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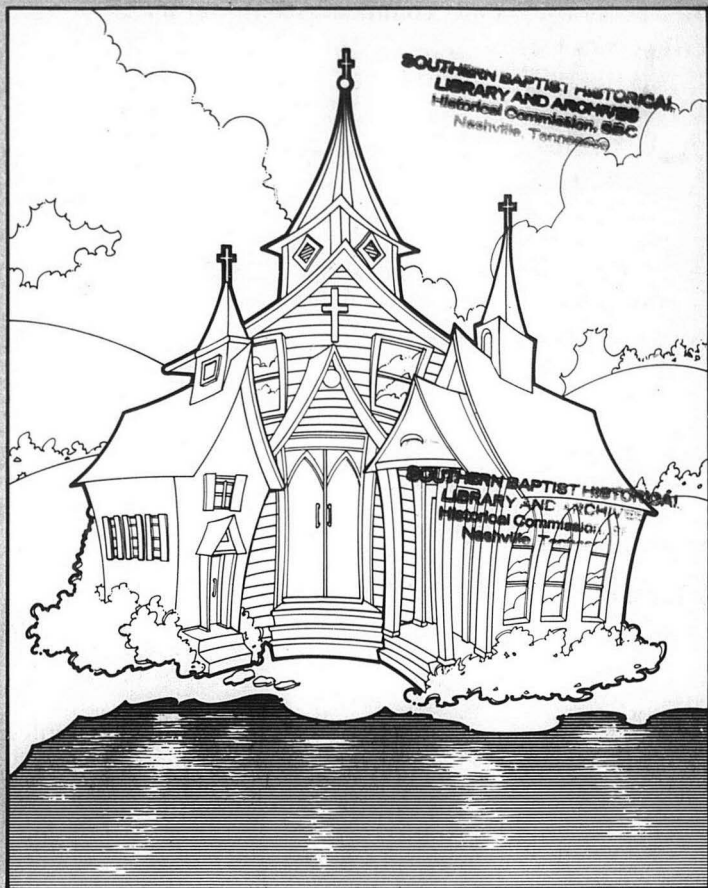
May 7, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Churches growing together

May 7, 1987

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

Associational Emphasis Week

May 18-24, 1987

pages 8-9



Churches growing together

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Page 22

HMB art

As congregations join hands in local associations, they not only accomplish more than they ever could individually, but each one also finds itself strengthened. This year's Associational Emphasis Week takes as its theme this fact: in association, churches are growing together (see feature, pp. 8-9).

OBU commencement May 9

ARKADELPHIA—Spring commencement activities at Ouachita Baptist University have been scheduled for Saturday, May 9, at 4 p.m. in the Sturgis Physical Education Center. Twenty-seven graduate degrees will be awarded, while there will be 198 undergraduates.

Ouachita's Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented to Melvin C. Thrash of Hope, a 1954 graduate who is a Brigadier General in the Arkansas National Guard and employed as an agent of the Equitable Financial Services of Hope. Also receiving the

award will be Dr. John H. McClanahan, a 1950 graduate and the pastor of First Church of Pine Bluff.

The baccalaureate service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, in Mitchell Hall Auditorium. The speaker for the ceremony will be Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Graduating seniors of the Ouachita U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit will be commissioned at the pinning ceremony on May 9, at 2 p.m. in the Recital Hall of Mabree Fine Arts Center.

SBC financial aid deadline June 1

Students interested in Southern Baptist College for the fall semester who need financial aid must complete the ACT Family Financial Statement (ACT/FFS). The results of this document are used to determine eligibility for Pell Grant, Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Perkins Loan, Guarantee Student Loan, Arkansas Student Assistance Grant, and some scholarships. Since processing can take as long as six weeks, students are encouraged to complete and mail the ACT/FFS as soon

as possible. The ACT Family Financial Statement is available at most high schools or students may contact the SBC financial aid office. The priority date for financial aid awards is June 1. Awards can be made after June 1, but SBC can not guarantee full funding of student's eligibility after that date.

Prospective students needing more information should contact Mike Smith, director of financial aid, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; phone 886-6741, ext. 122.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

In this issue

10 thinking of others

People of vision know they can take care of others long after they themselves are gone. Two features point out how the Arkansas Baptist Foundation helped two such individuals plan for the future.

14 and so it begins

With five weeks left before Southern Baptists convene in St. Louis for their annual meeting, two men have made announcements regarding the denomination's presidency and the names of Arkansans who will be nominated for trustee and committee positions have been released.



Royal noteburning—Royal Church conducted a noteburning April 26. The four-year-old-congregation is now totally debt-free. The church owns approximately two acres of land, a pastor's home, and a building that has been remodeled for educational space. The church is using a portable chapel, loaned by Central Association, for worship facilities. Seven people were baptized April 26 and four more are awaiting baptism. Pictured (left to right) are Floyd Tidsworth, Steve Chitwood, charter member Jim Robinson, Pastor Dick Cayce and charter member Dodie Grisham.

MK birthday prayer calendar: May

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas

26 Bobby Pinkston (Ivory Coast) OBU Box 4501, Arkadelphia 71923



According to our charter, the purpose of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine is to "aid and support the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (and) to report and to interpret events and movements that affect the welfare of the constituency of such convention." Simply stated, this means that your paper is to inform Arkansas Baptists and provide perspective on all that we are doing together. In order to approach fulfilling our responsibility, we must continually re-evaluate and provide new approaches. The task is impossible apart from divine assistance. We sincerely seek your prayers on the Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Sunday, May 17.

The scope of Baptist work is vast indeed. Christ, in his charge, instructed Christians to begin at home and move to the ends of the earth. Southern Baptists are unquestionably in the process of ministering on every level. Hence the news that your Baptist state paper provides must include the work of local churches, the state convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and our work around the world.

Since each church is autonomous and every individual is an individual priest under God, the goal of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine must always be to assist both individuals and churches to become all that God wants them to be. This requires information, interpretation, and inspiration. Inspiration is just as important as are the facts and understanding how the facts relate to each other. Unless an individual is motivated, he will do little or nothing with the facts he has in hand.

In 1985 the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine conducted a professional survey to discover how our readers view us. Much of what the survey revealed was anticipated by the staff of the Newsmagazine. By and large, our readers gave us good marks on reporting the news and interpreting it for them. They, however, were desirous that we would provide more Arkansas news, more Arkansas feature stories and more inspiration.

In recent months, the ABN staff has placed a priority on developing Arkansas features. We now are providing more in state features than any other Baptist state paper. We also are working to provide more local news coverage. This is being provided through briefs "Arkansas All Over."

In the May 14 issue of the Arkansas Baptist, additional response to the survey will be made. First, the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine has been redesigned by a professional art firm. We believe that the new format will be far more attractive and will be better organized. Our goal is to package the news and information you

need as attractively as possible. We want our Baptist state paper to be as attractive and as useable as possible.

