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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Student Day
at Christmas
page 2



WHAT BSU
MEANS TO ME



Inward Outward
JOURNEY JOURNEY

December 2, 1982

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



ABN Photos/Mike Gill

"Students Reaching Out" is the theme of this year's Student Day at Christmas. Southern Baptist churches will be inviting their students who are home for the holidays to share experiences they have had while away at college. Many students will be reporting spiritual growth that has come as a result of their involvement in Baptist Student Union. Churches may contact the Student Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or their nearest BSU Director for program suggestions or other assistance in recognizing their college students.

Law under fire from judge, Baptists

A week after Baptists in the state of Louisiana resolved to object to the teaching of "creation science" in public schools, a federal judge at New Orleans struck down the 1981 law that would mandate creationism's place in the classroom.

Louisiana Baptist messengers, in annual session Nov. 15-17 at Lafayette, passed the resolution, without comment, that urged Baptists to educate their children into belief of divine creation but reject attempts by any school to teach the theory of creation as fact.

The resolution, according to a report by Baptist Press, also urged Baptists to take action when needed to oppose teaching of

any religious dogma, favored or opposed by Louisiana Baptists, in any public school classroom.

Then on Monday, Nov. 22, Federal Judge Adrian Duplantier of New Orleans ruled that the "creation science" law could not stand because the legislature exceeded its authority in mandating what must be taught and how it must be taught. The judge agreed with the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that Louisiana's constitution provides that only board can mandate the teaching of a particular course.

An Associated Press report Nov. 23 said that proponents of the law plan to appeal.

Convention, pastors' conference tapes available

Tapes from the 1982 Pastors' Conference and annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, held Nov. 15-18 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, are available from the Baptist Building at \$2 each.

The state convention is recorded on a series of 10 tapes. Numbers 1 and 2 are from Tuesday, Nov. 16, numbers 3-7 from

Wednesday, Nov. 17 and tapes 8-10 from Thursday, Nov. 18. Eight tapes are available from the pre-convention Pastors' Conference.

Orders must be accompanied by payment and must be received by Dec. 9. Orders should be addressed to Joy Faucett, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Black SBC church hosts HMB commissioning service

ATLANTA (BP) — Union Church in Atlanta, Ga., recently hosted a Home Mission Board commissioning service — the first time such a service has been held in a black Southern Baptist church.

Emmanuel McCall, director of the HMB's black church relations department, preceded the commissioning of 102 home missionaries with an explanation of the black worship experience. McCall outlined three aspects of black worship — recognizing God for who he is, worshipping God through personal experience and worshipping God through sustaining loving relationships with others.

Gerald Palmer, HMB vice president of missions, challenged the 102 missionaries working in 25 states, Canada and Puerto Rico to remember "you are linked to the purpose of God — proclaiming the Good News in Jesus Christ which heals the sick, brings wholeness to broken lives and a home to the homeless."

Most of the 45 missionaries appointed by the HMB's church extension department are church planter apprentices.

The second largest number of missionaries (22) was commissioned to work with the HMB's Christian social ministries department.

In this issue

8 ABSC wrap up

More reports on the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention include the pre-convention Pastors' Conference, Women's Conference, and the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association. Also reported are the Executive Board meetings.

12 Grady Nutt dies

Widely-known Baptist humorist Grady Nutt was killed last week in a plane crash in Alabama. Nutt had been in Arkansas as recently as September.

New writer for 'lessons for living'

Jere D. Mitchell, pastor of First Church of Fayetteville, begins this issue as a new writer for the ABN "lessons for living" Sunday School lesson commentary section. A native of Oklahoma who has served the Fayetteville congregation since Nov. 1979, Mitchell is scheduled to write lesson comments based on two units in the International (Convention Uniform) Series of lessons. The assignment includes nine lessons taken from the Gospel of Luke.

