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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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11-9-1978

### November 9, 1978

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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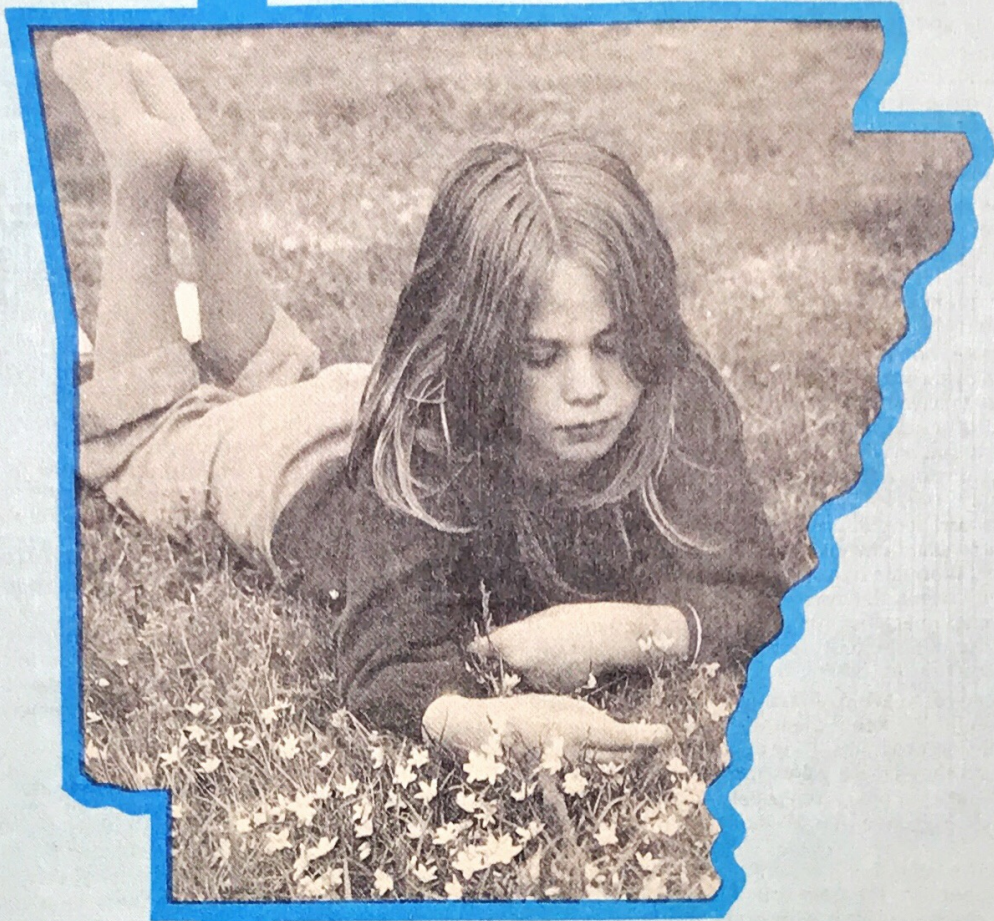
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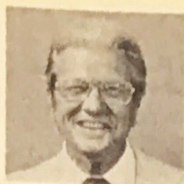
Share  
your  
abundance . . .



. . . to give  
abundant  
life

November 9, 1978  
**Arkansas Baptist**  
NEWSMAGAZINE

see page 11



## I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

### What you see is what you get

All praise for the person of whom it may be said, "What you see is what you get." This is not true of everyone who walks among us. The better interests of the human family will be served when the true identity of all God's children is manifested with pride and honesty.

There is developing among us the inclination of some to sail under two flags and wear two uniforms at the same time. It resembles the Civil War situation when a man, residing on the Mason-Dixon line, loving both the north and the south, donned a blue coat and grey trousers, only to be shot in the coat by one side and in the trousers by the other. One identifiable uniform would have eliminated the intensity of fire by one-half.

Some churches, some pastors, some seminaries, some periodicals claim to be Southern Baptists to the core, and at the same time claim to be independent to the core, which is confusing a lot of people. Some churches, pastors, seminaries and periodicals should be independent, but should sail under their own flag and wear only one uniform, not capitalizing on the best of two worlds without corresponding loyalty to either.

There is more, however, to loyalty than a flag and a uniform. Loyalty means to stand for the things which the flag and the uniform stands for, and as Southern Baptists it means to stand for the things which Southern Baptists stand for. Among these, Southern Baptists believe the tithes are to be brought into the local church. They do not contribute to causes without representation on the board or a voice in its operation. They do not ride a horse which has no bridle.

They do not endorse or indulge in self-appointed, self-perpetuating boards. They do not reward people for unethical solicitation of church funds. They will not long tolerate irregular activities, policies, or procedures which are not in keeping with their stated rationale of missions and evangelism. They will not look the other way when their corporate name and what it means is used for personal advancement or as a weapon against them. They stand for democratic surveillance over all their projects, for full disclosure and published audits. They do not buy a "pig in a poke." They insist on examining the merchandise before purchase.

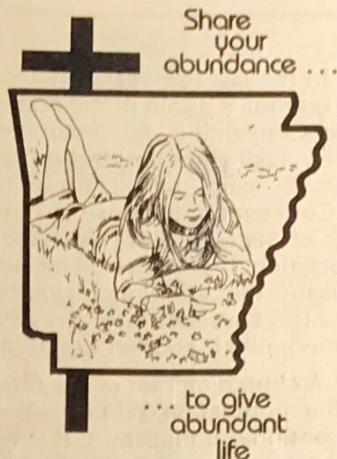
They are careful to avoid items appearing in their church budgets which would impair their ability to keep their financial commitments to their missionaries, schools and mission programs. They do not condone "playing both ends against the middle," nor do they create giants for their own destruction. They stand for the ethical implementation of a pure gospel and they will not advance those who break that code. All praise to the one of whom it may be said, "What you see is what you get."

The Executive Secretary is committed to the convention approved, convention budgeted, Cooperative Program oriented things we do. He has but one flag and one uniform, and he wears it with pride and honesty.

*I must say it!*

## In this issue

### Share abundance 11



The Thanksgiving Offering for Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services will give Baptists a chance to share their abundance so that children can have a more abundant life.

### Brotherhood future 14

The state Brotherhood Department will have a new director in January and he is optimistic about this mission organization for men and boys. Neal Guthrie tells about his plans for the work.

### President speaks 16

State Convention President Johnny Jackson's address to the annual meeting of the Convention begins on page 16.

# Arkansas Baptist

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Arkansas' third largest publication

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## Church merger or closure

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



In the last few years Arkansas has been fortunate to experience a gain in the number of churches in our State Convention. For many years we had approximately 1200 churches, but last year brought us up to 1229. This gain, the second best in the Southern Baptist Convention, is primarily due to the concerted efforts of State Missions Director R. H. Dorris and the associational directors of missions. Though evidence indicates that additional congregations are still needed, a few churches may very well need either to close or merge with another congregation.

A church merger or closure is often preceded by a shift in population. While many congregations are able to continue to minister effectively to those remaining in the area, the program of the church will need to be redirected. Other churches find it impossible to maintain buildings, pay staff salaries, and to meet their mission goals. In such instances it is evident that something must be done.

When it is apparent that a church has deep problems which may necessitate closure, the associational director of missions should be contacted. No matter how competent the members are, they will benefit from someone who has an overall view of the spiritual needs of the entire area. It should always be remembered that a witness for the Master must be continued in the area in some way.

A skillful associational director of missions will be able to see that a proper witness is continued in the area and to protect the property for future use. Some years ago an associational director of missions was contacted by a congregation which felt that their only option was to close. The rural church was advised to deed their property to a nearby town church which had agreed to sponsor them as a mission. The rural church voted for their members and property to be given to the sponsoring church. After a number of years' work and the relocation of the old church facilities, a thriving reconstituted church continues to witness to the area.

An occasional deterrent to the church merger or relocation is a misunderstanding of the nature and the meaning of a church. A church is a congregation of baptized believers who have as their purpose the advancing of the kingdom of God. It is not a meeting house or a piece of property. Church property is of value only to the extent that it assists a congregation in carrying out our Lord's commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

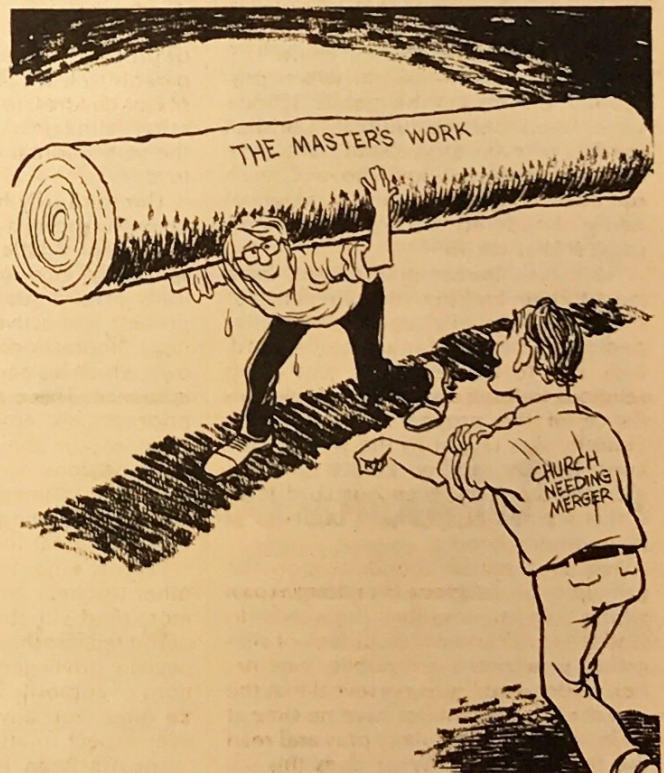
Though every situation is different, a church merger may be the best solution for declining churches. The merger may provide strength for both congregations and for a stronger, more effective witness by the newly-formed church than could be accomplished by either congregation separately.

Preparation for a church merger is essential. First,

the members of both congregations must be agreeable to the plan. Complete information should be supplied well in advance of the vote so that everyone will have adequate time to pray about the matter. There are many practical considerations which should be worked out, such as the best place for the new church to convene.

In spite of the differences of each situation, there are certain rules which should be remembered in any church merger. Among these are (1) a merger, in effect, creates a new church; (2) all members of the new congregation are equal; (3) all assets and liabilities of the old churches belong to the new church; and (4) all staff people and all church members must be treated with care and sensitivity.

Churches should remember that they are instruments to carry out our Lord's commission. To be effective in this task requires flexibility. This may mean establishing a new congregation or the merger of two churches. Closure may be the right course for a few. Churches are begun by courageous people. If we are to minister effectively we must courageously follow the leadership of the Lord day by day.



'Get under! There's enough here for both of us'



## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

### *When 57 is too young and 58 is O.K.*

The election of a new Pope twice within the short span of two months has caught the attention of the world, non-Catholic as well as Catholic. The thing that intrigued me more than anything else was the discussion of the age of the various cardinals mentioned as ones most likely to be selected as Pope. Prior to the election of Pope John Paul I, the various experts zeroed in on a handful of cardinals and proceeded to dissect their personalities, life histories, and theological stance on the conservative-liberal scale.

Most interesting to me was their speculation on the "proper age" for a new Pope, and what constitutes being too old or too young. It was said, for ex-

ample, that Cardinal Benelli of Florence would have strong support except that he was only 57 years of age, and this clearly made him too young for the job. As it turned out, the cardinals compromised on Cardinal Albino Luciano from Venice, who became Pope John Paul I, and whose age was a moderate 65.

