A circle of love around the world ...'

Thousands of women will soon be participating in a chain of prayer that extends around the world. Nov. 1 has been designated as the Day of Prayer, an activity of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. Program materials for this special prayer project are translated into 100 languages and dialects. DIMENSION magazine (OND) contains a copy of the program. A few

extra copies of the program are available, without cost, from the state WMU office.

What is the purpose of the Day of Prayer? It is concerned intercession that builds understanding and fellowship among Baptist women throughout the world. A Baptist woman from South Africa said: "Even if we can't always communicate in words, we stand to-

gether in prayer."

Women will pray for people in crises, for leaders of nations, for suffering Christians, for church extension in every land, and for freedom among all people, so that God's name may be proclaimed.

The observance of this Day of Prayer should not replace a regular meeting of a missions organization. Women may participate in a local church observance or join with other Baptist churches and groups to demonstrate their oneness in Christ. Marie Mathis, President of the Women's Department has given this challenge: "... I trust you will be aware of a circle of love around the world with thousands of women, refusing to be divided by any differences."

— Willene Pierce, BW/BYW Director

Missions: Life and Liberty through Christ for the world

Bicentennial celebration

Royal Ambassador

Fellowship Supper

Immanuel Church
Little Rock
Nov. 8, 6 p.m.

Inspiration
Information
Music
Fellowship
Favors



Marvin Reynolds
Missionary
to Botswana

Reservations must be made by Nov. 4

For more information see your counselor, pastor, minister of education, youth director or write to C. H. Seaton, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

Discovery Day

Alice Magill, Career Guidance Specialist from the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be one of the program personalities featured at Discovery Day on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University, Oct. 23. Discovery Day is a conference on church vocations for senior high students. Activities begin at 9 a.m. in the Verser Drama Center and will conclude with the OBU-UCA football game beginning at 2 p.m.



Magill

Reservations for the noon lunch should be sent to the Church Training Department by Oct. 20. Tickets for the football game will be provided to Discovery Day participants compliments of OBU. There will be sessions for youth and for pastors and other youth leaders. OBU president, Daniel Grant, Larry Bone, Vester Wolber, Wes Lites, Elmer Goble, and Weldon Vogt will participate on the program. — Robert Holley

New BSU director named for UALR

Allan Rankin of Clinton, Miss., has been elected as the Baptist Student Director at University of Arkansas Little Rock. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. During the 1971-'72 school year he served as Associate BSU Director at the University of Arkansas.

Rankin is married to the former Jean Davis of Mendenhall, Miss. The Rankins have two children, Neddie Joye, age 5½, and Paul, 11 months.

Child Care

Caring is the history of the 'Home'

"My most vivid memory of the time I lived at the Children's Home is the time of the year when the love and care of the Arkansas Baptists was made evident to the children" writes V. W. Strickland, who lived at the Home from 1946-1958. He would encourage people to support the work of the child care ministry because "if it were not for people who cared where would I be today, indeed where would hundreds of kids be today". With these affirmative words, he included a check which is an expression of his caring. He added, "while it (living at the Home), was sometimes difficult for me to understand, down deep inside I knew there was lots of love to go around".

Hello Baptists: finding the 3½ million

The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is promoting a project to help Southern Baptist churches find and enlist nonresident members in Sunday School. The project is called Hello Baptists.

Nonresident membership in Southern Baptist churches increased by more than 63,000 from 1974 to 1975. Today, of the 12.7 million persons who claim membership in Southern Baptist churches, nearly 3.5 million are nonresident members. This indicates that more than 27 percent of all Southern Baptists are not active in the churches where they maintain their membership.

Here in Arkansas, approximately 30.7 percent of the 398,166 persons claiming membership in a Southern Baptist church in our state are nonresident members.

Hello Baptists gives churches a tool with which they can help churches throughout the nation find and contact nonresidents. Here is how the project works:

The home church checks its membership roles and makes a list of all members who have moved away but have not moved their membership. Then the church contacts the Hello Baptists Desk in Nashville, Tenn., and requests enough Hello Baptists information cards to record one family per card.

After completing the information on all Hello Baptists cards, the church has two options:

1. to mail the cards directly to the

The theme for this year's Thanksgiving Offering is "1894-1976 — History of Caring". Promotional materials will be mailed to the churches the last week in October. We are suggesting a goal of a minimum of \$1 per church member.

Arkansas Baptists' Thanksgiving offering has always been about caring. The purpose of our child care ministry is redemptive in that we attempt to restore the child's faith in himself, in others, and in God. We work toward providing appropriate care for children and rehabilitation of the family unit when possible. — Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

churches located near the homes of nonresident members, or

2. to mail the cards to the Hello Baptists Desk, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

To follow the first option, local churches will need a copy of the *Directory of Southern Baptist Churches*. This directory is item number 9522-6 on the undated literature order form, and sells for \$8.25.

