

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

5-28-1987

May 28, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_85-89



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

No Comparison

Arkansas Baptist

May 28, 1987



*Does Our Church
Need A Computer?*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE
Historical Commission, S
Nashville, Tennessee

In This Issue

Features



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Does Our Church Need A Computer? 8-9

As desktop computers become more sophisticated and less expensive, many churches are asking how much help a computer could be. Some guidelines for making a decision in this month's "Helpline" feature.

Editor's Page 3

Speak Up

- Letters to the Editor 4
- Southern Accent 4
- T.B. Maston: Ordination 5
- Today's Issues 5

Local & State

- Corning Centennial 6
- Arkansas ACTS Awards 7

Helpline

- Where Can
Help Be Found? 7
- ABSC Updates 9-11
- Next Month in Arkansas 12

Lessons For Living 14

Nation

- TV. v. CP: No Contest 15
- Arkansans Named 15
- Cadets Sought 15
- Joint Committee Upheld 16

IT'S UPLIFTING

East Germans To Get Grape Juice

BERLIN, East Germany—Government officials have promised to market grape juice to Protestant churches in East Germany. Previously, unfermented juice from wine grapes had not been available commercially in East Germany. A large number of churches concerned about alcoholism have decided to offer non-alcoholic grape juice in addition to wine during their communion services.

Missionary Makes Magazine Cover

FUKUOKA, Japan—*The Economist*, an influential national magazine in Japan, featured Southern Baptist missionary Charles Whaley on the cover of a recent issue. The 64-year-old missionary from Georgia is chancellor of Seinan Gakuin, a school begun in Fukuoka by Southern Baptist missionaries. It has become one of Japan's top universities, and the cover story explored the Christian heritage of the school and the influence of its many graduates on Japanese society. Although it received publicity during its 70th anniversary last year, the cover was a surprise.

Panamanian Translates Scripture

PANAMA CITY, Panama—Panamanian Baptists' five-year effort to translate the New Testament into the language of the Kuna Indians is making steady progress. Lino Smith, a Panamanian Baptist pastor and full-blooded Kuna, has completed translation of seven New Testament books and predicts finishing 23 by next summer, though the July 1989 target completion date may not be met. The Foreign Mission Board is funding the project.

Mexicans Go To Honduras

MEXICO CITY—Mexican Baptists' new missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Javier Valenzuela, left for Honduras earlier in the year to begin their mission work in that country. The move marks a new beginning for Mexican Baptist foreign mission; their program was put on hold several years ago when another Mexican missionary couple came home from Honduras because of inadequate financial support. The Valenzuelas will work closely with Honduran Baptist and Southern Baptist missionaries in evangelism and church starting.

GOOD NEWS!

What Is God Doing?

Ephesians 1:3-10

The letter to the Ephesians is something like a pre-game plan. Paul wrote to the Christians of Asia Minor to pull together their understanding of Christian faith and to give them a new vision of God's purpose. He began by describing the exciting project God is working on. Paul tells us that God is a planning God and that he makes his own plans known to his people.

Unifying a divided world (v. 10). God's plan to bring all things together in one in Christ is a startling plan, because dividedness is one of the dominant facts of our existence. The world is divided East and West, black and white, rich and poor, labor and management, male and female, old and young, conservative and liberal, traditional and progressive, and countless other ways. But the gospel says this disunity is not inherent in the nature of things. God did not mean for it to be that way, and it doesn't have to stay that way. God is

bringing people together by drawing them to himself through Christ.

Repairing the damage of sin (vv. 7-8). The idea of a God of power and purpose giving meaning to life may seem to many like a fairy tale at first. Our experience is often so far from that. Our world is so broken and bruised, Christian faith takes into account the seriousness of our problems. God has provided an answer we could never provide. Through the blood of Christ, God has destroyed the power of evil and opened the way to new fellowship. By accepting this, we receive forgiveness as an undeserved gift.

Forming a family (v. 5). God wants to share himself with persons who will be his children. They will enter a saving, satisfying relationship with him and also will share life with one another as members of a church family. In this simple, yet profound way, life takes on new meaning, and the deepest needs of humanity are met.

Adapted from "Proclaim," Oct. - Dec. 1979. Copyright 1979 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For subscription information, write to Material Services Dept., 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Our Greatest Need

J. EVERETT SNEED

We agree with Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers as he insists that almost all Southern Baptists believe the Bible to be the Word of God. This fact was reinforced during the recent Inerrancy Conference (see report in the May 21 *Arkansas Baptist*, pp. 12-13). We believe that the Inerrancy Conference should provide a basis for narrowing the gap between opposing groups in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Our six seminary presidents are to be commended for initiating and developing the Inerrancy Conference. It reflected the highest quality of scholarship and was structured in such a manner that the entire spectrum of views on inspiration in Southern Baptist life were represented. The method used featured an internationally-known scholar making a major presentation, followed by two well-known Southern Baptist respondents who held slightly different views.

Prior to the conference, we had questioned the advisability of using internationally-known non-Southern Baptist scholars to make the major presentations. After attending the conference, we were convinced that this was an act of great wisdom. These scholars were able to present their views on inerrancy without emotion or harshness. Southern Baptists are indebted to these renowned scholars for the excellence of their presentations.

The Inerrancy Conference clearly set forth two approaches to the trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures. Historically there was little or no questioning of the trustworthiness of Scripture prior to the 19th century. Since that time, technical theologians have set forth several views of inerrancy.

As Mark Nowl, professor of History, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., stated, "Most Christians in most churches since the founding of Christianity have believed in the inerrancy of the Bible. Or at least they have believed that the Scriptures are inspired by God, so are the words of eternal life. The phrase 'inerrancy' was not common until the 19th century. But the conviction that God communicates in Scripture a revelation of himself and of his deeds, and that this revelation is eternally true, has been a common belief of most Catholics, most Protestants, most Orthodox, and even most of the sects of the



fringe of Christianity."

Dr. Rogers, pastor of the Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., has repeatedly stated that 95 percent of Southern Baptists believe the Bible to be totally true. Several technical definitions of inerrancy, however, were stated by the internationally-renowned professors.

Clark Pinnock, professor of systematic theology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, and a former professor of theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, gave what he believed to be important insights to both groups within the Southern Baptist Convention. He said, "Mere orthodoxy will not bring God's blessing if you bite and devour one another. God will not bless you if you fight and claw at one another over what amounts to be a

difference of human opinion about which theory of inerrancy to employ."

Specifically, Dr. Pinnock told the "moderate-conservatives" that they needed to admit: (1) the strict view of the Bible is not a fundamentalist invention but it is at least as old as Augustine, (2) the denial of a small biblical truth can be a "slippery slope" which leads to much deeper concessions, and (3) that God has used the strict inerrantist in this day of shifting theological sand to stand up boldly for the truth of God's Word.

Pinnock also had words of instruction for "fundamental-conservatives." He instructed them in part that: (1) a person could be fully orthodox by believing the gospel even if he thought no more of the Bible than that it was a mere human witness, (2) one can have a valid sense of the gospel without having a conservative view of the Bible, and (3) it is not historically true that liberalism always grows out of a slippage on the doctrine of Scripture.

Finally Pinnock concluded by saying "Being evangelical certainly involves loving and respecting the Bible, and I am certain that means that 99 percent of the Southern Baptists are evangelical. But whether it also implies taking the strict inerrancy position rather than the simpler biblicist standpoint is surely open for discussion and debate and not already a closed question. May God grant you wisdom as you process it."

We believe that almost all Southern Baptists believe the Bible is "truth, without any mixture of error" and is dependable for all faith and practice. Our greatest need is to practice and communicate the Word of God day by day.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 86

NUMBER 21

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Mark Kelly Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors:
Lyndon Finney, Little Rock, president; Henry G. West Jr.,
Blytheville; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Charles Chesser, Carls-
le; Leroy French, Fort Smith; the Hon. Elstiane Roy, Little Rock;
Phelan Boone, El Dorado; Harold Gately, Fayetteville; and Don
Heuer, Batesville.