More recently, following the tragic death of Pope John Paul I, the College of Cardinals had to go through the same process again. There was less emphasis by the experts on the necessity for the Pope being in his 60's or above. Obviously, the sudden death of their new Pope must have caused the cardinals to place higher priority on good health (and presumably a younger age) than

they had done in the earlier election. The result was their choice of Cardinal Wojtyla from Poland, who is only 58 years of age. The necessity of finding a conservative who was not too old must have been a contributing factor to going outside Italy for the first time in 455 years.

All of this has done wonders to my morale. It couldn't have happened at a better time, because I have recently had to endure the heckling of my colleagues at Ouachita Baptist University for having observed my 55th birthday. Not that I'm running for Pope. It's just nice to be young enough to have my major contribution in life still ahead of me.



## Woman's viewpoint

Mary Maynard Sneed

### *Religious education in the home*

Since the historic decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1962 in which prescribed prayers in the public schools were ruled unconstitutional, Christian parents of every persuasion have been crying anxiously, "But who will teach our children to pray?" Am I in danger of being considered too bold if I humbly suggest that we will?

From time immemorial parents have taught their children the elements of their own faith. Although Hannah, after dedicating her son Samuel to the Lord, took him to the temple to receive his religious training under the capable guidance of the prophet Eli, the young Timothy was taught in the ways of the Lord by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. Even our Lord Jesus Christ learned his "Father's business" at his mother's knee.

Yet, in a nation founded upon the principle of religious freedom, upon whose coins are inscribed the words "In God we trust" and whose pledge of allegiance proclaims the republic "one nation under God," surveys reveal that the vast majority of families have no time at all in which they regularly pray and read the Bible together. What does this say about the spiritual vitality of a so-called "Christian nation"? Does not this

deplorable tendency of Christian parents to leave the religious education of our children to others, even those of other faiths or of no faith at all, reveal the very spiritual complacency we seek to deny?

The spiritually healthy person is most often the product of a spiritually healthy home. For a little child to grow into a spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically mature adult, God must be both present and active in his life. A child's most impressionable years are those over which his parents have the greatest influence. These are the six short years prior to his entering public school. Here, too, in the spontaneity of everyday situations occur many of his most teachable moments. To miss even one such special moment in the life of a child is a great loss, indeed.

Parents enjoy many advantages over other teachers. Not only do they spend more time with the child, but the quality of the relationship is better. They are especially privileged to hold higher positions of authority in the eyes of their little ones than any other teacher could ever expect to attain.

The Christian home, in fulfilling its spiritual obligation to the family, is a complement to the church. No matter

how great its outreach, the church will never be able to substitute for the home as the institution primarily responsible for the religious education of the family.

As they seek to provide food for their family's spiritual growth, Christian parents have the task of teaching, training and setting examples, as well as of personal evangelism. If religious education and worship are provided in the home, as he reaches the age of moral accountability, the child should turn naturally to his parents for guidance. Christian parents should covet the opportunity to lead their own children to Christ.

It has been said that "Knowing God and walking with him is one of life's most important priorities." The schedules and activities of the Christian family should be established upon that priority. When commitments are made to discover God's will and to accomplish his purposes for the home, parents will bring to their children the meaningful religious experiences they seek for themselves.

**Mary Maynard Sneed of North Little Rock is the wife of the editor, a homemaker and mother of two daughters. She is a teacher and choir member at Sylvan Hills Church.**

# Faulkner Association celebrates 50th Anniversary

Faulkner Association celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Oct. 11, at the association's Cold Springs Camp near Conway. The special session of the annual associational meeting was presided over by Harrison Johns, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Conway, who was chairman of the Anniversary Committee. The program featured a message by Gilbert Nichols, missionary to Para-

guay; a presentation of a plaque to Associational Director of Missions J. A. Kuen for his 10 years of service; and a time of reminiscing. Special guests for the occasion included former Associational Director of Missions P. E. Turner; J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*; and former associational moderators. Missionary Nichols spoke from Philip-

pian 1:3-7, challenging those in attendance to become involved in the Bold Mission Thrust. He said, "We can not enter into the Bold Mission Thrust without confidence. Our people are learning how to work. Each of us are to be busy serving the Master in the place of service that he has set aside for us. The Cooperative Program makes it possible for us to reach around the world."

The Faulkner County Association grew out of the Greenbrier Association. The Landmark-Convention controversy of the early 1920's gave birth to the Faulkner County Association. Some of the present churches that are a part of the Faulkner Association were among the organizers of the "old" Greenbrier Association which had its beginning in 1884.

The first annual associational meeting of the Faulkner County Association was in the First Church, Quitman, on Oct. 24, 1929. E. F. Simmons was elected moderator and E. P. J. Garrott was elected clerk and also preached the annual sermon. There were 30 churches which were a part of the newly-formed association.

Although records are not complete, the known directors of missions are as follows: Ernest F. Simmons, W. O. Taylor, P. E. Turner, Allen McCurry, James Evans, and Jay Moore. The present director of missions is J. A. Kuen.

The 25 churches of Faulkner Association now own and operate a Retreat Center of 44 acres with dormitory space for 80, a swimming pool, and dining facilities for 250. They also own an associational office. The 1979 budget is \$59,000.

Missionary Kuen says, "There is a great spirit of togetherness as we look to the future. We know that the victory is assured when all Christians grow to the fullest witness of God's grace."

## Committee member seeks suggestions

James Sawyer, a Benton layman, has been named to the SBC committee which will seek a successor to the retiring executive director of the Foreign Mission Board. Dr. Sawyer has invited Arkansans who have suggestions about a specific person for the post or about general qualifications they would like to see met in the committee's choice to send this information to him. Dr. Sawyer's address is 734 Saline Circle, Benton, Ark. 72015.



## Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

## Christmas at the pastor's home

As you think of Christmas, do you wish for a way to express your love to a host of friends? Our pastor's wife conveyed her love for the church family last year with an open house at Christmas in their new home. It was one of those joyous occasions where you can feel the unique warmth and happiness that is a special part of Christ's birth day season.

Early in November she started her arrangements for the open house scheduled near Christmas. She began with plans for simple refreshments and decorations. However, it wasn't long before plans started mushrooming as expressions of love started coming back to her. One friend offered to take complete charge of the kitchen during the evening of the party. Another said, "I'll send my special fruit cake." Others volunteered sugar cookies, home-made candy, and a centerpiece for the table. The list of "gifts" grew and grew. The very special thing was that friends offered to be active participants in the event.

Invitations were extended through the church bulletin and announcements at services. The church family felt appreciated and loved. The open house was a success, and we think it's a gift that many families might like to extend to friends this Christmas.

Our recipes this month are for a sweet and a non-sweet tid-bit. They are good at other times of the year than Christmas.

### Sausage Rolls

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour              | 5 tablespoons shortening      |
| 1½ teaspoons salt         | 2/3 cup milk                  |
| 3 teaspoons baking powder | 1 pound well seasoned sausage |

Sift flour with salt and baking powder. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add milk all at once and mix. Divide dough in two parts. Roll out ¼ inch thick. Spread with sausage (must be at room temperature). Roll up as for jelly roll. Repeat with remaining dough. Wrap in wax paper and chill in refrigerator. When ready to serve, slice 1/3 or 1/4 inch thick and bake at 400 degrees for 10-15 minutes (or until slightly tan). This can also be served with eggs for breakfast. The uncooked roll freezes nicely.

### Pecan Tarts

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 oz. cream cheese, softened          | 3/4 cup brown sugar   |
| ½ cup + 1 tablespoon butter, softened | 1 teaspoon vanilla    |
| 1 cup flour                           | dash of salt          |
| 1 egg                                 | 2/3 cup broken pecans |

Blend cheese and ½ cup butter. Stir in flour. Chill 1 hour. Shape into 12-14 balls. Place in ungreased muffin pans and press against bottom and sides. Beat egg, sugar, remaining butter, vanilla, and salt. Sprinkle with remaining pecans. Bake for 25 minutes at 325 degrees. Makes 12-14 muffin-size tarts or 3 dozen small tarts.

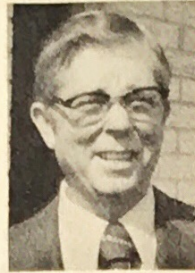
by Millie Gill

## Cathy Pittman

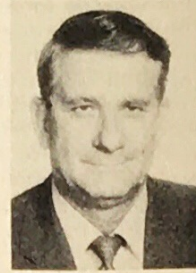
has been called to serve as youth director of Second Church, Russellville. An honor graduate of Russellville High School, she is a junior at Arkansas Tech University. She has served the Home Mission Board as a Sojourner and has also served as a Baptist Student Union summer missionary, working in Ohio. Miss Pittman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pittman of Russellville.



Pittman



Hensley



Fletcher

Church. He assumed the position on Oct. 4. Savell is a former pastor of the

Highland Avenue Church, South Charleston, W. Va. He is a graduate of Ouachita University and New Orleans Seminary.

## Kenneth Huff

has accepted the call to become pastor of the Shibley Baptist Church. He is a former pastor of the Shady Grove Church and pastor Terrace Mission, a mission of First Church, Turner. He has also pastored in California.

## Lawrence Dale Phelps

is pastor of the Uniontown Church, Clear Creek Association.

## George W. Domereso

became the pastor of Woodlawn

## Wendell Hensley

was honored by Beryl Church, Vilonia, on Oct. 22. He was presented with a plaque in recognition of his 10 years service as church music director. He, his wife, Darlene, and their family were honored with a reception following the evening worship service.

## Randall Bardin

has been called as minister of music and youth by Elmdale Church, Springdale. He is a native of Dallas and a recent honor graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University. Bardin has assisted as conductor, composer, and performer for numerous recitals and programs. Nov. 5 was his first Sunday with the Elmdale Church.

## Clyde Cook

assumed the duties as interim pastor of Calvary Church, West Memphis, on Oct. 29.

## Faron Rogers

was ordained to the gospel ministry on Oct. 1. The service was held at First Church, Benton, where he serves as minister of youth. Dickson Rial, pastor, led the questioning. James Herzfeld, chairman of deacons, gave the charge. Rogers was presented a Bible and ordination certificate. He is a 1978 graduate of Ouachita University. He and his wife, Ann, plan to attend Southwestern Seminary.

## Kyle James

has been called as youth director of the Morrilton Church. He is a student at Arkansas Tech University, Russellville.

## Clyde Morris

is now pastor of the Unity Church, Greene County Association.

## H. B. Savell

is interim pastor of the Hagarville

## Arkansas women work week in Hawaii

HONOLULU — To kick off "Baptist Women's Year in the Church", 22 women and one man — including four Arkansas women — spent seven days in mission involvement in Hawaii.

Bertie Hagood (Mrs. R. E.) of Dumas, Polly Reynolds (Mrs. D. Gene) of Gould, Ruby Snider of Camden and Bonnie Morganson of Mountain Home were among the volunteers who worked in mission projects, witnessed on the beach and taught WMU leadership training as part of the kick off for Woman's Missionary Union's theme for 1978-79.

"Our objective was to strengthen women's work in Hawaii," said Laura

Fry, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism consultant for women. Fry and Mississippi laywoman Martha Nelson of Pelahatchie coordinated the mission experience.

Sue Nishikawa, associate director of missions for Hawaii, said the volunteers gave new emphasis to women's work in the islands and noted the eight WMU leadership conferences held on four Hawaiian islands were well attended.

Most volunteers paid their own way; some churches financed their representatives. One woman said her husband brought home 40 U.S. Savings Bonds — 10 years' savings — for her to make the trip.



The four women who worked in Hawaii are leaders in the state WMU, and they spoke at the Baptist Women's Retreat at Camp Paron Oct. 27 and 28. They are (left to right) Mrs. Snider, a former WMU state president; Mrs. Hagood, former Baptist Women director; Mrs. Margason, current vice president of Arkansas WMU; and Mrs. Reynolds, a member of the state WMU Executive Board. (ABN photo) (A report on the retreat will appear in the Nov. 16 News-magazine.)