The new Arkansas Baptist will also have some content changes. There will be a column entitled "Good News," which will be a sermon or devotional starter. This column will be designed for individuals who bring messages, sermons or devotionals on a frequent basis. We suggest that our readers file these back for future use. It is our hope that this column will assist individuals in communicating God's word in an effective manner.

The new format also will feature a classified ad section. This section will be available to any Baptist individual or church who wishes to advertise any item of interest to Arkansas Baptists. This will allow advertising at a more affordable rate than do display ads.

A fourth new area of content will be a column entitled "Jobs Exchange." This free service will be available to any Baptist who is seeking employment or to any Baptist business owner who is seeking employees. For example, if a Baptist church member is seeking employment, his skills will be shared through this column. The Newsmagazine will print the availability of this individual three times without cost. Complete guidelines for the "Jobs Exchange" will be carried in the May 14 issue of the Newsmagazine.

A final project that will be forthcoming in the near future is help for small churches. This section will deal with the uniqueness of churches that average 100 or less in attendance. It will deal with the problems and the strengths and will provide help designed especially for churches of this size. This special help for small churches will last two months and the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine will be provided without cost during that period to every resident member of non-subscribing churches of this size. Pastors should look forward to receiving additional material regarding this free offer in the near future.

The needs of the Baptists of Arkansas are many and varied. The staff of the Newsmagazine needs your help in identifying these needs. We have six full-time and one part-time worker averaging approximately 320 hours per week and 400 miles on the road. The staff continually works under the pressure of meeting deadlines. But without your assistance, the staff cannot know the needs of Arkansas Baptists nor can they gather the news.

The board and staff of the Newsmagazine believe that good communication is essential for every Baptist. The needs are great but the power of the Holy Spirit is adequate. Please pause on Sunday, May 17, to pray for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 86

NUMBER 18

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 Chessier, Carlisle; Leroy French, Fort Smith; the Hon. Eklaine 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.

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Where your labor is, there will your heart be also

It has always been commonly known that, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). Recently I discovered that this is also true of one's labor. Mrs. Grant and I took a weekend off to drive to DeSoto, Texas, just below Dallas, to enjoy the red clover and the bluebonnets in all of their finery along the highway, but especially to see two of our grandchildren.

Gary (3) and Gina (1) were sufficiently "hyper" that their parents, Ross and Liz, made a wise decision for all of us to visit a public playground within the city of DeSoto. It was a unique and relatively small playground with a variety of remarkably designed instruments and areas for play. The most surprising thing of all was the large crowd of people there, about equally divided between adults and small children. It would be hard to say who was having more fun, the adults or the children.

What was the secret of such strong support for a public playground from the adults

of the community? My son, whose high school band played at the dedication ceremony two weeks earlier, shared with me the unusual success story. Community leaders heard about a New York architect who began designing playground equipment somewhat as a hobby, and who then began weaving into his hobby the principle that "where your labor is, there will your heart be also." The community leaders brought him to DeSoto for a one-day visit to help paint a vision. Over a period of weeks, they enlisted a large number of adults to volunteer their skills and energy in building a beautifully coordinated city playground for small children. After a great deal of planning and organizing, they brought the visiting architect back to help them build the playground in one long workday.

An ingenious mixture of playhouses, swinging bridges, ladders, steps, slides—challenging yet amazingly safe—the park required primarily materials consisting of

smooth treated wood, rubber tires, ropes, and chains. The result is more than a playground. It is now a much-loved gathering place for parents, grandparents, and small children.

Apparently there is little expense for maintenance or supervision, because there seemed to be an equal number of supervisors and supervisees. Playground bullies don't stand a chance there. There was more laughter than I have heard in a long time. What a great principle for building anything—playgrounds, churches, schools, or even Baptist universities! It makes me wish I had thought to ask for information workers for Ouachita's new \$2 million information-age library project. Maybe if we let the students build the library, we would find more student hearts (and minds) in the library stacks and reading rooms.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Ida Tidsworth

God leads the homemaker

"...A woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 30:30b). Mother's Day was suggested by Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia. Her mother's home church in Grafton, W. V., held the first Mother's Day service in May 1908. Anna sent 1,000 white carnations for the occasion to honor her Christian mother.

Although I cannot send 1,000 white carnations, my Christian mother has my love as a person and my admiration for her Christian life and walk with the Lord. The majority of her generation found their places in life as homemakers.

A *Wall Street Journal* article (quoted by Abigail Van Buren) read, "The most creative job in the world involves: taste, fashion, decorating, recreation, education, transportation, psychology, romance, cuisine, designing, literature, medicine, handicraft, art, horticulture, economics, government, community relations, pediatrics, geriatrics, entertainment, maintenance, purchasing, direct mail, law, accounting, religion, energy, and management. Anyone who can handle all of those has to be somebody special. She is. She's the homemaker."

A woman who the Lord leads into a homemaking career needs to stay in close touch with him. His leadership is needed to say "yes" or "no" at the right times. Everybody seems to have an extra job for the homemaker, "because you don't work." God can show each woman how to use her gifts, time, and talents.

The career homemaker more or less structures her own time. Quiet time must be a high priority or a day slips away without it. John Wesley's mother found opportunity to pray in a house full of children. She simply sat in a chair and pulled her apron over her head. The children learned not to disturb her because she was praying.

The homemaker who finds a daily quiet time may be praised or criticized. God help her handle criticism creatively. And because she has stood in awe (fear) before God, she knows the praise belongs to him.

Mary Ida Tidsworth has taught conversational English for four years and is currently director of International Friendship, Little Rock. She is a member of Calvary Church, Little Rock.

Letters to the editor

Requirement was assurance

I am greatly distressed to learn that our Southern Baptist missionaries will no longer be required to do any study in a Southern Baptist seminary. We are losing our identity as Southern Baptists.

It seems to me that instead of aiding the cause of reaching the world for Jesus Christ, this move will add tension and division in our missionary ranks. By no means am I suggesting that only Southern Baptists offer quality theological education. However, I do not think it is asking too much for a potential missionary to do at least some study in institutions conceived, supported, and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention. This requirement has historically provided assurance that our missionaries have at least a minimal understanding of Baptist history, polity, theology, etc. To lose it is to move even farther down the road to forgetting who we are as Southern Baptist Christians.—Layne E. Smith, Fayetteville.



Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

I keep being thrilled by what God is doing in our churches. A pastor who came by a few weeks ago to share his discouragement and frustration, came by again this week. The first visit reported declining attendance, declining offerings, and a declining spirit in the fellowship. The report this week was of increasing attendance, increasing spirit, renewed commitments with public decisions, and a positive attitude returning. Finances are still strained, but the people are committed. They have even decided to take the challenge of sponsoring a mission.



Moore

What made the difference? The state convention church extension consultant went to the site and provided counsel, encouragement, and support. The association had them involved in a Church Pact Blitz. (This is a program to help churches in transition to study their situation.) Wonderful insights were gained by the church from this. Assistance from the Home Mission Board and the Dixie Jackson offering has made it possible to lease a double-wide mobile chapel to place in a mobile home park for the mission.