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 defame 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 accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (ISSN 0004-1734) is published weekly, except Easter, Independence Day, the first week of October, and Christmas, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., Little Rock, AR. Subscription rates are \$6.48 per year (individual), \$5.52 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.12 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. (376-4791)

Letters to the Editor

Will We?

It is regrettable that the day has come upon us as Southern Baptists, that we are more concerned with the loss of our Southern Baptist "identity" than with conquering the world for Jesus Christ. While we bicker among ourselves about whose alma mater is best suited to train and equip our pastors and missionaries, hundreds of requests from foreign mission fields go unanswered and thousands of people are doomed to a Christless eternity.

If we indeed are losing our identity as Southern Baptists, then the search for it must begin within our own institutions, churches, and ultimately in the hearts of every individual member of the body. Questions arise that must be answered. Are we, as Southern Baptists, faithfully carrying out the mandate of the living God? Are we, as individual Christians, living out what we profess to believe? Why are convention-sponsored seminars failing to meet the cries for help from overseas?

I suggest that we should address these questions and concern ourselves with our true identity as Christians. Our identity is drawn from Christ and the purpose for which he called us. When we stand before him in that day, it will not be a Southern Baptist who sits on the throne, but the

almighty, sovereign God. It will not matter in the least where we went to school, but rather whether or not we were faithful to the commission set before us.

Will we be held accountable for failing the task for which he called us? Will we be guilty of failing the very people for whom Christ died? I pray that we will not.—**Jeffrey L. Jones, Prairie Grove**

Not 'Official'

At the Inerrancy Conference at Ridgecrest May 4-7, 1987, I heard speculation in the corridor that there may be an effort at the Southern Baptist Convention this year to establish an "official" interpretation of Article I (Scriptures) of the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

This speculation centered around the statement that the Bible "has . . . truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

There are many reasons why Southern Baptists, in my opinion, should not adopt or impose an "official" interpretation, including the following:

1. If Southern Baptists believe that one has a right to interpret God-inspired Scriptures for himself or herself, they should also trust one to interpret a man-made

confession.

2. The quoted language has served Baptists well since the New Hampshire Confession first used it in 1833. It has served Southern Baptists well since the Convention adopted it in 1925 and 1963, and reaffirmed it in 1981. For more than 150 years, there has been no "official" interpretation. We don't need one now.

3. Any "official" interpretation would tend to supplant what it purports to explain, thus moving Southern Baptists away from our historic language to some new language.

4. As the Convention stated in 1925 and 1963, and reaffirmed in 1981, "confessions are only guides in interpretation" and "the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures." "Official" interpretations take on a different character, it seems to me.

5. Southern Baptists should not go the way of Roman Catholicism in establishing an "official" interpreter of the Bible—the magisterium, consisting of bishops, with the pope as the ultimate interpreter. If we perceive error in Roman Catholicism's way of pursuing truth, we should avoid moving toward anything which requires "official" interpreters or, ultimately, one interpreter.—**G. Hugh Wamble, Kansas City, Mo.**

BEN EARLY

Southern Accent



Missions Planting

Dr. Charles Swindoll says, "Cultivate your own capabilities, your own style. Appreciate

others for who they are, even though their outlook or style may be miles different from yours. Rabbits don't fly. Eagles don't swim. Ducks look funny trying to climb. Squirrels don't have feathers. Stop comparing. There's plenty of room in the forest."

In my first pastorate, I was excited during Vacation Bible School when I had the opportunity to explain to a 10-year-old girl the plan of salvation.

Carri and I sat outside under a large spreading oak tree. Very carefully I went through the Scripture and finally came to the most important question Carri would ever be asked.

I turned to Carri and said, "Now, would you like to become a Christian?" With tears in her eyes she said, "But I wanted to become a Baptist, not a Christian!"

After recovering from my surprise, I began again, this time explaining very carefully, as seed was sown in this tender young life. During the months that followed, the seed was nurtured, cultivated, and harvested.

Yes, Carri accepted Christ that day and started on the journey of learning and growth so she could be the individual God had created her to be.

As a student in a Baptist college, I also had professors, administration, classmates, and a church family nurturing my life. As I grew, I invested that growth in others. To me, planting and cultivating are what missions is all about.

I feel that missions is the heart of the gospel of Christ and one of our greatest mission opportunities is on our college campuses.

If we neglect our students at this important time in their lives, we have failed to plant and cultivate as Christ has directed us to through the Great Commission, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptiz-

ing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

God has left the carrying out of these Scriptures up to each of us. Now, we must decide if we will spend the time to plant and cultivate as Jesus demonstrated, taught, and commanded.

Let's join hands across Arkansas and surrounding states so we can see a fruitful harvest among our youth.

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

A SMILE OR TWO

"If at first you don't succeed, do it the way she told you." —*Al Walker*

"My father believed in stern discipline. If I did something wrong, he provided the discipline and I provided the stern."

—*Bill Coplin*

Last in a Series of Three

Ordination Today

by T.B. Maston

Professor Emeritus, Southwestern Seminary

In light of what is found or not found in the New Testament, we may conclude that we do not have the support of the New Testament for some of the ways we use ordination and what it tends to do for some who have been ordained.

It may be that close examination would reveal that, for some of us, ordination tends to be interpreted as giving us rights and privileges rather than duties and responsibilities. It is possible that some of our churches and some of us have been influenced more regarding ordination by the Roman Catholic Church than by what we find in the New Testament.

It seems the present would be a logical



time for our churches and for us as individuals to examine our policies and practices regarding ordination. One reason for such a study is the increasing number of young people who are called by the Lord to some type of vocational Christian service other than the pastorate. Also, we have more large churches that seem to need multiple members of the church staff to care for the needs of the members.

At least it may be wise for many churches to have a special committee to study the whole matter of ordination and to bring recommendations to the church. The committee would be primarily concerned with ordination to the "ministry."

There may be some need in some churches for a more or less formal standard for deacons. It is also possible that some churches need to determine the number of deacons the church will have. Some may decide that the church has too many. This may contribute to a lack of a sense of personal responsibility on the part of some.

If a church has such a committee, it should be large enough to be representative of the various facets of church life but not so large as to be ineffective. It might be wise to have on the committee some women as well as some men. In other words, the committee should be quite representative. This committee might be asked to make a study and recommendations to the church regarding the whole matter of ordination.

Those who are approved for ordination by the church should be examined by the ordination committee. This examination should include their theological beliefs but also some attention should be given to their opinions and convictions regarding some contemporary moral issues. The report to the church should also include marital status and family. The ordination committee should suggest how the ordination service would be performed, including those who would participate if a regular procedure has not been established.

The laying on of hands has possibly been restricted too exclusively to those who have been previously ordained themselves. In some churches, it might create some problems if the members of the church in general came and laid their hands on those to be ordained. Do we not agree, however, that the logical and ideal thing would be to have the laying on of hands by the members of the church? After all, it is the church that is setting aside the individual or individuals to the work of the Lord and not those who have been previously ordained.

Today's Issues

Mother Goose and Beer

BOB PARKER

Teen suicide is an epidemic problem in America. One reason for this was suggested as I recently heard of a scientific marvel, a talking Mother Goose. With eyes and lips moving, the big bird, programmed recorder inside, tells "Mother Goose" stories to wide-eyed children. The thought occurs: do we no longer have time to tell such, or Bible stories, to our children? Is our jogging, aerobics, social and work schedule so programmed as to neglect the little ones?