Church on Nov. 5. He came to this church from Concord Church, Van Buren, where he served as pastor for seven years. He has served, for the past two years, as moderator of Clear Creek Association and is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. He served other churches in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Mrs. Domerese has been serving as associational WMU director and on the associational executive board.

#### **George Fletcher**

became pastor of First Church, Plainview, on Oct. 29. Fletcher, who has been in the ministry for 30 years, has pastored churches, in Arkansas, Washington, California, Louisiana, and Oregon. In Washington and Oregon, he assisted with pioneer mission work, in the establishment of churches there. He has served as staff evangelist of the Faith Church, Texarkana, and held positions of responsibility in associational work. Fletcher is vice-president of the Golden Gate Alumni Association of Arkansas and is chaplain of the American Legion of Arkansas. He attended Southern College, Ouachita University and Golden Gate Seminary. He and his wife, Hazel, are parents of three married children.

## **Correction**

In a brief article on page 6 of the Nov. 2 issue of the Newsmagazine the new pastor of the Lowell Church should have been identified as John Lewis.

## **Arkansas couple work in missions**

An Arkansas couple has begun a two-year term of mission service in Grand Canyon, Calif. Don and Sharon Floyd Phillips will work in resort missions, although only Don has been appointed as a US-2 missionary.

Phillips, a native of Pine Bluff, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He has served as a student missionary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and on the staff of Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina.

Mrs. Phillips is a former Miss El Dorado.

Prior to accepting appointment in the two year mission experience for college graduates Phillips was youth director at Calvary Church in Little Rock.

#### **Oak Bowery Church, Conway,**

Brotherhood sponsored a church-wide fish fry on Saturday, Sept. 20. Approximately 124 attended the event according to Bill Fleming, pastor.

#### **Levy Church, North Little Rock,**

Pioneer Club, accompanied by church staff members, recently visited in Heber Springs. They went especially to attend the Ozark Frontier Festival and Crafts Show. There were 35 members, accompanied by guests, who made the trip.

#### **Sheridan First Church**

was in revival Oct. 22-27. Charles H. Ashcraft, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was evangelist. James Burleson, minister of music at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, directed music. Tommy Robertson is pastor.

#### **Calvary Church, Blytheville,**

awarded perfect attendance pins on Sunday morning, Oct. 1. Those honored were Charles Lipford, 31 years perfect attendance in Sunday School; Mrs. W. F. O'Neal, 30 years; and Cindy Shoemaker, six years. Joe Thompson, pastor, made the presentations.

#### **Concord Association**

Woman's Missionary Union held a quarterly rally on Oct. 19 at Trinity Church, Ft. Smith. John F. Anthony, missionary to Jerusalem, Israel, was guest speaker. Mrs. Cleona B. Lane is associational WMU director.

#### **Temple Church, Dermott,**

voted to license Royce Gladden to the gospel ministry on Wednesday, Oct. 18. Gladden surrendered to full-time Christian service on Sept. 17 and preached his first message on Sunday evening, Oct. 1. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Henderson State University.

#### **Osceola First Church**

held deacon ordination services on Sunday, Oct. 29. Those ordained were Chris Tompkins and Harold Russell. The two shared their personal testimonies during the service according to Bob Wilson, pastor.

#### **West Memphis Second Church**

was in revival Oct. 22-29. Aubrey C. Hallsell was evangelist. Jack Auten is pastor.

#### **New Hope Church, Pollard,**

was in revival Oct. 29-Nov. 5. E. Clay Polk was evangelist and Leslie Elam directed music. Richard Maness is pastor.

#### **Life Line Church, Little Rock,**

held a lay weekend revival Nov. 4-5. Laymen from Germantown Church, Germantown, Tenn., were speakers. Gerald Taylor is pastor.

#### **Immanuel Church, Texarkana,**

was in revival Oct. 23-27. Leon Hyatt Jr.,

by Millie Gill

Secretary of the Department of Direct Missions of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was evangelist. Charles Vance, minister of music for Beech Street First Church, directed music. William V. Garner is pastor.

#### **East Side Church, Ft. Smith,**

observed its 25th anniversary on Oct. 22. Charter members received special recognition. Those in charge of the observance were Emma Jeane Puckett, members of the church history committee and members of the hospitality committee. Lena Wegener, Audrey Clemons, Cora Scherer and Bonnie Kesner were in charge of displays.

#### **Calvary Church, Benton,**

will ordain Ken Craven, Lynn Moore and Bill West as deacons on Nov. 12. The afternoon services are scheduled to begin at 2:30. Oscar Golden is pastor.

#### **Sylvan Hills, North Little Rock,**

observed its 39th anniversary on Oct. 29. The church began a week's evangelistic emphasis for the occasion. Raleigh M. James, pastor, evangelist and author from Kernersville, N.C., was speaker. Don Moseley is pastor.

## **Focus on youth**

#### **Cross Road Church, Little Rock,**

Girls In Action held a bunking party at the home of Berta Grimmett, director, on Oct. 20. The eight girls present attended an associational GA meeting prior to the party.

The Primary and Junior boys of the church were entertained with an overnight camping trip to Lake Ouachita on Oct. 20. The Brotherhood sponsored the trip which was attended by nine of the youth and five adult sponsors. Les Aldrich is pastor.

## **buildings**

#### **Highland Heights Church, Benton**

held ground breaking services for a new building on Sunday, Oct. 15. W. L. Harper led the opening prayer and Farrell McCoy, chairman of the building committee, gave the welcome. Ron Ulmer, contractor, presented the shovel. Ground was turned by the building committee, staff, and Mrs. Miller, the church's oldest member, and Chris Watkins, youth representative.



## Two state couples new missionaries

Two couples with Arkansas connections were among those appointed missionaries by the SBC Foreign Mission Board at their October meeting in Richmond, Va. A total of 45 persons were named to serve.

**Rev. and Mrs. Albert R. Hodges** will serve in Upper Volta where he will be a general evangelist. Currently they live in Pensacola, Fla., where he is pastor of Beach Haven Church.

Hodges was born in Breckenridge, Tex., and also lived in Alpena, Ark., while growing up. He attended Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., and received the bachelor of arts degree from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was pastor of Strawfloor Church, Jonesboro; Mount Zion Church, Smithdale, Miss.; and interim pastor of North Ward Church, Gulfport, Miss.

Mrs. Hodges, the former Karen Atwood, was born in Paragould, Ark., and lived in Granite City, Ill.; Amite, La.; Pensacola; and Danville and Lepanto, Ark., while growing up. She attended Arkansas State University, and Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.

She has worked as a typist and secretary at Tulane Medical School, New Orleans, and a secretary-receptionist for

the library at New Orleans seminary. They have two children: Jared Allen, born in 1973; and Adam Ryan, 1977.

**Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. West** were appointed to work in Taiwan, where West will serve as a secondary teacher and Mrs. West will be involved in home and church work. Currently they are attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. West is also working toward the doctor of philosophy degree in mathematics at Texas Christian University in that city. They are members of Gambrell Street Church in Ft. Worth.

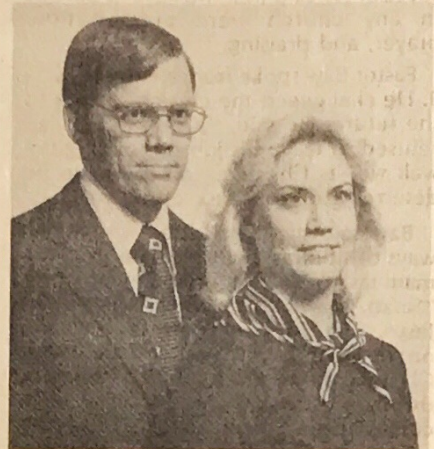
Both claim Booneville, Ark., as their hometown.

West was graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., with the bachelor of science degree, and from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, with the master of science degree. He served in the U.S. Army and remains active in the Arkansas National Guard. For four years he taught at Booneville High School.

Mrs. West, the former Elinda Tidwell, attended the Oklahoma School of Banking and Business, Oklahoma City, and Tarrant County Junior College, Ft. Worth. She worked as a bank bookkeeper in Booneville and later at an insurance company in Fayetteville.

They have two sons: Ronald Lance, born in 1970; and Brent Allen, 1974.

Rev. and Mrs. Hodges



Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. West

## Hunger hike to raise funds

The second annual Central Arkansas Hunger Hike will be held on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 1:30 p.m. The group will meet on the east steps of the state capitol and will follow a route to downtown and then back to War Memorial Stadium and return to the capitol.

Walk tickets are available from the Associational offices of Pulaski and North Pulaski Associations or from the Arkansas Task Force on World Hunger, P.O. Box 6120, Little Rock, Ark. 72216. Each walker is able to designate his funds through his individual church to the hunger projects he would choose. Most money raised through Southern Baptist churches last year was channeled through the Foreign Mission Board World Hunger Fund.

## TV series explores the fight for food

The Arkansas Educational Television Network will present a three-part series on world hunger Nov. 13, 15 and 16. The first two one-hour programs use a magazine format, dealing with a variety of hunger-related topics. A one-day conference on world food issues provides the basis for the 90-minute Global Paper Forum, the third and final segment in the series. The programs will be aired at the following times: Nov. 13, 9-10 p.m. (The Fight for Food, part 1); Nov. 15, 9-10 p.m. (The Fight for Food, part 2); Nov. 16, 8-9:30 p.m. (Global Paper Forum).

These programs have been endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention and other major denominations, along with world hunger-related programs such as Bread for the World. The Christian Life Commission has distributed discussion guides to every Southern Baptist church.

## Historical conference planned at Ouachita

The Historical Commission of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will sponsor its first historical conference at Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Nov. 28-29, under the direction of A. Ronald Tonks, Associate Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission. He will be assisted by J. M. Gaskin of Oklahoma.

The conference will open Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m. Sessions will be held Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, and the meeting will close at noon.

The study will concern church history and oral history, how to collect it, preserve it and use it. Related subjects will also be discussed. Anyone interested in history is invited, especially associational missionaries, pastors, church librarians and those interested in collecting and writing church history.

# First, Dumas celebrates 75th anniversary

First Church, Dumas, celebrated its 75th Anniversary on Oct. 29. The activities of the day featured a special worship service and the presentation of *Alleluia* by Bill and Gloria Gaither.

The morning worship service featured messages by Editor J. Everett Sneed and by Pastor Dennis Baw as well as musical presentations by the choir and the ministerial church staff. Also, a plaque was presented to Mrs. J. J. Adams honoring her 65 years of service to the church, the longest tenure of service by any member.

Editor Sneed spoke from Acts 2:41-47. He challenged the church to remember the past and the things that had brought success. He said that the keys to success in any church were proclamation, prayer, and praising.

Pastor Baw spoke from Nehemiah 6:1-3. He challenged the church to look to the future. He said, "Just as Nehemiah refused to leave his job of building the wall we, as Christians, are never to be deterred from our task of out-reach."

Baw said that Satan used very subtle ways of sidetracking Christians from the main task of reaching people for Christ. "Satan," Baw said in conclusion, "said to Jesus, 'come down,' but Jesus remained on the cross to say, 'it is finished.' We, as Christians, are to stay with the task throughout our lives or until Jesus comes again."

First Church of Dumas was organized on June 29, 1903, with five charter members. The organizational meeting was held at the Union Church building, located on the Northwest corner of West Bowles and South Main. The church continued to hold services there one Sunday each month for about 19 years. Louis Silberstein and B. Alfred Owens were instrumental in the organization.

In 1917 the church secured property and in 1922, under the leadership of Pastor Pat Murphy, a decision was made to erect a building at a cost of \$2,000. A building was erected on the back side of the property where the present Educational building stands. The first service was held in the new Tabernacle building on May 7, 1922, and a Sunday School of 145 members was organized.

The church's first full-time pastor was C. F. McDonald who served from 1923 until 1924.