Mitchell was born in Enid, Okla., and was ordained at age 20. He received the



Mitchell

B.S. degree from Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee, Okla.; the B.D. and M.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and the D.Min. from Phillips University in Enid, Okla.; He worked in the pastorate at four churches in Oklahoma and one in Texas and was Baptist Student Union director at three colleges and universities before moving to Arkansas.

Mitchell has been on a preaching mission with the Home Mission Board to Australia and has been a trustee of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Mitchell is married to the former Joyce Ann Hammons. They are the parents of two daughters — one married and one a high school student.

Ministry pace can take its toll

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



It had been a long, long day for the pastor and his education director. Both had been at work before 8 a.m. It was now 9:30 in the evening and they were just leaving the church to go home. They had scarcely had time to grab a bite to eat.

Asked by one of his concerned deacons about his tremendous workload, the pastor replied, "I'd rather burn out than to rust out. Besides, I like my work. It can't hurt anyone to do what he likes."

It is true that most people in full-time religious work feel a deep calling to their place of service. Most of them do enjoy what they are doing, yet everyone has physical limitations. It should be remembered that the human body can perform only so much.

Recently, a friend told of having four preachers of his acquaintance in the hospital at one time with heart attacks. One might think at first that this is an isolated experience. However, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention bears out the frequency of such occurrences, for heart attacks are the greatest cause of death for religious workers each year.

The families of religious workers are not exempt either. The emotional problems of pastors' wives speak to this unquestionably. The family eventually becomes a part of the frantic pace. Added to this many times is the pressure placed upon them by the church.

Some questions arise. What can be done about it? Who can help? Is there any solution to this problem? The answer must be twofold. Both religious workers and churches must reevaluate workloads and priorities.

•Christian workers must recognize that there is a tomorrow. If one breaks his health to accomplish a task, he has done wrong. First, the Bible teaches us that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19). Thus, we have a responsibility under God to care for it. One must also weigh his entire ministry against the present task. Many have taken away their future ministry by overwork and stress. Medical doctors have learned that no matter how acute the health needs of others, they, too, must reserve some time for rest.

•The Christian worker should recognize his family needs

him. Sometimes in doing for others the preacher fails to properly relate to his own wife and children. The reserving of some specific time for his family responsibilities can solve many potential problems and prevent a great deal of heartache.

•The church should assist the pastor in ministry. Even when a congregation has a large, effective paid staff, there is never enough help to meet the needs of the congregation. The pastor and staff should train the lay-members so they can minister to each other. Deacons, in particular, should assist the pastor in ministering to the congregation. Such an approach will lighten the load for the pastor and will help church members to grow spiritually.

•The church should recognize the physical and emotional needs of their pastor and staff workers. Time should be provided for rest and recreation. Care should be exercised in contacting the staff at home. Unless it is an absolute emergency, the pastor should not be called at inappropriate hours.

•The church should provide a day off each week for every member of its staff, as well as a paid vacation annually. A pastor, for example, should draw full salary during his vacation and have his pulpit supply paid for him.

•Church members should not call on their pastor or staff members to perform tasks outside of their responsibility. In some churches, pastors are called on to perform routine tasks, such as janitorial duties. While pastors or staff workers may be willing to perform such duties, it is not the best investment of their time. In the early church at Jerusalem, it was found to be better for others to meet the needs of the widows and allow the apostles to be free for prayer and Bible study. The same principle still applies today.

•Churches should adequately provide for the financial needs of their pastor and church staff. In any church there are always deadlines to be met, individuals to be comforted, the lost to be witnessed to and the on-going work of the church to be provided for. All of this produces tension for the pastor and staff. If a congregation adds to this inadequate compensation for meeting basic needs and for some recreation, the tension is increased.

When Christian workers function together, the overall ministry will be enhanced. Ultimately, the Christian worker will be happier and the Lord's work will prosper.

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meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists.