Isn't that beautiful? The association, state convention, and Southern Baptist Convention all working together to help one tiny congregation survive and reach the community. Where else could it happen but with our convention? There may be other places and other groups who have the same or better approaches. I just don't know any. We need to love and appreciate our way of working together. This church was helped because they asked, they worked, they received. There are few churches we could not help if we were given an opportunity.

There are less than 30 of us who do field work. We can't at any one time be working with 1,274 churches. We would if we could. Our main approach has to be through meeting with groups of church representatives. This is why you should study carefully the helps we offer for you. Some of them will be for those thorny problems that "bug" you. If you can't find help in the myriad of offerings we make to churches collectively, do not hesitate to ask for help for your individual church.

Keep up the good work, like the Lord (Phil. 1:6).

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

May 7, 1987

The poor and gambling

Serious students of the Bible acknowledge that there are an overwhelming number of scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments that speak of the concern God's people should have for the poor. These along with all others are our neighbors.

Upon being asked "Who is my neighbor?", Jesus replied with the parable of the good Samaritan. We must not identify with the priest and Levite who ignored dire need. No ones today are ignoring the hungry, both foreign and domestic. Some states are exploiting the poor, widows, orphans and other underprivileged by holding out false hope in the form of state lottery gambling.

We must pray that Arkansas will never do such, despite what others have done. We



Parker

must be informed about the consequences of this and other types of gambling. The following is a good definition of gambling. Gambling is the process by which a person seeks by chance to gain at the expense of another, or others, without rendering in service or in value an equivalent of gains obtained.

We must pray that Arkansas will not seek "revenue answers" by exploiting the poor. We must pray to possess the spirit of Amos who called for justice and mercy for such people. He denounced both political and religious leadership for lacking those qualities. By the way, Amos was a layman—a farmer. This suggests that all of us, pastors and laypeople, pray and work hard to prevent further exploitation of the poor. We must not "cop out" and debate about who's deserving and who's not. Most are deserving of our help. Let God be the judge! Our responsibility is to put *agape* love into action.—Robert Parker, director, Christian Life Council

MISSIONS ADVANCE 87-89

Nail down your church's percentage!

by Lawson Hatfield

To plan and promote a worthy annual church budget is never an easy task. To complete a well planned budget may require many days and hours of hard work. The rewards of good planning are many.

However some committees may be tempted to take a short-cut by simply repeating some budget items year after year. Other items may be only slightly adjusted to meet pressing needs. When this happens, the Cooperative Program seldom receives a planned increase in a percentage of the church budget.

Knowing mission needs and bold thinking and praying may be required for a church to make worthy advances in giving to world missions.

Presently the state convention through it's Committee of 100 is providing inspirational speakers among the churches. These "no cost to the church" speakers include pastors, directors of missions, and lay men and women. They help impact a church with Missions Advance 87-89 information. Contact Jimmy Sheffield, Baptist Building, if you want a list of these speakers.

In addition some church budget committees need to understand how to implement a percentage increase to the Cooperative Program. The formula for doing this is really easy, but may be a little tricky.

Here is how we do it at First Church, Fordyce. Maybe the plan we follow will help other budget committees.

The Cooperative Program is the first item at the top of the budget list; there are 71 other budget items. The committee writes in the percentage it plans to recommend on

line one, the Cooperative Program.

Last year (1986) we gave 13.5 percent. On the top line this year we wrote in the term "14 percent", not knowing what the dollar amount would finally be. While one-half of one percent is not much of an increase, yet by doing this each year through 2000 our church will then be giving 20 percent. When this goal is reached the church will then reconsider its future giving plan.

Now, back to the immediate formula we use. There are 71 other budget items. When we determined all our 71 other items for 1987, we knew we had 86 percent of the budget planned, leaving 14 percent for the Cooperative Program.

This year 71 other items totaled \$232,743.

Now comes the tricky part. Do not, repeat, do not multiply \$232,743 by .14 percent. Do it correctly by dividing \$232,743 by .86. This is the only way to get the right answer, which is \$37,888. A summary of our 1987 budget is:

71 items . . .	\$232,743 + .86 =	\$270,631
CP	\$270,631 x .14 =	\$37,888
Total		\$270,631 or 100 percent

Nail down your church's percentage for Cooperative Program mission support by planning one-half percent increase per year through the year 2000.

Churches already giving less than 10 percent to the Cooperative Program may want to give up to 3.5 or 8 percent increase for the two years of Missions Advance 1987-89.

Lawson Hatfield is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Peters

Marvin Peters will begin serving June 1 as the first director of missions for North Pulaski Association. He will come there from the Blue River-Kansas City (Mo.) Association, where he has served since July 1984 as director of church extension and

language missions. A native of Jacksonville, he was ordained to the preaching ministry in 1968 by Bayou Meto Church, Jacksonville. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa. Peters has served as pastor of churches in both Arkansas and Illinois. He is married to the former Pamela Elizabeth Rainbow. They have two children, Kevin Wayne and Stacy Rene.

Craig Bradley began his service April 19 as minister of education and administration at Monticello First Church, going there from Levy Church in North Little Rock. Bradley is a graduate of Texas A&M and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, have two children, Aaron, 13, and Carrie, nine.

W. Mark Tolbert will begin serving June 1 as pastor of South Highland Church in Little Rock, coming there from Santo,



Bradley



Tolbert

Texas, where he has been serving as pastor of Santo First Church. He also has served as pastor of Pocahontas First Church and on the staff of Central Church in Jonesboro where he was ordained to the preaching ministry in 1977. Tolbert is a graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga., and will graduate this month from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Barbara Joy Musick, a graduate of Georgia State University. They have two children, Jennifer, 12, and Jason, 10.

Mark Weaver began serving April 1 as pastor of Immanuel Southern Church near Salem. He moved to Salem from Rogers. A native Arkansan, he attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Cathy, have two children, Matthew, six, and Elizabeth, six months.

LeRoy Wagner has joined the staff of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs as staff

evangelist. He came there from Dallas, Texas, where he had been serving as pastor of Westglenn Church. Wagner and his wife, Kim, have a daughter, Rachel.

Gary Swaim has joined the staff of Arkansas City Church as full-time minister of youth and music. Swaim, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, came to Arkansas City from Arkadelphia, where he had been engaged in a full-time concert ministry.

Kenny Daniel joined the staff of Calvary Church in Hope April 26 as music and youth director, coming there from Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock. He also has served on the staff of Barnett Memorial Church in Little Rock and Mayflower First Church. He attended the University of Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He and his wife, Yvette, have a daughter, Amber.

John Shelton has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Lewisville Church. He and his wife, Shirley, will begin serving there July 26. Shelton will graduate from Southwestern Seminary this year.

Larry Barnes of West Memphis is serving as pastor of Cole Ridge Church near Blytheville. He is attending Mid-America Seminary.

Louis Gustavus has resigned as pastor of Thornburg Church.