In researching probable causes of teen, and even pre-teen suicide, one thing stands out. Children and youth need quality love (*agape*), which includes adequate time taken out of busy schedules in order to



communicate. The young need significant other people besides parents or guardians to show that others really care or are truly concerned about them.

Sadly, some die because of drugs despite quality time and love being expressed. The pushers of alcohol, the number one drug problem in our country and the world, are so greedy for profit, their expensive, attractive propagandizing even causes "so-called prophets" to be silent. Unchecked, such drug profiteers cause

minds of teenagers to be so poisoned that God's will is thwarted.

Let's at least do the following insofar as preventing teen suicides is concerned: spend much more time, by word and deed, showing future generations you really love and care for them.

Also, don't be closed minded and mouthed as preventing teen suicides is concerned: spend much more time, by word and deed, showing future generations you really love and care for them. Also, don't be closed minded and mouthed as preventing teen suicides is concerned: spend much more time, by word and deed, showing future generations you really love and care for them.

Bob Parker is director of the ABCS Christian Life Council.

April Cooperative Program Report

Received \$970,252.49
Budget \$1,028,489.58
Over/under (\$55,987.09)

Year-to-date
Over/under \$20,271.00

Same time last year
Over/under (\$134,574.86)

Though April contributions were under budget requirements by 5.44 percent, we remain over budget needs for the first four months of 1987. With the summer months ahead of us, let's be faithful in our individual giving as well as our collective giving to missions through the Cooperative Program. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!—Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

Corning Celebrates 100

Corning First Church celebrated 100 years of service May 2-3 with activities that included a noteburning service signifying the debt-free status of the church in paying off a the new educational building addition.

Ethel (Black) Hoffman was recognized as the oldest living member of the church, which was organized April 30, 1887, with 10 charter members and 14 who presented themselves for admission as candidates for baptism.

Pastor Dennis Jones preached his last sermon as pastor before moving to North Carolina to assume duties as pastor of Parkview Church in Morehead City.

Guest speaker was W.O. Taylor of Melbourne, a former missionary for Current River-Gainesville Association, now Current-Gains Association.



Burning a note to celebrate payment of the indebtedness on Corning First Church's new educational building addition were (left to right) Dan Lynch, Freddie Brown, E.W. Cochran, Bob Cochran, Dana Brown, Mike Vinson, and Jim Vinson.

ACTS Affiliates Honored

Two Arkansas affiliates of the American Christian Television System (ACTS) received awards in four categories at the Second Annual ACTS Awards. Ceremonies were held on May 8 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Arkansas winners were Little Rock ACTS, Carol Roper, executive director, and ACTS of Springdale, represented by Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church, Springdale. Little Rock ACTS walked away with two of the top honors, Cable Affiliate of the Year and Best Spot of the Year. The winning spot, produced by John Griffith and Andy Dean, was a promotional spot for Ouachita Baptist University entitled "Case Closed."

A third award for Little Rock ACTS went to "Just Kids", a half-hour children's program produced by Linda Bennett. "Just Kids" was selected as the Best Missions/Evangelism/Worship Program. Little Rock ACTS is made up of 14 area churches.

ACTS of Springdale earned the Promotion award for its successful public relations efforts in the Springdale area.

"As part of an extensive promotional campaign, ACTS of Springdale prepared a well-produced video which was seen by

many civic groups," said Jimmy R. Allen, president of ACTS and the Radio and Television Commission. "As a direct result, they not only succeeded in getting a channel on the local cable system, but they established a firm base of support throughout the community," he added.

Those Arkansas ACTS affiliates that were nominated but did not receive awards were ACTS of Jonesboro and ACTS of Fort Smith. Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church in Springdale, and Claude Kendrick, of ACTS of Magnolia, received Distinguished Service Awards.

About 850 people attended the awards ceremony emceed by Jess Moody, pastor of First Church, Van Nuys, Calif. A total of 19 award recipients were selected from over 270 ACTS network affiliates. Recipients were recognized for outstanding achievements in local programming, promotion, community service and management.

Of all states represented, only Mississippi garnered more awards than Arkansas affiliates.

In Little Rock, ACTS can be seen on Storer cable channel 27, and in Springdale on TCA cable channel 33.



From left, Dwight Linkous, Linda Bennett, Jimmy Allen, Mark Brooks, John Griffith

Books with a message . . .

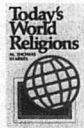


THE DUAL MINISTRY

Dr. M. Thomas Starke
This is the author's 35th book—sure to be a best seller! Both the ordained and lay persons are uplifted and affirmed while being called to a more active and beautiful ministry. Confused about how witnessing and ministering are done? Confused on how the ordained and unordained should relate? Then you need this book! 01-2 Paper \$3.95

THE FUTURE CHURCH

By Dr. Ralph Neighbour Jr.
This book reounds the message that membership in the future church will cost you your life! Are you ready for the church of the future? A national best seller now in its second printing. 07-1 Paper \$3.95



TODAY'S WORLD RELIGIONS

By Dr. M. Thomas Starke
The second edition of this best-selling book. A brief but basic introduction to major religions. 02-1 Paper \$3.95



GLOBAL PUBLISHERS

ORDER FROM YOUR BAPTIST BOOKSTORE

Look for it!
1987 SBC coverage
in the June 25 ABN

Where Can Help Be Found?

by Don Moore
ABC Executive Director

Speaking of help—"Several sociological studies of bankrupt farm families indicate widespread disenchantment with the way churches are responding to the crisis in rural communities. In a Cornell University study, members of families who lost their farms (almost all of them church members) listed their churches as least supportive among a list that included close friends, the wider community, and lending institutions. Moreover, 44 percent identified their churches as not at all supportive and seemed to condemn us. Examples cited ranged from clergy absence 'on the day of the sheriff's call' to preaching of the 'prosperity gospel—if you're doing fine, God is blessing you, and if you're not doing fine, you've obviously sinned.'" —*National & International Religion Report*



I would like to believe the above is not true of Arkansas churches and their farmers in crisis. It is safe to say our church folk face more challenges in which raw courage based on spiritual conviction is demanded than they have faced in a long time. Given a church where both the lending institution's officers and the farm family, who are not able to pay their debts, belong to the same church, where does the responsibility of the pastor and people rest? Obviously, they have a responsibility to both. The church should be able to maintain loving and prayerful relations with both without being interpreted as taking sides. The lending officials, who have to do what their boards or agencies instruct them to do, need ministry. They hurt with those whose priorities must be given up to satisfy debts they have incurred.

We all need the Lord in these troubled times! We all need each other, too! Let's not fail our friends. If we have, let's turn it around now! God bless you as you do!

Who will help with your children? Can, if you let us! That is one of the great things about summer. Our kids have time on their hands. They are not just in need of something to do, but something that will deal with specific areas of need from a Christian perspective.

Drugs and alcohol continue to be dread-

ful threats to every young person, including the preachers', deacons' and Sunday School workers' children.

Sex saturation of the media including news, entertainment and everyday existence threatens to destroy all semblance of morality.

Psychic emphasis, the New Age movement, channeling, and other popular movements involve people in demonic connections that will threaten almost every young person alive. They need help! Parents need help! "Who is sufficient for these things?"

Suicide, the choice of thousands, must be faced as a threat to many of our youth.

Acceptance by a responsible group is vital. A personal relationship with Christ is a must. Growth and direction for living is needed. A knowledge of sound biblical principles will help. These are a few of the basics.

Where can help be found?

Super Summer—June 29-July 3. Intensive evangelism and discipleship training in a setting of fun and fellowship is what your senior high young people will find at Super Summer. The Ouachita campus is a perfect setting for what could be the most important week of their life.

Siloam Springs Assembly is another place where help may be found. Registration is closed for June 22-26, July 6-10 and July 13-17. June 15-19, June 29-July 3 and July 20-24 are still open. Excellent activities, classes and gifted youth speakers are chosen to meet the needs of young people.