Churches that follow the second option need only to mail their information cards to the Hello Baptists Desk. There the cards are divided by conventions and forwarded to state Sunday School secretaries. Then the cards are distributed among the directors of associational missions.

In turn, the directors locate churches near the homes of these nonresident Baptists and pass the cards along accordingly. The task is not finished, however, until the local church visits each nonresident family and seeks to enlist them in Bible study.

Hello Baptists is a cooperative effort that can work in reaching the 3½ million nonresident members in our convention. If your church wants to participate in this outreach project, contact the Hello Baptists Desk at the address given above. Hello Baptists manuals and information cards are free upon request.

Join in the search today! Let's say "Hello" to the millions of nonresident Southern Baptists across this land.

Pastors to discuss leadership skills

NASHVILLE — Helping pastors turn past experience into leadership strengths for the future will be one of the primary objectives of a special seminar here Nov. 8-12.

The Improving Pastoral Leadership Skills Seminar, coordinated by the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been planned especially for pastors with six or more years experience.

The five-day seminar, the first of its kind, will be held in the board's Church Program Training Center.

"The pastor's greatest information source for personal growth is his own experience," explains Ernest E. Mosley, supervisor of the church administration department's pastoral section. "Yet most of us fail to get insights from our experiences because we are unable to back off and look at them."

The leadership skills seminar, says Mosley, "is designed to help pastors look at their six or more years of pastoral experience and get insights that will help them do a better job in the years ahead."

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss individual situations during the seminar, which will cover such topics as motivating people in Christian service, understanding and handling conflict and working with people in the context of the church.

Time management, planning and delegation of responsibility also will be discussed.

The featured guest for the seminar will be Lee Prince, pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, Tenn. During his ministry, Prince has led his church in analyzing its effectiveness in the community and planning a variety of ministry approaches, according to Mosely.

Seminar director will be Bruce Grubbs, consultant in the church administration department's pastoral section. Walter Bennett, John Ishee and Fred McGehee, also church administration department consultants, also will be included in the program.

Persons interested in attending the seminar should write to the Church Program Training Center, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Registration cost is \$30, and participants will be responsible for their own meals and lodging.

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Teaching missions will be big WMU push

Southern Baptists are rolling up their sleeves to get a big dose of missions education.

A three-year round of inoculations will begin Oct. 1, when Woman's Missionary Union begins pumping its emphasis on teaching missions.

"Injecting new life into the study of missions is the best way WMU can fortify the Southern Baptist Convention's bold mission strategies," says Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director.

So the casual church member who usually thinks of missions only at Christmas and Easter is likely to find himself in a missions book club, in a missions reading contest, or studying a missions book.

"WMU is going to give mission study the image it deserves. Mission study is eye-opening, life-changing, entertaining, and absolutely basic to Christian living, personally and in the church," she told WMU staff in a recent meeting.

Miss Weatherford promised that WMU-sponsored mission study will be staged in new ways for better quality learning and wider participation.

WMU drew up plans for a Teach Missions emphasis two years ago. "We took a look at the denomination's emphasis on sharing Christ through bold missions. We knew that missions cannot become bold until more Southern Baptists learn what missions is. That's why the WMU Executive Board chose the emphasis," explained a WMU staffer.

For the next 12 months, while the SBC emphasis is "Let the Church Stand Up," WMU will have this theme: "Teach Missions to Know, to Grow."

"To Know, to Grow" stresses personal and church development through the study of the biblical basis and history of missions.

When the SBC has a two-year round of special projects under "Let the Church Reach Out — Bold Missions," WMU themes will be "Teach Missions to Be, to Do," and "Teach Missions Boldly." Projects in these years will sign up men and women for short-term mission study groups, for prayer retreats, and for other churchwide missions information blitzes.

Already WMU has launched the Round Table Book Club. In cooperation with Baptist Book Store Division of the Sunday School Board, WMU is promoting the missions book club to get missions reading systematically into the

hands of Southern Baptists.

The first quarterly mailing of Round Table Book Club selections went to more than 3,000 persons. The majority of subscribers are WMU members who are in Baptist Women book discussion groups. Others include pastors and women who are not regular WMU participants.

Book Stores will offer three books a quarter to club members at a discount. The first selections included books on Ecuador missions, Bangladesh missions, and witnessing.

Both WMU and Book Store officials are elated over the success of the new missions reading plan. "Apparently people are hungry for missions reading," one said. "This is a remarkable beginning."

WMU will urge its officers to promote study of the Foreign and Home Mission Graded Series churchwide. That means that twice a year, the entire church membership will have an opportunity for a concentrated study of a missions book.

Next February, during WMU Focus Week, WMU will invite all church members to sign up for a Missions Readathon. Promoting a little friendly competition, WMU officers will encourage Baptists to read a varied slate of missions books and magazines for a year. Awards will be presented to winners in 1978.

Meanwhile, in WMU organizations of all ages, the business of teaching missions to 1.2 million members will not be as usual. WMU's eight magazines will be loaded with missions quizzes, and incentives for individual missions learning, along with the usual stories and studies.