Kirk Stewart will serve Cross Road Church in Little Rock as summer youth worker. He is a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



First Church, Huntsville, celebrated Easter with a noteburning ceremony, signifying payment of the \$55,000 indebtedness on its educational wing. Constructed in October 1984, the wing houses six Sunday School rooms, a music library, a choir rehearsal room, and two bathrooms. Burning the note were from (left to right) Jim Owens, Jack Scott, and Raymond Nice. Leslie Elam is pastor.



There were approximately 60 in attendance April 5 for the organization of First Church, Petit Jean Mountain. There were 18 who were received as charter members. Rufus Caldwell, Conway-Perry Association director of missions, is serving as interim pastor. The new church is giving five percent of its budget to associational missions and five percent to the Cooperative Program.

Al Alters has resigned as pastor of Zion Church at Mountain View.

Gene Davis is serving as pastor of Angora Church at Leslie.

Jeff Stott has accepted the call to serve as youth director for Mayflower First Church.

Mike Petty began serving April 12 as pastor of Pine Tree Church at Colt, coming there from Conway.

Ben Early was selected by the Colorado Baptist Convention to lead an associational Church Training conference May 1-2. He is director of public relations and alumni affairs for Southern Baptist College.

Ronald Mims will begin serving May 24 as pastor of Vimy Ridge Immanuel Church, coming there from Hollis, Okla., where he has been serving as pastor of Faith Church.

Benny Grant will begin serving this month as pastor of Indian Springs Church at Bryant, coming there from Sparkman First Church.

Ray Grande was recently elected to the administrative committee of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is director of library services and associate professor of history at Ouachita Baptist University.

Chuck Guilbert has joined the staff of Beebe First Church as minister of music and youth, coming there from Hickory Street Church in Texarkana.

Billy Duncan is again serving as pastor of Gregory First Church, having previously served there from 1976-1984.

briefly

Ozark First Church broke ground April 5 for a new education and activities building, according to Pastor John Matthews.

Gravel Ridge First Church recently completed a successful "Gather the People" Sunday School campaign, which resulted in an average of 414 in Sunday School, 251 contacts; enrollment of 46 new Sunday School members, the discovery of 155 prospects; and the addition of 17 members, according to Pastor Danny Veteto. The church also recently launch-

ed a new mission in Pine Meadow Mobile Home Park, assisted by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department.

Helena First Church has organized five adult share groups and one youth group as a result of a recent Lay Renewal Weekend emphasis.

Magnolia Church at Crossett has completed an improvement program which included carpeting the sanctuary and two Sunday School rooms.

Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith observed a Weekend of Evangelism May 1-3, with Gene Williams as featured speaker.

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock launched a building improvement program with a "Together We Build" banquet May 3. Pat Richardson served as banquet director.

Bentonville First Church youth studied "Design for Discipleship" in a Youth-Yes Bible Study May 3. Carl Barger served as study leader.

Sheridan First Church will launch a Festival of the Christian Home on Mother's Day, May 10 that will continue through Father's Day, June 21. There will be a Parent's Dedication on May 17.

Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock missions team has returned from Honduras where they spent a week assisting Herb and Joan Prince in El Tomate. Team members included Pastor Don Moseley, Willard Ray, Joe Merrell, Pat Merrell, Jerry Norman, and Weldon Love.

Fayetteville First Church Ladies Handbell Choir has an outreach ministry which includes providing special music the fourth Sunday of each month at the local veterans' hospital.

Harvey's Chapel at Hot Springs recently organized four youth classes, four adult classes, and one children's class as a result of increased involvement in personal visitation.

Jessieville Church has organized four additional Sunday School classes as a result of a recent Sunday School revival.

Rector Heights Church in Hot Springs, as the result of a recent revival, had six additions by profession of faith and three

commitments by members to serve as teachers. Three new Sunday School classes also have been organized.

Mulberry First Church will commission Ron L. Clark to the chaplaincy service May 17. Clark will serve at the Cass Job Corps Center. Participating in the service will be Pastor Rex Easterling; Leroy Sisk, Arkansas Baptist State Convention director of chaplaincy work; George Domerese, Clear Creek Association director of missions; and Robert Hightower, Cass Job Corps Center director.

Mississippi County Association Girls in Action Mother/Daughter retreat will be held May 8-9 at the associational camp near Paragould. Lana Rhoades, furloughing missionary from Korea, will be featured speaker. Sponsors will be Teresa Walls of Clear Lake Church, Freda Jones of Blytheville First Church, and Poria Routon of Keiser First Church.

Highland Heights Church in Benton youth have planned a summer mission trip to Tonganoxie, Kans., where they will assist the West Haven Church with its vacation Bible school. They also plan to assist with Arkansas summer mission projects at the Albert Pike and Shady Lake State Parks.

Cross Road Church in Little Rock will celebrate Homecoming Day May 17 with activities that will include a noon potluck luncheon. The church will be in a revival May 10-15 with Johnny Green serving as evangelist, and Clarence Hill as music director.

Fairfield Bay Church will celebrate its 15th anniversary May 17 with all-day festivities.

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana honored Jett and Thelma Nancy, recognizing their 55 years of service to the church prior to their moving to Minola, Texas.

South Side Church in Pine Bluff will observe its 70th anniversary with a May 13-17 revival. Leaders will include Roy Lambert, Bob Williamson, Lex Eaker, James Burleson, Ben Elrod, Randy Granderson, Tal Bonham, Marc Bremer, and Steve Landers. Rick Erwin is pastor.

Riverside Church in North Little Rock will host Ron and Pat Owens, a Christian music team, in a concert May 10 at 6 p.m.

Growing together

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

It was a stroke of sheer genius. Neighboring churches, their hearts burdened with the lostness of the world about them, discovered their united strength was far greater than the sum of its parts.

And so, nearly 300 years ago, Philadelphia Baptists organized the first association. Today, Southern Baptists have refined cooperative local missions to an art.

In fact, nothing comes closer to the heart of Southern Baptist identity, believes Billy White, moderator of Little Rock's Pulaski Association.

"It's a very Southern Baptist thing to do," asserts White, pastor of Second Church, Little Rock. Cooperating in associational missions allows churches to reach beyond their own visions and ministries and share in something larger than themselves, he says. They discover resources otherwise untapped and draw strength and encouragement from fellowship with fellow laborers.

Pulaski Association Director of Missions Glenn Hickey agrees. Southern Baptists are unique in their creation of the associational network, which gives strength without limiting the freedom of any congregation.

"You have the best of both worlds in the association," Hickey declares. "You can find help when you need it, strength at your point of weakness. Yet each church is free to respond to its own situation without the con-

straints of ecclesiastical structure."

In their freely-chosen commitment to each other, the churches of Pulaski County find themselves growing together on several fronts.

Common vision

In 1986, the Pulaski churches worked through a process of "strategy planning" which helped them identify their greatest ministry needs and concerns and develop a plan of action to accomplish their top-priority objectives.