A music slant to camp will be found by Young Musicians at their annual camp at Ouachita June 22-25. This camp is for children in grades 4-6. Your child should join hundreds of others for this enriching event. In-state and out-of-state leadership will be provided.

A mission slant to camp—Camp Paron comes alive! All of the following take place at Camp Paron. They happen in this order:

GA's—Grades 1-3, Mother-Daughter Camp, June 5-6 Because of the young ages, the camp is short and requires the mother to come along.

RA's—Grades 4-12, June 8-12, June 15-19. Bible studies, crafts, athletics, nature hikes, mission studies and worship make up their program.

RA's—Grades 1-3, Man/Boy Camp, June 12-13. As with the younger girls, this in-

troduces the younger boys to a good Christian camp experience.

GA's—Grades 4-6, June 29-July 3. Exposure to missionaries and dedicated, trained college students make this an unusually good week.

All of these will serve to meet some need in your child's life.

It is usually necessary to pre-register for these events. If you, your pastor, or other leaders do not have forms to register or you need more information, call 376-4791 in Little Rock. The PBX operator can put you in touch with the person who can help with registration.

June will be a great month for you and your children if you can involve them in these excellent Christian camping experiences. All of them are at a much less cost than independent camps provide.

You can help!

Some of you can help by being a sponsor, teacher, or counselor. The sponsor could help those unable to attend for financial reasons by providing their registration fee. The teacher and counselor would do what their title entails. God bless the counselors. We couldn't have camp without you!

You can help even further! The lack of growth in giving by our churches has virtually halted the development of Camp Paron and Siloam Springs. Some of you who have been signally blessed of God at these camps, and are now in your productive years, need to consider endowing these programs, or otherwise assist with improvements. You can honor or memorialize a loved one, and at the same time provide a lasting ministry to young people. Think about it!

Church building needs?

June 1-5, Ed Hinkson and Harold Smith will be calling on churches who want counsel and assistance from the Church Architecture Department. New building, renovation or remodeling may be your need. Call Ed Hinkson for an appointment.



Quality Van Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches, (501) 268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson, owner

\$500.00 Complete Call for free brochure American Made

Sound Systems

For Churches Factory Direct Simple Installation

CALL COLLECT 501-354-1892

LANCO INDUSTRIES

RT. 2 BOX 87 • MORRILTON, AR 72110

Does Our Church Need A Computer?

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Computers. Everywhere you turn, computers.

They send you form letters . . . and bills. They keep you entertained with games and absorbed with TV graphics. They even call you on the phone and assault you with recorded sales pitches.

Computers have transformed the way America does business. Storing information. Tracking sales. Projecting trends. Generating personalized mass mailings. Searching for data. Analyzing statistics. No one who has made the transition to computer wants to go back.

And as technology advances, computers become more powerful, more compact, and less expensive. Today, powerful desktop computers are available for hundreds of dollars which have greater capabilities than computers costing hundreds of thousands of dollars 20 years ago.

As the microcomputer increasingly comes within reach of more church budgets, pastors and members ask themselves: what could a computer do for us?

The answer to that question is, "Almost anything you can imagine," according to Bill Caldwell, professor of administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Consider his list of daily church business tasks which could benefit from computerization:

- Word processing, including personal correspondence, sermon manuscripts, bulk mailings, weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters, and reports.

- Financial analysis, including monthly financial reports, contribution records, budget planning, and projections.

- Membership information, including visitation records, updating organizational records (i.e., changes of address), and drawing out information about membership.

- Attendance and growth records, including absentees, geographic distribution of membership, and growth trends.

Add to all those such tasks as producing labels for bulk mailings, compiling church calendars, inventory control, and library management, and you have a formidable list.

"Each church needs to ask, 'What does the church do? What are we called to do?'" Caldwell said. Once a clear answer to those questions has been obtained, the church is then ready to identify which of

those tasks might be made easier with the assistance of a computer.

Gary Underwood, minister of music and media at Elmdale Church, Springdale, agrees that many complicated and routine tasks can be computerized to the benefit of all concerned.

Elmdale Church began with a small computer designed primarily for home use, Underwood recalls. He used it to maintain his choir records at first. Then they added the Sunday School roll and began printing labels for class rollbooks. Next they decided they could use the computer to print labels for envelope boxes rather than typing them out manually.

After a year, the church decided it needed to purchase a computer of its own, one which could handle more and larger tasks. Now, in addition to all the tasks listed by Caldwell, Elmdale Church uses the computer to produce the catalog and labels for its tape ministry, manages billing and receipts for advertising through its local ACTS cable TV outlet, and prints out periodic updates of deacon family ministry assignments.

"If you plan what you're doing and don't just jump off into purchasing a computer, you can make it do almost anything you want," Underwood observes. "Because of the computer, we're doing

things now we never would have tried before."

Proper planning prior to a computer purchase is critical, agrees Caldwell. He outlines a seven-point process he advises churches to use as they consider a computer purchase.

First, appoint a committee to study the ministries and tasks of the church and determine what needs of the church could be met by computerizing.

Second, once the needs to be met have been clearly established, identify computer program packages ("software") which will perform the necessary tasks. After adequate software packages have been identified, then look for computer equipment ("hardware") which will run the software.

Third, evaluate the software options in light of the list of needs and tasks. Narrow the list of options to those which would perform the job best.

Fourth, check out the companies ("vendors") which offer the software and hardware packages. Check with other customers about their satisfaction. Ask the vendors about the training they offer and about service and support after the sale.

Fifth, insist on a demonstration of the software and hardware packages being considered. "Don't take their word about what it will do," Caldwell advises. "Make them show you."

Sixth, get a firm figure about the total cost of the purchase. Consider not only the purchase price of hardware and software, but also the cost of training, service, support, maintenance, and accessories, as well as on-going costs such as supplies. Although purchase prices have dropped

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, uses computers extensively in its day-to-day operations. Fonda Montgomery, financial secretary, posts the weekly contributions.

within reach of almost any congregation, the ongoing costs of computer operation need to be identified and budgeted.

Finally, after considering all the above, select the system which best meets the needs.

The benefits can be enormous. Many time-consuming chores, such as typing labels for a churchwide mailing, can be performed by a computer and printer, freeing valuable secretarial time for other important tasks. Other complicated tasks, such as managing general ledger accounts and performing budget calculations, can be performed with greater speed and precision than humanly possible.

The Elmdale Church, for example, found that with a computer it took only an hour to handle weekly contributions records, compared to the previous half-day. Year-end record processing took only a half-day, Underwood says.

"Our business administrator was working nights and weekends before we got the computer," he recalls. "He doesn't have to do that any more. The computer saves us time and increases our efficiency. You do more because you can do more."

Certain risks, however, are involved in purchasing a computer, Caldwell warns. He admonishes churches to avoid four mistakes:

(1) Purchasing hardware before software, including letting someone give the church a computer. Too many get a piece of equipment without knowing what to do with it.

(2) Purchasing the least expensive computer available, without regard to whether it can do the job required. Too many purchase the cheapest computer, only to find it can't expand to meet new needs and must be junked and an entirely new system purchased.

(3) Allowing a church member to write the program. Few church members can match the expertise of companies which specialize in church-related software, and problems with software written by a church member easily become problems within the church.

(4) Choosing the wrong system. Great care must be taken to choose a computer system based on the needs of the church and the ability of the package to meet those needs.

"Be realistic" is the watchword. "Don't think you'll put your new computer on a desk and be really using it a week later," cautions Underwood. "Expect to spend six months learning the system."

And the computerized office will be no more efficient than the person managing it, adds Caldwell. "A computer won't improve a bad office situation. In fact, it might make it worse.

"The computer is not magic. It is simply a tool to assist in your work. It's not a

way to eliminate staff, and it will be no better than the people running it and the training they get."