"It's what we do all the time plus-plus," says Lawrence Webb, director of the WMU editorial department. "Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women studies will be presented in popular reading style. Then three different plans for study will be outlined," he said.

The three study plans range from a simple use of what's in the magazine to a sophisticated spin-off into deep inspections.

The first year of the Teach Missions emphasis will be augmented by another focus called "Minding the Future." This theme calls for churches to expand teaching missions to those who should be Acteens, Girls in Action, and Mission Friends.

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Moral issues in elections '76 — focus on

by C. Welton Gaddy

Freedom has always been a big word in the United States of America.

An unwavering commitment to freedom has shaped the documents of our democracy.

The blessings of freedom have become the lyrics of our national songs.

The importance of freedom has expressed itself in our national military defense and in the personal sacrifice of tens of thousands of our finest young men.

Christians have a special interest in freedom. Fully aware that the truest form of freedom resides in a redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ, Christians are nevertheless sensitive to the significance of freedom within the civil realm.

Bible teachings about the dignity and worth of every individual inspire support for a civil freedom which is guaranteed to all people. Recognition of the importance of a personal experience with God, private and corporate worship, and religious witness has traditionally led Baptists to an uncompromising allegiance to religious liberty.

We believe that civil freedom and religious liberty go hand in hand. Christians should encourage a style of citizenship and a form of government which consistently exhibit a commitment to freedom and faithfully assume its responsibilities.

Recent infringements on freedom are cause for alarm. Court decisions affecting a person's right to privacy, Congressional hearings on abuses of freedom perpetrated and perpetuated by the FBI and CIA, and persistent warnings regarding the erosion of public support for freedom have made citizens uneasy. The fact that some would selfishly use government to legislate adherence to their religious point of view while others would deceptively use religion to accomplish partisan political goals is frightening.

In this election year as always, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Candidates for public offices should give an account of themselves on various freedom issues. Here is a brief review of the positions of the two major presidential candidates on some concerns related to religious freedom and civil liberty:

1. Religious freedom. The candidates' positions on three different issues indicate their postures regarding a principle which has historically been a major concern of Baptists.

Gerald Ford, the Republican nominee for President, has clearly stated he believes private and parochial education are essential to the nation and worthy of aid in any manner which is "constitutional." His major sponsorship of the tax credit proposals under President Nixon was an example of his long-time support of aid to parochial schools. Democratic Presidential nominee Jimmy Carter opposes federal aid to parochial schools. Though he would not allocate public money for religious instruction, he would give aid to students who go to private schools.

Regarding mandatory religious exercises in public schools, the candidates differ in their positions.

Carter thinks private prayer should be permitted but not required. He favors the ban on imposing religious exercises on public schools.

Ford favors a prayer amendment to the Constitution. His 1971 vote for the Wylie prayer amendment indicated his support of religious exercises in public schools.

On the matter of abortion, both candidates oppose a constitutional amendment to prohibit all abortions.

Ford is against abortion on demand but feels abortion is justified in cases of rape and where the life of the mother is at stake. He would assign the states the task of defining the limits of abortion.

Carter is opposed to assigning such responsibility to the states. He has said, "I think abortion is wrong and I think that government ought not ever do anything to encourage abortion."

2. Civil liberty. Both Carter and Ford have declared their opposition to any discrimination which denies civil freedom to anyone on the basis of race or sex. For example, both candidates strongly support the Equal Rights Amendment and both have advocated equal employment opportunities.

The matter of compulsory busing to achieve racial balance and equal educational opportunities in the public schools has been addressed by both men.

Ford has said, "Busing as a remedy ought to be the last resort, and it ought to be limited in duration and scope to correcting the effects of previous violations."

Carter's position is, "Mandatory busing, no. Voluntary transfer, yes."

The willingness of many citizens to

give up essential liberties stems from fear provoked by rising crime rates.

Ford favors mandatory minimum sentences as one means of stemming the increase in crime. Additionally, he wants four new federal prisons and an increase in the number of prosecutors and judges.

Carter has said that the best way to reduce crime is to reduce unemployment. The most effective deterrent within the criminal justice system, according to Carter, is swift, firm punishment. Accordingly he advocates streamlining court procedures, abbreviating trial procedures, and exercising sure punishment.

Two issues closely related to the joint concerns of crime and freedom are laws to deal with handgun abuse and the use of the death penalty.

Ford favors the death penalty for the crimes of sabotage, espionage, treason, and murder. He cautions, however, that the penalty should not be applied if there is duress, impaired mental capacity, or similar extenuating circumstances.

Carter believes the death penalty should be retained for a few aggravated crimes. A jury should always assess this penalty and each case should be reviewed by a three-judge panel of the state Supreme Court.

Both candidates support prohibitions on the manufacture and sale of cheap handguns known as "Saturday night specials."

Ford has said he is "unalterably opposed to the registration of gun owners and the registration of guns." He does, however, want to strengthen existing laws on the sale of handguns and increase the number of federal firearms investigators.

