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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Avoiding the Pitfalls

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Arkansas Baptist

July 2, 1987



**Celebrate
Freedom!**





Photo / Stephen Gulen

Independence Day is a time to celebrate the hard-won freedom our fathers and mothers earned for us, and a time for vigilance that those liberties are not lost.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Mission Sponsors Baptize More

The 23 churches sponsoring church-type missions last year in Arkansas baptized 740 people. All persons baptized by the mission congregations are counted through the sponsoring church. The average Southern Baptist church in Arkansas baptized nine people. The average mission sponsor baptized 32 people.

No Retaliation For Church Burnings

KADUNA, Nigeria (BWA)—The Baptist World Alliance has received urgent requests for prayer from Nigerian Christians after many church buildings were burned in Kaduna and other northern states in early March.

But Nigerian Baptists are not asking to be

spared further destruction. Rather, they are asking fellow Baptists around the world to pray that Christians will not be a part of further violence in the area.

"Christians came back to their burned-out church buildings the following Sunday to praise God for what happened to them and to pray for those who had harmed them," said Dr. S.T. Ola. Akande, General Secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and of the All-Africa Baptist Fellowship.

Attacks, burnings, and killings were rampant throughout Kafanchan, Kanjia, and Zaria.

Akande reported that congregations swelled to more than one and a half times the normal attendance in the aftermath of the attacks. "Moslems came too, to see what the reaction would be," he said, "and were surprised that, instead of planning retaliation, they were more concerned to ask God to forgive their compatriots."

GOOD NEWS!

What Is The Church?

Ephesians 4:7-16

Morgan Patterson tells of a father who brought a game home to his little girl. He sat down to read his newspaper, and she began to struggle with the game. Hearing her exasperated sounds, he finally put the paper down and explained how the game was to be played. In a moment she exclaimed, "Daddy, it's a lot better game than I thought it was!"

Any time church becomes dull and frustrating, it is because we do not understand what it is, what it can do, and how to go about it. A student of Paul's description of the church will cause us to say, "It's a much better experience than I thought it was."

The church is the body of Christ.—A church is not an idea or a theory; it is a living organism—something people can experience. As the body of Christ, the church is unique. It is the embodiment of God's purpose and the representative of his presence. It has a divine, spiritual nature. As a body, it also has a human nature. It is an organization, even an institution. To love the church, one must love the people in the church and the structures that enable the church to do its work. The church must constantly shape its human nature to conform to the divine nature. It must point beyond itself to divine reality.

The church is a dynamic process.—As a

living organism, the church is always growing, changing, and moving. Its goal is to develop persons' Christlikeness. Its life must be one of meaningful, coordinated activity moving toward this goal. This dynamic aspect means the church is more than just organization, program, and content. It is alive and spiritual. Its members grow as they participate in experiences in which they become actively involved.

The church is a communication center.—Paul says that the church and its members grow by speaking the truth in love. The church must speak the truth about man—that he is a sinner and a rebel but still made in the image of God. It must speak the truth about God—that he is the Lord of life who loves every person with a saving love. The church must communicate a clear understanding of the Bible and the gospel. It must also engage its members in an honest presentation of themselves. In a fellowship of honesty and trust, persons can find the strength to live Christlike lives.

In one of his sermons, John Claypool tells of a girl who became lost in a store. A friend happened to see her and returned her to her parents. Only someone who knew her and knew her parents could have done this. The church must be that friend to the world who knows people and knows God and thus can bring them together.

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Who Sets The Rules?

J. EVERETT SNEED

The most important question to be answered by anyone is, "Who is to set the rules that I am to live by?" Many of the answers given to this question today will lead to ultimate destruction of the individual and to chaos in our society. Some of the answers sound good at first, but are selfish and ruin us. For the Christian there can be but one answer, "Jesus sets the rules for my life, and I will seek to follow the instructions he has given in his holy Word."

Many people today follow the doctrine of hedonism which says, "I set the rules for my life and will live it to provide the highest possible pleasure for me." Such a philosophy has no concern for others, and self becomes the god of each person's life.

Those holding to the hedonistic concept argue that they have no responsibility for anyone and each person is the master of his own fate. When self-gratification is the only aim in life, morals are frustrated and each person will fight for his own personal pleasure. When society is totally controlled by such ideology, destruction is inevitable.

While an individual is to love himself, this self-love is to be balanced with love and concern for others. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In this relationship, love of self is predicated on love of God and love of others.

The second philosophy endorsed by many says, "I will do what is best for mankind, and these are the rules that I will live by." This ideology, called "utilitarianism," sounds good on the surface but fails to answer the question, "Who determines what the best rules for mankind are?"

Many who follow the utilitarian philosophy hold to concepts which are totally immoral. Some, for example, argue that to provide the best good for society, the lives of the elderly should be terminated when their years of productivity have ended. Thus, they propose to improve the quality of life for everyone by reducing the problem of over population. When people set their own rules, and "do that which is right in their own eyes," chaos, immorality, and destruction will reign.

A third philosophy says, "I will do the loving thing under my rules of compassion,



benevolence, and concern." This ideology, called "situationism" (or situation ethics) sounds extremely good at first but denies the existence of absolutes. It also fails to answer the question, "How is a person to know what the most loving thing to do might be?"

Situationism declares that nothing is always right or wrong. They insist it depends on the circumstances. By the use of this "topsy-turvy" method, such things as lying, stealing, adultery, and even murder have been justified. Some theologians who hold to this philosophy point to Christ's emphasis on love and Paul's statements on freedom to try and justify their teachings.

It is true that Christ emphasized the importance of love, but the love taught by Christ was one in which God enters a per-

son's life and changes his motives. For example, Jesus said, "Ye have heard it said by them of old times, thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. . . . (Mt. 5:21-22a).

Paul emphasized Christian freedom, but he said that, even for the spirit-directed person, there are some absolutes. In Galatians chapter five, he contrasts the fruit of those who are spirit-led with those who are controlled by their old carnal nature. Among the works of the flesh are such things as adultery, hatred, strife, and murder.

The Christian says, "Christ sets the rules for my life, and I find these in the Bible." This concept of life eliminates many of the subjective elements and provides absolutes. The Christian will find more true happiness, and this ideology will provide a stable society.

The Bible lays down special guidelines for proper Christian conduct. Two of these passages are the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17) and the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5:1-7:27). The Ten Commandments deal with man's relationship with God and man's relationship with man. These guidelines deal with outer conduct.

The Sermon on the Mount moves from outer conduct to inner motivation. Christ, in the Sermon on the Mount, said outer conduct is determined by a person's inner motivation.

The Bible provides absolutes to guide in life's most important decisions. Through Bible study, a Christian can make his or her decisions in advance regarding many of life's situations.

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Letters to the Editor

Virtue of Love

As "people of the book," we need no one to tell us that the Scriptures hold the virtue of "love" in highest regard. Without it, even one with a message from God (angel) diminishes his message to irritating noise. When we deliver our convictions that we feel have come from God, why do we deliver them with sarcasm, ridicule, and name-calling? Enemies are supposed to be loved. Elders are supposed to be rebuked as fathers. The wayward are supposed to be restored gently. Yet, our disagreements in church sanctuaries, editorial pages, and on convention floors defend precious divine truths, but often forget the divine nature. Is it impossible to seek the truth in love? If it were, it wouldn't have been commanded.—Ken Reece, Mayflower

Church and State

As one who was a state legislator for many years and now works full-time in governmental affairs, I must respond to some of the concerns expressed about the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (ABN, May 28, p. 16).

Since the stated purpose of the BJCPA is advocacy of religious liberty, its programs should not include those who oppose church-state separation.

Of course one who differs with any public policy agency will always accuse its spokesmen of personal bias. It's a hazard that goes with the territory.