Yes, a computer can be a tremendous asset in ministry. Yes, even small churches can afford computers. But proper planning before purchase is essential if a successful transition to the computerized office is to be made.

For more on church computers:

(1) Read *The Personal Computer, A New Tool for Ministers*, by Russell Dilday (Broadman Press, 1985).

(2) Contact Terry Bratton, president of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 22000-2A, Fort Worth, TX 76122; telephone (817) 923-1921, ext. 209.

(3) Contact Southwestern Seminary's Continuing Education Division about two seminars: "Computers in Ministry," on Nov. 23, 1987, and "How to Computerize Your Church Office," on Jan. 28-29, 1988. Contact David Fite at the seminary address above; telephone (817) 923-1921, ext. 244.

Sunday School Broadman Prospect Services

A new service of Broadman will provide the basic resources to increase a church's ability to reach more people on a consistent basis. Broadman Prospect Services is Broadman's latest method of "touching lives—growing churches."

Broadman Prospect Services is a tabulated, computerized, up-to-date listing of new home owners in a church's community. It is available to churches for a modest set-up fee and an affordable monthly charge. A one-time \$20 fee starts the service. Thereafter, the charge is 25 cents per name, with a minimum monthly charge of \$7.50, which provides up to 30 names each month.

Names are sent to a church in two forms: printed on computer paper and printed on adhesive mailing labels, for immediate use in mailing information about the church to the prospect. Broadman Prospect Services can be started by phone or mail. Give the church name, address, phone number, account number, and the zip code areas from which you would like to receive names of prospects. The phone number of BPS is (615) 251-3604. The address is: Broadman Prospect Services, Broadman Sales Department, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

The Sunday School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board has devised

a process for using the lists to reach people through the Sunday School organization. This process has been named the Sunday School Outreach Communication Plan. A user's guide provides the basic steps to use Broadman Prospect Services and get the kind of results a church hopes to secure.

Enroll in Broadman Prospect Services and reach new people for your Sunday School and church through the Sunday School Outreach Communication Plan.—
Pat Rattton, associate

Church Training Youth Discipleship Lab Offered

I am excited about a new innovation that the Church Training Department will be providing during four of the assembly weeks at Siloam this summer. We will be offering a Youth Discipleship Lab to select senior high youth during the weeks of June 22, July 6, July 13, and July 27.



Falkner

The lab will provide an exciting opportunity for leader youth to have "hands-on" exposure to at least 10 different approaches and resources for helping youth grow in discipleship. The purpose of the lab experience is twofold. First, it will provide an opportunity for youth to experience new dimensions of discipleship on a personal level. Second, those youth will be equipped to return to their churches to help interpret and implement discipleship strategies among their own peers.

Sound exciting? You bet it is! This will be an opportunity for your select youth to not only grow personally but for them to also become "catalysts" in making discipleship training meet the needs of the youth in your church. Here's how it works. If your church is planning to attend one of the four weeks mentioned above, you may designate up to two senior high youth to attend. These youth should be those in their youth group who are personally interested in youth discipleship.

I hope that you will seriously consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity. If you have questions or need further information, please contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—**Bill Falkner, associate**

Stewardship/Annuity Family Money Management

May is the traditional month for family life emphasis. Churches broaden Mother's Day by looking at family life, scheduling special conferences on parenting and by offering materials and conferences for those contemplating marriage.

Scheduling a Christian Money Management emphasis is one of the best things a church can do for its families. Disagreement on financial matters is a major source of conflict between family members. A lack of resources causes a great deal of stress. Many face an insecure future because of unmanageable debt and a lack of savings.

In addition to these financial problems, families earn dollars that purchase less, deal with confusing and uncertain tax laws, confront unaccountability by professionals asking for money, and watch farm values erode.

The church can assist its members by requesting knowledgeable community leaders to conduct sessions on money management. Every church library should stock money management books and magazines. The Stewardship Commission offers money management materials. Your Stewardship/Annuity Department has materials and conducts money management conferences upon request.

A Christian Money Management Conference helps churches grow Christian stewards.—**James A. Walker, director**

Woman's Missionary Union GA Camp

Arkansas WMU provides three camp settings to give girls, mothers, and leaders an opportunity to learn more about Southern Baptists' mission work around the world. The camps sponsored by Arkansas WMU are GA Camp, GA Mother/Daughter Camp, and GA Mini-Camp. Each camp provides missionary speakers, recreation, crafts, worship, Bible study and prayertime for participants. The camps are held at Camp Paron.

GA Camp is for girls finished grades 3-6. There are counselors and camp staff who supervise and coordinate the camp programs for the girls. Parents or leaders are responsible for getting the girls to Camp Paron and back home. No one is needed from the church to stay at camp. GA Camp begins Monday afternoon and concludes Friday with lunch. The dates for GA Camp are June 29 July 1, July 6-10, and July 13-17.

Registration information has been mailed to all GA leaders.

GA Mother/Daughter Camp is for girls in grades 1-3 and their mothers. GA Mother/Daughter Camp provides a quality sharing time for mothers and daughters. The dates are June 5-6 and July 10-11. Camp begins with registration on Friday at 5 p.m. and concludes on Saturday afternoon.

GA Mini-Camp is for girls in grades 1-6 and mothers and leaders. Each group of girls must have a leader or mother to stay with them. The dates are July 1-3, July 8-10, and July 15-17. GA Mini-Camp begins on Wednesday afternoon and concludes with lunch on Friday.

Make time for a missions experience! For information, contact Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—**Pat Glascock, GA/Missions Friends director**

Brotherhood Statewide Update

The RA Committee (Ozzie Berryhill, Tim McMinn, Gary Misner, Mark Rutherford, and Bobby Shows) directed one of the best organized and successful RA Congresses ever. What a valuable contribution Ouachita Baptist University makes to the lives of Baptist young men by offering their facilities. Eight RA's responded to God's call to lifetime missionary service.

Associational Brotherhood directors at the Key Leader Meeting at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, voiced approval of three major thrust areas for Brotherhood work in Arkansas, those being: (1) praying, (2) practicing evangelism, and (3) participating in missions.

Baptist Men need to be praying now for Macapa, Brazil. Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, will lead a group in an intensive evangelistic effort in this territorial capital July 12-22.

Pioneer RA boys will work in Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 6-13. They will be a part of evangelistic ministries at the "Pan American Games." RA summer worker, Southwestern student, Lawrence Cole, a Brazilian MK who served as a Journeyman in Liberia, will lead them.

Lay Renewal and Lay Evangelism Schools will be a major involvement of Baptist Men in the Year of the Laity 1988-89. Many Arkansas Baptist churches are being blessed by Lay Renewal Weekends. Pray for the lay teams who are leading these.

Should your church consider planning a Lay Renewal Weekend?—**Glendon Grober, director**

Missions Advance 87-89 Task Force Begins Messages

Task Force members of "Missions Advance 87-89" have made presentations in several churches. Each one of the task force members has reported a positive response to the presentations or messages. Your church



can have a speaker upon request. The speaker will help your church understand: (1) the biblical basis of the Cooperative Program, (2) the past, present, and future of the Cooperative Program, and (3) the crisis we are facing in Cooperative Program support.

The speaker also will challenge your church to adopt a plan of advance in Cooperative Program support.

You may contact one of the task force members directly, or you can call the Baptist Building for help in securing a speaker. (Call Jimmie Sheffield, 376-4791.)

Your church will not have any expenses for this speaker. The speaker will pay for his or her own expenses. All you need to do is enlist the speaker.