Their self-examination yielded a list of five priorities: new work, fellowship, community ministry, church development, and family ministry. At their annual meeting last fall, messengers adopted a statement which directed the association to pursue these goals. As a result, programs were restructured, volunteer staff was recruited, and resources were focused even more sharply on the things that really mattered to the churches.

"Associational Strategy Planning helped us answer the question, 'Why are we here?'" explains Moderator White. Because the association had set its priorities out clearly and resources were more intentionally invested, a deeper commitment to cooperative missions was produced, he says.

In a like manner, six Pulaski congregations are participating in PACT, a process for the individual congregation similar to the

strategy planning process the association worked through. In PACT, churches facing community transition clarify the nature of the changes occurring about them, identify their own sense of mission, and develop a plan to respond positively to their situations.

New avenues

Pulaski churches also are growing together as they expand into previously untouched arenas of ministry.

One of the new frontiers of ministry for the Pulaski Association is chaplaincy. Although no strategy for developing chaplaincy ministries was in place, several opportunities have opened up. A local pastor discovered the Little Rock Fire Department would welcome a chaplain's ministry. Resources were assembled to support a part-time ministry, and very quickly Bible studies began in nine of the city's 18 fire stations. New opportunities to support chaplaincy programs also have developed at the Job Corps Center and County Jail.

A second avenue of ministry being developed is ministry in the booming cable TV industry. Several Little Rock congregations have taken on the challenge of getting quality Christian programming into that market through an affiliate of the American Christian Television System (ACTS). The six-church ACTS board has led the way in developing a solid ministry. Although progress has come slowly because of the enormous financial and volunteer resources for the task, the Little Rock board recently was nominated for honors in six areas in the annual ACTS Awards.

Hickey professes he is "excited, almost overwhelmed" at the opportunities opening up on the third front: new church starts. He points out that population growth and changes in the Little Rock area have created a tremendous need for new units of work.

In the last five years, the association lost four congregations. Whereas there was one church for every 3,700 people in 1970, Hickey estimates there is now only one for every 5,000. "The time has come for a resurgence in activity in new work."

And new starts have surged. Grace Mission, a black congregation started by Life Line Church in southwest Little Rock, has itself taken on a new work, Charity Chapel in the eastern part of the city. Chicot Road Church is poised to launch a new effort in a nearby mobile home park. Geyer Springs First Church is searching for a pastor to lead a proposed Hispanic mission. And the association is acquiring property and enlisting sponsors for a new congregation on the city's expanding western edge.

Maturing structures

Hickey sees growth toward maturity on yet another front. The association has adopted a structure called the "Associational Missions Development Council." Like a Church Council exists to coordinate a congregation's calendared activities, the Missions Develop-



ABN photo / Millie Gill

John Griffith, a technical engineer for Little Rock ACTS, edits a videotape in the studio located at Geyer Springs First Church. The Little Rock ACTS board garnered six nominations in this year's ACTS Awards.

ment Council is charged with developing an overall missions program.

As a result, missions is no longer seen as what an organization like WMU does, Hickey points out. Instead, missions is a program of work in which many different organizations join hands to extend ministries in every direction.

Recognizing that missions is more than activity, but is the calling of every Christian, the associational Missions Development Council seeks to identify priorities and unify and coordinate resources for missions efforts. The result is more unified, more intentional, more effective missions.

The congregations of Pulaski Association, like those of Arkansas' 42 other associations, are growing together. They are identifying their common concerns and needs and working together to meet those high-priority items. In the process, the churches are strengthened individually. And as a result, their work together is strengthened even more and they accomplish more cooperatively than they ever could have individually. That's the genius of the local association.

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Scholarship fund perpetuates Cossey's influence

by J. Everett Sneed

Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

"My husband helped countless young people to get through college," declared Mrs. J.I. Cossey. Because of Dr. Cossey's love for students Mrs. Cossey instituted the J.I. Cossey scholarship fund administered by the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

The scholarship fund is available to any student at Ouachita Baptist University or Southern Baptist College who has financial need and is approved by the school.

Cossey's concern for students grew out of his own experience. As a young man, approximately 20 years of age, he felt called to the gospel ministry. Knowing nothing of the college regulations, he went to Ouachita not knowing the time to enroll and without money. But he was able to work his way through college. It required six years for him to complete the baccalaureate degree rather than the normal four because of his work schedule.

While Cossey taught at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, he maintained a clothes closet for young preachers. He provided clothing, assisted them in finding places to preach, and even gave them money in order to assist them to complete their college education.

Recently Col. James W. Brandon Sr. gave a significant gift to the J. I. Cossey scholarship fund for Ouachita Baptist University. Col. Brandon's gift was in response to the help he received from Dr. Cossey.

Brandon recalls that as young Christians he and his future wife were members of First Church, Searcy, when Cossey became pastor. He said, "His kindness, love, and inspirational leadership enriched and blessed our lives in ways we cannot enumerate. To him we give most of the credit for the formative years of our Christian walk and guiding us in the right paths."

When Brandon graduated from high school, he found himself in adverse economic times as well as personal difficulty. He felt there was little hope or opportunity for continuing his education and pursuing a profession. Cossey understood his plight and helped him enter Ouachita and complete his degree. Brandon said, "I can truthfully say that it was a major turning point in my life for it laid the foundation and prepared me for a vocational career in my life's work. Had it not been for his faith in me, his compassion in helping me to get started, and his continued inspiration and encouragement, I may have never reached that goal!"

Mrs. Cossey recalls her first contact with her husband. She became acquainted with him when she went to teach school at DeQueen. The year was 1921 and Cossey left to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, sometime after she had moved to DeQueen. She married Flint Nichols in DeQueen, and they lived together for 35 years prior to his death.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Mrs. J.I. Cossey and Captain Lovell, the current pastor of Harrisburg First Church, where her husband served for several years.

After Mrs. Cossey had been a widow for four years, she received a letter from Cossey whose wife had been dead for one year. They were united in marriage in 1962.

At the time, Cossey was living at Southern Baptist College. He pastored the Imboden Church for eight months immediately after their marriage.

While attending the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Little Rock, he met several members of First Church, Harrisburg. They asked Cossey to come to Harrisburg and serve the church. Cossey replied, "I don't have any intention of pastoring a church."

The men from Harrisburg insisted he

come, saying that their church was having difficulty. They said, "All we want you to do is come and love us."

Cossey was never called as pastor, but he stayed seven years. He continued to preach at Harrisburg until he was 84 years of age and could no longer stand to preach.

The current pastor of Harrisburg First, Captain Lovell, said Cossey was of significant help to him when he came to serve the church. He recalls Cossey sitting under a large tree near his house, which was across from the church. Lovell recalls there were a number of difficult decisions he had to make as he came to the church. Lovell said, "I would ask Bro. Cossey, 'What would you do?' The advice he gave me always worked."

Lovell said Cossey was a good supporter. "He had more wisdom than any other preacher I've ever known. He was an excellent spiritual source when an individual had a need."