The present church auditorium was erected during the ministry of W. H. Dyre, at a cost of \$35,000 for the building and \$2,900 for the furnishings. The cornerstone was laid on Jan. 13, 1927.

In 1933 the church had 430 members

and had property valued at \$40,000. The budget of the church was \$3,000. During the 1940's the church membership continued to grow.

Minor Cole served as pastor from 1950 to 1962. During his pastorate a Hammond organ was purchased and the sanctuary had extensive remodeling, including installation of air conditioning. The project was completed at a cost of \$85,000.

Mason Bondurant served the church from 1962 to 1970. Under his ministry a youth center was opened and the Sunday morning worship service was placed on the local radio station. Extensive remodeling of the church also was completed at a cost of more than \$70,000.

Robert F. Courtney Jr., served the church from 1971 to 1975. During his ministry the church employed a full-time minister of music, purchased additional property south of the Educational building, employed a full-time secretary, and opened a Child Development Center. Dr. Courtney died while serving the church in 1975.

J. Dennis Baw assumed the pastorate of the church in 1977. Steady growth is taking place under his ministry including the organization of a teen-age group, the development of a children's worship service, ordination of seven new deacons, the purchase of a new sound system, and a new air conditioning system for the sanctuary.

Under Pastor Baw's ministry the church membership has increased to 993 and the Sunday School enrollment is 650, with an average attendance of 284

*Mrs. J. J. Adams is congratulated by Associate Pastor Bob Presley (left) and Pastor Dennis Baw for her 65 years of service to the church. (ABN photo)*



in 1977-78. There were 464 in attendance on Oct. 29.

Pastor Baw believes that the church has a great future. He said, "First Church has the promise of a great church. We have a hard working cooperative staff and our lay leadership is preparing itself for any direction the Lord leads us. Our entire church fellowship is asking God to make us his church. When this is true everything else will fall in place. The past 75 years have been wonderful and productive. If Jesus delays his coming, we are working now to make the next 75 years even better."

## OBU to honor directors of missions

The Director of Missions of the Year Award will be presented during a banquet to be held Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m. on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University.

The banquet is held each year at Ouachita to express appreciation to the Directors of Associational Missions in the state for their support of OBU.

Directors of Missions from all the Southern Baptist associations in Arkansas, along with their wives, are invited to the banquet.

The Director of Mission of the year award recipient is selected by a committee composed of state denominational and campus administration leaders.

\*After the banquet, the Directors of Missions will meet with the OBU Ministerial Alliance. A gathering is also planned for the wives.

**Did you know** that the 1978 Cooperative Program budget of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention provides \$207,391 for Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services?



October 29

**GREAT DAY  
IN THE MORNING**

From attendance reports received, the State Sunday School Department projects that attendance in Arkansas on Oct. 29 was 232,694. This is 62 percent of the total enrollment and it is just three percent short of the state goal.



Mrs. Bedsole turns out another letter to new parents, knowing that it may be opening a door to witness. (ABN photo)

TEXARKANA, Ark.-Tex. — A Texarkana housewife has combined public relations with evangelism to start a new church ministry which she has designated "the Baby Ministry".

It all started when middle-aged Mary Louise (Mrs. Ted) Bedsole faced up to the fact that she was "just a nominal Christian" and decided to rededicate her life to Christ and his church.

"I had been a Christian the most of my life," she said in a recent interview, "but the Lord and his church had never really been first in my life."

With her rededication, Mrs. Bedsole began to pray that the Lord would give her something really challenging to do. Then, one day, a pastor friend came up with a suggestion that she feels was an answer to her prayer. "Why don't you write letters of congratulations to new parents," he asked, "and invite them to church?"

That was more than three years ago and since then Mrs. Bedsole and her fellow volunteer workers have written more than 5,000 letters to new parents and have thus discovered many an open door for an evangelistic witness. Scores of parents have been won to Christ by telephone calls that have followed the congratulatory letters, Mrs. Bedsole reports. And there have been countless other conversions and many rededications.

At least seven Baptist churches in the Texarkana area, including Pleasant Grove on the Texas side of the city, where Mrs. Bedsole and her husband are members, are now involved in the Baby Ministry. And the ministry has spread to several other states and to at least two foreign countries, New Zealand and South Korea.

The Baby Ministry is easy to start in a church, but it is also easy to get bogged down, Mrs. Bedsole has found. So she tests the enthusiasm of persons reacting to the idea by emphasizing that before they involve themselves they should be sure God is calling them to this ministry. She sees prayer as an essential and continuing element of the work.

## 'Baby ministry' brings witness opportunities for Texarkana churches

by Erwin L. McDonald

Since babies these days are born in hospitals and all births are a part of the public record, keeping up with the new arrivals is just a matter of reading the birth announcements column in the daily newspaper.

Specially designed letterheads are used by Mrs. Bedsole and her associates — blue for letters going to parents of a male child and pink for letters to parents of a female child.

Mrs. Bedsole thinks having the picture of a baby on the envelopes as well as on the letterheads helps to assure that the mail will be opened. Special sets of the stationery are printed for each participating church, carrying the name of the pastor and of Mrs. Bedsole as heading the Baby Ministry.

The address of the new parents helps the baby minister to decide which church stationery to use, the choice being that from the nearest participating church. Each letter is carefully typed as coming from the pastor of the church and is signed by the pastor. And since it is taken for granted that the letter will be preserved as an entry in the baby book of the new arrival, one requirement is that the typing be perfect, with no strike-overs or erasures.

Here is a typical letter, which went out from Pastor Charles Walker of Central Church, Texarkana:

"Dear Friends,

"It has been brought to my attention that the Lord has blessed your home with a baby girl. I know these are days of happiness, thrill, and excitement, and we at Central Baptist Church want you to know that we enter into your joy during these busy days. May we join the many others who have expressed congratulations to you.

"I wish several things for your child: first, a healthy body; then strength of character and a good mind; then most of all, spiritual perception and growth. It is certainly a tremendous obligation to be a mother or father. May God give you wisdom to lead your children in spiritual matters.

"We would like to invite you to attend the services of Central Baptist Church if you are not already attending church. Also, we would like to offer you our assistance if there is any way we can ever be of help.

"Once more we wish to congratulate you and our prayer is that God will bless you and your family always."

For a care file to be used in follow-up

telephone calls or visits, a card bearing the new father's name and address is prepared bearing this basic information: "New Parents — girl — Sept. 20, 1978. Letter written Sept. 25, 1978."

Mrs. Bedsole has worked out her own "how-to-do" literature which she uses in workshops in churches interested in initiating the baby ministry. This includes suggestions on how to witness by telephone.

She lists as "Six Basic Principles of Person-to-Person Evangelism":

1. Sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Witnessing in love.
3. Taking the initiative in sharing Christ with others.
4. Presenting the message simply.
5. Giving an opportunity to receive Christ.
6. Leaving the results to God.

The importance of being a dynamic Christian can scarcely be over-emphasized in Mrs. Bedsole's opinion. She suggests to persons interested in having a part in the baby ministry:

"Meet God in prayer daily (Eph. 6:18 and John 15:7). Allow time each day for reading God's Word (Acts 17:11). Turn every moment of your life over to God in obedience (John 14:21). Understand that you are to witness daily by your life and words (Matt. 4:19). Rejoice that the Holy Spirit is in your life and allow him to control and empower you (Acts 1:8). Enjoy your Christian experience — you have something to be happy about" (Prov. 16:20).

Mrs. Bedsole's husband, a retired U.S. Marine now employed at the Red River Arsenal, is himself a part of the baby ministry.

"Without Ted's cooperation I wouldn't be able to carry on," said Mrs. Bedsole. "You can't imagine how many times I serve him Kentucky Fried Chicken or hamburgers and Dairy Queen!"

"I back her all the way," said Bedsole with a broad grin. "I am her messenger and her moral support."

The Bedsoles have three children, all grown and pursuing their own careers, and all of whom lend their moral support. One son is a policeman and another is an electronics technician. Their daughter is a nurse.

Erwin L. McDonald is Editor Emeritus of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine".

# Your state convention at work

## Child Care

### Share abundance with the children

"Share Your Abundance to Give Abundant Life". That is the theme of our Thanksgiving Offering this year. All of us have been blessed far beyond our deserving. Most of us really do not know what it means to be hungry, without clothing and without shelter. However, many children in our state are experiencing deprivation because of neglect, abuse and abandonment.

We are asking Arkansas Baptists to share the abundance of their material possessions to provide for children with great needs. In addition to providing the physical necessities of life we give them the privilege of knowing the love of our Lord. Many each year come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Abundant life certainly must be interpreted in relationship to Jesus Christ. He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Only those who know him can share the abundant life.

Here are some testimonies from former residents at the Home that tell the story:

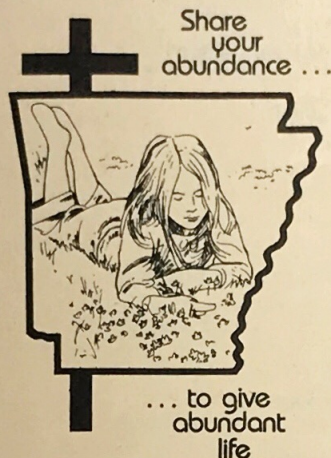
"Thank goodness people of Arkansas care enough to provide needy children with the environment that gives them the opportunities everyone else has. I know by personal experience the good the Home does. I shudder to think what my life would have been like had I not lived there during my most influential years. Thank God

for the right influence at the right time."

"When I look back on my life before I came to the Home things looked very grim and hopeless. I know the Home gave me a chance to have a good life. I almost missed it, but thanks to the Home I made it."

Surely we as God's people will respond to the Thanksgiving Offering generously to continue providing abundant life for children. Thank you for your response. — **Homer W. Shirley Jr., Director of Development, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services**

## On the cover



## Annuity

### Annuitants can work under some conditions

Permissible service regulations, effective Jan. 1, 1978, affect only those recipients of benefits from the Family Benefit Section (Plan A) of the Southern Baptist Retirement Program.

Under the age retirement provisions of Plan A, you may serve a church or denominational agency in a salaried relationship indefinitely and continue to receive benefit payments under the following conditions:

(1) Twelve months must have elapsed before returning to serve the church or agency from which you retired.

(2) If the church an annuitant is serving participates in the retirement plan during the annuitant's service, the total dues paid by the church into the retirement plan will be placed in the Age Security Plan for credit to the account of the annuitant. Interest will be added. These accumulations can be used to provide an additional retirement benefit for the annuitant when his service at the church is completed.

The above statement from the Annuity Board's Member Services Department is printed for the Arkansas Plan A age annuitants who may not be aware of this change in policy.

Please see me during the state convention meeting Nov. 7-9 at First Church, Little Rock, if I can help with upgrading for next year or with new retirement applications. — **Nadine Bjorkman, Annuity Secretary**

**Did you know** that the 1978 Cooperative Program budget of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention provides over \$1 million for Ouachita Baptist University?