"Missions Advance 87-89" is not just another program. It is an emphasis born in the hearts of concerned Arkansas Baptists. You have a wonderful opportunity to be part of this adventure to enable our state to continue its progress in missions advancement in Arkansas and around the world.—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

Family Ministry Covenant Marriage

Ken Jordan will lead a Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop July 30-Aug. 1 at the Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. Southern Baptists' new marriage enrichment program, "Covenant Marriage: Partnership and Commitment," will be featured in the workshop. Jordan is the marriage enrichment consultant with the Family Ministry Department of the Sun-



Jordan

the Family Ministry Department of the Sun-

day School Board.

"Covenant Marriage: Partnership and Commitment" is a comprehensive marriage enrichment program for Christian couples. The course provides a solid biblical approach to marriage and leads couples to a new sense of Christian purpose, direction and mission in their partnership with God. "Covenant Marriage: Partnership and Commitment" is a LIFE (Lay Institute for Equipping) course and is similar in format to "Parenting by Grace."

The workshop is designed for associational Family Ministry leaders and special workers. Pastors, church staff, and church Family Ministry leaders can also participate in the 15-hour workshop. A fee will be charged for the resources used in the workshop (\$24 per couple or \$20 when only one person can attend). Pre-registration is required to participate in the workshop.

For additional information about "Covenant Marriage: Partnership and Commitment" and the Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop, contact Gerald Jackson, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—Gerald Jackson, associate

Church Music Youth Music Camp

Summer is fast approaching, and June means Young Musicians Camp! The camp runs from noon Monday, June 22, through noon Thursday, June 25, on the ever-more-beautiful campus of Ouachita Baptist University. Four choirs of 125 voices each will learn and perform a musical, under the direction of Gerald Brown, Skip Wofford, Kathy Bettis, and Janada Barnett.

Charles Hampton, who has served as a missionary to South Africa, will serve as our pastor, speaking during worship each night and teaching our missions emphasis each morning.

This year we'll introduce a new game in the Peanut Olympics, the "Earth Ball Push." You'll need a good bunch from your church to win this one!

The cost is \$37.50 and the deadline is June 8. This camp always fills up, so send your registration on in. If you need a form, call me at 376-4791.—Peggy Pearson, associate/office manager

Straight from St. Louis!
1987 SBC coverage
in the June 25 ABN

Church Music Standard of Excellence

We extend our congratulations to Mr. Tom Wideman for a recent achievement. He is the Associational Music Director for Pulaski Association and has just completed the basic action to earn the Standard of Excellence for the Associational Music Program.

The standard is more than just a goal to reach. It really is a guide to follow which leads to a more effective music ministry at

the associational level. This accomplishment takes a great deal of work on the part of the leader, but it also requires much cooperation from music directors and other musicians.

Will Thompson, associational music director for Southwest Association, was the only person to achieve this level of recognition last year. We congratulate these men and urge every Associational Music Director to use the Standard to help guide them to more effective music ministry.—Ervin Keathley, state secretary

PRAYER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



*You may not
be able to
stop this
fast-moving
world, but
you can
change it.*

*Southern Baptists'
prayers bolstered
missionaries in
Colombia as they
ministered to the*

*injured and reunited families after a
volcanic eruption and mudslide killed
thousands.*

*Join thousands of fellow Baptists in
focused prayer for millions yet needing
the salvation message in Colombia and
throughout the world...*

Join in CONCERTS OF PRAYER,
*the first Sunday of every month in worship services
and other church activities.*

Call PrayerLine, 1-800-ALL-SEEK
*(1-800-255-7335), at the Foreign Mission Board for the
latest prayer concerns from your missionaries.*

*(PrayerLine is toll-free from 49 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. In
Virginia, dial 1-804-355-6581, a toll call.)*

**Foreign
Mission Board**
of the Southern Baptist Convention

HELPLINE

Next month in Arkansas: June

June 1-5, Church Building Tour (SS)
June 5-6, GA Mother-Daughter
Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)
June 8-12, RA Camp, Camp Paron
(Bbd)
June 12-13, Man and Boy Camp,
Camp Paron (Bbd)
June 15-19, Arkansas Baptist
Assembly, Week 1 (SS)
June 15-19, RA Camp, Camp Paron
(Bbd)
June 22-25, Young Musicians Camp,

Ouachita Baptist University,
Arkadelphia (M)
June 22-26, Arkansas Baptist
Assembly, Week 2 (SS)
June 29 - July 3, GA Camp, Camp
Paron (WMU)
June 29 - July 3, Arkansas Baptist
Assembly, Week 3 (SS)
June 29 - July 3, Super Summer
Arkansas, Ouachita Baptist University,
Arkadelphia (Ev)

July

July 1-3, GA Mini-Camp, Camp Paron
(WMU)
July 6-10, GA Camp, Camp Paron
(WMU)
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
(WMU)
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)

August

August 2, On To College Day (St)
August 2-15, Baptist History and
Heritage Tour (CT)
August 6, Small Sunday School
Leadership Updates, Osceola
Friendship Church, Ozark Webb City
Church, Lewisville First Church, Lonoke
Wentzau Church, Stuttgart North
Maple Church (SS)
August 6-15, Pioneer RA Mission
Action Project, Pan-American Games,
Indianapolis, Ind. (Bbd)
August 7-8, Pastor-Director Retreat,
Camp Paron (CT)
August 8, Volunteer/Part-time Music
Leader Workshop, Smackover First
Church (M)
August 10-14, Church Secretaries'
Basic Certification Seminar, North
Little Rock Park Hill Church (CT)
August 14-15, DiscipleYouth
Workshop, Ouachita Baptist
University, Arkadelphia (CT)
August 14-15, Children's Choir
Leader Workshop, North Little Rock
Park Hill Church (M)
August 14-15, Associational WMU

Officers' Retreat, Camp Paron (WMU)
August 17, Area Growth Spiral
Workshops, Rogers Immanuel Church,
Batesville First Church (SS)
August 18, Area Growth Spiral
Workshops, Fort Smith Oak Cliff
Church, Harrison First Church (SS)
August 20, Area Growth Spiral
Workshop, El Dorado Immanuel
Church (SS)
August 21-22, Volunteer/Part-time
Music Leader Workshop, Southern
Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (M)
August 22-28, WMU Conference,
Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center,
Ridgecrest, N.C. (WMU)
August 23-29, Church Music
Emphasis Week (M)
August 28-29, Associational CT
Leadership Conference, North Little
Rock Park Hill Church (CT)
August 31, Area Conferences: WMU,
Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship,
Pine Bluff Immanuel Church
August 31, Adult Choir Festivals,
Hope First Church, Springdale First
Church, Jonesboro First Church (M)



RA Camps

RA Camp
June 8-12
June 15-19
Cost: \$41



Man & Boy
Camp
June 12-13
Cost: \$30

Don't miss the fun!

For more information, contact:
Brotherhood Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 376-4791

STRESS!

Wanda Stephens, M.D.
Christian Psychiatrist
501-225-9750

First Baptist Church, Marvell, is
in search of a Minister of Music
and Youth. Anyone interested,
please contact: Search Commit-
tee, FBC, Box 838, Marvell, AR
72366; phone 829-2961.

See the great Passion Play & stay
at Keller's Country Dorm Resort
(for groups of 12 or more!)
Rt. 4, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
New air conditioning, in-ground pool
\$7.50 tickets, lodging and meals
All for \$21 each! Call (501)253-8418 today!

1986—A Banner Year for Foreign Missions

Start rejoicing if you supported Southern Baptist foreign missions in 1986.

You're part of something big—the world's biggest program of foreign missions. It used 180 million of your dollars to help change lives in 108 nations.

Check off the results:

- A record 185,689 baptisms (17.1 percent increase; one for every 10.8 church members)
- 20 new churches started each week
- 411 missionaries appointed (ending the year with 3,756)
- More than:
 - 14,500 national pastors
 - 50,000 radio and 2,150 TV programs
 - 1,900 Southern Baptist volunteers joining overseas Baptists in partnership evangelism, resulting in 24,279 professions of faith
 - 6,200 total volunteers overseas
- \$8.5 million for hunger and relief; none spent for administration or promotion.

