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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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**October 6, 1983**

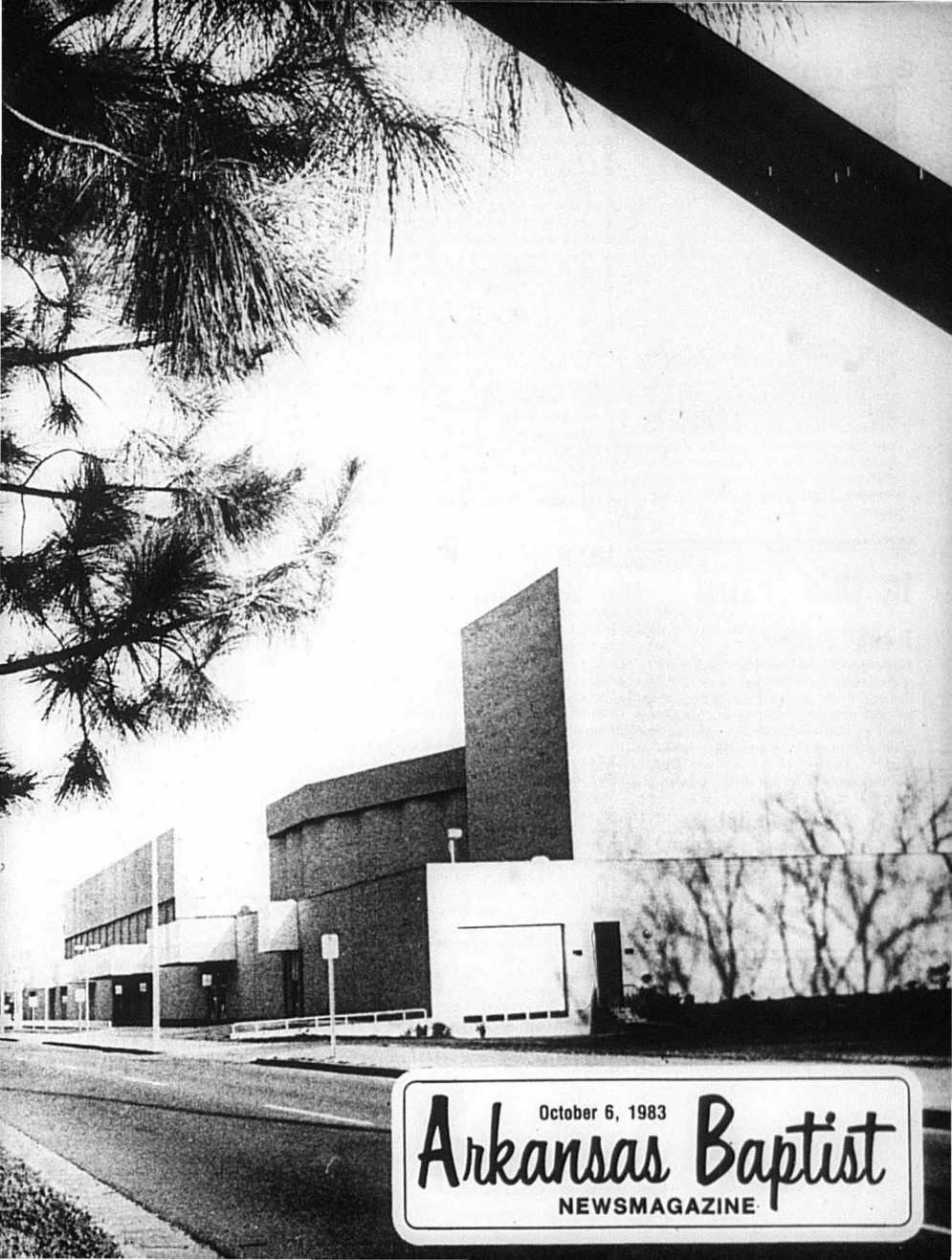
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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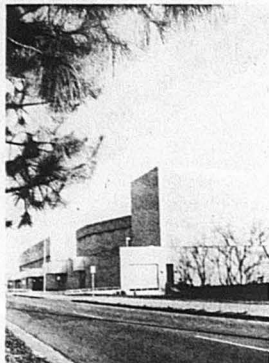
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October 6, 1983

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



The Pine Bluff Convention Center, located at 500 East Eighth Avenue in Pine Bluff, will be meeting site for the 1983 Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 8-10.

## Fellowship of Baptist Men elects first officers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Russell Miller, a layman in First Church, Mountain Home, has been elected a regional vice-president in the first slate of officers to serve the Fellowship of Baptist Men.

Miller, an oil company sales representative, was elected Sept. 17 by the fellowship's general council at the organization's initial meeting at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. He will serve a three-year term along with seven other officers elected at the September meeting.

A deacon in his church, Miller and his wife, Ina, co-teach a singles Sunday School class. He has been actively involved with Arkansas disaster relief efforts.

C.E. Price, a layman in Pittsburgh, was elected the first president of the fellowship. Price, a retired Westinghouse executive, is presently second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bill Rhodes, an Atlanta attorney, was elected first vice-president of the fellowship, and Jack Knox, a transportation executive in Germantown, Tenn., was elected recording

secretary. James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, will serve as treasurer of the fellowship as provided for in the organization's bylaws.

Three other regional vice-presidents were elected: Bill Poe, Charlotte, N.C.; Jack Deligans, Livermore, Calif. and Drexel Myers, Trenton, Mich.

The purpose of the fellowship is to promote witnessing and missions involvement among Southern Baptist men, help churches involve more men in witnessing and missions, work with Southern Baptist Convention agencies and state and associational organizations in involving more men in witnessing and missions and encourage greater financial support in witnessing and missions by men through the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist channels.

The fellowship will encourage the development of state, associational and local fellowships on the basis of vocation, interest and skills and plans to hold a national meeting of members every three years.

## In this issue

### 7 ABSC preview

Messengers to the 1983 ABSC will want to review pages 7-14. This pre-convention section of the Newsmagazine contains committee appointments, information on auxiliary meetings, a housing form, a convention program and program personalities. James T. Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be a featured speaker.

### 15 U. S. — Vatican ties

Southern Baptist leaders register alarm at U. S. Senate action authorizing reestablishment of full U. S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

## Income projections lower than requests

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Bold Mission Thrust has sent the aspirations of Southern Baptist Convention agencies soaring—and budget requests have sailed right along behind.

Initial 1984-85 budget requests from the national SBC agencies to the SBC Executive Committee totaled \$138,849,629, a stark contrast to the income projections for an operating budget of \$118 million.

"Bold Mission Thrust has created wonderful opportunities—and major problems," R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said in making his presentation. But his logic applied to all the programs.

The effort of the SBC to present the message of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world by the year 2000 has produced record numbers of mission volunteers, seminary enrollments, and innovative programs using satellites, film production, new training techniques and massive outpourings of literature. All with start-up costs and increased funding needs.

As a result the 20 SBC agencies which receive Cooperative Program funding asked for more than \$24 million increase from the 1983-84 budget—20.91 percent.

The two mission boards accounted for \$15 million of the increase as would be expected from the two agencies most directly affected by Bold Mission Thrust as well as the major recipients of Cooperative Program funds.

The Foreign Mission Board asked for \$67,860,000 (an increase of \$10.6 million, 18.53 percent) and the Home Mission Board \$27 million (up \$4,365,600, 19.3 percent).

The other requests included:

The Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, \$250,650 (up \$22,800, 10.01 percent); the Annuity Board, \$1,068,000 (up \$150,000, 16.3 percent); Baptist World Alliance, \$441,000 (up \$115,000, 35 percent);

Brotherhood Commission, \$976,235 (up \$127,335, 15 percent); Christian Life Commission, \$903,750 (up \$191,875, 27 percent); Education Commission, \$487,370 (up \$63,570, 15 percent); Golden Gate Seminary, \$3,006,010 (up \$693,694, 30 percent); Historical Commission, \$603,360 (up \$209,760, 53.29 percent);

Midwestern Seminary, \$2,402,651 (up \$400,442, 20 percent); New Orleans Seminary, \$4,915,534 (up \$948,194, 23.9 percent); Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$464,000 (up \$63,750, 15.6 percent); Radio and Television Commission, \$6,554,096 (up \$1,740,746, 36.17 percent); SBC operating budget (includes Executive Committee operating budget as well as budget for planning and holding annual meetings), \$2,316,000 (up \$680,700, 41.63 percent);

Southeastern Seminary, \$4,523,756 (up \$815,961, 22.01 percent); Southern Baptist Foundation, \$282,472 (up \$28,135, 11.6 percent); Southern Seminary, \$6,114,863 (up \$1,073,948, 21 percent); Southwestern Seminary, \$8,204,882 (up \$1,630,457, 24.8 percent); Stewardship Commission, \$475,000 (up \$78,850, 19.9 percent).

The Sunday School Board and the Woman's Missionary Union do not receive any Cooperative Program money but generate their own revenues by the sale of literature.



The 1983 annual session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will consider many important and far-reaching matters. There are likely to be differing opinions on some issues. But we believe Arkansas Baptists are mature enough to deal with these issues in the spirit of Christian love.

Among the important items of business to be considered are the adoption of a \$10.8 million budget, the continuation of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine under a separate board and the proposal for Southern Baptist College to become a four-year institution in a phased plan in which baccalaureate degrees will be added periodically. In each instance, we urge the messengers to inform themselves prior to the convention and to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit regarding the response they should make.

The program will provide outstanding inspiration for those in attendance. Everyone will want to hear the Bible teaching of Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who will be speaking in each session of the convention. Other out-of-state speakers who will bless and challenge the hearers include James Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Keith Parks, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board. We also will be blessed by the messages of Don Moore, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Joe Atchison, pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff.

The passage of a budget by the state convention is usually automatic. And we feel that this year will be no exception, since there are no new controversial proposals in our budget. But, the budget of our state convention is extremely significant, because it represents the continuation of the Lord's work. Not only is this year's \$10.8 million budget the largest that has ever been proposed to the Arkansas Baptist Convention, but it also, again, represents a three-fourths of one percent increase in gifts to world missions. Hence, our budget represents the continuation of our mission work in Arkansas, the United States and the world.

This will be Executive Secretary Don Moore's second convention. We are impressed with the excellent leadership he is providing for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. His openness, honesty and keen insight into the needs of local churches are among the qualities which equip him for this most important position.

Beyond question, the conduct of our messengers will have more impact on non-Christians than any business action which takes place. We should remember that we are a "koinonia," or a fellowship of believers, charged with the task of winning, bap-

tizing, and training people with whom we have contact. The Greek word "koinonia" carries the idea of joint participation, partnership, or possessing things in common. Clearly, anything which ruptures our cooperation will curtail our effectiveness on every level.

Paul admonished the Corinthian church to protect its fellowship because of its calling. He said, "God is faithful, by whom we were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren....that there be no divisions among you...." (1 Cor. 1:9-10).

We believe that the Baptists of Arkansas will leave the convention with a spirit of love and commitment because: (1) our fellowship is at a high level; (2) our people are responding positively to the leadership of Dr. Moore; (3) our convention program will feature some of the nation's most challenging speakers; and (4) our convention president, Dillard Miller, will preside capably, fairly and ably over the convention.

Resolutions Chairman Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, and President Miller have urged anyone challenging messengers to present a letter, with copies going to each of them prior to the convention. This would be helpful for several reasons: (1) it would provide time for the Credentials Committee to investigate the challenge to determine its accuracy; (2) it would enable the committee to deal fairly with everyone concerned; and (3) it would help expedite the heavy load of business with which messengers must deal. A challenge to messengers while the convention is in session would place tremendous pressure on the Credentials Committee.