One should also point out that Dr. Dunn has not been affiliated with People for the American Way since 1983. Let's be grateful that we have the Baptist Joint Committee at work for us. We need them.—Phil R. Cates, Missouri City, Texas

Thoughts on Worship

Amen to the thoughts of my friend and classmate, Otis Denney, in his letter on worship in the issue of 6-18-87. It is hard to find a true worship service in some of today's congregations. The object of a worship service should be to glorify and praise

God and not to entertain and please people. The truth is that the "programizers," as Brother Denney calls them, plan the entire service to please the audience, and make a good impression on them, not to honor and glorify the God of heaven.

When folks are told in the middle of a service to "turn around and shake hands with those behind you," etc., this causes county fair confusion to break out, and the spirit of true worship is defeated. Other hindrances are, handclapping when some one sings or speaks—who are the people giving praise to God, or the performers? The answer is obvious. Then too there is, as Brother Denney pointed out, the "stand

up, be seated" routine, in which the congregation is being manipulated like puppets, or much like a class of little children in grade school, who are being directed by the teacher.

There is a time and place for everything, as the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, but the place is not in the midst of a service which should help us to feel the presence of our wonderful God and blessed Savior.

"Be still, and know that I am God," "The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him," are scriptures to keep in mind as we plan worship services for the people of God.—Walter H. Watts, Fort Smith

DANIEL R. GRANT

One Layman's Opinion



Quality Debate

One of the biggest concerns in America today is the great national debate over the

competitiveness (or lack of competitiveness) of American business in the world market. President Reagan made this the theme of his annual State of the Union Message this year. It has inspired a Presidential Study Commission and has spawned a dozen or more other groups or agencies. One study revealed that 17 separate studies have come up with more than 100 recommendations on what we should be doing to restore long-term U.S. competitiveness.

First it was the Europeans that we found to be outproducing and outselling us in selected markets, but we didn't give it a great deal of thought. Then the Japanese burst on the American scene with Sony, Toyota, Yamaha, and a host of other highly competitive products that have shaken the foundation of American business confidence. As if that were not enough, we are witnessing the burgeoning economies of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore, causing many to talk about the "new Pacific Era." And then there is the rumbling of the awakening of the sleeping giant, China, hungering for modernization and change.

Americans seem to be badly divided on

the answer to all of this. Some call for protection with tariff walls and import quotas. Others stress quality. John Pierson, writing recently in *The Quality Review*, comes down hard on the side of quality, and against protection. He reminds us that protection is something children need, teenagers kick against, and some adults grow out of while others don't. But he is convinced that a nation comes to grief when its industries would rather be taken care of than look out for themselves. He believes quality is what the competitiveness debate ought to be all about.

As an American citizen, I have a strong personal stake in the outcome of this economic debate over competitiveness, protection, and quality. As the president of a Baptist university, without stretching things too much, I need to apply these lessons to my own institution. If I am fully honest, I think I would have to agree that, ultimately, Ouachita's future depends far more on the quality of its work than on being propped up by some kind of artificial protection of its share of the student market. This is why I was very encouraged by a recent professional survey showing that Ouachita Baptist University ranks in the top three of all Arkansas colleges and universities in reputation for academic quality.

This great debate over competitiveness might even have some lessons for Christian churches. Surely the quality of a local church's preaching, teaching, caring, serving, and loving is far more important to its growth ("competitiveness," if you please), than some structure of protection that state laws, regulations, and supports might provide.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.



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Missions Advance

What Can We Do?

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

The jury is out. The decision is pending. Conviction, acquittal, or mistrial? What a pensive moment! Hush and horror fill the heart and hall. So much is at stake. Fear jangles the nerves. Questions, haunting questions wait to be answered. Perhaps it will not be long before we know. Can those tears be restrained longer? Can this trembling be held in check much longer?

Some of these emotions fill my heart about Missions Advance. Certainly the anxiety factor is not there, because I know Jesus Christ is sovereign and he doesn't bite his fingernails. At the same time, he has chosen to let his people join him in his labors, and we are responsible.

The jury is out. The decision is pending. Will the churches be given the instruction from the scriptures about stewardship and missions? Will the people who have supported missions for years be given the thrilling story of their accomplishments? Will the people be informed about the New

Testament pattern of churches doing mission work together?

This is a pensive moment. The decision is in the pastor's hands, primarily. A deacon chairman, a treasurer, a WMU president, or a committee might hold it in their hands. At any moment now they could return with the verdict. It will be "Yes, we will inform, inspire, and lead our people", or it will be "No, our people do not need to know what their gifts have done." "No, our people already know." "No, our people have already thoroughly studied the New Testament pattern of churches combining their resources to do mission work."

So much is at stake! Fear is real. Questions are haunting Uneasiness surrounds me. My hands are tied, but not my heart. What can be done? The mission mandate of our Lord must not be abandoned.

We can pray! Will you join me? Pray, we must. Pray for more than money. Pray for a moving of God on church leaders and churches as our Missions Task Force goes into the field. Pray that the spiritual well springs may open as in I Chronicles 29:9, so that "people rejoice because they offer so willingly, for they make their offering to the Lord with a whole heart."

BEN EARLY

Southern Accent



The Great Speckled Bird

In Jeremiah 12:9, Jeremiah proclaimed

that the speckled bird had become his enemy because it sought to devour the heritage of God. The speckled bird has iron grey wings and a white breast. It is called speckled because of the blood which it gets on its breast when killing other birds.

Today, our world and our churches are filled with religious speckled birds.

First, there is the sparrow; a small, harmless bird. This bird says there is no harm in doing what the world demands.

The peacock is a strutter; everywhere he goes he struts. He lifts his head high, feeling his beauty and thinking himself better than other birds.

The buzzard is always looking for something dead; he doesn't go to church, convention meetings or pastor's conferences unless there is a big stink. He loves a fight and is always looking to do damage.

The bat looks like a bird and a rat. You can't tell which side of the fence he's on. He loves the dark places and hates excitement.

The hawk is too sharp-eyed. He is always finding fault—with the music, Sunday School, Church Training, convention, and our colleges.

The hummingbird can go backward or forward. He tries to walk with God and run with the devil. He feels at home with any crowd. He is the "blow hot or cold" church member.

The canary has a beautiful voice but seldom ever uses it. He chatters instead of sings. He refuses to use the talents God has given him. He wants the whole show or nothing and everyone misses the beauty of why he was created.

The dove is God's bird. He is pure, loving, and a great blessing to others. The dove dwells in the rock and has stood as a symbol of God and his love.

It is time for each of us who call himself Christian to get back to our first love, stand firm on his Word, and start being all that God through Jesus has made possible for us to be.

Ben Early is public relations/alumni director for Southern Baptist College.

Woman's Viewpoint

Backsliders, Take A Number

KAY KINCL

Eve was the first backslider.

She qualified along with Adam because she was the first human to walk closely with God, then choose her own way over his.

I define a backslider as one who has "slidden back" from where he once was in his relationship with God. Can you recall a time when you felt closer to God than you do today? Have you cut back on time and energies you once gave God?

Just as he did Eve, Satan plants in our minds the idea that our sins are excusable. We rationalize that God understands our disobedience because of our personal circumstances—we have a new baby, an old car, a low income, a high mortgage, too many acti-



vities and too little time.

Adam and Eve found out very quickly that there is no acceptable circumstance that excuses one from doing God's revealed will. Can you imagine Adam excusing himself from daily devotions with God?

"You understand, God. The animals have really been breathing down my neck lately; they're so demanding! I mean a job's a job, and I know you expect me to do my very best. So I'm going out later tonight and check on some

of the pack. I just can't make it tonight, God... Besides, Eve is not feeling well; we think she might be pregnant, and uh... we're just going to stay in tonight."