## Looking ahead: Arkansas events

### November 1978

- 5-11 Royal Ambassador Week
- 7-9 Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock, First
- 18 Ouachita Baptist University-Henderson State University Homecoming
- 19 Child Care Day
- 19-22 Graded Series Study (Foreign Missions)
- 20-21 Weekday Early Education Workshop, Park Hill, North Little Rock (Sunday School and Missions)
- 23-24 Mission Career Conference, Camp Paron (Pioneer age boys)

- 27 "M" Night
- 28 Recognition Banquet for Directors of Missions, Ouachita Baptist University
- 30-Dec. 1 Evangelism Workshop, Camp Paron
- 30-Dec. 1 Church Leadership Training Seminar (Church Training)

### December 1978

- 3-10 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**MONDAY AFTERNOON, JAN. 29**

- 1:45 Song and prayer – Ervin Keathley
- 2:00 Welcome – W. O. Vaught
- 2:05 Announcements and Book Store
- 2:20 Bible study – John Havlik
- 2:50 Special conferences
  1. "A People Search"  
Freddie Pike – Robert Watson
  2. "Women in Direct Evangelism"  
Jesse Reed – Mrs. Emma Stewart
  3. "Revival Music"  
Ervin Keathley – Robert Brack
  4. "Revival Countdown for the Local Church"  
Clarence Shell – Arthur Hughes
  5. "Using the Sunday School in Evangelism"  
Lawson Hatfield – O. C. Jones
  6. "Preparation for Baptist Doctrinal Study"  
Bob Holley – Robert Dickerson
  7. "Bus Ministry"  
Ferrell Morgan – Robert Willingham
  8. "Renewal and Revival"  
Neal Guthrie – Lucious Powell
  9. "The Work of the Chairman of Evangelism"  
Bill Howard – Leroy West
  10. "The Deacon's Role in Evangelism"  
Dwight Linkous – G. L. Ford
- 3:40 Special music
- 3:45 Message – Frederick Sampson

**Three Baptist co**

**Consolidated Missio**  
**P. J. J**

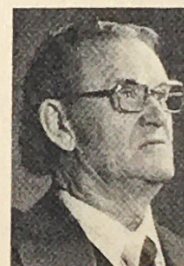
**Regular Arkansas Ba**  
**C. R. M**

**Arkansas Baptist State**  
**Execi**

**Jesse S. Reed, Dir**

**MONDAY EVENING**

- 7:00 Song and prayer
- 7:15 Bible study – John Havlik
- 7:45 Congregational singing
- 7:50 Share time – Miss Malvie Giles
- 8:00 Special music – Music Men of Arkansas
- 8:15 Message – W. B. Oakley
- 9:00 Special music – "The King is Coming"



Oakley



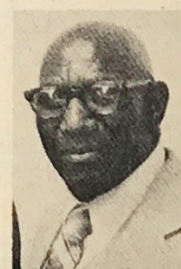
Giles



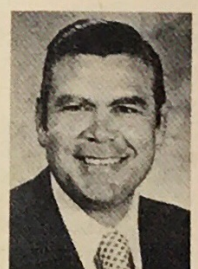
Mazique



Keathley



James



Sampson

# Evangelism Conference

30, 1979

Church

ck

Pastor

## Organizations participating

Evangelist State Convention  
President

Evangelism Incorporated  
President

Evangelism, ABSC  
Secretary

### TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 30

- 9:30 Song and prayer
- 9:45 Bible study – John Havlik
- 10:15 Congregational singing
- 10:20 Message – Robert Dickerson
- 10:50 Share time – Clarence Shell Jr.
- 11:00 Music
- 11:15 Special music
- 11:20 "Eyewitness at Calvary" – James Semple

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:45 Song and prayer
- 2:00 Bible study – John Havlik
- 2:30 Book Store
- 2:35 "Training for Growth in Discipleship" – Roy Edgemon
- 3:00 Share time – S. M. Taylor
- 3:10 Message – HMB Representative
- 3:40 Special music
- 3:45 Message – W. B. Oakley

### TUESDAY EVENING

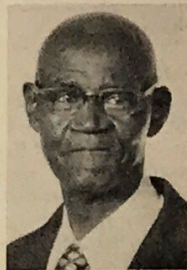
- 6:45 Song and prayer
- 7:00 Bible study – James Semple
- 7:30 Special Conferences  
(Identical to Monday Afternoon)
- 8:20 Revival singing
- 8:40 Message – Frederick Sampson



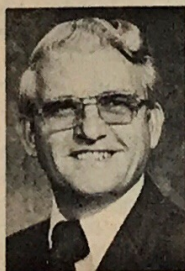
Havlik



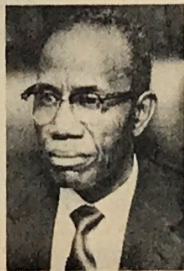
Edgemon



Taylor



Shell



Dickerson

# New state Brotherhood director explains his aims, philosophy

Neal Guthrie will become director for the Arkansas Brotherhood organization in January. After serving as an associate in the state Evangelism Department, Guthrie was named by the Executive Board in August to succeed C. H. Seaton, who retires as Brotherhood Director at the end of this year.

In the following questions and answers Guthrie tells about his plans for the Brotherhood Department.

## Q. What is your philosophy of men and boy's work in Arkansas?

A. Basically, I feel that a balanced strategy of mission study, evangelism and mission action projects will get the job done for us in Arkansas. This may be implemented through many phases of work. It's important that men and boys understand that learning is to be augmented by doing.

## Q. What changes, if any, do you contemplate in the present Brotherhood program?

A. In my opinion the future of the church depends upon the individual member finding his place in God's will and reaching people in action ministries, whether this is laymen's crusades, mission projects, crises teams or whatever. If changes are needed in the present program to accomplish this, then that's what we'll change. Of course, one change or perhaps addition will be Renewal which we simply are moving from the Evangelism Department to Brotherhood.

## Q. What are some specific projects you would like to see implemented?

A. I can remember as a teenager a group of laymen from Ft. Smith coming to my church for a week's crusade. This impressed me a great deal and I would like to see more of this type project. I think the sky is the limit here for example on the local level — jail, hos-

pital, migrant, youth, new mission, on the state level — Men's rallies, camps, retreats, institution, recreation areas, and on the S.B.C. level — mission tours, work projects, etc. Another area that I have a great deal of interest in is crisis or disaster teams.

## Q. What are your feelings toward your new position?

A. Well, I'm very excited about it. I might add that after an orientation with the Brotherhood Commission I see great things in store for men and boys work. The men on the staff at the Commission are top-notch. With this type of leadership we should move forward.

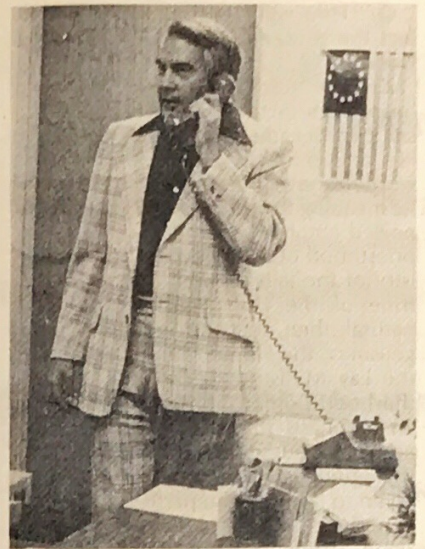
I'm excited about the enthusiasm I feel in our state concerning the church. God's people, the Laos, the People of God, can and will reach Arkansas for Christ when they realize that God has gifted each of us with special abilities to do the job.

As a layman, my experience has been that when men and women get excited about their ability to reach people, the church comes alive. We need this in Arkansas.

With this in mind, I would like to see us undergird the Brotherhood of our state with a team of God's people second to none.

## Q. What immediate goal would you like to see accomplished in men's work, in boy's work?

A. Manpower in times of need are ever present. One of the first projects for men will be organizing crisis teams in the state. These teams will be trained for disaster such as Little Rock experienced in the recent flood. The first thing Arkansans are faced with each spring is storms. I would like to see men on the spot in all forms of relief to those in need. We'll do this in the name of Jesus and out of the love we have for



Guthrie will transfer some of his present work with him to the Brotherhood department. He's familiar already with state convention programs. (ABN photo)

people.

I feel that we need to promote our older youth more. I would like to see high school age boys begin to take more interest in Royal Ambassadors. This might be accomplished with the correct incentive on their part to reach a goal. This goal might be scholarship earned through service aid or rewards for outstanding accomplishments in service aid work. Example of this might be paid trip to National R. A. Congress, trip to a mission point, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, etc. We hope to challenge older Pioneer boys to work in service aid to receive national credit.

## A good word for the director

The Executive Board is to be commended for selecting Neal Guthrie as Director of the Brotherhood Department. Neal is a talented young man and can do most anything that needs to be done.

One of the best things about Neal is that when he came to the Department of Evangelism to work as associate in pre-college evangelism, he did not have to unlearn a bunch of non-Baptist methods and programs. He got in on the ground floor of WOW — Win Our World, which is a personal training

movement for the high school and junior high school youth. He learned his job description and stuck to it all the way. He also learned Renewal Evangelism and promoted it in our department. From now on this will be under the Brotherhood.

During Neal's time in the department of Evangelism, his job assignment took him away from home many times. His family sacrificed in order for him to do the super job he has done. Neal has a good spirit and attitude about all the work in Baptist Building. He is a great team member. I congratulate him also in

this change of leadership and responsibility. — Jesse S. Reed, Director of Evangelism

Mr. Guthrie's unique background steeped in evangelistic fervor will bring much to our convention as he assumes the leadership of Baptist men and boys. I predict many new and invigorating ideas to be presented and that a new day is ours in work with men and boys. He will build on the good foundation set by our retiring director, C. H. Seaton. — Charles H. Ashcraft, Executive Secretary

## Fifth in a series of eight What are Cooperative Program funds?

### Q. How will Renewal Evangelism affect the present status of Brotherhood work?

A. The term "renewal" has been heard with increasing frequency in the last two decades in relationship to the life and ministry of the church. The word "renewal" has no definite, specific meaning in and of itself. There is a renewed emphasis on the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers and the ministry of the laity, as well as on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. It was only natural, then, that the Section of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board and the Lay Ministries Section of the Brotherhood Commission felt that here was an emphasis that should be incorporated into our denominational life and that guidance and training should be given to laymen who participated in this experience. These two agencies developed a renewal program for Southern Baptists under the theme, "A Journey into Lifestyle Evangelism and Ministry." It has become the responsibility of either the Evangelism Department or Brotherhood Department in each state to coordinate Renewal in its state. Prior to this time, we have directed the work from the Evangelism office. Now, we are simply moving the responsibility to the Brotherhood office. The procedure for scheduling a Renewal program in the local church will remain the same.

### Seminary extension enrollments double

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than 10,000 persons studied Southern Baptist Seminary Extension curriculum during a 1977-78, a jump of almost 20 percent over the previous year and a 100 percent increase since 1972-73.

Record high statistics, reflected in all categories in the year-end report just released by the Nashville-based Seminary Extension Department, showed 10,477 students enrolled in one or more of the theologically oriented courses offered by the department, compared to 8,777 the year before and 4,933 five years earlier. The number of Seminary Extension centers reported reached 340, exceeding the previous record of 328.

Operated as an arm of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries, Seminary Extension provides pastors and lay church leaders with opportunities to continue their education for ministry. Students may choose from more than 40 college-level courses, 15 simplified courses, and a variety of informal personal study programs.

### Question: How many Cooperative Program budgets are there?

In one sense there is only one Cooperative Program budget, although in another sense there are 33 Cooperative Program budgets. There are 33 state conventions, and each one has its own adopted budget, which includes an amount for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The question was partially answered in a previous article describing the partnership between the SBC and the state conventions. Sometimes reference is made incorrectly to two Cooperative Program budgets, mean-

ing one for the state convention and another for the Southern Baptist Convention. Actually, these are both parts of one Cooperative Program budget.

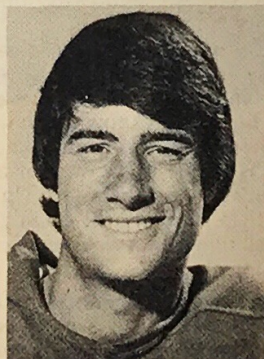
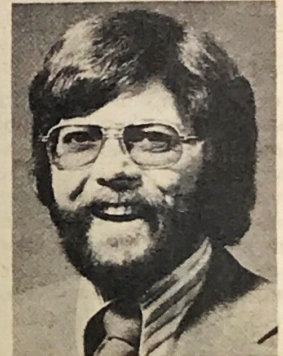
It would be more accurate to refer to the "state convention portion of the Cooperative Program budget" or the "Southern Baptist Convention portion of the Cooperative Program budget." The real point is that a Cooperative Program budget must include both the SBC and a state convention. Otherwise, there is no partnership involved and the basic concept of Cooperative Program budgeting is entirely lost. — Roy F. Lewis, Associate Executive Secretary

## Bennett, Jeffrey to speak at Joy Explo '78

Youth Evangelism Conference  
Dec. 28-29  
Second Church, Hot Springs

### Dave Bennett

Dave Bennett, a missionary associate of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, serves as national evangelism consultant with youth for the Evangelism Section. He is a native of Joplin, Mo., and he served as B.S.U. director and campus minister at Arizona State University in Tempe before coming to the Home Mission Board.