Cossey served Arkansas Baptists in many different ways. He was pastor of a number of churches, associational director of missions, professor at Southern Baptist College, and editor of the state paper. Perhaps his major role as a history-maker occurred when he saved the *Baptist Advance* (now *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*) from going out of business in the 1930s.

Cossey's life impacted literally hundreds of individuals. His work touched people through his preaching in the pulpit, his writing in the Baptist state paper, and through his assisting young people to complete their education. Through the J.I. Cossey scholarship fund, his life will continue to impact positively on the lives of others.

Estate planning: size makes no difference

by Harry Trulove

President, Arkansas Baptist Foundation

Is it really necessary for a schoolteacher to be concerned about estate planning?

Ura Mae Johnston thought so. She had invested her life at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and wanted to do something meaningful for boys and girls with the few dollars she had been able to save. Mrs. Johnston had an older sister who was also a retired schoolteacher. She did not want to leave her sister out of her estate plans.

Mrs. Johnston's first step was to secure a properly written will. With guidance from the Arkansas Baptist Foundation staff, her attorney provided for the distribution of her personal effects—clothing, furniture, household items and family memorabilia. Assets from her savings and bank accounts were to be used to fund a trust that would provide a life income for her sister, and, at her death, this income would go to help neglected and abused children.

Some 12 years later, Mrs. Johnston realized that she was not keeping up with her affairs as accurately as she once did. After visiting with the Foundation staff, she

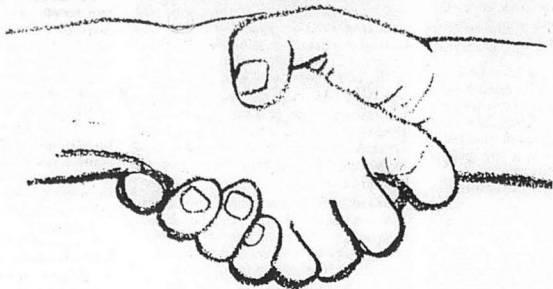
transferred several CDs to a revocable trust. The trust allowed the Foundation to invade any part of the principal to cover any medical expense or other needs that might arise. Mrs. Johnston received no tax advantage from this transfer, but it did relieve her from investment decisions and protected her assets from being wasted. It also saved probate expense as the trust provided for the way assets should be managed after her death.

A year ago Mrs. Johnston died. Today the dollars saved during her life continue to provide income for her sister. When her sister dies, this income will be shared equally with the Methodist Children's Home and our own Family and Child Care ministry.

You may feel your assets are insignificant, but remember what Jesus did with the five loaves and two fishes. It isn't what you would do with the millions if riches should be your lot, but it's what you're doing at the present with the dollar and a half that you've got.

For information about ways to plan your estate, contact the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-0732/376-4791.

For Christ, the churches, and cooperation



Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Day of Prayer Sunday, May 17, 1987

More than 75 years ago, Arkansas Baptists' newspaper took as its motto: "For Christ, the churches, and cooperation." It was a fine statement of mission and served well for many years.

In our 86th year, we find those words still capture the missionary heart of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Your Baptist magazine is more committed than ever to the cause we serve.

For Christ: Like you, we serve out of a deep sense of calling. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, has commissioned us to carry on a portion of his work. Advancing Christ's Kingdom grips our hearts and minds.

For the churches: Ours is a ministry of and for the churches. We meet your need for information, inspiration, and interpretation. We minister for your sake and because of your support.

For cooperation: Southern Baptists understand missions like few others. Scripture and experience have taught us we can accomplish far more for our Lord cooperatively than individually or competitively.

The staff of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* covets your prayers as we seek to serve you.

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

Millie Gill Reporter/Photographer
Colleen Backus Production Supervisor
Reva Terry Bookkeeper/Circulation Manager
Kathryn Parker Secretary to the editor

To report church news or to subscribe, contact us at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501)376-4791.

CLC conference to help fight pornography

"Churches Confronting Pornography" will be the theme of a conference to be sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission May 11-12 in Los Angeles, Calif., the "pornography capital of the nation."

Principal speakers for the conference are Alan Sears, an attorney with Citizens for Decency through Law, Phoenix, Ariz., and N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., the moral concerns agency for Southern Baptists.

Sears, a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention who served as executive director of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, will discuss the legal aspects of confronting pornography. Baker will deal with the biblical and moral aspects of pornography.

"The Christian Life Commission deliberately chose the Los Angeles area for this strategic and timely conference because this city was cited by the Attorney General's Commission as the pornography capital of the nation," Baker explained. "Los Angeles is the major center for production and distribution of hard-core pornography in the United States."

"National attention has been focused recently on the enormous threat which pornography and obscenity pose to families," Baker pointed out. "Now is the time for Christian leaders to act aggressively to reverse the rising tide of pornography's corrupt influence on our society."

The conference also will feature workshop sessions designed to provide practical helps for dealing with pornography education and action. Larry Braidfoot, general counsel and director of Christian citizenship development for the commission, will lead the sessions.

There is no registration fee for the conference, which is open to any person interested in dealing with the pornography problem. The conference will begin at 1:30 on Monday and conclude at noon on Tuesday.

For registration information, write to the Christian Life Commission, P.O. Box 25266, Nashville, TN 37202-5266 or call (615) 244-2495. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Hacienda House, 525 Sepulveda Boulevard, El Segundo, CA 90245; phone (214) 615-0015. Special conference rate is \$45 for a single or double.

Audit finds Missouri lottery owes taxpayers \$5.5 million

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Missouri Lottery officials have shortchanged state taxpayers by more than \$5.5 million, according to a study by state Auditor Margaret Kelly.

In a detailed audit that contained more than 50 recommendations in 23 specific areas, Kelly recommended the lottery commission transfer an additional \$5.5 million to the state general revenue fund and in the future "be consistent in its application of the constitution and state statutes."

Kelly labeled the lottery officials' actions as "an obvious effort . . . to increase their reserve account and deprive taxpayers of \$5.5 million which should be in the state's general operating funds."

The state auditor based her findings on the fact that lottery officials were required by law to begin paying the state 45 percent of all ticket sales effective June 11, 1986. In a lottery game which began June 14, 1986, lottery officials did not pay the 45 percent share of the game's \$10.3 million income because the tickets had been delivered to retailers prior to June 11.



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Increased food supply slows spread of hunger

WASHINGTON (BP)—The worldwide food supply has increased for the second consecutive year due to favorable weather, expanded planting, price incentives, availability of fertilizer and use of high-yielded plants, according to a new United Nations report.

The latest issue of "Food Outlook," a publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reported "the 1986 cereal output is a record" and "cereal stocks will rise sharply in 1986-87 for the third consecutive year."

Contributing to the increased production of cereals is a 2 percent rise in the aggregate output in developing countries, where poverty and hunger are the greatest. Much of the increased productivity is in Asia and Africa.

Amidst the good news, the FAO offered a cautious word that food harvests are threatened in Africa and parts of Asia by infestations of locusts and grasshoppers.