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

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

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

Praying for Mr. Shen before I knew his name

Among Southern Baptists the name of Lottie Moon is almost synonymous with Christian missions in China. Mrs. Grant and I had that dramatized for us in Shanghai last summer. We had tried for 10 days, in Peking, Nanking, Wushih, and Suzhou, to get our guides to take us to one of the recently reopened Christian churches in China, but they found it impossible to work into our preplanned itinerary. Finally, in Shanghai, they agreed to stop our bus at a Christian church during our city tour. The result was a remarkable conversation with Mr. Shen, a 72-year-old Baptist layman who has been a Christian for 50 years, and who has literally "lived through it all."

Mr. Shen received his education at Shanghai University, established by Southern Baptists and strongly supported by the Co-operative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for world missions, and he became a Christian while there. We soon learned that this particular church is one that was closed and taken over by the communist government in 1966, and made into an opera house, with much damage to the organ, furniture, and other facilities.

Just three years ago this church was one of seven permitted to reopen in the city of Shanghai, and we were told by one of the members that Mr. Shen has been a literal dynamo of Christian work as a lay leader rebuilding the church.

With our impatient guides telling us it was time to get back on the bus, we peppered Mr. Shen with questions and he responded with information that provided us the emotional high of the entire visit to China. They have two Sunday morning services in a church that will seat approximately 700, and one of these services jams more than 1,500 people inside and in the doorways and windows. They can have services only on Sunday, but they do have Bible study in the homes on Thursday night. More than half of those attending are young people and younger adults. They can accept new members, but the government will not permit them to be baptized until they are 18 years of age.

I recalled the many times I have prayed for Christian people struggling under communist restrictions in China, even though I did not know their names or their specific

situation. I told Mr. Shen that I was pleased that he became a Christian under the influence of a Baptist university many years ago, and shared with him my connection with Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. I added that I had been praying for him for many years without even knowing his name. He thanked me and said, "Please continue to pray that more Christian churches will be permitted to reopen in Shanghai than just these seven." Mrs. Grant asked him if the church could use another Chinese-language Bible, one that we had brought with us from Mrs. Rosemary Chu, a dorm mother at Ouachita. The answer was quickly yes and he thanked us for it.

The work of Lottie Moon and of those who support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, is not in vain. All the mighty military and political power of the communist regime in China has not been enough to snuff out the light of Christians like Mr. Shen.

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



Woman's viewpoint

Nancy Sisk

Welcoming strangers

In this day when so much emphasis is put upon being someone and finding out who we are, many times as Christians we become so wrapped up in ourselves, our family, and our little circle of friends, we may not even see the stranger in our church service. When someone visits your church, do you welcome them even before you know who they are?

I have the opportunity to visit many churches large and small over our state. It has been revealing to note the difference in how I am greeted. Some are extremely friendly and in others I feel no assurance of a welcome. After people learn who I am and why I have visited their church, I receive an altogether different kind of reception.

I can understand some reluctance in im-

mediate identification with strangers, but as Christians it is also important to show Christian friendship to the stranger in your midst.

Can you visualize with me, you, your family, or your children in a strange city. You have just left your loved ones and friends. You are lonely. You go to a church, but you do not know the pastor and the people are cold and unresponsive. You may not feel like coming back. In any event, it is very difficult to worship under such circumstances.

We sometimes hear from former military chapel attenders who all too frequently say, "We are having trouble finding a church with warm Christian fellowship like we had in..."

ABN letters policy

Letters to the editor expressing opinion are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and must be clearly marked "For publication". All letters must be signed original copies, although the name of the writer may be withheld at writer's request and discretion of the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

III John 1:5 says, "Beloved, it is a fine and faithful work that you are doing when you give any service to the (Christian) brethren, and (especially when they are) strangers. Hebrews 13:2 reads, "Do not forget or neglect or refuse to extend hospitality to strangers — being friendly, cordial and gracious (Amplified Bible)." When a stranger comes to your church, how does she feel in your presence? Do you welcome her? Or is there "no room in the inn?"