Does that make us laugh? Are we laughing at ourselves?

Backslidden Adam and Eve found themselves outside God's will, but not lost from God. We can take positive steps toward centering our lives in God's will by: realizing our dependence upon God (Ja. 1:17), remembering the joy and peace of his presence (Ps. 16:11), repenting and receiving forgiveness (1 Jn. 1:9), and reorganizing priorities (Mt. 6:33).

Kay Kincl is married to Rich L. Kincl, pastor of First Church, Berryville, and is the mother of two small children.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Rich L. Kincl will begin serving July 20 as pastor of Central Church, Magnolia, going there from First Church, Berryville, where he has served as pastor for seven years. Dr. Kincl is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in both Arkansas and Texas. He currently is serving as chairman of the program committee of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Kincl is married to the former Kay Owens Kincl of Mineola, Texas. They are the parents of two children, Sarah Vi, five, and Barry, three.

Neno Flaig, dean of women and instructor in English at Ouachita Baptist University, has been selected as Educator of the Year by the Association for Student Development in Southern Colleges and Universities. She is retiring this summer, after having served for more than 27 years on the OBU staff.

The A.H. Rusher Family of Brinkley recently left for six weeks of mission work in Kadoma, Zimbabwe. Dr. Rusher will be working at the Sanyati Baptist Hospital while his wife, Pam, and children, Holly and Will, will be leading Bible studies and working in schools.

David Ross recently observed his ninth anniversary of service as minister of music at Blytheville First Church.

Muri Walker observed 16 years of service June 15 as staff evangelist at Van Buren First Church. He currently is serving as pastor of North Park Chapel in Van Buren, a mission of First Church.

Maxwell Theodore Logan of Blytheville died June 8 at age 76. His funeral services were held June 9 at Blytheville First Church where he was a member. Survivors include his wife, Annie Laurie Logan; two sons, Max W. Logan, and John W. Logan; all of Blytheville; a daughter, Frances Ann Logan of Little Rock; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Jack Auten will begin serving July 5 as pastor of Monette Church, coming there from Miami, Fla.



Kincl

Flaig

Curtis Shatley recently completed four years of service as minister of music at Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro.

Larry Pendegraft is serving as pastor of Dixie Church at Lake City, coming there from Buffalo Chapel at Black Oak.

Kevin Hawley is serving Brookland Church as youth minister.

Karen Crouch of Searcy is serving Searcy First Church as summer intern. She is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University.

Randy Jones and Russell Draper have been appointed by the Home Mission Board to serve Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock as summer missionaries. Jones, a native of Jacksonville, is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University. Draper, a native of Ash Flat, is a student at Southern Baptist College.

Steve Brauner is serving Wynne Church as summer student worker. He is a 1987 honor graduate of Wynne High School.

Randall Thomas Smith is serving Immanuel Church, Wabash, as pastor. A native of Taylorsville, N.C., he is a graduate of North Carolina State University at Raleigh, N.C., and is currently enrolled in Mid-America Seminary. Smith and his wife, Debra, have three children, Anna Elizabeth, Paul Thomas, and Randall Scott.

Zan Pierce is serving Sardis Church, Montrose, as bi-vocational pastor. He and his wife, Raelynn, have four children and reside in Monticello.

Dave Henderson has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Crossett.

John Hensley Jr. joined the staff of Helena First Church June 16 as minister of music and youth, coming there from Bartlesville, Okla., where he served as minister of music at Virginia Avenue Church. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.

David K. Newberry will begin serving July 12 as pastor of First Church, Ashdown, coming there from Rock Creek Church in Glen Rose, Texas, where he has served as pastor for more than three years. He is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has served churches in Kansas and Missouri. Newberry is married to the former Sandra Harvey. They are parents of two children, John Austin, four, and Laura Kathryn, three.

Don Clark of Arkadelphia has resigned as youth director at South Fork Church, Okolona.

Delton Beall is serving as pastor of First Church, Forrest City, coming there from Glasgow Church, Glasgow, Ky. A native of Jackson, Miss., he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cecil Goatcher of Forrest City is serving as pastor of Antioch Church, Wynne.

Tom Williams is serving as pastor of Richland Church, West Memphis. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary.

Marsha A. Ellis of Malvern has returned from an overseas assignment with the Foreign Mission Board. Under the Board's auxiliary personnel program, she worked with missionaries in Zambia and served as a seminary teacher there.

Briefly

El Dorado First Church youth left June 21 for Merrillville, Ind., to work for six days, assisting with a mission vacation Bible school and door-to-door survey work.

Paragould First Church held a commissioning service in the morning worship service June 14 for the youth and sponsors who left that day to do Iowa mission work for six days.

Bentonville First Church hosted the handbell choir of Sagemont Church in Houston, Texas, June 14. The choir performed at the morning worship service and presented an evening concert.

Springdale First Church surpassed its Operation Andrew enrollment goal of

1,000 new persons, by enrolling 1,053 persons in Bible study in 100 days.

Bethabara Church at Lake City observed homecoming June 14 with special services that featured the Tone Masters as guest musicians. Donald Strait is pastor.

Ozark First Church members subscribed \$347,000 in three-year commitments during their recent 13-week Together We Build program directed by Dwayne Fischer, a consultant with the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission. Richard Armstrong was program director. Pastor John Matthews reports that fund drive will not only make possible a new education facility, but also a recreational ministry.

Searcy First Church honored Mildred Williams June 7 for 30 years of service as both the pastor's secretary and financial secretary. Pastors she has served include W.R. Vestal, William Sewell, Anton Uth Sr., and David Crouch.

Eastside Chapel, a mission of Van Buren First Church, was in a recent revival that resulted in two professions of faith, one addition by letter, and one rededication, according to Pastor Bill Powell. Joe Bagwell was evangelist, and David Gipson directed music.

Clarksville Second Church ordained Dean Pratt and Eddie Bradley to the deacon ministry June 28. Pastor Marvin James served as moderator.

North Park Chapel, a mission of Van Buren First Church, broke ground for a new worship center June 28.

Pine Bluff First Church will be featured on the ACTS Network's "Great Churches in America" series during July.

Mountain Home First Church celebrated its first anniversary in a new building June 31 with a morning worship service, a dinner in the fellowship hall, and special music. Harold Elmore, a former pastor, was guest speaker.

Siloam Springs First Church honored Greg Greenway June 28 with a church-wide picnic, observing his first anniversary as minister of music and youth.

Jacksonville First Church youth returned June 30 from their first mission endeavor, a tour to Floyds Knobs, Ind., where they assisted with weekend crusades, surveys, various seminars, and presented musical concerts. Stan Lee, youth director, coordinated the 11-day trip.

Stephens First Church ordained Scott Hobbs June 7. John H. McClanahan, pastor of First Church, Pine Bluff, delivered the

charge. Hobbs, a May graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, served in summer staff positions with Second Church, Little Rock, and First Church, Pine Bluff. As a Foreign Mission Board journeyman, he is to become associate minister of Stranraer Church at Stranraer, Scotland, in August. Hobbs, a native of Texas, grew up in Stephens where his father, Robbie L. Hobbs, has served as pastor since 1971.

Fordyce First Church recognized retiring pastor Lawson Hatfield and his wife, Juanita, June 21 with special activities which included a potluck supper. Their son, Stephen Gill Hatfield, was featured speaker for the morning worship service.

Texarkana Calvary Church celebrated 40 years of service with revival services June 7-10. Jere Phillips was the evangelist, and Hub Dungan directed music.

Genoa Church has purchased a bus to be used in outreach ministries. The church recently sent 41 youth and 17 adults to Siloam Springs Baptist Encampment and also closed a Vacation Bible School which resulted in five professions of faith.

Northeast Church in Texarkana has changed its name to **Pinson Park Church**.