There are several facts that should be remembered by everyone who is attending the convention. First, our convention is composed of messengers, not delegates. This means simply that each person who is elected by a church determines his or her vote under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, with no instructions having been given. Second, guests are always welcome at the convention, but only messengers are to vote.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine serves as an excellent avenue for communicating with the Baptists of Arkansas. Anyone wishing to discuss any matter pertaining to the convention should have "A Letter to the Editor," in the hands of the ABN not later than October 24, in order to be in the issue of November 3.

We believe that our convention will set the stage for 1984 to be a great year of victory for the Master. As Arkansas Baptists keep the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, and depend on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, our success is assured.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 82

NUMBER 39

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . Editor  
Betty Kennedy . . . . . Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. . . . . Editor Emeritus

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

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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## Woman's viewpoint

Shirley Moore

### "The Cutting Edge"

The Lord seems to have a way of not allowing his children to become too complacent with their lifestyles and circumstances. After a wonderful 26 years as a pastor's wife, suddenly I find myself in a completely new role, at a stage in life when we have a tendency to coast along and to feel that the biggest challenges are behind us.

Not long before the Lord called Don to be the State Executive Secretary, I remember praying one day, "Lord, keep us on the cutting edge of what you are doing in the world today." I have always had a horror of getting trapped in a stagnant side pool instead of being swept along in the fresh, bubbling flow of the Spirit's movement in our world. We were in such a vibrant, Spirit-filled church, and I felt secure in praying that prayer, because I assumed that whatever God would do in answer to that prayer would be related to our ministry there.

I should have known better than to assume anything as far as God is concerned. I really was sincere in my desire, but sub-

consciously I guess I wanted to dictate the setting and circumstances by which he would use us.

Well, needless to say, he has thrust us into one of the biggest, most exciting challenges of our lives! It has been a wonderful, eventful year with many adjustments, but God has confirmed in so many ways that we are in his will.

Because our children are grown and "out of the nest" I have been able to travel the 24,000-plus miles with Don this year in our state. Even though we are native Arkansans and three of our five pastorates have been in Arkansas, we have been able to experience and grasp the scope of our work and our task from a new perspective.

It has been thrilling! God is moving in Arkansas, and I feel that we are on the "cutting edge" of what he is doing in our state and in our world.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for receiving us so warmly into your churches and into your hearts! We love!



## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### When British and Argentine Baptists get together

When Argentina and England went to war over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, one of my early responses was to wonder whether the Baptist World Alliance would be able to have its planned meetings in Buenos Aires. The British Baptists are active in the Baptist World Alliance, and meetings are usually held only in places where the host country will accept visitors from all member nations.

The General Council of the BWA, and several of its study commissions, were scheduled to meet in Buenos Aires in July of 1983, and it seemed likely that the war might close the door to British visitors and even to some of their sympathizers. Somewhat ironically, the BWA Commission on Human Rights, of which I am a member, was one of those groups scheduled to meet in this country, so well known for its history of Peronist and military disregard for human rights.

The Argentine government made a commitment to accept Baptist visitors from all nations, and the meetings were held on schedule in July. I must admit to a certain uneasiness as our tour guide pointed out

bullet-hole evidence of several of the last military take-overs and referred to the national legislative building as "the congressional building without congressmen!" The congress had been abolished by the military junta. The guide spoke with guarded optimism about the promised election of a new congress on Oct. 31.

To welcome the BWA guests, Argentine Baptists planned a huge rally on Saturday, which coincided with Argentina's Independence Day. In an auditorium draped in Argentina's patriotic blue and white bunting, with an unusual mixture of Christian and nationalistic music from a band and mass choir, we were given a stirring welcome by some 5,000 people.

Greetings to the Argentine Baptists were brought by leaders from each of the regional fellowships around the world. It was interesting to watch the Spanish interpreter translate these greetings, especially when the Baptist brother from Hong Kong began with "This is a fantastic day," only to have the interpreter respond in confused silence. He tried again in an audible whisper that

## House passes stronger ban on abortion funds

WASHINGTON (BP)—Going beyond previous restrictions, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to bar all federal funding of abortions, even in cases where the life of the mother is endangered.

However, backers of the abortion rider insisted the exception clause contained in current law which permits federal payment for abortions when the mother's life is threatened will be part of the final bill that goes to President Reagan for his signature.

Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Mass., offered the restrictive amendment to a \$96.4 billion appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Resources after language in the bill barring Medicaid funding of abortion except to save the life of the mother had been stricken on a point of order.

Conte's amendment prevailed 231-184 despite charges by opponents that it disregards "the mother's life and health entirely."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ohio, a long-time foe of federal abortion funding, said criticism of the Conte amendment because it does not have the exception clause protecting the life of the mother is unfair. "But I guarantee my colleagues, as I stand here on this floor, that that protection will be put in conference as it always has been," he said.

everyone heard, "This is a wonderful day!" and the embarrassed interpreter quickly translated that to the applause of the audience.

There was no difficulty in understanding each regional spokesman who concluded with "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

Tension in the auditorium rose as the representatives from each nation were asked to walk across the platform and participate in the roll call of the nations. When the time came for the British Baptists — all three of them — to come to the front and center of the stage, all eyes and ears gave attention. As they came forward, almost in spontaneous response the 5,000 Argentine Baptists rose to their feet and gave the three from Britain a standing ovation. It was a very moving and happy moment and I was reminded once again of the eternal truth in that favorite hymn, "In Christ There Is No East or West."

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

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

by Don Moore

... **Company is coming.** We appreciate the invitation and opportunity of visiting in the annual associational meetings in October. The brief time you give us on the program will be used to try to give a report on what God has been doing with us, as your servants, during the past year. Your Executive Board programs will be presented by the WMU, Foundation, Arkansas Baptist



Moore

News magazine or Family and Child Care ministry in some places. These also will have some representation in meetings where Executive Board employees are speaking. There will be some overlapping of personnel. This cannot be avoided.

While we are "company," we are not strangers. We are a part of the family. It's always good to get together with loved ones. You don't have to make special preparation for relatives when they come. So, you don't have to do anything special for us. Just let us have a few moments to share about our larger family. We appreciate it!

... **6,400 candidates for missionary services are being considered.** This is the report of Keith Parks, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board. Speaking at the fall meeting of the Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 19, Dr. Parks indicated that inflation at home and abroad had actually reduced the Foreign Mission Board's buying power by 8.5 percent since 1976. That fact cast a shadow over his other reports.

During the same period, increases in the number of countries served went up by 18 percent. Baptisms on the foreign field increased by 58 percent. Volunteers for appointment increased by 24 percent. Those volunteering to serve on a short term basis increased by 500 percent. Assistance for hunger relief has increased 250 percent.

The bottom line is that there is a hurting, needy world that needs the gospel. There are folk prepared and preparing to go. The fact remains that both wait on a God-blessed people like Southern Baptists to meet the financial need to make it happen.

**Don Moore is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.**

## Parents' weekend set at Ouachita

The Ouachita Baptist University Student Foundation will host a "Parents' Weekend" Oct. 14-15 to acquaint parents of current students with the university.

Registration is scheduled for Saturday morning, Oct. 15 from 8-8:30 a.m. in Birkett Williams Hall.

A brunch is planned in conjunction with a "Student Showcase" from 8:30-10 a.m. in Birkett Williams Hall. The showcase will in-

clude several speakers and entertainment provided by Ouachita students.

Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. the Ouachita Student Foundation will feature "Tiger Tunes"; OBU's campus musical in Mitchell Hall Auditorium.

Saturday afternoon parents will be special guests at the Ouachita-Mississippi College game at 1:30 p.m. at A. U. Williams Field.

## Southern College records 12 percent gain

Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge has reported a 12 percent enrollment increase for its newly-begun fall term.

Jerol Swaim, SBC registrar and academic vice-president, attributed part of the increase to \$60,000 in new scholarship funds set aside by school trustees. Continued high interest in data processing courses also ap-

peared to contribute to the higher enrollment, he said.

The largest increases were realized in first-time freshmen, transfer students and night students.

Southern is a two-year liberal arts college owned and operated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



**Interns oriented** — Three pastoral care interns are serving at Little Rock's Baptist Medical Center. (Left to right) Jerry Collins, Ross Woodbury and Michael Ashcraft received orientation to the hospital from Stan Wilson, staff chaplain (second from right), and Ed McDonald, director of pastoral care (right). Collins and Ashcraft are graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Woodbury is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## New writer for 'Lessons for living'

Bert Thomas, pastor of Toltec Church, Scott, will be writing the Bible Book Series Sunday School lessons in Lessons for Living.

A native of LaGrange, Thomas has served churches in Helena, Luxora, Blytheville and Leachville, as well as Scott. He has served as moderator and interim director of missions in Mississippi County Association. He has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board.

Thomas is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Ouachita Baptist University and Boyce Bible School of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is married to Martha Holmes of Monette. They have two children, Mary and Jeff.



Thomas

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

**Jerry S. Warmath**

pastor at Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, has resigned to become pastor of Peters Creek Church in suburban Pittsburgh, Pa. Dr. Warmath, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has served the church since September of 1972.

**Ross Williams**

is serving as pastor of the Concord Church at Ink. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served other Arkansas churches, including those in

Smackover, Foreman and Mount Ida. He has also served as director of missions of Caddo River Association. His wife, Elva, is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern State College. She is a teacher in the Mena School District.

**Floyd Barrett**

was honored Sept. 25 by the Olivet Church in Little Rock in recognition of his retirement as building supervisor.

**J. D. Webb**

began serving Sept. 1 as pastor of the Oak

Grove Church at Ashdown. He has pastored churches in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas. He and his wife, Loretta, reside in Texarkana. They have two daughters, Willene McLaughlin of North Little Rock and Lori, a junior at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Bob Barnett**

is serving as full-time interim music minister at Conway First Church, coming there from the Woodland Heights Church in Fort Worth, Texas. A native of Jonesboro, he has been attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## briefly

**Barton Church**

was in a recent revival that resulted in 16 professions of faith and two additions by letter according to pastor Robert Hartness. Rex Easterling was evangelist, and Herbert "Red" Johnson directed the music.

**Camden Hillside Church**

observed a Ministry Evangelism Weekend Sept. 23-25.

**Crystal Hill Church**

in Little Rock was in a revival Sept. 18-21. Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was evangelist. Dan Telford, a member of Calvary Church in Little Rock, directed the music. Pastor Sid Carswell reported two professions of faith, one addition by letter, eight joining by statement and two re-dedications.

**Searcy First Church**

recently honored pastor David Crouch and Mrs. Crouch in recognition of their 10 years of service to the church and community.

**Morton Church**

ordained Doyle C. Tyer as a deacon Sept. 11. Claude Gibbs preached the ordination message.

**Washington-Madison Association**

men recently held a breakfast-meeting for the purpose of organizing a fellowship group with the purpose of giving support, building skills and labor to churches involved in building programs.

**El Dorado First Church**

ordained Marty Baumgardner and Bill Fambrough as deacons Sept. 25.

**Magnolia Central Church**

ordained Louis Blanchard and Calvin Neal as deacons Sept. 18. Pastor Jon Stubblefield and pastor emeritus Loyd L. Hunnicutt gave the charges. Others participating were Dale Robbins and W. C. Blewster.

**Fouke First Church**

was in a revival Sept. 11-17 led by Mike Coker, staff evangelist of Helena First Church. Brenton Powell directed the music. Pastor Dale Wooten reported 37 professions of faith, three additions by letter, one by statement and 25 re-dedications.

**Pisgah Church**

at Fouke observed homecoming Aug. 21.

**Highland Hills Church**

at Texarkana recently ordained Scott Crenshaw to the ministry. He serves as pastor of Westside Church in Magnolia.

**Mandeville Church**

near Texarkana is renovating the older part of its education building to more adequately house the children's division.

**East Side Church**

in Fort Smith ordained Rodger Brown, A. L. Corbin, Jack Evans, Dennis Wood and Fred Rausch as deacons Oct. 2. Walter Watts preached the ordination message.