Other threats to food production include civil strife in Angola and Mozambique and insufficient rains in Botswana and Lesotho. An estimated 3.5 million people in Mozambique, one-fourth of the population, now need food relief.

missionary notes

Olga Berry, 84, Southern Baptist emeritus missionary, died April 21 in Memphis. She and her husband, William, worked 41 years in Brazil until their retirement in 1963. The former Olga Oliver, she was born in Paris. Survivors include her husband, William; three sons, Edward G. Berry of Benton, Thomas and Bailey Berry, both of Sao Paulo, Brazil; and one daughter, Betty Anne Crews, Lepanto.

Kirk Bullington, son of missionaries **William and Evelyn Bullington**, was recently ordained to the ministry at First Church Los Alamos, N.M., where he serves as minister of music and youth. The Bullingtons are missionaries to the Ivory Coast of West Africa. He is from Charleston, and she, the former Evelyn Robinson, grew up in Russellville and Arkadelphia.

Truman and Carol Chatman, missionaries to Uruguay, report a change of address (Casilla 35, Melo, Uruguay). He is a native of Missouri. The former Carol Hill, she was born in Walnut Ridge and considers Imboden her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

Martha Hairston, missionary to Brazil, has arrived in the states for furlough and retirement (address: Rt. 2, Box 407-A, Warren, AR 71671), her hometown. She was appointed in 1951.

Larry and Janet Murphy, missionaries to Togo, have arrived in France to begin language study (address: 133, rue Lakanal, 37000 Tours, France). He considers Bentonville his hometown. The former Janet Harris, she considers Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed in 1986.

Gilbert and Deane Nichols, missionaries to Paraguay, report a change of address (Caixa Postal 212, Ponta Pora, MS, Brazil). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Mountain View, and she is the former Deane Marshall of Cabot. They were appointed in 1958.

John and Jeanie Seale, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Caixa Postal 1635, 13.100 Campinas, SP, Brazil). He was born in Hope. She is the former Jeanie Cates of Texas. They were appointed in 1986.

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12 Arkansans among nominees

Twelve Arkansans have been named as nominees for positions on Southern Baptist boards, commissions, standing committees, seminaries, and agencies.

The following persons will be nominated by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees for the consideration of messengers at the annual meeting June 16-18 in St. Louis, Mo.:

Executive Committee, Frank Lady of Jonesboro, nominated to a second four-year term; Foreign Mission Board, Paul Sanders of Little Rock, nominated to a second four-year term;

Home Mission Board, Rex Holt Jr. of Jonesboro, replacing Nick Garland of Hot Springs, who moved; Baptist Sunday School Board, Gerald Taylor of El Dorado, replacing the late Cecil Weller of Fort Smith;

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Mark Coppenger of El Dorado, replacing Emil Williams of Jonesboro; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Richard Stiltner of Hope, nominated for a second term;

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, James W. Bryant of Fort Smith, replacing William T. Flynt of Fayetteville, who is ineligible for renomination; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Richard L. Proctor of Wynne, replacing Gerald L. Young of St. Joseph, Mo., who is ineligible for renomination; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Stephen P. Davis of Russellville, replacing Don Moore of Little Rock, who declined a second term;

Christian Life Commission, Marilyn (Mrs. Orman W.) Simmons of Little Rock, replacing Pat (Mrs. Robert) Ayers of San Antonio, Texas, who is ineligible for renomination;

Historical Commission, Bernes K. Selph of Benton is rotating off the board and is not being replaced; Radio and Television Commission, Jewel R. Morris of Hot Springs, nominated to a second term.

Rogers will allow nomination in 1987

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers will allow his name to be placed in nomination for a third term.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn., told Baptist Press: "If the brethren want me, I hope to serve another year.

"Three things have led me to that conclusion. First, I have prayed and feel a calmness in my heart about it. Second, I have received a great deal of encouragement from my brethren and trusted friends. Third, I have a deep love for our denomination, and I hope that I can be of help to it. In my heart, I believe I can."

Presidency should seek man, Jackson believes

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

PHOENIX (BP)—Southern Baptists should "go back to letting the office of president seek the man, not the man the office," Richard Jackson said.

For months, it has been rumored Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, would be the standard bearer for "moderate-conservatives" at the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 16-18, in St. Louis.

As rumors persisted, Jackson was asked by Baptist Press if he would allow his nomination for the presidency of the 14.6-million-member denomination.

He said his decision is made "not so much in the sense that work is uncompleted as in the sense that I can be useful and helpful in coming to a resolution of some of our differences and getting on with the job of telling the world about Jesus."

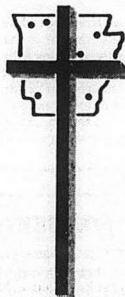
If Rogers is elected during the 1987 annual meeting of the 14.6-million-member denomination scheduled June 16-18 in St. Louis, it will mark the first time in recent years a person has served three terms as president.

Rogers was elected on the first ballot in 1979 at the Houston meeting, but declined to allow his nomination for a second term in 1980. He was elected again in 1986, receiving 54.2 percent of the vote, defeating W. Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas.

Jackson said he is not a candidate "for anything, but will allow my nomination." However, he said he "will not turn one hand, attend one meeting or identify myself as a candidate for any group. If anybody else I can help the denomination and wants to nominate me, they have my permission to do so."

Jackson, 48, is a native of Texas and a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been pastor of the North Phoenix congregation 20 years and during his 30-year ministry, has baptized more than 15,000 persons.

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Convention Uniform

God still loves us

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: Hosea 2:2 to 3:5

Focal passage: Hosea 2:16 to 3:3

Central truth: Despite the waywardness of his children, God still loves them and works to save them for a future with him.

(1) Hosea rescues his wayward wife (Hos. 3:1-3)

The prophet continued to grieve for Gomer even in her sinful indulgencies, because he still loved her. Instead of divorcing her, or having her stoned to death, as the law provided for an adulterous wife, he followed God's direction, seeking her out and buying her from those who had taken her in. The discipline that he required of her (v. 3) points to God's impending discipline of Israel as a nation.

(2) Israel restored through God's love (Hos. 2:16-17)

The sin of Israel, likened to adultery, came from a mixing of their worship of the one true God with the idolatrous worship of the heathen gods referred to as Baalim. Since heathen worship involved temple prostitutes and sexual orgies, some think that Gomer's abandonment of her husband and family may have been to function as a temple prostitute. The Hebrew people, when restored to their own land after exile, were worshippers of one God. To this day, a basic statement of their faith is Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord!"

(3) Proposal of restored relationship (Hos. 2:18-23)

Keeping in mind that this passage is poetry will help the Bible student to arrive at the correct interpretation. Reading the passage in a modern language version should also prove helpful. Verse 18 pictures the universe at peace and in harmony, which will come about only when God has his way in the hearts of the people.

God, the loving heavenly Father, eternally longs to bestow his blessings upon us as his people. When we keep our covenant with him, we prosper spiritually. But when we turn away from him in rebellion, he chastises us (Heb. 12:6). But the judgment of God upon Christians is always redemptive, not punitive. Verse 23 is a great assurance to all of us.