Texarkana Trinity Church recently closed a Vacation Bible School in which 433 were enrolled and 23 professions of faith were made.

Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock ordained James E. Munns III, minister of music and administration, June 21. A native of North Little Rock, Munns joined the Little Rock church staff in August 1986. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Ouachita Baptist University. He has done special graduate study in children's music at Memphis State University.

Reproduction Technologies

A symposium on ethical, legal, and public policy issues involved in the new assisted human reproduction technologies will be offered July 18 at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

W.D. White, visiting professor of medical humanities at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, will lead the seminar. White, a Southern Baptist minister, is a professor at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C.

No registration fee is required for the symposium, but persons interested in attending should contact the Medical Education Department of the Baptist Medical Center at 227-2672 no later than July 11.

ABSC Acteens Director Injured

Angela Lowe, Acteens director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was hospitalized June 19 after the car she was driving collided with a tractor-trailer rig about six miles north of Mountainburg on U.S. 71.

Arkansas State Police said Lowe was northbound on U.S. 71 when her car was struck on its left front by a southbound truck, driven by Allen Biffath, 24, of Montreal, Canada.

Lowe was released from Sparks Regional Medical Center on June 22 and is recovering at her parents' home in Sapulpa, Okla.

Manaus Crusade

The goal has been reached and registration has been closed for volunteers to serve in the Oct. 21 - Nov. 1 citywide crusade in Manaus, Brazil, according to Glendon Grober, coordinator for the Arkansas-Brazil Partnership Mission.

However, individuals who have volunteered to work in the crusade and have not yet filled out an "Information and Reference Form" for Grober need to do so immediately. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.

D.Min. Awarded

Ray Meador, pastor of Judsonia First Church, recently received the doctor of ministry degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He was omitted from the list of graduates released by the seminary and published in the June 25 ABN.

Meador is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Meador of Greenville, Texas.

Retired Workers

Retired Southern Baptist workers in Arkansas will meet July 30 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, for their annual fellowship. The 10 a.m. program will feature Paul Seal of Mountain Home performing a Mark Twain monologue. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

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July's Opportunities

Summer Plans

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

Before we know it, the summer will have passed! Such is the way with time and life. To the young, it passes slowly. To the advancing in age, it passes quickly. To all, it passes never to return. There is only one summer of 1987. There is only one summer when you are 15, 35, or 50. Few, if any of us, take the time and life opportunity as seriously as we should.



Have you gotten in your vacation, your fishing trip, your watermelon and ice cream parties, and your water sports? If you haven't, you probably know when you are going to before the summer is ended. Isn't it amazing how efficient we are in working out schedules and expenses to where we can do the things that have to do with pleasure, fun and such? When the same people can't manage to carry out their Christian obligation, pay their tithes, or make revival services, it looks an awful lot like their hearts have been set on the things of this world.

What are your plans for your children's spiritual enrichment this summer? Parents see to it that children attend band camp, cheerleading camp, athletic camp, and scout camp, and often exercise no concern or encouragement for their child to go to church camp. Do you see anything dangerous about that? Could a child be led to believe by such an example that everything else comes before God? These subtle unintended lessons being taught by parents will be magnified in the life and choices of their children. Parents need to take as much initiative to see that their child progresses spiritually as they do to see that they advance physically, socially, and scholastically.

With some weeks of Siloam Springs closed and others past, with Young Musicians Camp past, and some of the GA and RA Camps past, you may be asking, what's left?

Music Arkansas for grades 7-12, and adults, is left. You might make this fine camping experience. It is held at Ouachita July 27-31. Besides the spiritual lift you will receive from the Lord under Bud Fray's preaching ministry, you will have opportunity to learn music theory, sing in a performing group, and fellowship with

wonderful people in a great atmosphere.

Siloam Springs has one more week you might consider. It is July 20-24. Over 300 people were saved at Siloam Springs last year. Some very good help is received at our assembly and many answer God's call to service there.

Missions camps at Paron! Sorry boys. RA camps are past. Three more opportunities await some special groups.

July 1-3, July 8-10, July 15-17 are the dates for three GA Mini-Camps. Grades 1-6 are included. GA leaders as well as the mothers are invited.

July 10-11 is a GA Mother/Daughter Camp. This camp is for grades 1-3. This is a good way to get the little girls oriented to camp without too much trauma. It's short, and mother is with them. Isn't that a neat and special privilege.

July 6-10; July 13-17 are the two full fledged GA camps for grades 3-6. Character, missions concern, and social confidence are a few of the things that develop in activities like these. The influence of such events have been used of God to raise up many missionaries and faithful church leaders. We need to start early! This is one way.

The camps will soon be over, so let's make the most of them while we can.

Early Childhood Education

Times and circumstances have changed. The changes have created a huge demand for child care. There are few churches that are not providing kindergarten, day-care, or Mother's Day Out programs for the young children of their communities. What a responsibility! Besides the special care the child receives in the name of the Lord at our churches, their parents represent a veritable mission field. Have you learned how to maximize the outreach opportunity of your children's program? Has your work been effective enough that the parents would want their child in Sunday School on Sunday?

The **Weekday Early Education Workshop**, July 30-31 could hold the key for helping you make the best use of your opportunity. Besides age-group conferences, there will be special interest conference and conferences for those who administer the programs.

The four sessions go from Thursday morning through Friday noon. An 11 hour certificate may be earned by those who attend the entire conference. This could help those who want to try to meet state standards.

Attendance has grown from 50 to 200 at this annual workshop. It provides a unique service for our churches.

Glorious Glorieta!

Music Week—July 11-17, finds the Singing Women of Arkansas opening the week

Weekday Early Education Workshop

July 30-31

Conference fee:
\$12 per person

Registration and
fee deadline:
Friday, July 24



Geyer Springs
First Baptist
Church

5615 Geyer Springs
Little Rock

Special Interest Conferences:

Day care and kindergarten directors, Mother's Day Out directors, physical movement, books and story-telling, music, first aid, stress and burnout, Parenting by Grace, teachers of infants, toddlers, twos, threes, fours, fives.

Workshop will apply to the 10 hours of training required by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Eleven hours of training will be provided during the WEE Workshop.

For more information, contact Pat Ratton or Pete Petty, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; 376-4791. Sponsored by the ABSC Sunday School and Missions Departments.

with a concert on Monday night. We are very proud of Jean Pilcher and the 37 ladies who are singing in the group. Peggy Pearson, from our Church Music Department, is accompanist.

WMU Week—July 25-31. Leader training and missions inspiration will fill the week. It might not be too late for you and a friend or family member to make plans to go. As with other organizations, WMU must have trained and committed leadership for it to accomplish its purpose. A week at Glorieta is one of the finest occasions available for that. People are never the same once they have experienced the "Big Picture" at Glorieta.

Administration

Heritage Tracts Available

The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has produced a series of 10 tracts under the title, "Shapers of Southern Baptist Heritage." A limited number of these tracts are available from the state convention office.

The 10 tracts include: "I.E. Reynolds—Shaper of Church Music," "A.T. Robertson—Shaper of New Testament Studies," "L.R. Scarborough—Shaper of Evangelism," "T.B. Maston—Shaper of Ethics and Social Concern," "J.M.

Dawson—Shaper of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty," "Annie Armstrong—Shaper of Missions," "Gaines S. Dobbins—Shaper of Religious Education," "E.Y. Mullins—Shaper of Theology," "William B. Johnson—Shaper of Southern Baptist Origins," and "John A. Broadus—Shaper of Preaching."

If you would like a copy of the leaflets, please write to Janet Ginn, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Because of the limited number, only one copy of each tract can be mailed to each church. These tracts would make excellent resource material for your church library.—**Jimmie Sheffield**, associate executive director

Church Administration

Seminar For Secretaries

Church Secretaries provide a valuable service to our churches and to pastors and church staff members. They deserve our appreciation and support and the finest training opportunities available. A Basic Church Secretary's Certification Seminar will offer this training August 10-14 under the direction of Betty Walker, administrative secretary in the First Church of Burlington, N.C.