**West Church**

in Batesville held a Senior Adult Bible Conference Sept. 23-24. Don Hook of Little Rock and Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro were speakers.



Breaking in — Jewel Morris (seated) of Fort Smith is shown around the Radio and Television Commission by its president, Jimmy R. Allen (standing left), and Stewart McChesney (standing right), chairman of the board of trustees. Morris is the new RTVC trustee from Arkansas.

RTVC photo / Kenneth Beazley



**A preview**  
**Arkansas Baptist State Convention 1983**

**November 8-10**

**Pine Bluff Convention Center**

**plus pre-convention and auxiliary meetings**

**see page 15 for housing form**

## Preconvention meetings

### Pastor's Conference

Convention Center, Pine Bluff

Monday afternoon

Nov. 7, 1983

1:45	Pre-program music	Olivet Church, Little Rock
2:00	Congregational singing	Curtis Shatley
	Welcome, scripture and prayer	Ira Taylor
	Special music	Olivet Church
2:15	Message	Ken Lilly
2:45	Congregational singing	Curtis Shatley
	Special music	Olivet Church, Little Rock
2:55	Message	Clark Hutchinson
3:25	Congregational singing	Curtis Shatley
	Special music	Olivet Church, Little Rock
3:35	Message	Bobby Moore
4:05	Benediction	Dee Spears

### Monday evening

Nov. 7, 1983

6:30	Pre-program music	Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith
6:50	Congregational singing	Jim Burleson
	Scripture and prayer	Larry Plummer
	Special music	Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith
7:00	Message	Jaroy Weber
7:30	Testimony	John Holston
7:45	Congregational singing	Jim Burleson
	Special music	Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith
7:55	Message	John Bramlett
8:25	Congregational singing	Jim Burleson
	Special music	Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith
8:35	Message	Jerry Vines
9:05	Benediction	Tommy Stacey

### Minister's Wives Conference

Pine Bluff Convention Center

Tuesday morning

Nov. 8, 1983

9:00	Coffee and tea	Get acquainted
9:30	Invocation	Virginia Atkinson

Introductions

9:35	"This Call We Share"	Juanita Hatfield / Pam Lang
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Tuesday morning

Nov. 8, 1983

9:00	Instrumental prelude	Judy Malone and Dianna Shatley
9:15	Scripture and prayer	Harold Ray
	Congregational singing	Mike Speck
	Special music	Mike and Faye Speck
9:25	Message	Clark Hutchinson
9:55	Congregational singing	Mike Speck
	Special music	Mike and Faye Speck
10:05	Message	Mike Taylor
10:35	Election of officers	
10:45	Testimony	Ron Bragg
10:55	Congregational singing	Mike Speck
	Special music	Mike and Faye Speck
11:05	Message	Jaroy Weber
11:45	Benediction	Roger Owen

Tuesday afternoon

Nov. 8, 1983

1:30	Music Men of Arkansas	Ervin Keathley
1:45	Scripture and prayer	Steve Munson
	Congregational singing	Ervin Keathley
	Special music	Music Men of Arkansas
2:00	Message	Bobby Moore
2:30	Congregational singing	James Rushing
	Special music	Mr. and Mrs. James Rushing
2:40	Message	Paul Jackson
3:10	Congregational singing	Concord Association
	Special music	Concord Association
3:20	Message	Jerry Vines
4:00	Benediction	Clyde Glazener

10:00	"This Call We Share"	
	Bobbie DeBusk	Jeanine Garjand
	Dorothy Hickey	Donna Williams
10:30	Speaker	Gladys S. Lewis
11:30	Installation of new officers	
11:45	Benediction	Barbara Hassell

## Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association

First Church, Pine Bluff

Monday evening

Nov. 7, 1983

8:30	Dinner	
7:00	Entertainment	Ouachi-Tones
	Speaker: Mark Short	
	Professor in the Division of Religious Education	
	Ministries, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	

Tuesday morning

Nov. 8, 1983

8:30	Coffee and donuts	
9:00	Devotion	
9:15	Conference: Motivation	— Mark Short
10:15	Break	
10:30	Conference: Motivation	— Mark Short
11:30	Business meeting	
12:00	Dismiss	

## Convention committees

### Credentials

Ferrell D. Morgan, chairman  
1321 Dodson Avenue  
Fort Smith 72903  
Bernes K. Selph, Benton  
Eugene Ray, Marion  
Al Sparkman, Crossett  
Glenn Morgan, El Dorado  
Alternate: Clifford Palmer, Springdale

### Resolutions

John H. McClanahan, chairman  
517 Cherry  
Pine Bluff 71601

J. W. L. Adams, Texarkana  
Carter Tucker, Melbourne  
Tommy Robertson, El Dorado  
Curtis Mathis, Harrison  
Alternate: Ben Rowell, Rogers

### Tellers

J. T. Harvill, chairman  
P.O. Box 404  
Rison 71665

John Jenkins, El Dorado  
D. P. Wilcox, Conway  
Roy V. Conaster, Mena  
Steve Landers, Pine Bluff  
Lannie W. Smith, Humphrey  
Mike Huckabee, Pine Bluff  
Freddie Gay, Forrest City  
Alternates:  
Ronnie Williamson, Fort Smith  
Bruce Murphy, El Dorado  
Lowell Snow, Junction City

### Constitution and Bylaws

Johnny Jackson, chairman  
1717 North Mississippi  
Little Rock 72207  
John Holston, Nashville  
Dillard Miller, Mena  
Marvin James, Hot Springs  
Lance Hanshaw, Cabot  
Richard Johnson, Lake Hamilton

### Nominating

Dennis Dodson, chairman  
P.O. Box 187  
Monticello 71655  
William Philliber, Mountain View  
James Evans, Clinton  
Ernest Howell, Jonesboro  
Leo Hughes, Texarkana  
Jimmie Wallace, Eudora  
Russell Miller, Mountain Home  
Cecil E. Weller, Fort Smith  
Eddie Simpson, Lonoke

### Order of Business

Jerre Hassell, chairman  
P.O. Box 747  
Stuttgart 72160  
Bert Thomas, Scott

### Parliamentarian

Carl Overton  
1030 Central  
Hot Springs 71901

## Suggestions from the Credentials Committee

Membership and messengers to the 1983 convention is determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership", Sections 1, 2 and 3, which states:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of **The Baptist Faith and Message** as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and **The Baptist Faith and Message** shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each co-operating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided,

however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states:

"Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their findings and recommendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13; "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states:

Committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Thursday, Oct. 20, 1983. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to the Baptist Building, P.O. Box 552, Little

"Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, or any other organization similar to or growing out of such."

The Credentials Committee appointed by the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is as follows: Ferrell Morgan, chairman; Bernes K. Selph, Eugene Ray, Glenn Morgan, Al Sparkman and Clifford Palmer.

Any challenge to a church being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. — **Ferrell Morgan, chairman, Credentials Committee**

Rock, AR 72203, addressed to the attention of the committee.

Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention prior to the convention itself.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important regard.—**John McClanahan, chairman, Resolutions Committee**

## Resolutions

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Dillard Miller, in consultation with the Convention vice presidents and the state executive secretary, has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting in Pine Bluff, Nov. 8-10, 1983.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the com-



# Tentative Program Arkansas Baptist State Convention

*Disciples working together to grow the local church* . . . . . Acts 2:41-47

## Tuesday evening Nov. 8, 1983 Pine Bluff Convention Center

*"Increasing Believers"* Acts 2:41

Bold indicates priority items

- 6:15 Congregation singing . . . . . Ervin Keathley  
6:20 Theme interpretation . . . . . Clyde Glazener  
6:25 **Bible Study** . . . . . Lewis Drummond  
6:45 Call to order . . . . . Dillard Miller  
Appointment of committees  
Enrollment of messengers . . . . . Ferrell Morgan  
Adoption of order of business . . . . . Jerre Hassell  
Resolutions . . . . . John McClanahan  
Constitutional amendments . . . . . Johnny Jackson  
Announcements . . . . . Dillard Miller  
7:10 Congregation singing . . . . . Ervin Keathley  
7:20 Special music/Harmony Baptist Associational Choir  
7:30 **Message** . . . . . Don Moore  
7:50 Fraternal greeting,  
acknowledgements . . . . . Dillard Miller  
Recognition of former presidents  
Welcome to new Arkansans . . . . . Don Moore  
8:10 Congregational singing . . . . . Ervin Keathley  
8:15 Special music . . . . . Music Women of Arkansas  
8:30 **Message** . . . . . James T. Draper Jr.  
9:00 Benediction . . . . . Jim Byrd

## Wednesday Morning Nov. 9, 1983

*"Developing Believers"* Acts 2:42

- 8:30 Congregation singing . . . . . Tanner Riley  
8:35 Theme interpretation . . . . . Jim Bryant  
8:40 **Bible Study** . . . . . Lewis Drummond  
9:05 Arkansas Baptist Family  
& Child Care . . . . . Johnny Biggs  
9:15 Arkansas Baptist Foundation . . . . . Harry Trulove  
9:30 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine  
Study Committee . . . . .  
J. W. L. Adams Jr.  
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine report . . . . .  
Everett Sneed  
9:40 Congregational singing . . . . . Tanner Riley  
9:45 **Election of Officers**  
10:05 **Executive Board Report** . . . . . Ken Lilly  
10:50 Congregation singing . . . . . Tanner Riley  
10:55 Special music . . . . . Music Men of Arkansas  
11:15 **Presidents Message** . . . . . Dillard Miller  
11:45 Benediction . . . . . Gordon Guest

Organists: Bob Dolan, Pine Bluff South Side Church and  
Bob Lindley, Pine Bluff First Church.  
Pianists: Bettye Atchison, Pine Bluff South Side Church,  
Mrs. Steve Meeks, Pine Bluff Forest Park Church and Peggy  
Pearson, Church Music Department, ABSC.

## Wednesday Afternoon Nov. 9, 1983

*"Functioning as gifted believers"*

Acts 2:43-45

- 1:30 Congregation singing . . . . . Phil Hardin  
1:35 Theme interpretation . . . . . Bill Bennett  
1:40 **Bible Study** . . . . . Lewis Drummond  
1:45 **Election of officers (continued)**  
2:20 Resolutions Committee . . . . . John McClanahan  
2:20 Congregation singing . . . . . Phil Hardin  
2:35 Nominating Committee . . . . . Dennis Dodson  
2:45 Miscellaneous business  
3:05 Congregational singing . . . . . Phil Hardin  
3:15 Special music . . . . . Steve Landers  
3:30 **Convention Sermon** . . . . . Joe Atchison  
4:00 Benediction . . . . . James Shults

## Wednesday Evening Nov. 9, 1983

*"Unifying The Believers"*

Acts 2:46-47a

- 6:30 *Instrumental prelude* . . . . . OBU Brass ensemble,  
6:45 Congregation singing . . . . . Glen Ennes  
6:50 Theme interpretation . . . . . Carroll Caldwell  
6:55 **Bible Study** . . . . . Lewis Drummond  
7:15 Ouachita Baptist University . . . . . Daniel Grant  
7:30 Annuity Board . . . . . Gene Daniels  
8:00 Baptist Student Union . . . . . Tom Logue  
8:10 Southern Baptist College . . . . . Jack Nicholas  
8:25 Southern Baptist College Choir . . . . . Brent Ballweg  
8:40 **Message** . . . . . Keith Parks  
9:10 Benediction . . . . . David Fried

## Thursday Morning Nov. 10, 1983

*"Yielding to the Lordship of Christ*

*as Believers Now"* Acts 2:47b

- 8:30 Congregation singing . . . . . Amon Baker  
8:35 Theme interpretation . . . . . Jimmy Barrentine  
8:40 **Bible Study** . . . . . Lewis Drummond  
9:10 Tribute to senior ministers . . . . . Lehman Webb  
9:30 Congregation song . . . . . Amon Baker  
9:30 Special Music . . . . . Larry Bradley  
9:35 Memorial moments . . . . . D. Hoyle Haire  
9:55 Christian Civic Foundation . . . . . John Finn  
10:10 Baptist Medical System . . . . . John Gilbreath  
10:20 Resolutions (continued) . . . . . John McClanahan  
10:30 Congregational song . . . . . Amon Baker  
10:35 Miscellaneous business  
10:45 Congregation song . . . . . Amon Baker  
10:50 Special music . . . . . Pine Bluff Youth  
Center Boys Choir  
11:05 **Message** . . . . . Charles Stanley  
11:35 Benediction . . . . . Frank Lady



## Program people

**Joe Atchison** is pastor of the South Side Church in Pine Bluff. He will deliver the annual convention sermon Wednesday afternoon.