Carter would prohibit the ownership of guns by criminals who have used guns in their crimes and by mentally incompetent persons. He supports "handgun registration, reasonable waiting periods, and appropriate licensing provisions."

Freedom issues exist at the state and local levels of government as well as at the national level.

Before election day seek to discover what candidates — not only national but also state and local — are saying about freedom concerns.

Ask campaigning politicians questions such as:

Are you committed to civil rights for

SBC must maintain balance, Sullivan says

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists need improved communications, a better understanding of institutions, continuing striving for balance and a "restless patience" to continue the denomination's forward surge, Southern Baptist Convention President James L. Sullivan said here.

Sullivan, looking back on 44 years in the ministry and ahead to the challenges the nation's largest Protestant denomination faces in the years ahead, told members of the SBC Executive Committee that communications is "the number one problem of any vast body."

"It takes a long time just to say hello" to the 12.7 million Southern Baptists in 34,902 churches in the 50 states, Sullivan said in an address to the Executive Committee's semi-annual meeting.

"People need to know their roots, reasons for being, God's part in their blessings, their denominational distinctives," Sullivan said. "Our communication of these things has improved over the years but people are still not rooted in their heritage because of youthfulness of our (131-year-old) denomination."

Many Southern Baptists, Sullivan said, don't understand the heartbeat and ministry of our institutions. "I see and hear critical remarks about our seminaries — mostly by innuendo. That kind of thing usually involves a personal crusade or someone using a seminary as a whipping boy to ferret out a personal following."

"People fail to understand the historical-critical study of the Bible," he elaborated. "They think it always implies condemnation when it merely involves analysis of background, circumstances and application of meaning."

"They said the same thing in my seminary days, claiming we were producing Bible-doubting modernists. I went to school with Herschel Hobbs, W. A. Criswell, W. O. Vaught and Doug Hudgins, he said, in reference to well-known, conservative Southern Baptists. "Are they modernists?"

Sullivan, touching on the controversy over Bible literalism, added: "Some simplistically think you have to answer everything about the Bible with a 'yes' or 'no.' I believe the truths of the Bible are literally true, but God uses figurative approaches such as parables and symbols, in addition to such approaches as history, biography and miracles to reveal himself and his truth," he said.

"We don't need to defend the Bible but only proclaim its truth, which is its

own defense. I would have a narrow concept of God if I thought that he could reveal himself only through some theory of revelation that I had developed."

The retired chief executive of the SBC Sunday School Board emphasized the need for balance in the denomination — between system and God's freedom, the pragmatic and the practical, spirit and mechanics, diversity and unity.

"The charismatic movement is imbalanced in its emphases," he said, "but we don't want to be so severe against it that we take the spirit and life out of our worship."

"Balance between diversity and unity," he proclaimed, "is essential to prevent fragmentation. "We don't want all Baptists to be alike. We don't want everyone in the same mold. But we don't want fragmentation, either. Some would measure everyone by himself," Sullivan said. "He would take a pencil, outline himself on the wall, step back and try to get everyone to fit the pattern. Those who don't aren't acceptable. Then, others failing, he would measure, himself by himself, standing up against the pattern and saying, 'See there, I measure up.'"

"In our type of democracy, extremists do 90 percent of the talking, but don't control many votes," Sullivan continued. "The silent middle listens and then votes a balanced direction."

"But this kind of approach is absolutely necessary in a democracy. Without the extremism of Patrick Henry, for example, we may never have had an America," he said.

Sullivan's final appeal was for Southern Baptists to maintain a "restless patience" — patience to wait on God's leadership but a restless, alertness geared "to seize every opportunity which comes at the moment a door of opportunity is open."

Forward advance of anything is based "on strengths, not weaknesses," Sullivan declared. "We have to be aware of our weaknesses and allow for them, but we need to center our attention on our strengths to reach the world for Christ."

all?
Do you believe government ever has a right to violate such personal freedoms as telephone conversations or bank records?

What is your position on the separation of church and state?

Would you ever favor allocating public funds for religious instruction?

Do you support the legal requirement of religious exercises in public tax-funded institutions?

What do you plan to do about job or pay discrimination based upon sex or race?

The Bicentennial year is an appropriate time for renewing our national commitment to freedom with responsibility. Many of the freedom issues in the '76 elections are moral issues which invite the involvement of Christian citizens.

C. Welton Gaddy is director of Christian citizenship development for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Arkansas Baptists have a hole in their pocket!!

Since your state paper is supported by paid subscriptions by individuals and through church budgets, and by some money through the Cooperative Program . . . the cost ultimately comes from your pocket.

And the cost of producing a news publication for and about Arkansas Baptists is rising. It's no secret and it's not new!

If money is spent unnecessarily it's like having a hole in your pocket. So we're asking your help to sew up the hole.