The seminar sessions will be conducted at the Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Sessions begin at 1 p.m. on Monday and conclude by noon on Friday. There will be no evening sessions and the Wednesday afternoon session will be abbreviated.

The seminar registration fee is \$50 per person. Arrangements have been made for lodging at a nearby hotel at special group rates. Topics for the seminar include: "My Role in My Church's Ministry," "A Look at



Betty Walker

Why I Act As I Do," "Records to Keep and How to Keep Them," "Principles of Church Finance," and "Communicating Quicker, Clearer and Sure."

For registration or additional information write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—**Bob Holley**, director

Church Training

Pastor-Director Retreat Aug. 7-8

The annual Pastor-Church Training Director Retreat will be held August 7-8 at Camp Paron. The retreat, led by the state Church Training

Department staff, will equip participants to lead an effective discipleship training program in their churches. Detailed assistance will be provided for: new Member Training and orientation, basic discipleship training, potential leader training, and in-depth discipleship training for youth and adults.

The August date provides help at a strategic time for planning the church's discipleship training program for the 1987-88 church year. The retreat agenda focuses on basic principles of training: Biblical base for discipleship training, organization, leadership enlistment and training, resources, enlistment and planning. Church education staff and other Church Training general officers can also benefit from the retreat.

The retreat begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, and concludes with the noon meal, Saturday Aug. 8. The retreat cost, \$25, includes registration, lodging and meals. Contact the Church Training Department for additional information about registration and other retreat details.—**Gerald Jackson**, associate



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- Couples desiring to serve 2 or 3 years as a mission project will be considered

Baptist Student Union Remembering . . .

Recently as I was coming back from Arkansas Tech's BSU Awards Banquet, I left the freeway to enter Conway on my way to theUCA campus.

Before I passed Hendrix College, I passed a small hotel that holds some wonderful memories for me.

In my early years as state BSU director in Arkansas, some of our colleges were beginning to integrate, as were our BSU meetings. This was before any of the civil right legislation, and none of the motels at BSU convention sites would house black students. I continued, however, to canvass the motels of each year's convention city. Our convention was to be at First Church in Conway that year, and I began my canvassing with little hope. However, a Baptist lady that owned this small hotel told me that anyone would be welcome at her motel. I thanked God for her all over again!

All of which reminds me of the action of our 1957 BSU Convention held at First Church in Jonesboro during the Little Rock crisis. Our Arkansas Baptist State Convention remained silent on the subject. Other Baptist groups in the state made negative statements. Our Baptist students, however, even with a speaker at the BSU Convention urging them to remain silent on the subject, gently forged ahead and passed, with only one dissenting vote, the resolution.

John Wikman, later a medical missionary in Gaza and India, and now a surgeon in



Fort Smith, was chairman of the Resolutions Committee. The resolution stated:

"We believe that the Christian position in the matter of race relations includes:

1. Upholding the teaching and example of Christ regarding the equal worth of all individuals, regardless of race, creed, or station in life.
2. Upholding the law of the land.
3. Abstaining from and discouraging violence in the settlement of any difficulty."

Dale Jones, a student at the University of Arkansas from Mena, served as state president that year. Dale, now living in Dallas, received a telegram from President Dwight Eisenhower during the convention. The telegram still hangs in his office.

I noticed in researching the 1957 minutes that they were written by Barbara Biggers, now Mrs. John Wikman.

And you ask me why I've enjoyed working with Arkansas Baptist students for 21 years?—Tom Logue, director

Family Ministry Covenant Marriage

"Covenant Marriage: Partnership and Commitment" is a comprehensive marriage enrichment program for Christian couples. Covenant Marriage is a prayerful attempt by Southern Baptists to bring marriage back to God's original intention. It is a carefully planned design to give new meaning and dimension to the term "Christian



marriage'.

Content for the course, "Covenant Marriage: Partnership and Commitment," includes: understanding God's plan for marriage, honoring the uniqueness of marriage partners and celebrating their unity as a couple, discovering purpose and partnership in marriage, making decisions, managing anger and conflict and solving problems, implementing commitment in marriage, and focusing on the future of the marriage through continued growth and ministry.

Your state convention will conduct a Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop July 30-Aug. 1 to equip participants to lead and train others to lead marriage enrichment programs. Covenant marriage will be the focus of the workshop. A materials fee (\$24 per couple, or \$20 when only one person can attend) will be required for pre-registration.

For additional information about Covenant Marriage, the leadership workshop, or scheduling a Covenant Marriage conference in your church or association contact: Gerald Jackson, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—Gerald Jackson, associate

Evangelism WOW Advance

WOW Advance offers opportunities for youth Sunday School teachers to be trained in evangelism and then go out and take two of their class members with them for evangelistic visitation. This is the most exciting concept in youth evangelism training to come along in a long time. It will allow us the opportunity to better equip our teachers to share their faith and thereby begin some very basic discipleship and evangelism training as they go out and take some of their class members with them.



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Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Workshops

First Church, Smackover
August 8 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge
August 21-22 4 p.m. Friday to 2:30 p.m. Saturday

Practical helps in:

song leading, choir rehearsal, keyboard skills, children's choir in the small church, worship planning, new music selections, and congregational singing.

Workshop and keyboard leaders:

Ervin Keathley, Glen Ennes, Peggy Pearson, Sheila Moore (Smackover), Mary Winters (SBC), and Mary Lou Douglas (SBC).

Registration fee: \$5 (SBC only)

Sponsored by ABSC Church Music Department, 376-4791
A Cooperative Program Ministry

This process will accomplish two basic goals:

(1) The Sunday School teacher will become more involved in the lives of the class. We all know that most of the time this leadership is not making visits to the many class members. This will allow a vehicle and a disciplined route to where they need to go. The teacher gets to know their young people, know their hearts and hurts, and get to share the faith and win more people to our Savior.

(2) This will help the youth to see the Sunday School teacher in a different light and also prepare them to witness to their friends and to people they come in contact with. This helps create a more evangelistic lifestyle that we are all called to have. The young person is not trained in how to use a tract or trained in a Model Presentation. They memorize Scripture, and they memorize a method and order of using the Scripture. They learn the basic evangelism lifestyle from their Sunday School teacher. The potential for this type training is indeed awesome.

Sept. 17-19 will bring a certification workshop to Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. This workshop will allow you to come and take it back to your church and begin this exciting evangelism training. This is the first such workshop in Arkansas, and it is the third such workshop in the whole convention.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Lagrone, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.—**Jim Lagrone, associate**

Support Services Where's Your Vision?

People are saying good things about *Vision*. "Informative." "Concise." "Cuts down on the mail load." "Good information in all in one place."

Pastor (church staff member, Sunday School, Church Training, WMU, and Brotherhood directors), if you are not receiving *Vision*, let me know! Send me your name, address, and church position on a sheet of paper, and I'll put you on the list.

Some of you are not receiving *Vision* because of address errors or changes of address. Help us update our files by sending

us your correct address. If possible, please include the mailing label.

Thanks for your comments and suggestions. We want *Vision* to be the best, most informative ministry help that it can be.

Vision. Keep it. Use it.—**Jan Kelley, director**

Church Training Baptist Youth Day Is Coming!



Saturday, Sept. 12, is not far away, and that marks the sixth annual Arkansas Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs in Hot Springs. This event has been a real "biggie" for 6,000 to 8,000 junior and senior high youth each year.