**James Draper** is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Church of Euless, Texas. He will preach at the opening session of the convention at approximately 8:30 p. m. Tuesday.

**Lewis Drummond** is professor of Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He will lead the Bible study at each convention session.

**Ken Lilly**, of Fort Smith is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. He will present the Board's report Wednesday morning.

**Dillard Miller**, of Mena is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will deliver the president's message Wednesday morning and will preside over convention sessions.

**Don Moore** is Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will preach at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday and welcome newcomers to Arkansas at 7:50 that evening.

**R. Keith Parks** is executive director of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, Va. He will speak on Wednesday at approximately 8:40 p. m.

**W. L. Probasco** is pastor of Conway First Church. He serves as second vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

**Charles Stanley** is pastor of the First Church of Atlanta, Ga. He will deliver the closing message of the convention at approximately 11:05 a. m. on Thursday.

**Allen D. Thrasher** is pastor of Booneville First Church. He serves as first vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Auxiliary meetings

**Ouachita Baptist University Former Students Association** will hold a Ouachita Fellowship on Tuesday night, Nov. 8 at 9:30 p. m. The meeting will be held at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. There will be refreshments, fellowship and entertainment. Tom and Mary Bolton will be featured soloists.

**Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association** will meet immediately following the morning session of the state convention on Nov. 9 at the Pine Bluff Executive Inn. Seminary president Milton Ferguson will speak.

**Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni** will hold a 12:30 p. m. luncheon Nov. 9 at the South Side Church in Pine Bluff. Boo Hefflin will be speaker.

**Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni** will hold a luncheon at Pine Bluff First Church Nov. 9. Lewis Drummond will be the speaker.

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 9, following the morning convention session at the Admiral Benbow Inn in Pine Bluff. A seminary representative will be speaker.

**Director of Missions Fellowship** will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9, 5:30 p. m., at the Admiral Benbow Inn.

**Southern Baptist College** will hold its annual reception for former students and friends immediately following the Wednesday evening session at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. President Jack Nicholas and Jim E. Tillman, vice president for development, will be in charge of the program.

## Nursery

Children through five years of age will be cared for at no charge during convention sessions in banquet room four at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

you are aware, and inform yourself as well as possible. Maintain a genuinely sweet spirit, and act upon your convictions. I believe Arkansas Baptists who meet in Pine Bluff will make the right decision.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President these two years. I thank you for the privilege and the honor. I rejoice, as we come to the end of this tenure, in the blessings of our Lord upon us all.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention. Again, I request that you come praying. Also, please take note of the outstanding men who will be sharing with us during these days. — **Dillard S. Miller, president**

Atchison

Draper

Lilly

Miller

Parks



## Convention voting

Only registered messengers from cooperating Arkansas Baptist churches as stated in the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be privileged to vote. Each church should keep in mind that an alternate will serve only if the elected messenger is unable to attend and register as a messenger.

## The president speaks:

Dear Fellow Baptists:

We are looking forward to a great convention in November. We advise every church to elect messengers. We urge every messenger to bring his credentials, to register, to get his or her ballot, and to use the voting privileges.

You will notice some changes in this program from programs past. Instead of having scripture and prayer at the beginning of every session there will be a brief, concise, to the point, theme interpretation. There will not be the usual study of the January Bible Study book. Instead, Dr. Lewis Drummond will take another approach, that will be helpful to us all.

This year voting will be from a book of numbered ballots. Vote by show of hands will be taken by the display of the colored book of ballots. We ask each messenger to put his or her name and address on his or her book so that in case of loss it can be returned. — **J. T. Harvill, chairman, Convention Tellers Committee**

We urge every Arkansas Baptist to pray for our convention. We hope that as many as possible will attend the sessions. The arrangements in the convention center in Pine Bluff are excellent.

This year we will elect a new president along with other officers. Be in prayer about this major leadership role that will be assumed by one of our messengers.

It is no secret that difficult decisions face this convention. We have made difficult decisions before. Our fellowship is strong enough to make such decisions and also maintain a sweet and loving relationship with one another. Study the issues of which

## Executive Board report

Nineteen eight-two been one of those "unusual" years for the Executive Board. We started out by "training" our new executive secretary, Don Moore. Dr. Moore learned fast and has quickly assumed his role in staff leadership.

Early on, it looked as though we would really have a new budget to present. However, after our August meeting, the Program Committee met to consider a new plan for offering baccalaureate degrees at Southern Baptist College. Cary Heard, pastor at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, did a masterful job of chairing the special meeting.

The plan which is presented for consideration of the Convention in November has been approved by the Executive Board by a large majority. The plan will be outlined in detail elsewhere in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. This is a very good plan for gradual expansion, with time between degrees for fund raising and re-evaluation. The whole plan is based on increase in students and available funds. There are no federal funds involved or anticipated. I personally recommend that the Convention adopt this plan.

The budget has been carefully worked out according to the budget formula which includes a three-fourths percent increase for world-wide causes. This is the second year of a five-year budget formula which is working well at this time. The specific budget is printed elsewhere in the amount of \$10,833,333. I wish to personally recommend this budget to the Convention. I, also, ask that each church carefully and prayerfully consider a one percent increase in gifts to the Cooperative Program in the next church year budget.

The last action from the Executive Board to the Convention for approval is the matter of not printing our executive board employees salaries. The other institutions and agencies do not publish their employees' salaries, so it would seem fair to treat all employees similarly. I support this action and request the Convention approve it.

Thank you for your support of your Executive Board and please continue to pray for us. — Ken Lilly, Ft. Smith, Executive Board President

## Camp sites available

Two camp grounds, maintained by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, will be available to those attending sessions of the 1983 Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Pine Bluff.

A resident engineer reports that fee collection period ends Sept. 30 and electricity is not available after Oct. 1. Water and restroom facilities will be available.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the resident office at (501) 534-0451.

## Executive Board recommendations

# 1 1984 Budget

I. State causes	1984 Requests
1. Administration	\$ 113,478
(1) Executive Secretary Programs	20,850
2. Business Services	253,910
3. Departments	
(1) Annuity — Operating	14,875
(2) Arkansas Baptist Assembly	158,411
(3) Baptist Student Union — Operating	486,319
Buildings	100,000
(4) Brotherhood	92,889
(5) Camp Paron — Operating	49,530
Improvements	37,350
(6) Christian Life Council	73,879
(7) Church Music	125,368
(8) Church Training	172,547
(9) Communications	36,886
(10) Cooperative Ministries/National Baptist	103,223
(11) Evangelism	171,774
(12) Ministry of Crisis Support	77,463
(13) Missions	349,192
(14) Stewardship	81,926
(15) Sunday School	222,876
4. Other Services:	
(1) Baptist Building Debt	72,000
(2) Baptist Building Improvements	35,000
(3) Reserve for Employee Benefits	60,400
(4) Contingency	12,000
(5) Convention	76,313
(6) Historical Commission	8,987
(7) Annuity Dues	184,000
(8) Christian Civic Foundation	27,000
(9) New Missions Sites	45,000
5. Woman's Missionary Union	234,452
6. Capital Needs	54,961
<b>Total Executive Board Programs</b>	<b>552,859</b>
7. Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	338,579
8. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	202,308
9. <i>Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine</i>	175,595
10. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	1,780,443
(2) Southern Baptist College	45,110
(3) Ministerial Education-Loan Fund	96,106
<b>Total State Programs</b>	<b>6,591,000</b>
II. Southern Baptist Convention	<b>\$ 4,242,333</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 10,833,333</b>

# 2 Salaries

The Executive Board requests that in a effort to be fair and consistent, no salaries will be published, but will be made available to any Arkansas Baptist upon request.

## Newsmagazine Study Committee report

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* Study Committee recommends to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention that the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* be allowed to function under a separate board. — J. W. L. Adams, Chairman; Charles Barfield, Bill Burnett, Jon Stubblefield, Tommy Robertson and Lyndon Finney.

## Constitution and By-Laws proposals

We recommend that the title of the Executive Secretary of the Executive Board be changed to Executive Director of the Executive Board. We further recommend that the wording of our Constitution and By-Laws be changed in the following manner to reflect this new title:

### Constitution

Article V—Officers—Section 1 (changed to read as follows)

The officers of this Convention shall be: President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected annually. The Executive Director of the Executive Board shall also serve as the Recording Secretary and Treasurer of the Convention, and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified.

Article V—Officers—Section 3

The word "Secretary" shall be changed to "Executive Director".

### By Laws

Under 2 — Officers

The next to last paragraph "the Treasurer of the Executive Board shall be also Treasurer of the Convention" shall be deleted as this matter is covered in Article V of the Constitution.

Under 4—Trusteeships

The words "Executive Secretary" in paragraph one shall be changed to read "Executive Director".

— Johnny Jackson, chairman; Dillard Miller, Marvin James, Lance Hanshaw, John Holston and Richard Johnson.

## 3 Southern Baptist College

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention approve the purpose of Southern Baptist College to achieve four year status according to the following plan and guidelines, said proposal having been requested by the Board of Trustees to the Program Committee and by that committee to Executive Board.

The Board of Trustees of Southern Baptist College wishes to express appreciation to the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for the official action taken on Aug. 25, 1983, which commended our Trustees for "Faith and faithfulness in seeking to carry out the total task assigned them by Arkansas Baptist Convention, under the leadership of the Lord..." and for giving us time to share our rationale regarding our recent Board actions.

In the spirit of harmony and upon the suggestion of the Executive Secretary, the endorsement of the president of the Executive Board, and the consensus of the Executive Committee, we, the duly elected Board of Trustees of Southern Baptist College, believing that we have satisfied all reasonable objections raised in the 1982 state convention discussion related to our request for four-year status, in lieu of the Southern Baptist College Trustees action of July 12, 1983, which is stated as follows:

"That we as a Board of Trustees adopt the motion stating that SBC will proceed to establish a four-year program as expeditiously as we can, using sound judgment, and as funds are available";

do humbly and respectfully request of our parent body, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, official approval in the following plan:

### Assumptions as modified

I. The proposal presented to the Program Committee and the Executive Board has the joint sponsorship of the Board of Trustees of Southern Baptist and of the Executive Committee of the Executive Board and that expressions of support for the proposal be presented by both groups before the Program Committee and the Executive Board.

II. The Executive Board not merely be a conduit for the motion but rather an advocate for the motion.

III. The time-table for the implementation of the deferred degrees will be accelerated or decelerated depending upon the development of adequate funding and available students.

### Plan

1984-85 — Initiate B. A. in Christian Ministries  
No request for additional funds from Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Number of additional courses	8	--	--
TAE/A. Th. convert to upper division			
Number of additional professors	1	--	--
Additional costs*	25,774	28,882	30,077
Revenue: Institution	38,000	82,950	94,858

\*Provides minors in Psychology and Social Science. Other minors will be offered as permitted in budget.