Nancy Sisk is the wife of Leroy Sisk, director of chaplaincy for the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. She is a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, and is an instructor worth for knit and crochet for Leisure Arts, Inc., North Little Rock. She is the mother of two sons and two daughters.

Arise, pastors

A controversy of significant proportion, control of the Southern Baptist Convention, has arisen within the SBC. The last four annual meetings have been a battleground for messengers to the SBC. That controversy is on the verge of spilling over into the churches that support and cooperate with the SBC.

Those within the SBC who have raised the issue of control seem to have joined forces with some outside the SBC to pass a resolution favoring a constitutional amendment that is diametrically opposed to the historic Baptist principle of separation of church and state. Those within the SBC who have raised the controversy, and their cohorts from outside, seem willing to go so far as to tamper with First and Fourteenth Amendment guarantees in order to promote their narrow fundamentalist cause. Those who would tamper with constitutional guarantees have no understanding of responsible freedom. Responsible freedom is the worst kind ... it demands so much.

Those who tamper with constitutional guarantees in order to promote their own sectarian cause threaten every free church in America. The controversy over control of the SBC is minor compared to the enormous consequence posed by threats to the integrity of Baptist churches and Baptist pulpits.

The end result of the current controversy within the SBC will depend on the character of the pastor of the local Baptist church. He stands between the local church and the SBC. (He tells them what he wants them to hear.) In turn, he brings pressure from the local church (money) to bear on the SBC decision-making process.

Arise, Brother Pastor — and be the undershepherd you said God called you to be. Do not flee, like the hireling, to the nearest port of shelter that offers you the comfort and sustenance of a mess of pottage, in exchange for your birthright. — Bill F. Scudder, Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Infiltration of false doctrine

Baptists, we are the Lord's last stronghold! Let us stand up for the eternal security of our born-again standing as God's own child; Jesus "tasted death" to set us free from hell (Heb. 2:9). When I was young, the devil fought Baptists with ridicule. Always, the doctrine of eternal salvation was the target! It still is the devil's target. Scorn was not enough to stop us, so the devil uses false teachers. He does not care if people halfway believe; just don't believe that God's pardon gives "eternal" life, as Jesus said, thus saying that his Word is not true.

The time for all true Baptists to speak, boldly (God's Word), is now! If a person

does not believe in this essential doctrine (for which Baptists have stood throughout our history), they need to join a church who has their belief. After reading Dale Moody's article, I think (in the name of Jesus) that he should be asked to resign.

Let's speak out in our churches, associations, state convention. Our descendants must hear the good news — Jesus. — **Rosalie Carter, Pine Bluff**

What is 'voluntary'?

I have just read an article in the Nov. 11, 1982, edition of *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*, by James A. McCullen from Missouri. He stated that, "My church wants prayer in the school on a voluntary basis."

I have yet to hear or see in print an explanation of just what these folks mean by *voluntary prayer* in the public schools. Do they mean a time set aside for quiet meditation? Do they mean a time when a volunteer prays on the school public address system? Do they mean a time when the teacher asks for volunteers to pray aloud in class? Do they mean the principal should allow a volunteer to pray in an assembly? Do they mean only evangelical prayer or do they include the Jewish, Moslem, Catholic or other religious groups?

I maintain that all prayer should be voluntary whenever and wherever an individual feels the need to pray. No law in the world can keep a person from doing this, especially in this country.

To continue to make broad and vague statements proposing that we be allowed to do something that we can already do is beating a dead horse. Our courts have not denied us the privilege of prayer in schools, they have only said it is unconstitutional to tell others what prayer to say and what book of religion to read, and when this is done.

Prayer is personal and we need to teach our children and adult church members that it can be done anywhere and anytime, not just as a school or church.

I am a retired elementary school principal and am actively involved in a local Baptist church, but I have never been comfortable with foisting my beliefs on a captive audience of children in school.