The hole is the problem of undeliverable magazines. The U.S. Postal Service returns to second class mailers a notice that a magazine was not delivered because of incomplete address or the subscriber having moved. Your state paper gets from 600 to 700 notices each month and must pay a charge on each one. Until June 13, 1976, the charge was 10 cents each. On June 13 the cost went to 13 cents each, and on July 18 it jumped to 25 cents per notice. Simple arithmetic tells you the size of the hole in the collective pocket of Arkansas Baptists: at least \$150 per month or \$1800 per year.

Since the number of pages in the Newsmagazine already has been trimmed slightly for 1976, and similar space cuts are planned for 1977 just to maintain the current price, these increased postage costs are hard to absorb.

The solution could be to pass costs on to subscribers.

Or, with help from churches and individuals, we could sew up the hole in everyone's pocket.

We suggest these steps:

1. Subscribers should notify the Newsmagazine at least two weeks **before** they move. A stamp is cheap compared to 10 cents each week for forwarding, or the 25 cents paid by the Newsmagazine (many times 50 cents because notices are returned after the next week's list is prepared.)
2. When you notify the Newsmagazine of a change of address use your name label from the back page. Stick it on a post card, add your new address below it, and spend nine cents to save money.
3. Churches or individuals who send new subscribers or new addresses should give complete information: name of head of household, street address, including apartment number, (or P.O. Box or rural route and box number) town, and zip code.

It's your pocket! The Newsmagazine will furnish the needle and thread, but only you, the subscriber, can sew up the hole.



Alive in Christ

Oct. 17, 1976

Romans 6:12-28

Many, many times we have wished for a fresh start in life. Some try a fresh start by moving to another place. Others try a different job. But these are not permanent solutions. What needs to happen is for us to become new persons. That reconciled to God means to us. Of the returned prodigal son, the father said, "this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again" (Lk. 15:24). As a result of this new life our goals and commitments are turned right-side up. We see life, ourselves, God and things all differently.



Darter

A decision is required

Before we can make a major change in our life, we must will that change. When we become alive in Christ, sin is no longer our spiritual warden. We must stop obeying sin in our lives. So Paul says "do not let sin reign" (v. 12NASB) in you. Because we are actually dead to the control of sin and because we are now forever alive to God in Jesus Christ now we can stop obeying sin.

This moving from the realm of sin to the realm of life will cause major alterations of our habits and ways of life. A comparable change is done by our astronauts who have to learn a whole new method of movement when they are in space. They leave the earth's control, move through weightlessness, and then into the control of the moon. We have hints of the extreme pressure on the body as it goes into orbit. Isn't it likely that a similar stress is placed on a person who is converted. I have experienced spiritual stress like this and I feel some of this same kind of battle like Paul's (Rom. 7:14-25).

Not only do we leave the realm of sin's control, but we pass into the Kingdom of God with Christ Jesus as our Headmaster. We are to stop showing up for duty under sin and start reporting for life under Christ. Once we were dead, our lives clearly showed the absence of life. Now we are live, therefore, let us act like it. Our "new man" is a whole new self. This new man will

be moving in tune with the new Master. Instead of the sinful things we did, we shall do the right ones.

As a human I am subject to the laws of the earth. Gravity and the other laws of physics control my body. I also live as a member of a community and am subject to its rules and principles. If I stop here, I am still dead. But reconciliation gives life and now I am like God, spiritual, and am to live by the commands of Christ. When I choose to trust Christ with my life and come under his rule, righteous living becomes my pattern.

Righteous living follows

The New Testament is clear that once I am saved I shall grow, mature and live. We are saved to produce good works (Eph. 2:10). When we were under law we gained approval by doing our job according to the law way. But now we serve God and grace is our foreman. We are under new ownership. I recall working an office. When the owners sold to a national chain, we had to do our job by new rules. New guidelines came down from the front office.

He who has reconciled us and given us of his life has also provided us his perfect guidelines for right living. Once our life-pilot followed the directional beam of sin. Now our life-beam is locked into Christ. Formally we cut our lives along the pattern we thought to be for us. Now we are being made conformable to the image of Christ (Col. 3:10). But we do not become robots. Rather our lives will resemble His. In Christ God has broken our contract with sin. Now we are bound to righteousness. (6:18).

In the Army we learned to take a map and a compass and line up the map according to magnetic north. We laid the map down. Then we placed the compass facing north. Next we rotated the map until it was oriented to magnetic north. Our life's map must be lined up according to Christ. No other way makes sense. No one's life will ever make sense until the person's life is

oriented with Christ. Try as hard as we can, life will make no sense until we are aligned.

God has built us to live according to the commands of our heart. Christ reconciles us to himself. This straightens up our hearts. Then we live daily by the condition of the heart. Several years ago I made a large map. I put a road map into an opaque projector and shined the enlarged picture on to poster paper on the wall. Then I marked the imaged map on the poster. My map was perfect; it had been drawn according to the master map. So with our lives (Matt. 5:48).