### II

(1) 1987-88 — Initiate B. S. in Business Administration  
Request \$50,000 additional funds from Arkansas Baptist State Convention  
(2) 1989-90 — Initiate B. S. E. in Elementary Education  
Request \$52,000 additional funds from Arkansas Baptist State Convention

	*1987-88	*1988-89	*1989-90
Number additional courses	8	6	15
Number additional professors	1	1/2	2 1/2
Additional costs (salary & other)	207,223	255,315	357,258
Revenue: Institution	157,223	202,815	250,133
Request from ABSC	59,000	52,500	107,125

\*This calculation is on an academic year and not the convention fiscal year.

Housing form for Pine Bluff Convention & Visitors Bureau  
**Arkansas Baptist State Convention**  
**November 8, 9, 10, 1983**

Please reserve accommodation for:

(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Area Code & Number

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of additional occupants: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark (X) your motel and circle accommodation preference.

Motel	Accommodations				
	1 person 1 bed	2 persons 1 bed	2 persons 2 beds	3 persons 2 beds	4 persons 2 beds
(501) 535-8300 Admiral Benbow Inn 1900 East Harding 800-238-6877	34.00	34.00	39.00	39.00	39.00
(501) 535-7200 Best Western Executive Motor Inn 5th & Walnut Streets 800-631-1601	30.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
(501) 535-8640 Holiday Inn 2700 East Harding 800-238-8000	32.00 36.00—King	40.00 44.00—King	40.00	40.00	40.00
(501) 534-4510 Best Western Pine Bluff Motel 4600 Dollarway Road 800-528-1234	27.00	27.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
(501) 535-1200 Riverport Inn 4125 Rhinehart Rd.	26.00	26.00	34.00	34.00	34.00
(501) 535-2875 Town House Motel W. 6th & Highway 79	26.00	26.00	34.00	34.00	34.00

If your selection is not available, the best possible will be assigned. Changes in arrival/departure/accommodation dates should be handled directly with the motel after confirmation has been received. All reservations are subject to local sales tax.

Note: For camper and RV owners, the Pine Bluff Convention Center offers overnight camper facilities. The Center has available: Potable water, electrical hookups and dumping facilities for \$5.00 per 24-hour period.

Please mail this form to the Convention & Visitors Bureau, P. O. Box 8748, Pine Bluff, Ar. 71611. Phone 501-534-3448

## Baptists renounce vote to renew Vatican ties

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist leaders have registered alarm at U.S. Senate action authorizing reestablishing of full U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

By a simple voice vote, members of the Senate Sept. 22 approved an amendment to a State Department authorization bill which would permit spending federal funds for a diplomatic mission to the Vatican. The amendment was proposed by Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind.

Specifically, the Lugar amendment would repeal an 1867 prohibition on the expenditure of federal funds to support an ambassador to the Vatican. According to Lugar, the U.S. maintained consular relations with the Vatican from 1797 to 1848 and had official diplomatic relations from 1848 to 1867.

In proposing his amendment, Lugar said the language is identical to a bill, S. 1757, which will permit restoration of diplomatic relations with the Vatican. He said he is proud to count as cosponsors of that measure (S.1757) 20 other Senators.

Included among the cosponsors of S. 1757 are two Southern Baptists: Sens. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. and Bennett Johnston, D-La.

Despite the absence of formal diplomatic relations for more than 115 years, six presidents—Roosevelt, Truman, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan—have named personal representatives to the Vatican.

James T. Draper Jr., president of the 14

million member Southern Baptist Convention, said: "I'm appalled.

"I was very disappointed that the Senate would take such action," said Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, and a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "It goes against our history in regard to church-state separation and it's a precedent that will be very difficult for us to live with as a nation."

BJCPA Executive Director James M. Dunn underscored Draper's denunciation, saying, "We don't need an ambassador to the Southern Baptist Convention or to the Roman Catholic Church or to the Russian Orthodox Church. Surely the American tradition of church-state separation means more to us than this.

"It's incredible," Dunn continued, "that the U.S. Senate, without a hearing, discussion, debate or dissent, would take such a far-reaching action."

R.G. Puckett, editor of North Carolina's Biblical Recorder and chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee, said, "Whatever rationalizations are made to justify such a move, the plain truth remains that the Vatican is first and foremost a church. Whatever its claims to being a state, they are secondary to its image and influence as a church."

Puckett said the approval of such a "blatantly unconstitutional relationship with

one church body is clear evidence our nation's awareness of the importance of church-state separation is at a low ebb." He called for a "renaissance of religious liberty."

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee alluded to the Reagan administration's support of diplomatic relations with the Vatican by commenting: "I am very disappointed the Senate has taken this action with the encouragement of the President. I do not view the Vatican as a state but as a religious organization. Therefore, I do not think the United States should have diplomatic relations with it."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond Va., commented: "I do not think it is appropriate for our government to give diplomatic recognition to a church group. It certainly is contrary to my own convictions of the separation of church and state."

The House-passed version of the State Department authorization bill does not contain a Vatican provision, meaning a House-Senate conference committee will determine the fate of the Lugar amendment. However, its chances appear to be enhanced by the fact House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Clement J. Zablocki, D-Wis., has introduced similar legislation and several members of that panel reportedly favor the proposal.

## Lebanon missionaries sleep in basement during shelling

by Bill Webb

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP) — Heavy shelling near the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary overlooking Beirut prompted Southern Baptist missionaries to sleep in basements prior to the Sept. 26 truce in Lebanon.

Finlay Graham, Middle East Associate for the Foreign Mission Board, said all the missionaries are safe, though they reported shells dropping in some areas near the seminary at the rate of one every five seconds during some of the heaviest shelling.

Isam Ballenger, director for Europe and the Middle East, said shell fragments shredded laundry on the backyard clothesline of missionaries Emmett and Lanell Barnes a few days ago. The Barnes are from Poiosi, Mo., and Childress, Ark.

Services in most Baptist churches are continuing as usual and attendance has been high at several. "People seem to be ready to meet for prayer and mutual support," he said. A week before the truce, Baptists joined other evangelicals in a day of fasting and prayer.

"The people in Lebanon are very, very

discouraged," Graham said. "Businessmen are not even trying to promote their wares. Banks are almost at a standstill. Even the usual procedure of determining daily interest on accounts is not being followed."

Missionaries in Monsouriyeh, where the seminary is located, have been closer to the most recent fighting than their colleagues in West Beirut, Graham said. Their town is just across a valley from the residences of the president of Lebanon and the American ambassador to Lebanon.

Missionary Frances Fuller, from Wynne, Ark., who directs the Arab Baptist Publication Center in Monsouriyeh, told Graham none of the national staff had been able to come to work for several days before the truce. "Some of them, such as translators, are doing their work at home as much as possible," Graham said.

He cited Jerjes Delleh "who is working furiously on preparing the text of MasterLife notebooks" in Arabic for the first MasterLife seminar to be held in the Middle East Nov. 7-12 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Seventy participants from Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Israel,

Gaza and Yemen are expected.

Missionaries are frustrated because fighting has delayed the opening of all schools, including those which their own children attend, as well as the seminary and Beirut Baptist School in the western part of the city.

But fighting has opened a ministry for several churches able to accommodate refugees, Graham said. "One in a suburb of Beirut — the Badarro Street (Baptist) Church — has had as many as 40 to 50 people sleeping in their basement at night.

Many refugees have crowded into ships going from Lebanon to Cyprus, where Graham and his wife, Julia, live. "Last week they were coming as a rate of 2,000 refugees every day," filling hotels and making furnished apartments scarce, he reported.

Missionary Jim Bethea, from Memphis, Tenn., who returned from the states with his family to West Beirut on Sept. 1, told of sharing a witness with Lebanese friends, who asked, "Why have you come back?"

"We want to share with you the peace that God gives," he answered.

# Missouri court rules against Baptist store's tax status

by Linda Lawson

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—The Baptist Book Store in Kansas City, Mo., should not be exempt from paying taxes, according to a Sept. 20 ruling of the Missouri Supreme Court.

In a 6-1 decision, written by Justice Warren Welliver, the court said the store in downtown Kansas City was being operated in a manner similar to other retail book stores. "This book store is not substantially different from any other religious book store," Welliver wrote. "It sells to all members of the general public as well as churches and Sunday schools. The literature it sells is not purely denominational."

Officials of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board which owns and operates the 62-store chain said further legal action in the case is under consideration.

Albert L. Rendlen, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri, said in the lone

dissenting opinion that the fact the store sells materials to others "indicates the reason for being of the Book Store is to spread the religious messages the Sunday School Board seems consonant with the tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention."

According to Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen, "The chief justice in this case has given a good interpretation of the Sunday School Board's objective, which is to assist churches in their efforts of bringing men to God through Jesus Christ. That's why we publish literature, that's why we operate the conference centers and that is the reason we operate Baptist Book Stores."

"I believe the majority of the Missouri court missed several important points in arriving at their decision," said Cothen. "The first amendment right to conduct both training and evangelistic ministries is inherent in the task of the Sunday School Board. I

believe the Missouri ruling levies taxes on these rights."

BSSB attorneys filed suit against Jackson County over payment of \$13,612 in merchants and manufacturers taxes, business personal property taxes and property taxes during a two-year period. The merchants and manufacturers tax is levied on inventories of businesses.

In the suit, the board contended its book stores should not have to pay the taxes because of the provision in the Missouri constitution that allows property used exclusively for religious worship or for "purely charitable purposes" to be exempt from taxes.

The trial court ruled in favor of the board on the grounds that store profits were used for charitable purposes. However, Jackson County appealed the decision and the majority of the Supreme Court disagreed.

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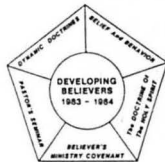
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# SBC datelines

## Preachers, church developers top FMB's 'most wanted' list

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries have told the Foreign Mission Board nearly three-fourths of their most urgent needs are for preachers and church developers.

The missionaries, from 101 countries, sent their message in the form of 484 requests for preachers, church starters and other specialists in evangelism.

Area directors who oversee missions work outlined these needs and others Sept. 15-16 in an annual meeting with the board's personnel selection representatives, who identify and process new missionaries.

This year's review focused more closely than in years past on needs directly involved in evangelism and starting churches. Missions, the organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries in each country, were instructed to pare personnel requests to include only the most urgent needs.

Last year 817 requests came in from the field, and only about 18 percent of them have been filled. This year the board hopes to direct attention to the fields' most critical needs, explained Charles Bryan, senior vice president for overseas operations. So missions zeroed in on only 657 needs for the coming year.

Area directors stressed the number of appointments is actually a secondary factor in reaching the world for Christ. The most important thing, they noted, is that a missionary fits into the strategy of the mission to which he is assigned.

Personnel officials agreed. "What we're saying is that we need more people whom God is calling and who are qualified for these specific positions of Christian leadership," said Louis Cobbs, director of personnel selection. "These high-priority requests are at the cutting edge of where God is

leading and where people are responding."

Area directors used the missions' priority lists to draw up their own priorities according to the plans they have for world areas. In some areas evangelists were not the number one priority, but in all areas evangelists were, numerically, the most requested type of missionary.

In Middle America and the Caribbean, for instance, the top priority need is for a bookstore manager to develop a religious literature service throughout the Dominican Republic. But of the other 14 priority requests, nine are for evangelists.

One of the more unusual requests came from Guyana, where national pastors need help in learning how to cope with their own family problems. The Guyana mission is seeking a family life counselor to work with pastors in a land where family life has deteriorated.

The first priority in Europe and the Middle East is for a bookstore manager in Morocco. The bookstore has been stocked with Bibles and offers a prime opportunity to witness to Arabs, said Isam Ballenger, area director. Other priorities in the area include 10 general evangelists, one to use the German language to reach some of the 2 million Turkish immigrants in Germany.

Baptists in Mali, a predominately Moslem country, need someone with religious education training to direct a self-help center in a Moslem city, said West Africa Director John Mills. Though the center would not identify itself with Christianity, the missionary director could provide Bible study for people he meets who want to know about Christ.

Other West African needs include a dentist for The Gambia, a business manager for the Benin mission, a mass media director in

Nigeria and an agricultural evangelist in Mali.