The President of the United States proposed a constitutional amendment for *voluntary prayer*, and did not explain what he meant. This was pure politics and was never seriously considered by him as having any chance of passage.

I would like for someone, pseudo-conservatives or politicians, to give us a plausible definition of the term *voluntary prayer* as it applies to public schools. — **Willis M. Crosby, Little Rock**

God will provide

I read Dr. Wright's article in response to the open letter and I can't understand why Baptists feel we need to accept federal funds to promote the work of the Lord.

If we can trust the Lord to see Southern College operate on a four-year basis in spite of what the Little Rock firm stated about it possibly being the end of the college, why can't we also trust God for the funds to operate it instead of looking to Uncle Sam. I feel that our Heavenly Father is more capable of providing than Uncle Sam.

We as Southern Baptists, have a lot to say about our beliefs in regard to separation of church and state and yet hold out our hands to receive the federal dollars to operate our colleges and childcare facilities. I believe this is a double standard and hinders the Lord in blessing our programs the way he wants to. There is enough money in the pockets of Southern Baptists to do what needs to be done and then some. — **Don Grendell, Plainview**

Thanks for the forum

Let me commend Arkansas Baptists for providing a forum for Dr. Dale Moody's un-baptistic, and in my opinion despite the chapter from his book printed in your paper, un-biblical views on the security of the believer ... or rather the lack of it.

I am surprised that Dr. Moody would present Judas as an example of apostasy through his quote from the venerable A. T. Robertson. Acts 1:25 says very directly that Judas "fell ... from his ministry and his apostleship" ... or from his official responsibility and his official position ... not out of a "saved" relationship into which he had never moved by faith in the Lord. Jesus knew who Judas was and what he would do and chose him for that purpose. In John 1:70 Jesus calls him a "devil" and in his prayer in John 17 Jesus calls Judas "the son of perdition" (v. 12) and cites as the reason for Judas' being one of the 12 that "the scripture might be fulfilled."

I would not match wits with the formidable Dr. Moody, but I would rather have the experiential knowledge of Christ as my Savior in a growing relationship of an "everlasting" salvation than anything else in the whole world.

And by the way, I did not notice that the good doctor in his book chapter printed in your paper specified just what sins or how many or much a saved person could commit before he lost his salvation and was forever damned.

A theologian of such erudition should be able to warn us of this lest we all go hell. — **Frank O. Baugh, Oklahoma City, Okla.**

Editor's note: Ellipses are the writer's.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Johnny Ross

has been called as pastor of the Pine Bluff Second Church. He attended Mid-America Seminary and has served other Arkansas churches in Gould, Wheatley and Montrose.

Don Martin

was ordained to the gospel ministry Nov. 14. He serves as pastor of the Westvale Church at Jonesboro. Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association, served as moderator and Doug Martin delivered the ordination service. Others on program were John Basinger, Mrs. Bill Biggs, Mrs. Doug Martin and Mary Beth Milligan.

Ken Davenport

has resigned as pastor of the Bear Creek Springs Church at Harrison to enroll in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Ross

Stan May

has been called as pastor of the Fisher Church, coming there from Memphis.

Karen Foshee

has joined the staff of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock as childcare coordinator.

Carl Hogue

has resigned as pastor of the Life Line Church at Pleasant Plains to become pastor of the Pines Church at Pearson.

Hettye A. Varnado

died Nov. 6 at the age of 93 in the Crestpark Retirement Home in Helena. She had been a member of Helena First Church for 32 years, filling many church leadership roles. She received a citation from the Southern Baptist Convention for her 45 years of service as a Sunday School teacher and had received an award of Special Merit in recognition of dedicated services as a pioneer teacher in Arkansas schools, having taught at both Earle and Helena.

Donnie Smith

has been called as pastor of the Third Avenue Church in Paragould, coming there

from Cash.