Rewards of our life

We have yielded our old life to Christ. He made a new life for us, gave us His life. As His life in us began to express itself, our living took on a resemblance of him. Paul now discusses some rewards of this new life. The result of presenting ourselves as servants of righteousness is sanctification. Jesus is the "author and finisher" of our lives. The finished product will be holy and without flaw. Our living must show that our goal is to become like him. A Christian cannot be a temple of the living God while seeing the devil on the sly. We cannot say we are in fellowship with the Lord and at the same time walk in the footprints of the Evil One.

We spend much of our day looking ahead and trying to miss what would hurt us. We automatically adjust our driving speed to how close we are to the stop sign. Paul shows us our future if we had stayed on the path of sin (v. 21). We were heading for disaster. But now that we have been transferred from death into life our destination is eternal life (v. 22). Looking ahead furnishes us strong motivation for making changes in our living that will keep us on the road of righteousness.

When we were sin's slave we were earning our wages. The final payment was to be complete death; death as a physical person, death as a social person, and much worse, death as an ungodlike person. But now that we are Christ's slave we have been given, by his grace, everlasting life. How many times have you wished for a fresh start? Since heaven is your birthright, you have it!

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Members of Christ's body

Oct. 17, 1976

I Corinthians 12:12-21
Ephesians 4:11-16

Please allow me to share with you a true story about a church that I know that accepted into its fellowship for membership by proxy a lady who had been dead for three months. They did so at the request of her husband who shared



Parker

with the congregation that his wife had always wanted to be a "member" of this particular church. Here we see a gross misinterpretation of what it means to be a part of Christ's body.

While you laugh with me about this story, tragic as it is, please keep in mind that the learning objective for this lesson is to find ways in which our membership can become more meaningful to people and to assist these people to verbalize how we see our relationships in the church.

We are studying in two very familiar passages. They deal with two different situations but are still an intricate part of the fellowship of a church. The first passage, Corinthians, Paul is dealing with a problem involving church fellowship. In the second, Ephesians, he is dealing with the Christian church leaders and is showing them their responsibility to service to Christ.

In searching the passage we find that the problem in the fellowship had to do with the diversity of spiritual gifts. Paul points out to the church that these spiritual gifts have been given of God through the person of the Holy Spirit and are given for the benefit of all members of the church. Some had the feeling that these gifts were given to them as a special favor from God. Also the feeling that these gifts were for their own edification rather than for the total good of the entire body.

If you will picturize what took place. Get the picture in your mind and you can readily see what became their immediate besetting sin. This sin was pride. They became proud of their gifts as though they had something to do with deserving the gift in the first place. This pride and subsequently envy led to strife and was beginning to cause difficulty in the church. We see Paul in an effort to restore unity, harmony, and peace within the constituency of the body very wisely drawing upon the analogy of the human physical body.

This was a very timely decision for

Paul. The analogy of the body was well understood. In Paul's day, the physical body was representative of the symbol used to display unity or togetherness as we might state it. He communicated with the church when he used this analogy.

One body, many members (I Cor. 12:12-21)

As you noticed from your scripture search that Paul goes into detail in the passage of I Corinthians 12 to show how Christians make up the body of Christ. The physical body, though each member is separate, functions on an interdependent basis. Paul used this to visualize to the church the body of Christ. He gives very strong emphasis on the "oneness" concept and "unity" concept of all members of the body.

One of the obstacles in winning our secular society to Christ is the disunity that characterizes too many churches. When there is disunity the church body will turn their eyes and attention inwardly rather than looking to those to whom the body is to minister and witness. There is a need for unity in our churches today. We are members of the body of Christ and form one whole because we have become one member through faith in Jesus Christ.

How does one come to be a part of this body? It seems so simple to say through a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Yet, through the years, this answer has been prostituted until today many say there are several ways to become a member of the body. Space would not allow us to list the ways some have stated how to become a member of the body. Let us be clear in our answer. One becomes a member of the body of Christ when he believes. We become a Christian and are banded together with many other Christians in the world. More specifically we are banded together with the local expression of believers in the local church. Through the Holy Spirit and faith in Jesus Christ we are one. To use an old terminology that Jesus used but has been much in vogue in Christian circles today, we are "born again".

Water baptism is not what Paul had reference to in verse 13, but rather as a symbol of being baptized by the Holy Spirit into Jesus Christ. He was not talking about the "second blessing" type

of baptism, but Paul emphasizes that the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer in the body of Christ. Without this specific act we have not come into the body of Christ. He forms us in the body of Christ.

In verses 14-21 of I Corinthians 12 Paul seeks to display for us that there is not only diversity of gifts but diversity of members. All members are needed by each other and each one is needed by the total body. God has given a function or gift to every true believer in Christ. Some members have discovered their gift while others are not aware that gifts even exist. The body of Christ could function so much more effectively and powerfully if all members of the body knew their specific function and purpose, commit themselves totally to Christ, sharpen those gifts and forge ahead.