Fourteen of the top 15 priority requests from East Asia are for evangelists, five to work with students. Missions in Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong need general evangelists and church planters.

Response to the gospel remains strong in South and Southeast Asia, noted Area Director William Wakefield. Missionaries report about one baptized person for every five church members during the last two years. Four church planters (starters of new congregations) and an agricultural evangelist are sought for the Philippines.

Attitudes of some governments in South and Southeast Asia have hampered Southern Baptist attempts to strengthen some key missions. Last year only about 10 percent of new missionaries went to the area, though about 50 percent of all the people to whom Baptist missionaries minister live in that area, Wakefield said.

Western South America's primary need is for a general evangelist in Arica, Chile which has never had a missionary couple. Eleven other evangelists are priority requests.

Area Director Davis Saunders gave special attention to Uganda, in Eastern and Southern Africa, in requesting four evangelism specialists for the country. Only one of 27 Southern Baptist missionaries now there is a preacher, he said.

Eight of the top 15 requests from Eastern South America come from Brazil, where vast areas still need to hear the gospel despite more than 100 years of Baptist missionary work, said Thurmon Bryant, area director. "There are still cities of 80,000 and 90,000 with no Baptist witness. Some of the states have 200 or 300 counties with no Baptist church," he said.

## Baptists from 34 states help dedicate building site

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A solid copper "time capsule", more than 300 people from all across the United States and the mayor of Nashville took part in the site dedication for the new Southern Baptist Convention Building.

The ceremony launching the \$8 million structure, which will house seven national SBC agencies, was held during the annual Fall meeting of the SBC Executive Committee which meant executive secretaries and editors from 34 state Baptist conventions were on hand along with numerous agency employees.

The copper box, which will be watertight when sealed, was the focal point of the evening as representatives of the seven agencies placed historically significant items in the box. The time capsule will be placed in the cornerstone of the building.

Included was a piece of granite from the old Memphis civic auditorium where the Southern Baptist Convention was meeting in 1925 when the Cooperative Program (the SBC's unified giving program) was adopted and named, the names of all registered messengers who attended the 1983 SBC meeting in Pittsburgh, names and pictures of trustees and employees of the agencies and copies of literature of the agencies. A video tape of the dedication will also be included.

Nashville Mayor Richard Fulton welcomed the building as an addition to the city's major rehabilitation of its downtown area. The SBC building, and the adjacent Baptist Sunday School Board, will anchor one end of a landscaped, four-lane street while a new convention center/hotel complex will anchor the other.

Later in the Executive Committee meeting Rodney Landes, chairman of the SBC Building Construction Committee reported the committee had contracted with Rentenbach Engineering Company of Knoxville, Tenn., and its wholly owned subsidiary, Engineers-Constructors Inc. to act as general contractor/construction manager for the project.

Groundwork will begin the first week of October with completion estimated for January 1985. Landes said negotiations are underway to sell the present SBC building for approximately \$2 million. He also noted changes had been made in the plans of the building to bring construction costs into line with the appropriations authorized by the SBC in Pittsburgh last June. The convention approved \$4.5 million in capital needs funds in the 1984-85 budget and another \$3.5 million in 1985-86.



## Sullivan says SBC needs debate to steer center course

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention needs debate between theological moderates and inerrantists to help the vast majority of Baptists steer a clear course down the center, former SBC President James L. Sullivan said.

Sullivan, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board for 22 years before retiring in 1975, told the Home Mission Board staff that competing factions in the current controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention are wrong when they want to kick each other out of the denomination.

Sullivan estimated 80 percent of Southern Baptists are not aligned with either faction, although he did not call the factions by name or use labels to describe them.

The majority in the middle needs to hear clearly the debate between the two vocal minorities in order to "ferret out truth from error and nail down the decisions somewhere in the center of the controversy," he said.

Sullivan observed that when Southern Baptists on the right of the theological spectrum began to organize and enlarge, as they did at the 1979 convention in Houston, the "moderates" retaliated by organizing and trying to expand. This caused polarization in which the majority in the center often was

forced to choose sides.

The SBC agencies were left in the middle "on a desert island in worse shape than the President of the United States, with both sides chewing on him all the time," Sullivan added.

As head of the SBC's largest agency, the Sunday School Board, Sullivan said he learned that the most basic principle of administration is that the boards must operate at the center of the Southern Baptist constituency.

"But what happens when you do long-range planning and the center shifts?" he questioned. "And where can you find the center in a denomination so diverse?"

He said an analysis of letters he received showed Baptists are 10 times more likely to criticize than to compliment, and added if you get 10 critical letters to one complimentary one, you are on dead center. "It is a tragic thing," he lamented, "that a lot of Baptists are trying to use the Cooperative Program (SBC unified budget) to 'discipline' the agencies" by refusing to give money if they don't like what the agencies are doing.

"The Cooperative Program is not for the purpose of control. That's what trustees are for," he insisted. "The Cooperative Program is for the purpose of support, not control."

Neither should control of the agencies come through election of the convention president, he said.

Sullivan, president of the SBC for only one term—1976-77—insisted the SBC constitution gives the convention president no authority except to appoint a few people on committees and preside over the annual convention. "It is done that way to keep him (the president) from trying to control all the agencies and messing up the whole convention.

"We must not ask the convention president to be authoritative," Sullivan said. If the agencies have to do what the convention president says, "we're in trouble."

He explained that the agencies and institutions of the SBC are like a freight train with 100 loaded cars. "If you try to turn it at 60 miles per hour, you end up with a pile of debris," he said.

Sullivan, 73, said the SBC presidency is a position of honor, not authority, and he strongly favors limiting the term of office to one year rather than two. He declined nomination for a second term in 1978 because of this view and because a virus caused heart damage that made him fear he would not live through a second term.

## Right called 'radical' on First Amendment

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Religious Right does not represent the conservative viewpoint of First Amendment issues, according to a Southern Baptist church-state specialist.

Instead, the Religious Right "espouses in fact a radical view," said Stan Hasty, director of information services for the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "Those who are the real conservatives on First Amendment questions are those...who join the late Justice William O. Douglas in contending that 'the First Amendment says what it means and means what it says.'"

Addressing the 36th annual national conference of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Hasty criticized some fundamentalist leaders' assault on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and their attempt to Christianize America by appealing to "tragically flawed interpretations of both theology and U.S. history."

"Leaders of the movement...interpret the Bible—particularly the Old Testament—as to place the U.S. in the mainstream of covenant theology," Hasty told the more than 100 conference participants.

Referring to one of the New Right's most cherished political issues—prayer in public schools—and to recent polls indicating more than 80 percent of Americans favor school prayer, Hasty said, "We are losing the pro-

paganda war in the school prayer debate.

"We have failed to get through to the pollsters...that the issue is not 'voluntary' but mandated prayer in public schools. How else can we explain the fact the pollsters continue to put to the American people the question, 'Do you support a constitutional amendment to restore voluntary prayer to public schools?'"

In view of efforts by the Religious Right to push legislation based on radical interpretations of the First Amendment, Hasty said the main objective of church-state separatists over the next 14 months "must be the election of public officials whose vision of America is historically sound and constitutionally proper."

The "single most important threat to the First Amendment if we stay on the present course," Hasty added, "is the likelihood that the Supreme Court will cease to be the final bastion of its defense."

Welton Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas, joined in denouncing the claims of the Religious Right. "I am tired of people like us being put on the defensive by arrogant people who think they have a corner on truth," he said. "Let there be no doubt about it: we are pro-America...pro-family...pro-morality...pro-life...and pro-freedom."

Sketching a strategy for religious liberty,

Gaddy told participants the most crucial battleground in maintaining separation of church and state is public opinion. "Religious liberty appeals to individuals must take place on two levels: intellectually and emotionally," he said.

Although "politics and theology are plagued by a bumper sticker mentality," Gaddy insisted a new definition of religious liberty is needed which will include a toleration for complex and confusing issues. "The same law that permits a parade by Vacation Bible School also permits a parade by the Ku Klux Klan," he said.

Americans United honored a Southern Baptist denominational employee and a U.S. Senator for their contributions to religious liberty. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn., received the Madison-Jefferson award for his successful filibusters against Senate legislation which would have removed jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts on issues such as school prayer, abortion and busing.

Ira Peak, director of Christian moral concerns for the Missouri Baptist Convention, was recognized for his leadership in successfully opposing a 1982 bill in the Missouri legislature calling for a constitutional convention. Despite continued efforts opposing the measure, the Missouri legislature passed legislation calling for a constitutional convention in May, 1983.

## Executive Committee divided on conference sponsorship

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Joint sponsorship of a 1984 conference on governmental intervention in religious affairs drew sharp debate before members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted 32-22 in favor of participation.

The invitation to participate was issued by Dean M. Kelly, director for religious and civil liberty of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

According to Executive Committee officials, the National Council will be the convener of the conference, but is not the primary sponsor. Others involved are the National Association of Evangelicals, the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., the U.S.A. Catholic Conference and the Synagogue Council of America.

Although the SBC jointly participated in a similar conference on governmental intervention in religious affairs with the NCC in 1981, much of the debate centered on the involvement of the NCC, a group Southern Baptists have declined to join.

Ed Drake, an attorney from Dallas, opposed the joint sponsorship, commenting: "I would not like to see Southern Baptists associated with the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches or the American Civil Liberties Union in any way, shape or form—now or in the future."

He added the two groups have been forums for "anti-American sentiments...and you can bet your bottom dollar that if the National Council of Churches sponsors this conference the statements coming out of it will be anti-American."

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, told Drake the SBC "is not related to the National Council... or the World Council... in any way, but we have joined with a number of religious groups in projects of this type."

Alan Sears, a newly elected lay member from Louisville, Ky., also objected to participation in the meeting. "Some of these groups we propose to join together with are people I believe we should be witnessing to... reaching out to and not participating with."

Speaking in favor of participation was Frank Inghram, a Nashville attorney who said he had participated in the 1981 conference. In matters of religious liberty, Inghram noted the SBC's "long association with our friends the Jews... the Catholics and... the NCC." He said participation in the conference "does not mean we join with them in other things they work at, nor agree with them in polity."

He added the groups are in "league under the Constitution of the United States, fighting a government that says they can define what the church does in its mission outside the walls of the church."

Welton Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Bap-

tist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, also supported the conference, and noted the only money coming from Southern Baptists to support the conference will be from "individuals and not from denominational coffers," and added: "If we were voting for a financial subsidy or a structural relationship with them, then there would be a unanimous vote against."

Southern Baptists "do not have a corner on good," Gaddy said. "We have cooperated with other religious groups on such issues as the changes in the Social Security and retirement programs for pastors and income tax on the salaries of foreign missionaries."

"We need all the help we can get in seeing that the wall of separation between church and state is maintained. You don't have to be anti-American to do that but you do have to be pro-church," he said.

During the debate, a member asked if the SBC Public Affairs Committee had studied the matter. Bennett, a member of the group by virtue of his post, said: "This has not been in the Public Affairs Committee's agenda."

"That committee (PAC) is structured on the SBC level in order that the SBC may be an active part of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The (PAC) assignment is the joint relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee and (is) not a separate program entity. We (the SBC) have never adopted a program statement for the Public Affairs Committee, but the convention has adopted a program statement for the Baptist Joint Committee."

In another action, committee members declined to recommend a change of the denomination's name. In the discussion, O. Alvin West of Washington, D.C., suggested any action be postponed until a report of a special committee appointed during the Pittsburgh convention to study the question of admitting Canadian churches as messengers. However, the committee adopted the recommendation to decline by a large majority.

Also, the Executive Committee considered a motion referred to it during the 1983 SBC requesting the committee and the Christian Life Commission "study ways in which the SBC may take a more visible and positive stance against abortion..." Committee members adopted a recommendation "reaffirming the frequently expressed commitment of the SBC to the sacredness of human life, including fetal life..."