### Neal Jeffrey

Neal Jeffrey, drafted by the San Diego Chargers and played the last three seasons is associated with the F.C.A., Texas. A student at Southwestern Seminary, it will take him six years to complete the three year master of divinity program because he can only attend classes during the spring semester. The rest of the year he is either in training or playing football.

Plan now to bring a large group from your church to Joy Explo '78, Dec. 28-29 at Second Church, Hot Springs.



# Possessing our state for our Lord

The scene of the text is a convention. God's people are gathered on the threshold of adventure. They are ready for the first Bold Mission Thrust program into the land of Canaan. Their great leader, Moses, is ready. Victory is in sight.

All of a sudden the mood of the people changes. The report of the 10 spies dispels the joyful anticipation and fills the air with gloom and disappointment. The majority report is that there are too many difficulties. Giants of opposition abound. "Call off the plans of conquest," they say. The people fall back and refuse to go into the land.

There is a minority report. The challenge comes from Joshua and Caleb. "Let us go up at once and possess the land, for we are well able to overcome it." It is the word of faith and obedience. It is courage and commitment. It is Christian optimism at its best.

You know the story — a repudiation of purpose, a relapse from faith, a rejection of providence, and a resulting 40-year hike in the wilderness.

Arkansas Baptists stand today in much the same situation as Israel of old. Our state which has many needs and corresponding opportunities lies before us. We are under divine mandate to carry the gospel to every village and town. The giants of opposition rise to harass and intimidate us. What will be our attitude and our action in this crucial hour?

I rise today to issue the challenge of Joshua and Caleb to Arkansas Baptists. Let us go up at once and possess our state for our Lord! We are commanded to do it. We want to do it and we can do it!

## I. The Challenge of Cooperation — "Let us"

As I divide the challenge of the text verse into several parts, I see first the challenge of cooperation — "Let us". Friends, one of our great blessings is the thrill and the joy of working together. As I have travelled our state these past 12 months, I have sensed a genuine spirit of unity. Arkansas Baptists love each other! Arkansans are ready and willing to work with each other!

If Bold Mission Thrust is to be a victorious program, it will have to be done together. It is not the program of Jimmy Allen or Albert McClellan. It is not the program of Charles Ashcraft or Johnny Jackson. It is the plan and purpose and

priority of *all of us*.

The days of discord and distrust are behind us. Let us love each other, let us believe in each other, and let us work with each other in the years ahead.

## II. The Challenge of Action — "Go"

The second word of challenge is the challenge to action — "Go". What a word — go! As a famous preacher has said, "You can't spell God without go. You can't spell good without go. You can't spell gospel without go." And it's true!

The words of Jesus reflect his emphasis upon the word "go". Hear him say in the Great Commission, "Go ye and disciple all nations." Hear him say, "Go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." Hear him say to the newly converted man in Gadara, "Go home and tell what good things the Lord hath done for thee." Hear him say to the hesitant would-be follower, "Let the dead bury the dead. Go then, and preach the Kingdom of God." Hear him say to his faithful disciples, "Let us go into the next towns also that I may preach the gospel there."

There is no way Arkansas Baptists can experience victory without much going. It must be bold going. It must be constant going. We must go to the homes and to the shops. We must go to the resort areas and to the college campuses. We must go as we have never done before.

## III. The Challenge of Advance — "Up"

"Let us go up." These are the words of advance. These are the words that will get us out of the status quo, which as John Haggai says isn't much to "quo" about.

Johnny Carson, the TV comic, said after his stunt flying experience of several loops and rolls, "I would have thrown up, but I didn't know which way was up!" I hope Arkansas Baptists know which way is up! It is the way of advance. So let's go up in baptisms! Up in attendance! Up in additions! Up in giving! Up in all things that will please our Lord.

## IV. The Challenge of Urgency — "At Once"

When are we to go up? The answer can only be "at once". Oh, for a sense of holy urgency! Oh, for a burning passion to obey our Lord's commands now! We can't wait for another generation. We can't wait another few years. Now is the time. The door is open for our churches and our denomination now.

## V. Challenge of Conquest — "And Possess the Land"

I'm back to my subject and title of this sermon. God wants us to possess our state for him.

How are we going to do it? Bold Mission Thrust says to evangelize and congregationalize. Win people to Christ and get them into a local New Testament church. Along with these twin thrusts we must challenge our 400,000 present members to new standards of stewardship.

As I labored in preparation for this message, I asked God to definitely impress me with what challenges he desires for me to lay before this convention. The first is in evangelism. With all the sincerity and earnestness of my soul I challenge our 1200 churches to win and baptize 20,000 people to our Lord in the next 12 months. In all of our more than 100 years we have baptized over 15,000 only once. We have never reached the 16,000 figure. Why not 20,000 in 1979? God wants us to do it! He will help us to do it!

The second challenge is to establish a new congregation every week in 1979. We are currently moving at a pace of one every two weeks, which is the best record of any state convention in the entire Southern Baptist Convention. But we can do better! Will this great convention accept this challenge? I believe it will.

Finally, my third challenge is in the area of stewardship. Southern Baptists will try to double Cooperative Program giving by 1982. Our Bold Mission goal proposed by our Executive Board is for a 15 percent advance next year in the church's total budget. What will that mean in mission giving? Will we increase 15 percent there? I believe we can do better. Why not aim for 20 percent? We have been increasing at an 8 percent to 13 percent rate for several years. Why can't we take a larger step forward next year?

Twenty thousand converts! Fifty-two new churches! Twenty percent more through the Cooperative Program! Why not? Who says we can't do it? The devil says we can't. The demons of hell say we can't. The forces of wickedness say we can't. I say we can! And I believe with all my heart that God will help us to do it.

## VI. The Challenge of Ability — "We are well able"

The reason I am so confident of what I say is because I share the faith of Caleb

Text — "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." (Numbers 13:30)

by Johnny Jackson

who said "we are well able" to do what God commands us to do. We've got the people — the saints of God. We've got the money — the blessings of God. We've got our orders — the Word of God. We've got the power — the Spirit of God. What more do we need?

In these closing moments may I reiterate the truths that should encourage us to seize the challenge of this hour. Arkansas Baptists are a People of God, 400,000 strong in 1200 churches. We have experienced the salvation of God. Our sins are under the blood. Our destiny is secure. Our job is defined. We are indwelt by the Spirit of God. He will guide us and empower us. We have the Word of God to declare and proclaim.

I believe our success will be determined by our faithfulness to the Bible in our preaching and in our practice.

There is no contradiction between the Living Word and the written Word. The authority of the Scripture is the authority of Jesus Christ. We may argue over terms like infallible, inerrant and inspired, but the Bible is what it is regardless of what we say or think. And I believe it is infallible, inerrant and inspired. We are to believe it, preach it and live it. Those who reject it, those who doubt it, those who find fault and error in it, those who distrust it and those who belittle it are betraying their Baptist heritage and have nothing to contribute to our convention.

Let the convention know, let our leaders know, let our institutions know, let our people know, let our adversary know, let our world know that Arkansas Baptists are a Bible-believing, Bible-honoring, Bible-preaching and Bible-

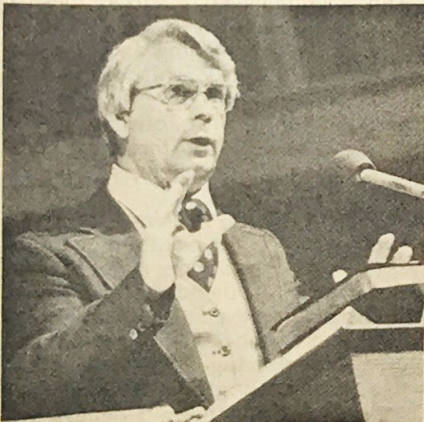
obeying people and that we resist and reject any movement or influence from within or without that would compromise our historic stand in the absolute trustworthiness of God's eternal Word.

Finally, Arkansas Baptists are committed to the will of God. This is our plan — our program — our life — our future. Whatever the Lord wills — that we will do. Wherever he sends — there we will go. Whatever he asks — that we will do.

I'm to the end. Will you join with me in obedience to the challenge? What better can be said? We are the children of God, led by the Spirit of God, armed with the Word of God and totally surrendered to the Will of God. Hallelujah! If God be for us, who can be against us? Let us go up at once and possess our state for our Lord!

**Johnny Jackson is pastor of Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock.**

## Church Training Convention emphasizes growth



Andy Anderson spoke on growth in discipleship and introduced the new Church Training enrollment plan, "Build Up". In the afternoon session he participated in a dialogue about growth.



A conference for leaders of adults explained the use of curriculum materials and plans for enlisting adults in Church Training. The leader was Ron Johnson, editor of adult Church Training materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board. (ABN photos)

"A church will never have a good Church Training program until the pastor becomes the head of it," declared Andy Anderson, who developed the Sunday School Action program. The Church Training Convention which convened on Oct. 24 in Immanuel Church, Little Rock, featured Anderson, who is a Growth Specialist for the Sunday School Board.

Anderson's most recent contribution to church growth is a new method designed to involve church members in the Church Training program. The material, soon to be published in a book entitled *Build Up*, assists a church in setting quarterly goals which are attainable. The entire method is outlined in the book.

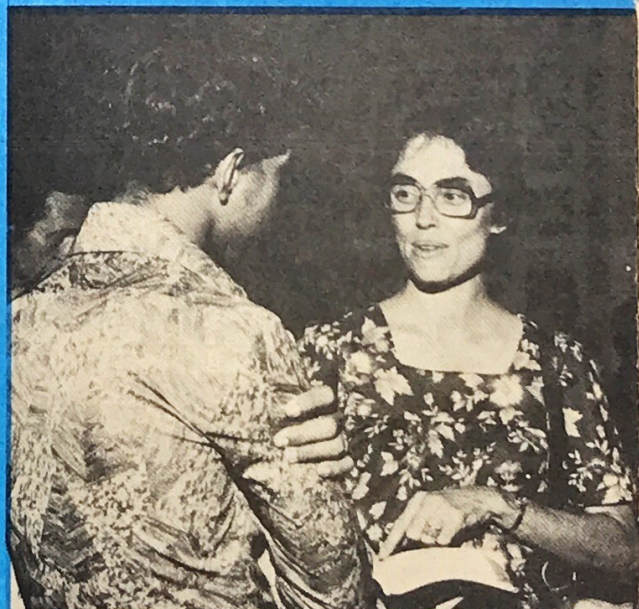
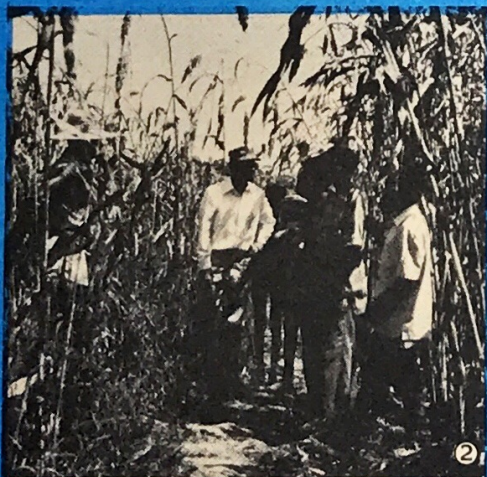
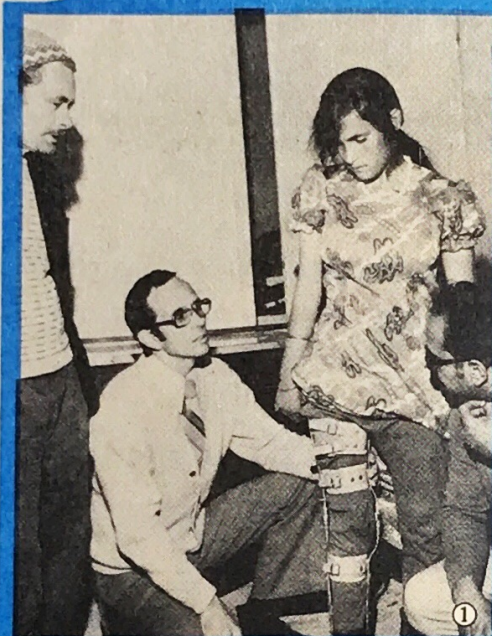
The Church Training Convention also

featured specialized age group conferences for all areas of Church Training work, as well as for church secretaries and those involved in the Media Center activities of the church. A Church Training Fair which preceded the morning, afternoon and evening sessions, featured information and suggestions on improving Church Training.