Baptist Youth Day is a fun day to bring your youth for rides, entertainment, and inspiration. The day is sponsored by the state Church Training Department to emphasize awareness of DiscipleLife: discipleship training for youth. There will be interpretations of DiscipleLife for leaders, along with other features in the park.

The day will include performances by youth groups throughout the day with the climax being a mass rally in the afternoon. Program personalities will include the music of Weston and Davis and the Mid-South Boys, the magical illusions of Lou Leventhal, the inspiration of youth

specialist Curt Bradford, and much, much more!

Tickets can be ordered directly from Magic Springs. Prices will be \$5.75 per person if purchased before Sept. 1. After that date and at the gate the price will be \$6.25 per person. A complimentary ticket will be provided for each 15 paid admissions. This should help those adult leaders who will be going as sponsors.

Watch your mail for other information including how your youth choir or other group might perform during the day. Please contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, for more information.

I hope you will plan now to be a part of this exciting day!—**Bill Falkner, associate**

Sunday School WEE Workshop July 30-31

The annual Weekday Early Education Workshop will be held on July 30-31 in Geyer Springs First, Little Rock. It is designed for directors and teachers of kindergarten, day care, and Mother's Day Out programs.

The workshop will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday morning. It will end at noon on Friday.

Conferences are planned for day care and kindergarten directors, Mother's Day Out directors, and teachers of infants and toddlers. Other special interest conferences include: books/storytelling, music, first aid, stress/burnout, physical movement, and "Parenting by Grace."

The registration fee of \$12 per person is due by Friday, July 24. Pre-registration is necessary.

The workshop is sponsored by the Sunday School and Missions departments. Contact Pat Ratton or Pete Petty for additional information.—**Pat Ratton, associate**

MK birthday prayer calendar: July

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 6 | Carol Braughton
(Philippines) | 10607 Dreher Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72206 |
| 19 | Danny Braughton
(Philippines) | Summer Institute of Linguistics
7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236 |
| 28 | Donna Jo Redmon
(Costa Rica) | Apartado 322, San Pedro, M.O.
San Jose, Costa Rica |

Next month in Arkansas: July

July 1-3, GA Mini-Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
July 6-10, GA Camp, *Camp Paron*
July 6-10, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Week 4 (SS)
July 8-10, GA Mini-Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
July 10-11, GA Mother-Daughter Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
July 11, Arkansas Singing Women Concert, *Glorieta Baptist Conference*

Center, New Mexico (M)
July 13-17, GA Camp, *Camp Paron*
July 13-17, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Week 5 (SS)
July 15-17, GA Mini-Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
July 20-24, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Week 6 (SS)
July 25-31, WMU Conference, *Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, New Mexico (WMU)*

July 27-31, Music Arkansas, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)*
July 27-31, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Week 7 (SS)
July 30-31, Weekday Early Education Workshop, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (SS)*
July 30 - August 1, Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop, *Little Rock Parkway Place Church (CT)*

August

Aug. 2, On To College Day (*Stu*)
Aug. 2-15, Baptist History and Heritage Tour (*CT*)
Aug. 6, Small Sunday School Leadership Updates, *Osecola Friendship Church, Ozark First Church, Lewisville First Church, Lonoke Wattensaw Church, Stuttgart North Maple Church (SS)*
Aug. 6-15, Pioneer RA Mission Action Project, *Pan-American Games, Indianapolis, Ind. (Bbd)*
Aug. 7-8, Pastor-Director Retreat, *Camp Paron (CT)*
Aug. 8, Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Workshop, *Smackover First Church (M)*
Aug. 10-14, Church Secretaries'

Basic Certification Seminar, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (CT)*
Aug. 14-15, DiscipleYouth Workshop, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)*
Aug. 14-15, Children's Choir Leader Workshop, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (M)*
Aug. 14-15, Associational WMU Officers' Retreat, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
Aug. 17, Area Growth Spiral Workshops, *Rogers Immanuel Church (SS)*
Aug. 18, Area Growth Spiral Workshops, *Fort Smith Oak Cliff Church (SS)*
Aug. 20, Area Growth Spiral Workshop, *El Dorado Immanuel*

Church (SS)
Aug. 21-22, Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Workshop, *Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (M)*
Aug. 22-28, WMU Conference, *Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C. (WMU)*
Aug. 23-29, Church Music Emphasis Week (*M*)
Aug. 28-29, Associational Church Training Leadership Conference, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (CT)*
Aug. 31, Area Conferences: *WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship, Pine Bluff Immanuel Church*
Aug. 31, Adult Choir Festivals, *Hope First Church, Springdale First Church, Jonesboro First Church (M)*

September

Sept. 1, Adult Choir Festivals, *Booneville First Church, Brinkley First Church, North Little Rock Calvary*
Sept. 1, Area Conferences: *WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship, El Dorado Second Church*
Sept. 3, Adult Choir Festivals, *Mountain Home First Church, Little Rock Second Church, Monticello Second*
Sept. 3, Area Conferences: *Texarkana Beech Street Church (WMU-SA-Bbd)*
Sept. 10, Area Conferences: *North Little Rock Baring Cross Church (WMU-SA-Bbd)*
Sept. 10-13, Fall Campers on Mission Rally (*Mn*)
Sept. 11, Furloughing Missionaries Orientation, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (SA)*
Sept. 11-12, Lay Renewal State Fellowship, *Little Rock (Bbd)*
Sept. 12, Baptist Youth Day, *Magic Springs Theme Park, Hot Springs (CT)*
Sept. 14, Area Conferences: *Fort Smith Grand Avenue (WMU-SA-Bbd)*

Sept. 14, Instrumental Workshop, *Jonesboro Central Church*
Sept. 14-15, Better Bible Teaching in the Small Sunday School, *Dermott Bellaire Church, Wilton First Church (SS)*
Sept. 15, Area Conferences: *Fayetteville First Church (WMU-SA-Bbd)*
Sept. 17, Small Sunday School Leadership Updates, *Hot Springs Emmanuel Church, Fordyce Southside Church, Lexa First Church, Perryville First Church, Bowman Church (SS)*
Sept. 17, Area Conferences: *Harrison First Church (WMU-SA-Bbd)*
Sept. 17-19, WOW Advance Workshop, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (Ev)*
Sept. 18-19, CPA Pastors and Wives Retreat, *Petit Jean (Mn)*
Sept. 19, Keyboard Clinic, *Little Rock First Church (M)*
Sept. 19, Disaster Relief Training Session, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (Bbd)*

Sept. 20-27, Season of Prayer for State Missions and Dixie Jackson Offering (*Mn-WMU*)
Sept. 21, Music Men Concert, *Texarkana Beech Street Church (M)*
Sept. 21, Bi-vocational and Small Church Evangelism Conference, *Mansfield First (Ev)*
Sept. 21-25, Senior Adult Chautauque, *Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center (CT)*
Sept. 22, Bi-vocational and Small Church Evangelism Conference, *Clinton First Church (Ev)*
Sept. 24, Bi-vocational and Small Church Evangelism Conference, *Trumann First (Ev)*
Sept. 25-26, State Sunday School Conference, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (SS)*
Sept. 28, Area Conferences: *West Memphis First Church (WMU-SA-Bbd)*
Sept. 29, Area Conferences: *Jonesboro Central Church (WMU-SA-Bbd)*

Atlanta ACTS Launches Drive

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists' ACTS television network reached more than half of a local \$1.2 million fund-raising goal during a series of banquets in the Atlanta area in late May.

Pledges and cash gifts received at the four dinners totaled \$644,723, announced Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which operates ACTS.

Of that amount, \$89,095 is cash that was received at the banquets or during the current fiscal year, which began last Oct. 1, said Richard T. McCartney, RTVC executive vice president. The remainder of the funds are represented in pledges that are to be paid off in three years or less, he added.

Two Arkansans Elected Officers

Two Arkansans were elected to national offices in meetings immediately prior to the 130th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 16-18.