Another action approved increasing the honorarium of the SBC recording secretary, assistant to the recording secretary—Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bradley—and the registration secretary—Lee Porter—from \$800 to \$1,100 per year.

Members also were told:

—A 21-member Canada study commit-

tee has been appointed and will hold its first meeting Oct. 17-18 in Nashville.

—Heard a report from the Bylaws Workgroup that studies are continuing on possible revision of Article VI of the SBC Constitution on the boards, institutions and commissions of the SBC, Bylaw 21 on the Committee on Committees, and Bylaw 21 on the Resolutions Committee.

The Executive Committee approved a recommendation declining to propose a revision of Bylaw 16 on election of board members, trustees, commissioners or members of standing committee. A motion suggesting requiring that anyone nominated to serve as a trustee be a member of a SBC church for at least five years. Another suggestion questioned the ability of the committee on boards to name the chairman of the standing committees. The Executive Committee approved a statement that the Bylaws Workgroup "is reasonably satisfied with the present practice..."

—Studies are continuing on site selection guidelines for host cities for the SBC, and that several cities are being considered for hosts for SBC annual meetings in 1991 and beyond. The committee approved a statement that "appropriate preparations are being made for disabled persons" to attend the annual meetings, and reported it feels provision of free child care during the annual meetings would result in excessive costs and would be inappropriate.

—A study on the operation of Baptist Press, the SBC's news service, is continuing.

The committee adopted resolutions of appreciation for four denominational leaders who are retiring. They are George E. Bagley, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist State Convention; Edgar R. Cooper, editor-manager of the Florida Baptist Witness; Vern A. Miller, editor of the Nevada Baptist, and Grady C. Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

## missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Kidd, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Elizabeth Norris, 301 Cahoon St., Fredericktown, Mo. 63645). He is a native of Urbana, Ar. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

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# Your state convention at work

## Evangelism Sunday School outreach

Approximately one-half of the people of our nation are professing followers of Christ. On the other hand, only about one



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out of every 25 professing Christians ever wins another to personal faith in Christ.

Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38 "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest". A modern song expresses it this way, "My house is full but the fields are empty".

Today's harvest is plentiful for Southern Baptist churches. The best prospects we have today are children enrolled in Sunday School and the parents of these children.

A pastor who had one of the highest baptism rates for any Southern Baptist church its size stated, "Our Sunday School plays the largest role in our program of evangelism. We try to reach every friend of every member of every family in our church". Another pastor stated, "The pastor will do a more productive job in evangelism, if he will use the Sunday School as his primary tool".

A great harvest of souls can be realized

by any church when the best prospects for evangelism and the best potential witnesses are properly related. The wise pastor will train and motivate his leaders to be personal workers. — Clarence Shell, director

## Cooperative Program C. P. - What Is It?

The acronym "C.P." is used among Southern Baptists to designate the "Cooperative Program." People sometime ask, "What is the C. P.?" The indication is that the C. P. is an object. In a sense it is. It is the plan Southern Baptists have used for years in attempting to carry out Christ's "Great Commission."

Another question may be; "Who is the C. P.?" Ideally, the "Cooperative Program" is "Cooperative People." It begins with people in the local church who take seriously Christ's command to become ministers to the entire world.

Unable to go themselves, they offer a part of their time and their talent, to God through their church. Taking seriously God's command to reach out to the whole world, the church commits a part of her members' time and talent which has been translated into money, to that task through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

At every level of denominational life, people are busy working in behalf of people. A farmer's labor, translated through money, becomes a professor lecturing in a seminary

A doctor's skill, translated through money, surfaces as an agricultural missionary working with people in a primitive society. A laborer translates his effort to an evangelistic crusade in the Far East.

People are the object of Cooperative Program effort. The Cooperative Program is people working through people in behalf of people for the glory of God. — L. L. Collins Jr., Associate Executive Secretary

## Family and Child Care Potato Patch Ministry

It's a record - 9,950 pounds of potatoes. That's a lot of spuds!

Some 40 to 50 members of Harrison Woodland Heights Church gathered to harvest 9,950 pounds of potatoes on July 8.

For six years the members of Woodland Heights have met at potato planting time to cut and plant seed potatoes. The Brotherhood is primarily responsible for planting, spraying and weeding the patch, but the whole church is mindful of the ministry. Through the year the prayers of the members often include mention of the potato patch.

At harvest time members of all ages gather to harvest the potatoes. A spirit of ministry permeates the atmosphere as statements like, "I don't mind the hard work when it helps the children at the Home" and "Those children will sure eat good this year" are heard.

In six years of this ministry, 32,420 pounds of potatoes have been harvested. — David Perry, director, Harrison Area Office, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services

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# Your state convention at work

## Dallas Baptist College Gets \$2.5 million gift

DALLAS (BP) — Dallas Baptist College has received an anonymous gift of land and cash that will provide \$2.5 million over nine years to pay off a debt to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Several other institutions, including the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards, will also benefit, Lynn Craft, president of the Baptist Foundation of Texas, said. Details of those gifts will be forthcoming.

The gift to DBC will enable the college to retire its debt to the Texas convention and help it avoid interest payments. The convention loaned the college \$2.5 million for 10 years in 1982 with the stipulation the first five years would be interest free and the second five years also interest free if the school could raise \$5 million in endowment.

Details of the trust established for the college stipulate the school receive the earnings from \$2.5 million to make its debt payment, and if the money remains invested for 12 years, it will also net the school \$3.6 million for endowment.

President W. Marvin Watson said the college has finally erased its accumulated deficit that at one time totaled \$1.9 million.



ABH photo / Glen Ernes

**Excitement abounded** — at the four Arkansas Baptist State Convention Adult Choir Festivals Aug. 22-26. Groups such as the Wynne Church choir (above) performed for each other and were critiqued by festival choir director Fred Kelly, a Baptist Sunday School Board church music consultant. A total of 987 adults participated in the biennial festivals, an increase of 400 over the 1981 events.

## Course introduces urban evangelism

by Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A new course on urban evangelism lured seminary students from their quiet campus in Louisville and dropped them in the bustling heart of inner-city Chicago for 11 days this summer.

The purpose of the urban evangelism practicum was "to expose students to the problems and complexities of our major large cities and to confront them with those challenges first-hand," said Philip Roberts, assistant professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The course was sponsored jointly by Southern Seminary, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) and the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association. It was developed by Roberts and Dale Cross, HMB director of metropolitan evangelism strategy.

Roberts and Cross took the students out of the classroom and placed them in Chicago because of the city's diversity of ministries and its wide array of Southern Baptist churches with strong ministry programs.

They also took them to the Windy City because of a firm conviction that "evangelism is better caught than taught," Roberts explained. "The practicum gave the students the opportunity to actually go out and confront people with the gospel."

A major reason the HMB supported the course was because of its concern for the evangelistic ministry in U.S. cities, Cross said.

"We need 10 times as many people ministering in our cities—people willing to tackle tough problems," he noted. "So many ministers have a jaundiced view of the city. They think, 'To go there is to lose myself, my effectiveness.'"

"We hoped to help students see the city's excited, gifted people who are there making a difference in people's lives."

Cross and Roberts said the HMB and the seminary introduced the practicum with a sense of urgency, aware that "the core city now is where the suburbs will be; the problems of the city will be upon the suburbs in a few years."

Chicago Baptists supported and worked with the students because they want to strengthen ministry in the city and prevent young church leaders from becoming urban ministry casualties.

Pastors and other ministers "have got to be confronted" with the possibility of urban ministry burnout before they come to the city, Everett Anthony, executive director of the Chicago Association said. "And it's something they won't experience in a classroom or in the rural South."

Furthermore, the hands-on experience of a practicum teaches the students lessons of ministry which are impossible to learn outside the city, added Curtis Griffis, metropolitan evangelism associate for the Illinois Baptist State Association.

"You can learn every principle and law to evangelize people for Christ," Griffis said.

"But you can never learn until you see the setting where you've got to minister. The principles and laws don't change, but the applications change with the situations."

The students who benefited from an examination of changing urban situations were overwhelmed when they first faced Chicago head-on. Soon, however, they learned to appreciate its unique challenges and problems.

They lived amidst turmoil, bunking at Uptown Baptist Church in one of the poorest pockets of the city. They visited in churches and talked to ministers, and they listened to reports and lectures by a wide variety of urban evangelism specialists.

Before their stay was up, they were on the streets themselves—witnessing and listening, leading people to Christ.

Reflecting, they remain impressed and challenged.

"The practicum exceeded all my expectations," claimed Sean Wright, a theology major from Tampa, Fla. "I never dreamed all those ministries were going on up there."

"Our eyes were opened, and we were given a whole new vision of what people in Christ can do," added Frank Hickman, a Paris, Tenn., theology student.

"We learned there are no obstacles which cannot be overcome through the power of Christ."

Marv Knox is director of information services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## International

### *The motive: God's love*

by D. C. McAtee, member, First Church, Forrest City

Basic passages: Hosea 11:1-4,8; 14:4-7; John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:8,9

Focal passages: Hosea 11:1-4,8; 14:4-7; 1 John 4:8,9

Central truth: God's love is wonderful.

How soon we forget. Israel is a classic example of a people wonderfully blessed by the Lord who turned their backs upon him and worshipped idols. How often have we seen people, showered with his blessings, go on their way with no thought of gratitude.

Many people have made promises to God in a foxhole, only to laugh about it later. But God remembers such promises. We are reminded of the scripture, "He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall surely be destroyed, and that without remedy (Pro. 29:1).

1. God's love is wonderfully extended. Hosea 11:1-4,8

God loves sinners. He doesn't love sin, but he loves the sinner and wants him to turn from his sin to life, joy and happiness. He called Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land (v. 1). Centuries later, he called Jesus out of Egypt to deliver his people (Matt. 2:15; 19:21).

Even though God called his people out of slavery, they turned from him (v. 2). Even though Israel rejected God's love, he still reaches out tenderly to help them (vv. 3, 4).

For seven hundred years, God has been trying to call his people to obey him. He still seems to be looking for ways this might be accomplished. (v. 8).

2. God's love is wonderfully promised. Hosea 14:4-7

God promises to heal their backsliding, if they will return. (v. 4). God promises they shall prosper, if they will repent and be restored. (vv. 5-7)

3. God's love is wonderfully explained. 1 John 4:8,9

Just as God's wrath was revealed when he sent the flood, destroyed Sodom and let Israel be overrun and taken captive, just so was his love portrayed when he saved Noah, spared Nineveh, and would have spared Sodom if he could have found 10 righteous people there.

Love is inherent in God and in his people (v. 1). God's love is manifested to the whole world through Jesus Christ, that we might live through him. (v. 9).

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## Life and Work

### *God's courageous champion*

by Oscar N. Golden, Calvary Church, Benton

Basic passage: 1 Samuel 17: 8-50

Focal passage: 1 Samuel 17: 8, 32-33, 37, 45-47, 50

Central truth: God uses his chosen servant to achieve great victories.

The Philistines were the chief enemy of Israel during the days of King Saul. It was during this time that God used David to accomplish a great victory over the dreaded enemy. It is a story that should greatly encourage all Christians to depend mightily upon God.

The size of Goliath was enough to send shivers of fear through the body of any person. He used this to taunt the armies of Israel. They were filled with fear, and as a result Israel was unable to do battle with the enemy.

God always has a way to overcome insurmountable obstacles, and he always does so in such a way that no human can take the credit.

At a particular time in history, God took a young man who, to all outward appearance, was doomed to complete defeat and gave him a great victory.

There were two ingredients that produced the victory: God's mighty power and man's mighty faith. This combination will always be used to accomplish great victories for the Lord.

The Lord's work is faced with many giants discouraging the churches of the living God. As we lift up our eyes, we see the enemies — crime, drunkenness, immorality, and broken homes — rearing their ugly heads and shouting insults at the people of God.