All that's big, **BUT** Southern Baptists still have a long way to go.

What some call the impossible dream of Bold Mission Thrust is alive. Hope for reaching its world evangelization goals lies with Christians around the globe.

Will you shrink from the task or increase the resources it takes to dream a possible dream of proclaiming the gospel to the whole world by A.D. 2000?

The dream of Bold Mission Thrust lives or dies with you!

Where the money came from

1986		
Lottie Moen Christmas Offering	\$ 67,135,000	37%
Cooperative Program	61,289,000	34
Investment Income	30,007,000	17
Designated and Special Gifts	10,476,000	6
Hunger and Relief	8,503,000	5
Other Income	2,411,000	1
Total	\$179,821,000	100%

How it was used

1986		
Missionary Support	\$ 86,212,000	47.9%
Evangelism and Church Development	12,672,000	7.0
Leadership Development	6,021,000	3.3
Media Ministries	2,948,000	1.6
Health Care Ministries	2,542,000	1.4
Human Need Ministries	663,000	.4
General Foreign	6,225,000	3.5
Other Field Activities	7,576,000	4.2
Special Gifts Disbursed	3,034,000	1.7
Hunger and Relief	8,510,000	4.7
Home Administration and Promotion	18,014,000	10.0
Endowment Transfers and Additions to Property Funds	20,542,000	11.4
Funding of Employee Benefits Programs	2,500,000	1.4
Available for Designated Use in Subsequent Year	3,500,000	2.0
Available for Appropriation in Subsequent Year	(1,138,000)	(.5)
Total	\$179,821,000	100%

Southern Baptists: A Missions People
hearing, believing, living, telling His story



Foreign
Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention

For the full annual report of Southern Baptist foreign missions write the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

No Comparison

TV Evangelists Can't Hold A Candle To SBC Cooperative Program

by Orville Scott
Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (BP)—Six of the leading television evangelists last year had a combined income equivalent to the missions giving of 14.6 million Southern Baptists.

But the missionary and humanitarian ministries supported by the TV evangelists are scant compared to the worldwide missions programs supported by Southern Baptists, said Robert F. Polk, director of Cooperative Program Promotion for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Southern Baptists in 1986 gave slightly more than \$635 million for missions causes, somewhat less than the combined incomes of six of the top televangelists featured in the April 6 *U.S. News and World Report*.

Five of the televangelists and their 1986 gross incomes, according to *U.S. News*, are Pat Robertson, \$176 million; Jim Bakker, \$172 million; Jimmy Swaggart, \$142 million; Jerry Falwell, \$100 million and Robert Schuller, \$36 million. Also included is Oral Roberts, whose income was listed at \$58 million in 1985.

Between them, the six TV evangelists, in addition to their television programs, supported four schools, a hospital, three churches, two ministries to needy children, a home for unwed mothers and a ministry to the needy, *U.S. News* reported.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist state conventions supported 67 colleges and universities with more than 200,000 students and dozens of children's homes, hospitals and homes for aging.

Texas Baptists last year gave \$86.7 million for missions, including \$58.7 million through the Cooperative Program. They supported eight hospitals, four child care homes and homes for aging with multiple branches, eight universities, San Marcos Academy and Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary. The Cooperative Program and the annual Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions also assisted the 5,000 churches and missions in reaching people for Christ, strengthening missions and starting new work.

Through their missions giving, Texas Baptists joined hands with other Southern Baptists to support 3,756 foreign missionaries in more than 100 nations and 3,637 home missionaries in the U.S.

Last year the Cooperative Program provided ministries to students on 1,100 campuses in the United States through the Baptist Student Unions.

Also through the Cooperative Program in 1986, Southern Baptists supported six seminaries. In fact, one of every five seminary students in the United States is enrolled in a Southern Baptist seminary.

Also the Cooperative Program supports the work of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which has established a television network, American Christian Television System (ACTS).

Another striking difference between the televangelists and Southern Baptist missions giving is the accountability factor, said Polk.

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability in Washington, which seeks to monitor the ethical performance of agencies independent of church control, says none of the top 10 moneymakers among the televangelists belongs to the council, according to *U.S. News*. However, scores of religious groups do report their finances to the Evangelical Council.

Polk said, "The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists is a system of openness and accountability."

There is openness as messengers from the churches decide in state conventions and at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention how the money will be spent. Regular reports are given to the churches and to the denomination at state and national levels. Both the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention have annual audits with reports made available to the constituency.

"From the local church to the missionary on the foreign field, every penny given is accounted for," Polk said.

"The Cooperative Program is a financial channel of cooperation between state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention that enables persons making undesigned gifts through their churches to support missionary, educational and benevolent work on state, national and international levels," said Polk.

"Since adopting the Cooperative Program as their plan for carrying out Christ's Great Commission, Southern Baptists have had the greatest outreach ministry in the world."

More Nominations, Appointments

Six Arkansans have been nominated or appointed to positions on committees of the Southern Baptist Convention, in addition to the 12 names reported in the May 7 *Arkansas Baptist*.

Roy R. Gean Jr., an attorney and member of First Church, Fort Smith, will be nominated by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees to a term on the Public Affairs Committee, if messengers to the annual meeting in St. Louis June 16-18 adopt a proposed revision of SBC Bylaw 18, which will expand membership on the committee from 15 to 18.

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street Church, Texarkana, and Jerry A. Baugh, member of Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock, have been appointed by SBC President Adrian Rogers to serve on the Committee on Committees, which this year has been expanded from 54 to 66 members because of increased participation from smaller state conventions.

James W. Bryant, pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith, will serve as chairman of the 25-member Credentials Committee at the St. Louis Convention. Wallace Edgar, pastor of Trinity Church, Texarkana, will serve as a member of the Tellers Committee. David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, Heber Springs, will serve as a member of the Resolutions Committee.

New Cadet Ministry Offered

The Baptist Student Union of the Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy this July. The BSU would like to meet their plane, provide transportation and lodging, and help them to report to the Academy at the required time. If pastors, parents, friends, or the new cadets themselves will contact the BSU with name and address, further information will be provided.

Similar ministries are provided for anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy. At the Air Force Academy contact: Dwain Gregory, 550 West Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919; telephone (303) 599-9094. At West Point contact: Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520; telephone (914) 534-7954. At the Naval Academy contact: Dick Bumpass, 201 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401; telephone (301) 263-0963.

Convention Uniform

The Promise of Restoration

by Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus

Basic passage: Hosea 13:1 to 14:9

Focal passage: Hosea 14:1 to 9

Central truth: Repentance of sin is a prerequisite to experiencing the blessings of God.

Elizabeth Barrett became the wife of Robert Browning despite the strong protest of her parents. So angered were the parents that they disowned their daughter. But Elizabeth continued to write to her parents every week, expressing her love for them. One day, after 10 years of silence, the parents sent her a big package. Opening it, she found all of her letters. None had been opened.

The rejected letters later were published and now, as a part of classic literature, continue to bless the hearts of multitudes. How sad they were thrown out unread by those to whom they were written.

In Hosea, it is the Father, not the child, pleading for a restored relationship. God continues to send his love letters to his children, but many of the children, in effect, send the letters back to him unopened.

In this week's lesson, four eternal truths stand out, some of them overlapping:

- Regardless of whether or not we love God, he never stops loving us.
- Sin blocks receipt of God's richest blessings.
- Repentance must precede receipt of God's blessings.
- God will give blessing to us when we repent of sin.

Search out, in Hosea 14, appropriate scriptures for each of the truths listed above.

What does it mean to repent? Dictionary definitions include: "To feel remorse, contrition, or self-reproach. To make a change for the better because of remorse or contrition for one's sins. To feel such regret for previous behavior as to change one's mind about it."