more than 2,800 Southern Baptists  
in 92 Foreign Lands

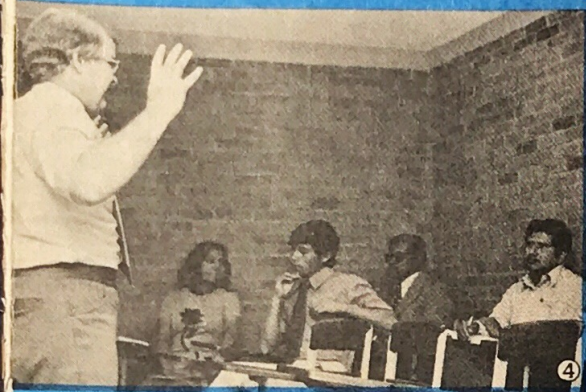
TE

OUT WITH GLA



# LL IT DNESS

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"Tell It Out with Gladness"  
when you give  
to foreign missions  
through the Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering.  
National goal: \$40,000,000.



## Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions December 3-10

1 Medical missionaries labor to meet physical needs in 35 hospitals, clinics, and other medical services. To help medical missionaries in Gaza "Tell It Out With Gladness," \$138,000 has been allocated for the Baptist Hospital there. / 2 Missionaries continually seek new methods to "Tell It Out With Gladness"—one way being through agricultural projects. In Upper Volta \$1,960 is allocated for new work. / 3 "Tell It Out with Gladness" might well be the theme of missionaries working in broadcast media. For mass communications in Italy \$12,000 is allocated. / 4 Teaching others to "Tell It Out With Gladness" is the responsibility of more than 60 seminaries, Bible schools, and theological institutes. Over \$60,000 is allocated for Mexico's seminary and other religious education. / 5 Cultivating national Christians, beginning and guiding their churches is the task of missionaries involved in church development. \$3,500 has been set aside to help Guyana churches "Tell It Out With Gladness." / 6 Students everywhere are looking for happiness, and Southern Baptist missionaries are there to "Tell It Out With Gladness." In the Philippines \$24,000 is allocated for student work. / 7 And still there are the lost masses. Allocated for evangelistic work in Argentina is \$10,100.

## Reverence for the Sabbath

Nov. 12, 1978

Matt. 12:1-8

Exodus 20:8-11

By Gerald Taylor, pastor  
Life Line Church, Little Rock

The scripture text of Matthew 12:1-8 and Exodus 20:8-11 forces us to face two questions: (1) Do I believe that people today should really keep a day holy unto the Lord? (2) If I answer yes, do I keep the Sabbath or Lord's Day holy?



Taylor

### The problem

Most of us would agree that the Lord's Day is not generally considered to be a "day" (not a whole day), maybe an hour, but not a day. Sunday is a day of competition — not just on the gridiron or athletic field — but the believer finds himself bombarded with diversions and temptations on the Lord's Day: the best T.V. shows, outdoor recreation, interstate highway systems, the long holiday weekends of Washington's birthday, Memorial Day and Labor Day all coming on Mondays. Then, beyond that, there is a move underway to cut the work week to four days. What is a Christian to do? How can one be asked to be faithful to his church as a teacher or church leader in the face of such Sunday competition?

### The solution

It is time for the believer to come to grips with the issue of the Lord's Day. The text in Exodus states specifically that it is to be a "day of rest". This must not be interpreted to mean a care-free, do-nothing day for self-indulgence. It is a day to refresh yourself in the Lord, a day set aside for God.

The Pharisees, who were as sharp-eyed as hawks and as cruel as vultures about overseeing the letter of the law, condemned Jesus' disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath. This was considered work. The believer must guard against becoming pharisaical in his defense of the Lord's Day. The observance of the Lord's Day is not a matter of legislation but a matter of love. When the believer hungers and thirsts for God the problem of where to go on Sunday will be solved (Heb. 10:25).

### The provision

We must remember that Christ is Lord of the Sabbath. "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). Worship, adoration, Bible study and Christian fellowship have their own reward. Furthermore, the believer must remember that he does not go to church to do God a favor; he does himself a favor. His spirit is renewed; his life is deepened in the Lord. He is spiritually equipped to meet the world for he has fed from God's banquet table. Jesus warned, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4). The person who sets aside the Lord's Day not only is strengthened in the Lord but gives a positive witness to his neighbors of his love for God. The Lord's Day is God's time to impart something you need. Take advantage of your opportunity and God's provision.

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## Money — barrier

This is a parable about two men — one who found favor with God and one who experienced God's disfavor; two worlds, this world and the world to come; and two destinies, comfort and torments.

With the story Jesus refutes the age old idea that the possession of wealth proves God's favor and for the lack of it proves his disfavor. I say the passage is relevant, for no one can deny that many modern day preachers teach this doctrine as the Pharisees taught it in Jesus day. All one has to do is to get right with God and pray. God then will give him the desire of his heart. A desire that surely must be for money and the things that money can buy. Ah! sweet success.

The key to understanding this teaching of the Lord is found in verse 31, a verse that says one's being in torment or in comfort after death depends upon his response to Moses and the Prophets (the scriptures). The main characters in the story are the rich man and Abraham rather than the richman and Lazarus. We are only told that Lazarus is in Abraham's bosom not how he got there. We are told precisely, however, why the rich man is in torment and we are pointed to the scriptures where we can find why Abraham is on the comfort side of death.

### Money as a bridge

Abraham according to the scriptures is the great example of man's being blessed by God, a man who receives a commission that in being blessed he is to be a blessing. A bridge is a structure to provide a way across or something that connects two things making commuting possible. It was by building bridges in aid to others that Abraham used his wealth according to God's will. He thus found favor with God in doing God's will with his money.

### Money as barrier

A barrier is a thing that prevents going ahead, anything that holds apart or separates. The rich man used his money for self alone and thus barred the use of his money as God intended, to aid those in need. Housed in the very best accommodations, clothed in the garb of the most wealthy, eating meals fit for kings every day, he is a prime example

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# Bible Book Lesson

or bridge

Nov. 12

Luke 16:19-31

by Roy V. Cook  
South Highland Church,  
Little Rock

of utter selfishness. Never once did he let the contagion of a diseased wretch touch his oil anointed body, or the taste of his good wine be diluted by the tears of pain, nor his pace be made shorter by the lameness of one borne by others. Not once in his really knowing how to live was there found even a hint of concern for the cesspool of humanity laid at his gate — that Lazarus who would be better off dead so let him die. Because of that selfishness he found the judgement of God upon him was torment.

### Bridge or barrier

The teachings of the parable are at least that the existence of life after death is one of torment or comfort. The self after life is essentially the same as the self before. The rich man opened his eyes, knew Abraham, felt the pain, and remembered his brothers. Life in the beyond is determined this side of the grave and it is fixed eternally. An impassable gulf lies between the two abodes. Bridge or barrier — what will it be for you and me?

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## The tower of Babel

Nov. 12, 1978

Genesis 10:1 to 11:32

by Don Cooper  
Sunday School Department

Why is pride such a serious sin? That is the thought question for the study this week. Pride leads to self-sufficiency, thus rejection of the will of God.

Our study today deals with the pride of men and how God's judgment came on those who built the tower of Babel. In the history of man, this is the third time man has failed. Adam and Eve were disobedient. Noah's generation was so sinful that God destroyed all living creatures except those spared in the ark. Now man becomes so self-sufficient he seeks to build a tower to heaven. God's judgment had to come on such rejection of him. The circumstances surrounding the building of the tower illustrates the principle of God's judgment upon human arrogance.

### Noah's sons (10:1-32)

The record sets forth the repopulation of the Middle East after the flood. It accounts for all the peoples and nations of the then known world.

Japheth's descendants (10:2-5) were to settle and live in the region from the Aegean Sea to the Caspian Sea. They were Indo-European people. Ham's descendants (10:6-20) were African and Arabic people. Shem's descendants (10:21-31) were the Hebrews who lived in Palestine, Syria, Assyria and the Mesopotamian valley.

These were all the peoples of the world and they all came from one family, the sons of Noah.

### Man's plans (11:1-4)

The goal of the people of Babel was to maintain their unity. The purpose was not an evil one. It was their spirit of arrogance that displeased God. They thought that by building a tower they would have a unifying center and would avoid fragmentation.

The tower would give them a vantage point to watch for the enemy. It was to make them known in a prideful way. Their desire was to make their name great. It showed a sinful disregard for



Cooper

God.

### God's judgment (11:5-9)

God's judgment was to confuse their language. God's original plan was for men to scatter throughout the earth. Now that they spoke different languages they did what God wanted them to do in the beginning — they scattered. Those who could understand each other left together.

Once again, God had used his judgment to bring man to accomplish his purpose.

### God chooses a people (11:10-32)

The writer of Genesis reveals how God continued to narrow his focus within humanity. God would come to one man, one nation, God's chosen people. Abram was the man. The Hebrews were the people. God was to make his covenant with his people.

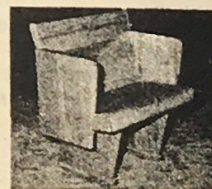
God was preparing to make another new beginning with man. It was a third new beginning.

### Conclusion

God will judge man's pride and arrogance. God will always prepare a people for his purposes.

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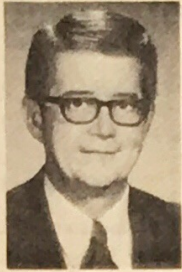
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## Church Training Leader training conference planned

Jimmy Crowe, Consultant in the Church Training Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead a Leader Training Seminar at the Baptist Building in Little Rock on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The seminar will deal with discovering, enlisting and training potential leaders in the church. A wide range of leader training resources will be used in the seminar to acquaint participants with materials for



Crowe

use in leadership training. Pastors, ministers of education, Church Training directors, directors of leader training and members of church nominating committees are invited to attend.

Jimmy Crowe is a former State Church Training Secretary for the state of Louisiana. He is the author of the *Church Leader Training Handbook* and a member of the American Management Association. The seminar will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday and will conclude at noon on Friday. The seminar fee includes registration and all seminar materials. For additional information, write the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — **Robert Holley**

## Foundation receives gift for retirement center

Although a Baptist Retirement Center has yet to become a reality, a gift has been made through the Foundation to provide continuing income for this ministry.

According to Harry Trulove, President of the Foundation, the gift will be invested, and the income returned to principal until such time as this ministry becomes a reality. The endowment contract stipulates that if the Retirement Center has not become a reality by 1985 the income is to go through the Cooperative Program.