We, like the armies of Israel, too often allow their taunts to fill us with fear and numb us with a feeling of impotence.

The need of this hour is for the servants of God to lift their eyes and look beyond the giants to the mighty, awesome power of the Lord God omnipotent. We need to pull out the sword of the Spirit and, with the faith of David, join battle with these evil giants for the souls of our precious people.

Surely we can see the evil forces of Satan pushing and fighting for the people who live as neighbors to us. Are we satisfied to let them go down into the looming abyss of hell without doing a mighty battle for their souls?

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## Bible Book

### *The results of Christ's work*

by Bert Thomas, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: Ephesians 2: 1-22

Focal passage: Ephesians 2:10, 13-18

Central truth: Christians are the workmanship of God.

Do you remember when an ice-cream cone was a nickel and gas was 20 cents a gallon? Those who do refer to that time as "the good old days".

"The good old days" had things that we have forgotten. Things such as polio, a higher death rate for cancer and heart patients, and a multitude of other problems. Sometimes we need to look back to appreciate the present. That is what we will attempt to do in our scripture selection for this week.

Looking back on our lives before we were saved, we know that we were dead to God and alive to sin. We were enslaved to evil, under the control of Satan, at the mercy of our own passions, and our life-style was governed by the world's standard of right and wrong. Such a life-style created discord with our fellowman and incurred God's wrath.

Since we were dead, we had no strength to save ourselves. Salvation was totally outside our ability to achieve. We would do well to remember our condition before we met Christ.

"But God, being rich in mercy..." performed a miracle in our lives. Even though we were dead in our sins, God made us alive with Christ. We stand at the foot of the cross and marvel at the richness of God's mercy and the greatness of his love. The entire salvation process is a gift from God. We are his workmanship.

Relationships were also changed as a result of Christ's work. The gulf between God and man was bridged by the cross. Christ became our peace. There was unity and reconciliation with others where there had once been discord.

As we look back on our former way of life, not one of us can boast about what we have achieved. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

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## Cecil Ray elected; Cooperative Program giving group named

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Cecil A. Ray, general secretary of North Carolina Baptists, has been elected to head an effort to lead Southern Baptists to give \$20 billion a year by the turn of the century.

In addition to electing Ray National Director for Planned Growth in Giving, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee also named a 15-member task force to assist in the effort to increase giving by Southern Baptist congregations to local, state, national and international causes.

Ray, who has led the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 1976, was elected without opposition by the 68-member Executive Committee. His nomination for the post was announced in late August.

Planned Growth in Giving, which also aims to increase contributions to the Cooperative Program—the denomination's unified method of supporting its work—to \$2.5 billion by the year 2000, grew out of a special study approved at the 1983 annual meeting of the SBC.

The action approving the effort and a national director also approved creation of the 15-member task force to serve as a steering committee to implement Planned Growth in Giving. Members were appointed by W. Dewey Presley, a Dallas layman who is chairman of the Executive Committee.

Named chairman of the task force is T.T. Crabtree, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., who told committee members the appointment fulfills a need to "express something which has been surging through my heart and soul" for some time.

To serve with Crabtree on the committee are three executives of SBC agencies, three state convention executives, the president of a national auxiliary, two pastors, a layman,

two state stewardship leaders, the vice president of the SBC and an associational director of missions.

Those named include Lloyd Elder, president-elect of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; W. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; and William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

State executives are Ernest E. Mosley, Illinois; William M. Pinson Jr., Texas; and Dan C. Stringer, Florida.

Others are Dorothy Sample, president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union; Truett Gannon, pastor of Smokerise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga.; Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church; James W. Nelson, director of missions in Albertville, Ala.; M. Hunter Riggs, a layman from Poquoson, Va.; John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and first vice president of the SBC and stewardship leaders Lyle Garlow of Oklahoma and O.D. Martin Jr., from North Carolina.

Ex-officio members of the committee are Presley, and the executive directors of the Executive Committee, Harold C. Bennett, and the SBC Stewardship Commission, A.R. (Rudy) Fagan.

The task force, to serve a maximum of five years, will establish national goals, evaluate and approve action plans, provide feedback on the effort, evaluate progress and recommend corrective actions, and report regularly to the Executive Committee.

In presenting Ray's nomination, Bennett told members of the Executive Committee he believes Planned Growth in Giving "will prove to be one of the most exciting challenges" Southern Baptists have ever

faced.

Ray, after his election, echoed Bennett's words, commenting he feels the effort to increase giving to \$20 billion a year by the turn of the century is an "awesome kind of undertaking."

Fagan, in a survey of the challenge, said Planned Growth in Giving "focuses on individuals growing in God's plan of Christian giving" which "is an attempt to develop Southern Baptists into growing stewards. It is not an effort to raise more dollars; it is an attempt to help Christians grow."

He said 20 percent of resident members give 80 percent of the funds received, while some 30 percent of church members give nothing at all. Another 30 percent give only token amounts.

"Those who give nothing at all represent our greatest failure," he said, but added that the "30 percent who give token gifts compose our greatest challenge."

Ray was jointly selected by Bennett and Fagan. He will report to the executives of the two agencies during the course of his employment, which is to last a maximum of five years.

In approving the hiring of Ray, members of the Executive Committee also adopted a 1983-84 budget for the post, and were told of plans to fund the work in 1984-85.

The 1983-84 budget will be for nine months, as Ray will not assume the post until January of 1984. It calls for an expenditure of \$98,000, of which \$57,300 will be for salary and benefits for the three quarters of a year. Other allocations include \$15,000 for travel, \$15,000 for office expenses, \$700 for miscellaneous expenses, \$4,000 for task force promotion and \$6,000 for publicity and printing.

## Professor sees answer to Biblical debate

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—J.W. MacGorman believes there is an answer to the current debate on biblical inerrancy among Southern Baptists: "If all of us would listen attentively to the Father and be attentive enough to his leadership, that is the ultimate answer."

MacGorman, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, was a Bible study leader at Glorieta Baptist Encampment this summer. In an interview, he said, "Nothing grieves God more than to see the breaches of fellowship in his family of grace. I believe the Father would seek to have his children loving each other."

Although he believes there is no way at present for people on both sides to meet and resolve the problem, "We're simply going to have to live with that—trusting God to over-rule whenever his servants are out of line." Declining to use the term inerrant because of its emotional connotation, MacGorman

expressed concern about the diversion from the gospel endeavor caused by debate on the subject.

"It would be helpful if we rallied around the New Testament confession of faith, 'Jesus is Lord,'" he said. "Both sides of this issue are together there." Such an affirmation would not be a discussion of the nature of biblical revelation, but "the fact of the Lordship of Christ," MacGorman believes.

The Southwestern Seminary professor believes the present disagreements must not be allowed to fester, because "It can have disastrous consequences." He says the only thing many people know about Southern Baptists is the debate on inerrancy and very little about the witness given to the Lordship of Christ.

"I believe in an infallible and inerrant God who reveals himself in a thoroughly reliable Bible," MacGorman said. "But I insist that the Bible would instruct us to make a distinc-

tion between God, the revealer, and the various media through which he chooses to make himself known. If I give to the medium of revelation the attributes that rightly belong only to God, then, whether I realize it or not, I am an idolater."

Concerning the issue of academic freedom, MacGorman declared, "I have had all the freedom I need to seek God's truth and share it in the classroom." He warned, however, that academic freedom does not mean a professor can come to any conclusion about the Christian faith or the nature of biblical revelation and remain on the faculty of a Southern Baptist institution. "Academic doesn't mean I have the freedom to espouse positions that are radical departures from historic Baptist belief."

MacGorman declared he hopes Southern Baptists are unified at the heart enough to allow some range of difference "at significant points of faith without questioning the integrity of one another."

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## 1,000 MSC volunteer serving Michigan's deaf

FLINT, Mich. (BP)—The two teenage boys on stage faced the crowd but stared intently at Adriene Russell, following her cues as they sang to members of Deaf Baptist Mission from Flint. The boys could not hear the music. They are deaf.

Russell, the 1,000th Mission Service Corps volunteer appointed by the Home Mission Board, was one of the few people in the room who could hear.

Russell, 18, left her home in Pasadena, Texas, last May to work with the estimated 29,000 deaf people in Flint as a Mission Service Corps (MSC) volunteer.

MSC is a Southern Baptist Convention program which assigns self-supporting volunteers to areas with priority mission needs in the United States and abroad.

Russell's story is similar to many MSC volunteers: she wanted to be a part of missions, but found outlets limited.

Because she was not a college student and could not participate in summer missions, Russell applied last summer to work with the Reach-out to Texas Deaf team—a volunteer missions project. Because of limited positions for hearing people, she was turned down.

Undaunted, Russell turned to Mission Service Corps.

So did Dwaine Laramore, director of missions for Genesee and Bay Baptist Associations in Michigan, who was looking for a volunteer to work with the deaf people in Michigan. MSC matched the person with the need.

Russell plans to be in Michigan at least two years. The largest part of her financial support comes from her home church, Thomas Avenue Baptist in Pasadena, but individuals and other groups also contribute.

She intends to go to college when she is through with her MSC term because, "Hopefully, after living on my own and working in Michigan, I'll have a better idea

of where I'm going when I finally get to college."

"Mission Service Corps has provided the avenue for lay people to get involved in full-time mission work," explained David Bunch, director of Mission Service Corps at the Home Mission Board. "MSC has also given visibility to the productivity of volunteers in missions setting."

When Southern Baptists set up MSC in 1977, they predicted 5,000 persons would volunteer by 1983. "At a glance, we have not met that goal," conceded Bunch. "But the original definition of volunteers set by the Southern Baptist Convention was people who served for an indefinite period of time—six months, a year—and supported themselves through secular work.

"Now the definition includes only people who volunteer for a minimum of one year and provide their financial support without secular employment," he explains. "I think the figure would be much higher, if we had stayed with the original definition."

According to church reports, short-term mission projects have increased from 20,000 in 1976 to 56,000 in 1982.

"MSC has heightened visibility of volunteer missions," Bunch pointed out. "We ask people for a year—some can give that, but those who can't begin to think 'I could give a week.'"

Ronald Boswell, director of the Volunteer Enlistment Department at the Foreign Mission Board, added, "To many Baptists, missions is academic—very theological, very 'spiritual.' When lay people give their time, missions becomes names of real people and real places."

"Also, volunteer missions almost always deepen the volunteer's appreciation for giving," Boswell said. "Lottie Moon and Cooperative Program offerings become tanks full of \$3-per-gallon gas or (repairs for) a church building with a sagging roof."

## Reagan pushes parochial, school prayer amendment

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—President Reagan continued his efforts for tuition tax credits and a constitutional amendment to allow oral group prayer in public schools in a speech at the University of South Carolina.

Reagan restated his support for tuition tax credits and school prayer as part of the administration's prescription for restoring excellence in American education. Overall, Reagan charged, "American schools have been failing to do the job they should."

The federal government can help restore educational excellence, Reagan contended, "without recycling still more tax dollars or imposing still more regulations." One way to do that, Reagan said, is "by encouraging parental choice and competition, and that's exactly what we want to do through our programs of tuition tax credits and vouchers. Parents should have the right to choose the schools they know would be best for their children."

Reagan promoted his proposed constitutional amendment to permit state-sponsored oral prayer in public schools as another part of his plan to restore educational excellence, saying it was an "idea which may be laughed and sneered at in some supposedly sophisticated circles, but I just have to believe that the loving God who has blessed this land and thus made us a good and caring people should never have been expelled from America's classrooms.

"It's time to welcome him back," Reagan continued, "because whenever we've opened ourselves and trusted in him, we've gained not only moral courage, but intellectual strength."

In his speech, Reagan also called for merit pay for teachers and less federal control of the educational process.

Reagan's tuition tax credit and school prayer proposals have cleared Senate committees and await floor action.