What blessings from God are available to you if you choose to repent of sin in your life? (Notice the blessings listed as a promise to Israel, in today's lesson). What did Jesus teach about prosperity for his followers? (Treasures on earth were not to be expected). What did Jesus teach about peace for his followers? (He said his followers should expect persecution).

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Southern Baptist Churches, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Philip, Zealous Witness

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 8:4-40

Focal passage: Acts 8:4-8, 26-30, 35, 40

Central truth: Christians should not allow any barrier to hinder their zeal to witness.

The death of Stephen was the beginning of intense persecution for the church at Jerusalem. Many of the leaders were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. Philip was one of the leaders who was scattered. He had such a zeal for witnessing that he began an evangelistic campaign. His zeal was different from Saul's zeal (Acts 8:3).

Philip preached to the people of Samaria. They were a mixture of people who were born to Jews who married outside their race. He was so zealous that he ignored centuries of prejudice and preached to them. The Samaritans were hungry to hear the good news of the gospel and many received the message of salvation with great joy. The zealous witnessing of Philip broke down barriers that had existed for centuries.

Traveling on that stretch of desert road was a eunuch who also was an important government official in Ethiopia. He was reading from Isaiah about the prophecy concerning the suffering of Jesus. He had a desire to know God but according to the Mosaic Law a eunuch had no religious privileges (Deut. 23:1). At the Spirit's instruction and the eunuch's request, Philip preached the plan of salvation to him. The eunuch's question in Acts 8:36 may be paraphrased this way, "Are there any barriers that would keep me from trusting Jesus as my Savior and following him in baptism?" Philip explained that the only barrier to salvation is an unbelieving heart. The eunuch removed that barrier when he confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37).

God led Philip off the desert road to Azotus and later to the area of Caesarea. Philip continued preaching in all the cities until he came to Caesarea. Here he made his home and became known as Philip the Evangelist (Acts 21:8).

Persecution must not stop us from witnessing. The message that Jesus saves must be "like fire shut up in our bones" (Jer. 20:9). A zealous witness will discover he can witness in almost any situation. Have you made that discovery?

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Bible Book

Cries of the People

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Psalms 123; 126; 137

Focal passage: Psalms 123:1-4; 126:1-6; 137:1-8

Central truth: The psalmists' cries to God in the midst of their conflicts and trials illustrate that we can call on God when we are in trouble.

The three psalms presented in the lesson deal with a cry for mercy, a cry for restoration, and a cry in the time of captivity. This lesson will serve as a fresh reminder that God is "our strength and refuge, a very present help in trouble."

The prayer of mercy in Psalm 123 begins with recognition of the source of mercy: God. The psalmist recognized that dependency upon God is like a servant depending upon his master or a maid on her mistress. The point is very clear: we are God's servants.

As God's servants, the psalmist said we should be keenly aware that we are dependent upon God's mercy. We need to keep looking for God's help and mercy. We need it every day.

The cry for restoration in Psalm 126 begins with a recall of God's blessings (126:1-3). The exact experience to which the psalmist refers is not clear, but the memory of what happened was crystal clear. The experience brought laughter, singing, and great celebration. Even other nations rejoiced because of what God had done for his people.

The best two verses of this psalm presents the cry for the people of Israel to be restored to the love God had given them. The joy of being restored is compared to one who plants with a heavy heart and the joy found in harvesting the crop.

Psalm 137 is a lament of the Israelites in exile. The writer begins with an expression of his grief in verses 1-4. The grief is expressed through crying, not singing, and the fun poked at them by their captors.

The writer then expressed his strong feelings for Jerusalem. He vowed never to forget Jerusalem even though he will not sing while in captivity (vs. 5-6). The writer concluded this psalm by asking God to put a curse on his enemies for what they did to Jerusalem.

Trials and trouble will come to each one of us. We must never forget that God hears our cry for mercy.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Subscriber Services

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* offers subscription plans at three rates:

Every Resident Family Plan gives churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$5.52 per year for each subscription.

A **Group Plan** (formerly called the Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church.

Are you moving?

Please give us two weeks advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address below and send to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

017557 COMP 2230
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCIAL ST #400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$6.12 per year.

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$6.48 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the above form.

When inquiring about your subscription by mail, please include the address label. Or call us at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to give us your code line information.

NATION

Joint Committee Upheld

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention will continue to be a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs if a recommendation of a special fact-finding committee is accepted in June.

A nine-member study committee has recommended that the 14.6-million-member SBC "continue to relate to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," a religious liberty-separation of church and state watchdog organization of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

The recommendation will be presented to a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee June 15 in advance of the 1987 annual meeting. If the 70-member committee accepts the recommendation, it will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting June 16, who then must vote to accept or reject the recommendation.

Gary F. Young of Phoenix, Ariz., told Baptist Press the key to the recommendation is acceptance of a proposal to change SBC Bylaw 18, which governs the work and membership of SBC standing committees. The SBC relates to the BJCPA through the Public Affairs Committee, an 18-member standing committee.

In February, the special study committee recommended revision of Bylaw 18 in regard to the Public Affairs Committee. The revision was adopted by the Executive Committee and will be recommended to messengers at the annual meeting.

"The bottom line of our recommendation is that we will stay with the Baptist Joint Committee, but that our relationship with them will be changed because we are changing the makeup and constituency of the Public Affairs Committee," Young told Baptist Press.

A revision of Bylaw 18 was necessitated when the Baptist Joint Committee reorganized in October, creating a 54-member board and increasing SBC membership from 15 to 18.

Under the old bylaw, the Public Affairs Committee was made up of 15 members, of whom nine served by virtue of office as executives of SBC agencies, leaving only five slots to be filled by at-large members. The SBC president also was a voting member.

Under the revision, five agency executives will serve as board members—the chief executives of the Executive Committee, the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Annuity Board. The president of the SBC also will be a voting member and the remaining 12 seats will be at-large representatives.

The executive of the SBC Christian Life Commission—who had a seat under the old bylaw—would become a non-voting ex-officio member under the revision.

Young said "the matter is now in the hands of the messengers to the convention as to the kind of representatives we will have," and noted the 1987 Committee on Boards has nominated people who will serve on the Public Affairs Committee, if the bylaw revision is adopted.

Another change in the bylaw is that it "encourages the Public Affairs Committee to coordinate its work through the BJCPA," but also specifies the group can "take action on motions and resolutions of the SBC upon which the BJCPA cannot agree and/or does not support."

In addition to recommending the relationship between the BJCPA and the SBC be retained through the revised Public Affairs Committee, the fact finding committee also included a recommendation that it "encourages the trustees of the SBC Christian Life Commission to continue the consideration of opening an office in Washington to deal with those appropriate moral and social concerns. . . ."

In reaching its conclusions, the committee issued a series of findings, which include:

—There is strength in numbers and diversity, and the estimated 27 million Baptists who are members of the nine Baptist bodies making up the BJCPA "represent a greater potential influence" in Washington than do 14.6 million Southern Baptists.

—There are a number of Baptist groups who do not participate in the BJCPA, and encouraged the Public Affairs Committee "to work through appropriate channels within the BJCPA to pursue the most effective participation of other Baptist bodies."

—The BJCPA "has assisted Southern Baptists in some ways" such as supporting passage of the Equal Access legislation, protecting foreign mission interests, working on tax reform and minister's retirement programs and "providing information, education, research, counsel and advocacy to Southern Baptists on an individual, church, association, state and national level."

—There are some things which have "created concern" among some Southern Baptists, including conducting conferences which are perceived to lack balance, making statements which are understood as personal attacks against individuals, making statements of personal opinion which have been interpreted as being the position of the BJCPA, and Executive Director Dunn's association with People for the American Way.