Arliss Dickerson, Baptist Student Union director at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, was elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers.

Ervin Keathly, music secretary for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was elected western representative of the denominational division of the Southern Baptist Music Conference Executive Council.

Toll Free Not Available

An article on page 14 of the June 4 ABN entitled "Church Immunity Gone" listed a toll free number for the Center for the Study of Law and the Church at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. That number serves a seven-state area which does not include Arkansas.

Arkansans wishing to obtain more information from the center should dial direct (205) 870-2760.

Correction

In the article entitled "Navigating the River" on page 11 of the June 18 ABN, paragraph 18 should have read "Step 1. Your church votes now to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan and an officer of the church signs the Cooperative Agreement." The ABN regrets the error.

Score One for 'Jews for Jesus'

WASHINGTON (BP)—A unanimous Supreme Court ruled June 15 that airport officials may not issue blanket bans on First Amendment activities inside airport terminals without violating citizens' constitutional rights.

The high court, in "Board of Airport Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles v. Jews for Jesus," held that a representative of the controversial messianic Jewish group was unlawfully arrested three years ago for handing out literature urging Jews to convert to Christianity.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for all nine high court justices, ruled a 1983 resolution of the Board of Airport Commissioners banning First Amendment activities was unconstitutionally vague and overbroad. "We think it obvious that such a ban cannot be justified... because no conceivable government interest would justify such an absolute prohibition of speech," O'Connor wrote.

She noted further, "Under such a sweeping ban, virtually every individual who enters (the airport) may be found to violate the resolution by engaging in some First Amendment activity."


Airport officials had contended the resolution was necessary because of congestion and possible disruptions in the busy terminal. Taking notice of such concern, O'Connor nevertheless ruled airport officials went too far in banning all First Amendment activities.

Presidents Focus On Commentary

NASHVILLE (BP)—A scholarly, strong conservative viewpoint of Scriptures was recommended by six past presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention in a meeting that marked one of the first steps toward publishing a new multi-volume commentary by Broadman Press.

In the meeting at Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn., James W. Clark, senior vice president for publishing and distribution at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, met with Adrian P. Rogers, James T. Draper Jr., Jimmy R. Allen, James L. Sullivan, W. Wayne Dehoney and Herschel H. Hobbs. All former SBC presidents were invited to attend.

Topics for discussion included credentials of potential writers and consulting editors for the commentary, which is expected to have the first volume published in 1991.



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Convention Uniform

A New Relationship

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott
Basic passage: Romans 5:1-21

Focal passage: Romans 5:1-11

Central truth: We are saved by the blood of Jesus.

The atonement—how the blood of Jesus saves us—is one of the most profound mysteries in the Christian faith. For the most part understanding lies hidden in the heart of God. There is no question, however, that it is the blood of Jesus that saves us. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Ro. 5:8-9).

There is cleansing in the blood of Jesus. To be justified implies that there is something wrong with mankind. Paul had just written that there is none righteous. Man has left a track of destruction, death, and misery in his path wherever he goes. He stands before God as a filthy sinner. But there is power in the blood. The blood of Jesus can make the foulest clean. Sin as red as crimson becomes white as snow.

There is reconciliation in the blood of Jesus. Sin destroys that which is pure and good, and it separates men from God. But the blood of Jesus reconciles men to God. He brings men back to God and God accepts them as friends and family.

There is redemption in the blood of Jesus. In the Old Testament when a man had to sell his land because of some disaster that befell him, the nearest kinsman was responsible to buy that land back for him if he were able to do so. Jesus is our kinsman Redeemer. Adam lost his first position with God when he sinned and his old sin nature was passed on to the whole world. But on the cross Jesus bought man back. He redeemed him from sin and death.

There is a covering in the blood of Jesus. One of the ideas in the word atonement is covering. When the blood of Jesus was put on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies of heaven, it covered the sins of every believer. All these sins are now hidden from God, covered by the blood of Jesus. They are removed from the sinner as far as the east is from the west. They are buried in the deepest part of the sea. God remembers them no more.

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Life and Work

Challenging Culture

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy
Basic passage: Acts 17:16-18:17

Focal passage: Acts 17:22-31

Central truth: Believers are to challenge the cultural beliefs and practices that are foreign to the gospel of Christ.

Culture may be defined as the patterns of learned behavior and the products of behavior shared by members of society and transmitted among them. This definition applies to Christian culture. Believers should pattern their behavior after Christ's life and transmit our beliefs to others who do not know him.

Paul had left Berea and come to Athens to wait for his companions. Athens was the capital of Greece and was a great center for literature, art, philosophy, and religion. As Paul toured the city his heart was grieved because of the many altars erected to various gods. One particular altar that especially caught his attention was an altar to an unknown god. Paul used this altar as a reference point to challenge the pagan culture of Athens. His example is a good one for us to follow.

(1) Paul was courteous and complimented the people for their deep religious interests. "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious" (Ac. 17:22).

(2) Paul moved from the known to the unknown. The altar erected to an unknown god was their admission that there might be a god about whom they did not know. Paul used the fact to declare Jesus to them.

(3) Paul moved from error to truth. Culture cannot be changed if one is not confronted with the truth. Paul announced to them that there was only one God.

(4) Paul confronted them with accountability to God (Ac. 17:30). Repentance is the key word in changing any culture. This verse has at least two meanings. First, all men must repent. Second, we have a responsibility to tell them the truth so they will have an opportunity to repent.

(5) Paul's sermon at Athens had mixed results because he preached about Jesus' resurrection. Some mocked Paul. Others either politely rejected his message or wanted to hear more at a later time. Some believed the good news.

How can we change culture? Perhaps we can change it best by modeling the life of Christ.

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Bible Book

John's Vision

by Jack Kwok, Indianhead Lake Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: Revelation 1

Focal passage: Revelation 1:1,3, 9-13,16-20

Central truth: Jesus Christ, who is declared and described as deity, offers comfort to his suffering servants by providing a prophetic preview of the events accompanying his return as Lord of Lords.

The apostle John's opening statements introduce both the revelation and the revealer. His introduction to the revelation is found in 1:1-3,19, and his introduction to the revealer is recorded in 1:4-20.

John's introduction to the revelation includes the subject, source, significance, and segments of the revelation. The subject is the person of Jesus Christ as man and Messiah and the prophecy of coming certain events. God is its initial source; he used both heavenly and human instruments. Its significance lies partly in the promise of comfort to the readers and hearers who obey its content. The segments of the revelation are three: things past (chap. 1), things present (chps. 2-3), and things future (chps. 4-22).

According to 1:1-5, Jesus Christ is the primary revealer or revealer. Jesus pulled back the curtain of time and showed John the things past, present, and future. He could do this because of his deity.

Jesus' own declaration of his deity in 1:8 is used by John as a climax to his doxology. John's praises to the eternal, reliable, resurrected, ruler who is loving and losing people from sin by his blood atonement and making them a kingdom of priests declares the deity of Christ. Only deity can be and do this and receive glory and dominion forever. The second verse of John's doxology warns of Christ's coming as judge of all the earth. Only God can judge the earth. Jesus Christ is deity: he is supreme, sovereign, self-existent, and self-sufficient.

The Holy Spirit not only inspired John to declare but to describe the deity of Christ as to his position, person, and power. Christ's position is one of preeminence as indicated by his association with the churches and of priest as reflected by his attire.

Comfort comes from Jesus Christ who is deity and return as Lord of Lords. His suffering servants (1:3,19) can overcome.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

A New Way of Living

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: Romans 6:1-23

Focal passage: Romans 6:1-14

Central truth: The Christian can have victory over sin.

How can we be victorious over sin? Did Christ save us from the punishment and judgment of sin but not from the actual practice of sin? The answer to these questions are in Romans 6. We can be victorious over sin and Paul tells us how.