Jesus is no longer active on earth in his physical body to do his work. He does, however, have a body to function for him. It is his church. We should rejoice when another body of believers in our community experience victory. We should also weep tears of hurt and sorrow when they suffer hurt and defeat. Aren't you glad that you are a part of the family of God and a part of the body of Christ?

Sharing together through Christ's body in ministry (Eph. 4:11-13)

The emphasis in Ephesians is on our personal relationship to the church and to Christ. It is our involvement and sharing together in the ministry of Jesus. It is being involved in a working fellowship.

Christ gave gifts to the churches. He gave the offices to the church. It was he and he alone that gave the offices so that the church could function. In verse 11 Paul lists these gifts to the church. Their task as leaders is to help equip all God's people for the work of ministry. In this order the entire body grows toward maturity in Jesus (as instructed to do so in verse 13).

Those gifts listed in verse 11 are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Jesus gave these gifts so that His church might continue to function. The purpose of these gifts were to: (1) "Perfect the saints." Equip the saints for the work of ministering or serving; (2) "For the work of the ministry;" (3) "Edifying the body of Christ." Build up the body of Christ; (4) "Unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of

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Continued on page 23

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Life and Work lesson, Continued

God". Christ desires harmony, unity in the body. He wants the body to know him; (5) "Unto a perfect man." Christ wants us a full-grown Christian. Maturing in our spiritual walk.

The goal of every Christian is to reproduce ourselves. This is done only through becoming a believer, maturing in our faith in Jesus Christ, gaining knowledge of the Father, assuming the role of a servant and seeking to share that faith with those who are not of the body of Christ. Then is Christ's work continued through his body . . . the church. We are a vital part of the body and this calls for us to function according to our gift given to us.

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Attendance report

Oct. 3, 1976

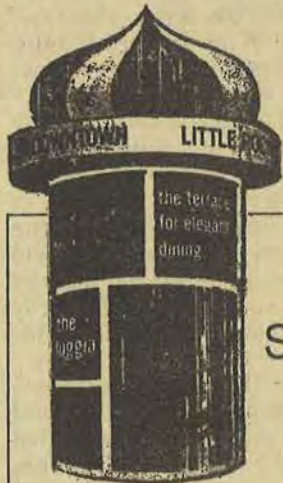
Church	Sunday School	Ch. Trng.	Ch. adds.
Alexander, First	119	56	1
Alpena, First	66	18	
Batesville, First	237	91	2
Benotville			
Central Avenue	98	38	
Mason Valley	85	40	
Berryville			
First	181	71	
Freeman Heights	176	68	5
Rock Springs	60		
Bigelow	85	38	
Biscoe, First	109	52	
Booneville			
First	285		
South Side	99	64	5
Cabot			
First	461	127	1
Mt. Carmel	297	93	2
Camden			
Cullendale First	542	171	1
First	454	119	
Cash, First	117	83	
Concord, First	86	33	
Conway, Second	328	150	5
Crossett, Mt. Olive	362	156	
Dell	122	54	
El Dorado, West Side	442	429	2
Elkins, First	140		
Forrest City, First	585	50	
Fort Smith			
East Side	393	121	2
Grand Avenue	983	250	5
Mission	13		
Haven Heights	235	140	4
Temple	142	87	
Trinity	148	50	
Fouke, First	110	74	
Genry, First	181	61	
Grandview	75	62	
Green Forest, First	211	59	
Greenwood, First	357	171	10
Hampton, First	138	78	2
Hardy, First	153	80	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	306	143	4
Woodland Heights	109	60	
Hope, Calvary	160	86	
Hot Springs			
Leonard Street	142	75	
Memorial	91	36	
Park Place	312	94	2
Hughes, First	161	52	
Jacksonville			
Bayou Meto	194	103	5
First	432	84	3
Marshall Road	179	88	
Jonesboro, Nettleton	278	141	1
Kingston, First	86	68	
Lavaca, First	297	131	
Little Rock			
Chicot Road	69		8
Crystal Hill	168	49	
Life Line	493	99	4
Martindale	129	48	2
Woodlawn	128	58	1
Magnolia, Central	682	206	
Monticello, Second	290	111	2
Mulberry, First	204	115	4
North Little Rock			
Calvary	418	137	2
Lewy	421	104	
Park Hill	827		8
Paragould			
Calvary	238	181	1
East Side	302	125	8
First	416	74	1
West View	176	91	
Paris, First	424	72	2
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	155	65	
Central	133	70	
East Side	182	88	2
First	936		7
Lee Memorial	235	119	2
South Side	581	77	
Tucker	18		
Oppelo	24	25	
Sulphur Springs	175	127	4
Watson Chapel	346	141	4
Prairie Grove, First	150	41	2
Rogers, Immanuel	526	97	
Russellville			
Bakers Creek	56	18	
First	557	139	3
Kelley Heights	48	17	
Sheridan, First	205	63	
Sherwood, First	236	87	1
Springdale			
Berry Street	88	40	
Caudle Avenue	151	60	
Elmdale	346	122	7
First	1509		7
Texarkana			
Arabella Heights	101		
Highland Hills	173	58	
Hickory Street	79		
Shiloh Memorial	186	64	1
West Helena			
Second	168	101	1
West Helena Church	331	74	1
Wooster, First	107	78	2
Wynne, Harris Chapel	79	64	
Yellville, First	147	67	2

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Foreign fields request 1,330 new missionaries

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in 84 countries have submitted requests to the Foreign Mission Board for 1,330 new missionaries to reinforce, replace and begin new work in 1977. The most pressing need is for more "preacher" missionaries, according to board officials.