The other side of the coin of sin is retribution. No small part of our security is God's correcting hand upon us when we go astray.

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

Life and Work

The church empowered

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 2:1-47

Focal passage: Acts 2:1-8,22-24,36-39,42-47

Central truth: The Holy Spirit is the source of power for the church.

Eastern Arkansas was hit by a severe ice storm in 1978. The roads were impassable, limbs were torn from trees, and power lines were down. Our family learned how dependent we were upon electrical power. The kerosene lamp and the battery radio could not supply the power we needed for our home.

The church must have power to function properly. That power is not from any human agency. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers the church. What does it mean to be empowered? It means to give official authority or legal power to an organization or an individual. God did this for the church.

The Holy Spirit empowers churches to be obedient to God. Jesus told the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the Promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). On the Day of Pentecost the disciples were in Jerusalem waiting for that promise. As a result of their obedience the Holy Spirit came. His coming was a one time event like the birth of Jesus. The evidence of Jesus' birth and the coming of the Holy Spirit are both unique in that they will never be repeated.

The power of the Holy Spirit enabled the church to witness effectively. Peter had denied Jesus three times prior to his crucifixion but now had the courage to witness boldly. The Holy Spirit enabled him to declare to those who crucified Jesus that he was the Messiah.

The Holy Spirit gives a message to witness effectively. Peter's message was centered around Jesus. His reference to Jesus as the Nazarene Man (v. 22) left little doubt in the minds of his listeners as to Jesus' identity. Peter's message included that lawless (godless) men had taken Jesus and crucified him but that God had raised him from the dead (vv. 23-24). Peter's message brought results. The power of the Holy Spirit brought conviction and salvation to all who believed (vv. 37-39).

The church must be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be rightfully called a New Testament church. Churches are made up of individuals who have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. Since this is so, each person should write upon his heart, "Without the Holy Spirit, I am powerless!"

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Bible Book

Job defends his innocence

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Job 29:1-37:24

Focal passage: Job 29:1-4,18-21; 31:4-10,35-40

Central truth: Job's longing for his former way of life and his continued claim of innocence challenges us to avoid taking God's blessings for granted and to evaluate our attitude and life-styles.

The lesson for this Sunday finds Job defending his innocence. Chapter 29 begins Job's final statements of his case. He began his defense by describing what things were like earlier in his life.

Job was thoroughly convinced that God was protecting him, watching over him, and blessing him (29:1-4). He was also convinced that people respected him and that he was a very solid and model person (29:18-21). He prepared his defense very carefully, laying the groundwork for later statements of his innocence.

In chapter 31, Job challenges God to check him out. He said:

— See if I have travelled any wrong roads in life (31:7).

— See if I yielded to temptation (31:7).

— See if my hands have done anything wrong (31:7).

— See if I have lusted after another man's wife (31:9).

— See if I have stolen the land I farm (31:38).

— See if I allowed others to starve while I ate plenty (31:39).

All of these statements were made trying to prove his innocence. But Job went one more step. He said, "If I've been guilty of any of these things, then let me suffer the consequences," such as:

— My crops being destroyed (31:8).

— Others enjoying the fruit of my labor (31:7).

— Someone taking my wife from me (31:10).

— Allowing my fields to be weeds instead of wheat (31:40).

As you think of Job's life, his problems, and his tenacious belief in his innocence, you should be reminded that he was a man of integrity. How much we need that quality in Christian lives today! Also, the fact that Job was willing to make his life an open book should challenge us, also. We should live our lives in such a way that we are not afraid for people to know us as we really are.

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Edwin Orr dies during HMB conference

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—J. Edwin Orr, an authority on spiritual awakening, died at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center where he was speaking at a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism conference.

The 73-year-old president of the Los Angeles-based Oxford Association for Research in Revival, delivered his last public message at the seventh annual Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference.

Darrel King, associate director of the board's prayer for spiritual awakening office, called Orr the world's leading authority on revival and spiritual awakening.

Orr was scheduled to give four addresses

at the national conference but was able to speak only once.

During his message, Orr told 250 participants that he had chest pains a year ago and again a week earlier but was unable to reach his doctor before coming to Ridgecrest.

He awoke with chest pains the next morning and suffered a heart attack on arrival at an Asheville, N.C., hospital. He died that afternoon.

An Irish Baptist, Orr was an author and professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Ivy Carol, and three children. Funeral services and burial were held in Los Angeles.

Cooperative Program levels off in March

NASHVILLE (BP)—After two months on a financial roller coaster, the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program leveled off in March, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

March receipts for the SBC's convention-wide missions, evangelism and ministry budget were \$11,523,003, or 14.84 percent over receipts for March of 1986, Bennett said. The March income brought Cooperative Program receipts to \$65.6 million for the first six months of the fiscal year, 4.52 percent ahead of receipts for the same period a year ago.

March followed a record-high \$13.1 million January total and February income of only \$10 million, almost \$1 million behind the February total for the previous year.

Those fluctuations were caused by modifications in the way several state Southern Baptist conventions write their Cooperative Program checks for convention-wide causes, explained Tim A. Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance. In January, some state conventions started writing bi-monthly

checks to the national Cooperative Program, rather the monthly checks.

Consequently, some of the states' second checks in February did not reach the Executive Committee before the end of the month, Hedquist said. This left the monthly Cooperative Program receipts short of the amount that eventually would reach the convention-wide level.

But the Cooperative Program reached "an even keel" in March, he added. The new check-writing procedures had been in place long enough for the Executive Committee, which distributes the funds, to receive a full month's income from each state convention.

Bennett and Hedquist applauded the efforts of state conventions to keep Cooperative Program receipts high at the convention-wide level. "States are working hard to adjust" to changing and even faltering regional economic conditions, primarily based on crises in the agriculture and petroleum industries, Hedquist said.

Nevertheless, the Cooperative Program's 4.52 percent rate of increase is outpacing inflation, which currently is less than 2 percent.

Time to 'loose' women, SBC historian claims

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—When it comes to Southern Baptist women, Southern Baptist men have depended upon them, feared them, followed them, puzzled over them, even ignored them, Southern Baptist historian Leon McBeth claimed.

But the day has arrived when Southern Baptist men need to "loose" Southern Baptist women to determine their own roles in Baptist life, he said.

McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, spoke to the joint annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society April 21. The meeting, which focused on "Women in Southern Baptist History," was held at the

national headquarters of the Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala.

From the angle of service, Southern Baptist men depend upon Southern Baptist women, McBeth said. "You have nurtured, sustained, encouraged and preserved our churches," he said to women. "Without your loyal and effective service through the generations, our churches and our denomination would not be what it is today, if it would be at all."

The women have invested money, time, energy, talents—even their very lives—in Baptist service, yet "in these latter days we reward you by explaining that God made you second-class Christians and telling you what areas in the church are off limits to you," he said.

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