In the opinion of Jack Clack, Chairman of the Board, this gift represents concerned faith. There is concern on the part of the donor for a ministry to

the elderly. There is the element of faith that Arkansas Baptists will fulfill this need.

At the present time, a committee from the Executive Board has the project under study. A project of this size demands thorough investigation as to the location, the type of facilities that will be provided and the services to be offered. It is anticipated that those involved with the study will do a thorough evaluation of the approaches made by other conventions in this special area of ministry.

For further information concerning ways you could have a part in this ministry, or other Baptist causes, contact Harry D. Trulove, Arkansas Baptist Foundation, Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Immanuel's Bible conference 1979

March 19-21

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Teacher

Conference opens 1 p.m., March 19, and closes at noon, March 21.

**Lodging and meals provided without charge.**

The theme of this Bible Conference is "That I may know Him". This is the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the establishment of Immanuel's Tape Ministry.

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## SBC will dedicate 1,000 missionaries

HOUSTON (BP) — Plans call for some 250,000 persons to witness a service in Houston's Astrodome dedicating some 1,000 missionaries during the Wednesday night program of the 1979 national meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14.

Convention planners hope 50,000 persons will come to the Astrodome to participate in the service featuring Evangelist Billy Graham, while another 200,000 view the proceedings by satellite transmissions to a number of U.S. cities.

Negotiations are underway, according to James L. Pleitz, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, to telecast the program on large screens in at least 10 cities.

Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, said such a program would cost Baptists in those localities \$6,500 for the telecast. The cost of beaming the telecast up to the satellite is \$9,000, he added.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board voted in its October meeting to appropriate \$4,500 for that purpose. The Home Mission Board's directors will vote on a similar proposal in its October meeting, according to William Tanner, the board's executive director, who said the project has his enthusiastic support. Both agencies will make reports during the service.

The SBC Radio and Television Commission will do the technical work to implement the broadcast, according to SBC President Jimmy R. Allen.

The service will emphasize the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century and dramatically escalate missionary appointees through regular channels of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, as well as through the SBC's newly formed Mission Service Corps.

The overall theme of the 1979 convention, Pleitz said, will be "Bold Mission — While it is Yet Day." All convention sessions but the one on Wednesday night, June 13, will take place in The Summit in Houston.

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## Allen calls for prayer for Mideast talks

WASHINGTON (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen, summoned to the White House to witness the ceremonial opening to the new phase of Israeli-Egyptian peace talks, called on Southern Baptists to redouble their prayer efforts for peace in the Middle East.

The Southern Baptist Convention

president said President Jimmy Carter wrote him, following his recent appeal for Southern Baptists to pray for the success of the Camp David summit, thanking him for the support. President Carter asked for continued prayer as the implementation of the proposed peace settlement progresses.

## Attendance report

Oct. 29, 1978

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church adns.
Alexander			
First	132	62	
Vimy Ridge, Immanuel	86	49	
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	235	98	5
Alpena, First	65	19	
Batesville, First	272	102	1
Bentonville			
Central Avenue	112	38	
Mason Valley	83	41	
Berryville			
First	182	50	
Freeman Heights	196	62	
Booneville			
First	292		
Blue Mountain Mission	32		2
South Side	109	78	1
Bryant, First Southern	276	122	
Cabot, First	485	92	
Camden			
Cullendale First	611	154	
Elliott	630	184	12
Charleston, First	212	73	
Conway, Second	451	185	2
Crossett			
Mount Olive	320	108	
Temple	189	83	
Danville, First	202	59	1
Dardanelle, First	254	57	
El Dorado, West Side	540	536	1
Ft. Smith			
First	1779		8
Grand Avenue	1278	265	1
Mission	31		
Trinity	217	41	
Westside	158	54	4
Fouke, First	143	71	4
Gentry, First	203	52	
Gosnell	761	103	4
Grandview	86	74	
Halley	59		
Hampton, First	151	93	
Hardy, First	151	41	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	390	107	7
Valley Springs	49	23	
Woodland Heights	108	65	
Helena, First	245	67	3
Hot Springs			
Harvey's Chapel	169	79	
Park Place	346	92	
Hughes, First	156	66	
Jacksonville, First	461	77	
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	156	105	
Nettleton	322	113	1
Lavaca, First	339	163	
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	215	79	
Martindale	116	50	3
Magnolia, Central	701	215	4
Monticello, Second	302	68	3
Mulberry, First	279	138	1
Murfreesboro, First	191	40	
Norfolk, First	88	55	
North Little Rock			
Calvary	344	124	2
Harmony	108		
Levy	619	126	5
Park Hill	1031	249	8
Stanfill	35	26	4
Paragould			
Calvary	312	200	2
Center Hill	140	98	1
East Side	456	214	3
First	518	136	3
Paris, First	432	32	
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	173	69	
Central	171	64	
East Side	157	155	3
First	669	78	2
Watson Chapel	626	138	13
Russellville			
First	605	122	3
Second	230	75	1
Rogers			
First	612	200	1
Immanuel	783	140	3
Sandusky, Okla., Faith	42	39	
Springdale			
Berry Street	47		
Caudle Avenue	98	30	
Elmdale	371	99	6
First	1832		5
Swifton	95	28	
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	267	102	1
Van Buren, First	619	165	3
Ward, First	144	74	
Wooster, First	147	85	
Yellville, First	193	78	

### For sale

1 addressograph machine, 1 plate maker, also 1 Pitney-Bowes hand operated stamp machine. Can be seen during the State Convention here at First Church, Little Rock. See Rich Browning or call 227-0010.

### For sale

2 church buses. 1968 Ford city or trip bus and 1962 BMC city bus. Both for \$3800 to individual or may be purchased at a reduced rate by church. Phone 982-2803 or 982-2392.

### Let's be honest

Surprise yourself without disturbing your present job or income. You could earn more working evenings and weekends than you now earn working full time at your present job. Surprise yourself — prove to yourself. We are looking for successful employed adults. Honesty, integrity and ambition are primary considerations.

Call George Fortenberry at 224-4066, Little Rock.



### Tell It Out with Gladness

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions  
December 3-10, 1978  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal: \$40,000,000

### Want to buy

Old Envelopes, Postcards, and Letters mailed before 1946. Send for offer or write Milton G. Wicker, 5112 Doliver, Houston, Tex. 77056

### For sale

24 walnut stained pews, 15 feet long, in good condition. Contact Ridgeview Baptist Church, 442-9201.

### Winter youth celebration

Glorieta Baptist Conference Center  
Dec. 28-31, 1978

For: 10-12 graders

Theme: Costly Commitment  
Program Personalities: David Meece, Fireworks, Bryan and Margarite Humphrey, Tom Smoot, Steve Seelig, Bob Norman, Ron Owens

Produced by  
Church Training Department, BSSB

Costs: \$52 per person —  
Limited to first 700 registrants  
Write for information

Glorieta Baptist Conference Center  
P.O. Box 8  
Glorieta, NM 87535

### Church furniture for sale

34 - 11 ft., 6 - 9 ft. 7 in., (with removable cushions), 2 - 4 ft. Pews. 1 - Pulpit; 1 - Communion Table. Lime Oak Veneer. Very Good Condition. Available Immediately.

First Baptist Church  
Wake Village, Texas 75501

Phone 838-4641 or 838-9467  
after 5 p.m.

### For sale

Addresser printer, Pitney-Bowes, model 7270, semi-automatic addressing machine in excellent condition. Metal plate embosser and storage cabinet included.

University Baptist Church  
Fayetteville, Ark., 501-442-5312



## Television Commission takes three awards

FT. WORTH, Tex. (BP) — Three documentary films produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission took top awards in the Long Island International Film Festival.

"A River to the Sea", which premieres Oct. 29 on CBS) was voted the outstanding film in the history and anthropology category. Narrated by actor Alexander Scourby, the film traces development of the English language from the Roman occupation to modern times.

## Two agencies join discipleship forces

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the evangelism section of the Home Mission Board will join efforts toward increased emphasis on discipleship training.

"It's really a new day," said C.B. Hogue, director of the evangelism section. "Two agencies have united themselves to do the job that really needs to be done in Southern Baptist life.

"We're excited about working with the Sunday School Board. When we're able to win people to Christ, by whatever means, we can move them right into a good program for training and discipleship so they can grow in Christian maturity."

The two Southern Baptist agencies believe the unified effort will give a balanced alternative to a wide variety of approaches to discipleship training from nondenominational sources which ignore Baptist traditions, polity and doctrine and may not be rooted in the local church.

Roy Edgemon, director of the church training department, said a proliferation of discipleship training concepts, whether intentional or not, "tear away at the local church and fragment Christians."

"As the Southern Baptist Convention continues to grow in new areas, especially in this era of a Bold Mission Thrust to reach the world and nation for Christ, we must emphasize our distinctives more than ever or lose our identity," he said.

Hogue and Edgemon, who was Hogue's associate for two years before joining the Sunday School Board at the end of 1977, have been meeting since January to develop ideas for the approach.

Their agencies will each call on the other's personnel, materials and resources to produce discipleship training materials in Baptist doctrine, dated

curriculum, church training equipping centers and special projects.

During January, February, and March 1979, church training personnel will conduct 13 regional seminars related to salvation and witnessing.

"Churches are being challenged to participate and support state evangelism conferences in January and February, Baptist doctrine study in March and April and spring revivals in April and May, in hopes of initiating a new surge of growth in churches," Edgemon said.

In a different approach, the church training department has asked persons selected by the evangelism section to write both the Baptist doctrine study books for adults and youth in 1979 and the church training periodical materials on discipleship for both age groups for the April-May-June quarter of 1979 to provide a comprehensive approach.

Hogue, for example, wrote the doctrinal study book for adults "The Doctrine of Salvation," and Lavonn D. Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla., wrote the youth study book "Youth Affirm: The Doctrine of Salvation."

Also, a common unit in youth and adult periodicals, "How to Witness," represents the first time that similar unit themes have appeared in all periodicals.

In the spring of 1979, the church training department will introduce equipping center materials and concepts on discipleship for Southern Baptist churches as an additional adult training method. Several short-term studies in the areas of evangelism and discipleship will be released through 1982.

Discipleship training will be a priority in the adult and youth dated curriculum materials and an entire year of growth in discipleship training will be offered in the periodicals in 1980-81.

A final combined project is production of follow-up and personal growth materials for new Christians to be used in crusades, revivals, and continuing church evangelistic efforts.

Address change ???????  
Two weeks before change of address send name label below and new address to:  
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P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, Ark. 72203

## SBC hotels 40 percent full

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Over 40 percent of about 6,500 rooms available in 34 hotels under contract for the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston are already full, according to convention manager Tim Hedquist.

Hedquist, assistant to the treasurer and director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee, said nine of the 34 are already completely full. Most reservations have been made by individuals, he added, noting that no more block reservations are available in the hotels.

He said four hotels near The Summit,

where conventions sessions will be held, June 12-14, have plenty of room. They are the Astro Village Hotel, the Downtown Holiday Inn, the Shamrock Hilton and the headquarters hotel, the Hyatt Regency.

The full hotels are the Allen Park Inn, Albert Pick Motor Inn, Executive Red Carpet Inn, Holiday Inn, Central, La Quinta Inn — Greenway Plaza, Ramada Inn — Greenway Plaza, Stouffer's — Greenway Plaza, Travelodge Tower, and Holiday Inn — West Loop.

The local arrangements committee, Hedquist said, is making arrangements

for adequate bus transportation to the hotels, all within four miles of The Summit.

He urged Southern Baptists wishing adequate accommodations to contact their state Baptist executive secretary or the housing information office at the Executive Committee for the computer forms necessary to process room applications. Forms will also be available in the Nov., 1978, issue of "The Baptist Program".

The Houston Housing Bureau, he said, will not take reservations by telephone.