The requests topped last year's number by more than 100. Of the 1,217 missionaries requested for 1976, only 194 had been appointed at the end of September, according to Louis R. Cobbs,

percent were for general evangelists — a "preacher" missionary who works with pastors, trains church leaders, plants churches and mission points, helps established churches grow, and promotes church and denominational programs. General evangelism is one of 45 job categories for 1977.

Other top priorities include requests for 36 physicians, 34 nurses, nine dentists, 16 secondary education teachers and 14 college teachers.

"The emphasis on general evangelists is consistent with the traditional thrust of the Foreign Mission Board and with the bold strategy of advance projected for the next 25 years," Cobbs said, referring to the board's goal to double the missionary force during the next 25 years. "Some missions have not been able to make bold plans for the next 25 years due to the immediacy of personnel needs at hand," Cobbs said.

The success of the general evangelist allows the work of the specialist missionary to be effective, according to Cobbs. He said it also makes possible the missionary associate and missionary journeyman programs.

Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, has encouraged the board's mission support division to develop a strategy for reaching prospective general evangelists. He called for at least a 50 percent increase during the coming year.

According to Crawley, certain areas are more critical than others. "In recent years, East Asia has been reinforced with fewer missionary evangelists than any other area," Crawley said.

Over the past few years, East Asia (Hong Kong, Okinawa, Japan, Korea and Taiwan) has received only about five couples appointed for general evangelism — the least of any of the board's eight administrative areas.

Citing an example, George H. Hays, secretary for East Asia, said, "There have been no new missionaries appointed for Korea in two years and this is one of the most responsive areas of the world. The number of churches organized and the number of professions of faith recorded in Korea has been phenomenal.

Out of the first six requests from the Korea Mission, four are for general evangelists. The freedom to evangelize Korea is almost without limit for the general evangelist. Each evangelist missionary helps develop pastors and church leaders in 30 or 40 churches."

Hays related that eight cities in Japan with populations of more than 200,000 are without a Southern Baptist missionary presence to assist in evangelism and church development. Japan has

requested eight couples to work in general evangelism, but Hays said the missionaries limited the requests to eight only because they didn't think it was realistic to ask for more than that.

"The Pete Gillespies, the only Southern Baptist missionaries in Osaka, Japan, are due for retirement this year, leaving a city of 5 million people without any Southern Baptist missionary living within the city limits," Hays said.

The top three requests in Taiwan are for general evangelists, including a request for an urban evangelist in the industrial city of Kaohsiung, where tens of thousands of people are concentrated in high rise apartment complexes.

East Asia's need for more missionaries is great, but many other areas include needs equally as urgent.

William R. Wakefield, secretary for Southeast Asia, recently reported an overall responsiveness to the gospel in his area and a sense of urgency on the part of missionaries to reach the area while there is such keen opportunity.

"In Thailand, the country immediately surrounded by countries that have recently become communist, there is a focus by both nationals and missionaries on the opportunity afforded by the threat to the country by communist aggression," Wakefield said.

The missionaries in Thailand have requested 50 new missionaries for the next four years, according to Wakefield. "Their desire is to reach this country while it is still possible to do so," he commented.

In addition to the need for evangelistic workers, other needs such as those for medical personnel are also acute.

H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for West Africa, says the most urgent need in his area is for a missionary doctor to serve at the Baptist Medical Center in Nalerigu, Ghana.

"It is a three-doctor hospital, but there have been times during recent years that we've had only one physician there," Goerner said. "Ideally, we would have three missionary doctors assigned so when one is on furlough, two remain to carry the workload. If we don't get a doctor soon, we may face the possibility of closing the hospital."

The Southern Baptist Convention has set a goal to have a missionary staff of 5,000 within 25 years. Cobbs recently posed the question, "where are these people going to come from?"

Answering his own question, he said, "My response is that they must come from among the youth of our churches — mission-minded churches that are involved in the basic and exciting dimensions of Christian ministry."

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secretary of the board's department of missionary personnel.

The annual meeting held recently to review the 1977 missionary situation was directed by Cobbs and attended by staff members of the board's overseas division and the department of missionary personnel, including the four regional personnel representatives.

The regional representatives, located in Louisville, New Orleans, Kansas City and Ft. Worth, will make the requests back to area churches and nearby seminaries to challenge persons who are interested in missionary service.

Of the 1,330 requests for 1977, 42