First, we must know some things. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death" (Ro. 6:3). Our sinful nature has been identified with the death of Christ. On the cross Christ dethroned the old sin nature. It no longer has the right to rule us. It has been crucified with Christ.

We must also know that we have been identified with the resurrection of Christ. Now we have the power to walk a new life. Water baptism beautifully pictures this twofold change that takes place in us. We are planted together in the likeness of Christ's death and raised to walk a new life.

Second, we must think right and talk right. In verse 11 Paul says that we must reckon ourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God. We cannot expect to be victorious if we go around with a defeated attitude or an attitude of self pity. We must keep on knowing, thinking, and saying that we are dead to sin but alive to God. This is not just positive thinking gymnastics. The Holy Spirit is the power behind our success he cannot fail. He lives in us.

Third, we must yield ourselves to God. How do we do that? We just give ourselves to Jesus. We give him our bodies as instruments of righteousness to God. God will not force us to serve him. He wants us to give him our bodies and energy because we love him.

Fourth, we must become servants to God. Bond servant is Paul's favorite name for himself. A servant was one who was bound to another for as long as he lived. He had no rights or will of his own. Paul says that if we are to be victorious over sin we must become the servants of God. In the old life, we serve sin, but now we serve Jesus. In the old life Satan was our master, but in the new life Jesus is the boss. In Christ, life has become a beautiful experience that will continue in eternity forever.

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Life and Work

Training Others

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 18:18-21:14

Focal passage: Acts 20:18-21,27-32

Central truth: Believers should train others for Christ's work.

Emotions were running high in the church at Ephesus. Paul and his friends were saying tearful good-byes knowing they would never see each other again (Ac. 20:37-38). Paul had trained leaders for the work at Ephesus and now they must assume greater leadership roles. Paul's review of his ministry at Ephesus is an example of how and why to train leaders.

Training others starts with a deep commitment to the Lord. One cannot be effective in training others until this first step is taken. This commitment includes proper use of time, right motives, and hard work. Paul reminded the church at Ephesus that he had made a commitment of time to train them (v. 18).

Training others is a commitment to people. It includes a public and a private ministry that is helpful to them. Church leaders should evaluate their public ministries and determine ways they can be more helpful to those they have been called to teach. A commitment to people includes a private teaching ministry. This includes one on one training.

Training others includes the commitment of the Lord's work to new leaders. Paul challenged those he trained (Acts. 20:28). He reminded them to keep watch for themselves and other those in their care. His challenge included a reminder they were shepherds appointed by the Holy Spirit and that the flock belonged to God. Paul warned those he trained. The enemy would come from without and from within. In his warning Paul reminded them of the sacrifices he had made. New leaders must remember the sacrifices past leaders have made. After Paul had committed the work to these leaders he gave them words of encouragement. First, he commended them to the Lord. "Now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Ac. 20:32). Second, he gave them an example to follow. "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Ac. 20:35). Training others will be rewarded by the Master.

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Bible Book

Letters to the Churches

by Jack Kwok, Indianhead Lake Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: Revelation 2-3

Focal passage: Revelation 2:1-7; 3:14-16,19-22

Central truth: Churches and Christians can be overcomers and victorious by obeying the commands of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The messages to the seven historical churches are for all churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. Seven types of churches are depicted: non-loving, faithful, disloyal, immoral, dead, missionary, and lukewarm.

The church at Ephesus is commended for its doctrinal soundness but rebuked for its lack of love for the Lord. His counsel was for the church to remember where it was, to repent of where it is, and to return to where it ought to be.

No rebuke was given to the church at Smyrna. A victor's crown was promised for its faithfulness during difficult persecution.

Loyalty had departed from the church at Pergamos. Although once faithful, it had accepted the doctrines of Balaam and Nicolaitans. Balaam doctrines are identified in 2:14. No extant documents elucidate the Nicolaitans' doctrine.

Immorality was tolerated by the church at Thyatira. Its positive features did not excuse the fornication committed by some members.

Jesus pronounced the church at Sardis dead. Activity and attendance does not guarantee spiritual life in a church.

Contrariwise, the church at Philadelphia was alive. God opened a great door of opportunity for this missionary church. Difficulties come with open doors as do God's grace and strength.

Self-sufficient and self-satisfied characterized the church at Laodicea. Jesus labeled it as lukewarm; it neither the refreshment of hot nor cold liquid. This nauseated the Lord.

These messages to these first-century churches are still applicable to 20th century churches. God's standards have not changed. Unfortunately, the same sins plague his churches today. A church's response to sin is still to remember what it is to be, to repent of what it is, and to return to what it ought to be. Then, the Lord, its sovereign head, will bless and make the church an overcomer and victorious.

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WORLD

Panama Churches Must Close

PANAMA CITY, Panama (BP)—Christians in Panama will have to worship in their homes until the state of emergency declared by the government June 11 is lifted.

The state of emergency suspended civil liberties and banned all public meetings as soldiers patrolled the streets of Panama City in the wake of days of political demonstrations and violence.

"We will not be able to even get together in churches this Sunday," reported Southern Baptist missionary Sharon Cook by telephone June 12. "They have said that the only place you can meet with anybody is in your home. We have a news blackout here completely, no newspapers other than one state newspaper. We are able to telephone to each other and... we can move a little bit. But we have to be careful where we move."

Americans in Panama, including the 24 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to the country, have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel while the violence continues. The U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory recommending that U.S. citizens planning trips to Panama delay their departure. A U.S. consular agent was reported injured by buckshot in Panama City.

The demonstrations against the government began June 9 following charges of electoral fraud involving the Panamanian military.

Missionaries Avoid Korean Violence

PUSAN, South Korea (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in South Korea's cities are breathing tear gas these days. So is almost everyone else who lives or works near the growing demonstrations.

But so far, missionaries say the violent student protests have not seriously disrupted their work.

Missionaries confirm an anti-American tone in some of the demonstrations. They say the protests are directed against U.S. government policy toward South Korea, not against American citizens there. But U.S. officials have warned Americans to avoid the demonstrations.

Escalation of the recent demonstrations began when protestors occupied the grounds of the Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul, with the apparent support of Korean Catholic leaders. In recent years many Korean Protestants have joined Catholics in calling for political and social change. Korean Baptists, up to this point, have not.

Missionary Notes

Jason and Carolyn Lee, missionaries to India, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 383 Upper Palace Orchards, Bangalore 80, India). He is from Mountain View, and she, the former Carolyn Stewart, was born in Fort Smith. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

Kenneth and Margaret Robertson, missionaries to Senegal since 1976, have resigned from missionary service. He served as a general evangelist, and she was a church and home worker. He was born in Pine Bluff and also lived in Wilmot, Pickens, and Tillar. She is the former Margaret Howard of Clark County. They may be addressed at Rt. 2, Box 480, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.

Stephen and Tommie Smith, missionaries to Portugal, report a change of address (Rua Praceta Alves Redol, Lote 9-10, 2 Esq., Carnaxide, 2795 Linda-A-Velha, Portugal). He is a native of Camden. The former Tommie Shaddox, she considers North Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Kenneth and Hazel Sorrell, missionary associates to Nigeria, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Baptist Pastors' School, P.O. Box 94, Kaduna, Nigeria). He was born in Randolph County. She is the former Hazel Westbrook of Kansas. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981.

Randall and Kittie Trail, missionaries to Rwanda, report a change of address (BP 628, Butare, Rwanda, Africa). He considers Atlanta, Ga., his hometown. The former Kittie Colvin, she was born in Jonesboro. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

A SMILE OR TWO

The woman who says she won't be a minute is usually right.

Hard work is often due to the piling up of the easy things you neglected to do.

Honesty is the best policy, but many people are satisfied with less than the best.