Dean Smothers

is serving as pastor of the Curtis First Church, coming there from Alicia. He is married to the former Judy Jackson of North Little Rock. They have one son, Sammy.

Carbon Sims

has resigned as minister of education/administration at Camden First Church. He is joining the administrative staff of Ouachita Baptist University in the development department as director of deferred giving.

Charles Alley

has been called as pastor of the Northside Church at Helena.

Norman Miller

has resigned as pastor of the Barton Church where he has served for eight years.

Kenneth W. Seamans

has been called as pastor of the Cove First Church. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and also attended Stout State University in Wisconsin. He and his wife, Stella Kay, are parents of two sons, Matthew and Mark.

briefly

Pleasant Grove Church

at Harrisburg celebrated the payment of their auditorium with a noteburning ceremony Oct. 17. Greg Cantrell and James Guthrie, former pastors, participated in the service.

Wynne Church

recently added a gallery of former pastor portraits. This display is in the hallway near the church office. A small brass plaque, noting the years of service of each pastor, will also be added to each framed photograph.

Bethany Church

at Gosnell held a deacon ordination service Oct. 17 for Dennis Taylor, Bill Hyde, Junior Presnell and Jim Lowe. Dave Simmons, Jim Gardner, Harry Churchwell and Carroll Davidson participated in the service. Pastor Gary Hyde preached the ordination message.

Rosedale Church

in Little Rock has begun a Sunday School class ministry to the Good Shepherd Retirement Center in Little Rock. Hart E. Moore is serving as teacher.

Monticello Second Church

honored Pastor and Mrs. John Robbins Nov. 21 on the occasion of their 10th anniversary with the church. Activities included a reception and the presentation of a money tree.

North Maple Church

at Stuttgart held a deacon ordination service Oct. 17 for Travis Rogers.

Runyan First Church

of North Little Rock conducted a deacon ordination service Nov. 14. Candidates were Ed Mobley, Herbert Stark, Gene Stafford and Bob Tobey. Robert Holley, director of the Church Training Department for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, brought the ordination message.

Forty Seventh Street Church

in North Little Rock ordained Mike Alexander as a deacon Oct. 31. Pastor Keith Taylor was assisted with the service by Garland Brackett, pastor of the Amboy Church, and Ron Ford, pastor of the Central Church, both in North Little Rock.

Fayetteville First Church

Sanctuary Choir will present Handel's Messiah Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. The 60-voice choir will be accompanied by a string ensemble and organ.

Stuttgart First Church

will ordain Duane Davis and Jimmy Jones as deacons Dec. 5.

Mississippi County Baptist Association

elected Joe Thompson as moderator in its recent annual meeting. Serving with him will be Jim Guffie, vice-moderator; Tyrone

Berry, clerk; J. Edward North, treasurer, and Roy Johnson, historian. Bethel Church was received as a new church, making a total of 42 churches in MCBA. The association recently held a noteburning to celebrate payment of its camp near Paragould, valued at \$500,000. Henry G. West serves as director of missions.

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Billy B. Tisdale, missionaries to the Philippines since 1979, resigned from missionary service Oct. 31. They served in Manila, Philippines. He was born in El Dorado, Ark., and grew up in Joinerville, Texas. She is the former Helen McWilliams of Joinerville. They may be addressed at 2305 Catalina, Mesquite, Texas 75150.

Mrs. Lucille Sheffield, mother of Mrs. James M. Philpot, Baptist representative to Mexico, passed away Oct. 20 in Fresno, Calif. Mrs. Philpot, the former Jurhee Sheffield, was born in Childress, Texas, and grew up in Fresno. She may be addressed at Apartado 143-A, Cd. Saletita, Edo de Mexico, 53100 Mexico. Her husband was born in Polk County, Ark., but moved to Fresno as a teenager. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

You'll be glad
to know . . .

Texarkana Trinity Church

held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 17 to begin construction of their new sanctuary. This sanctuary will seat over 800 people upon completion, and the old sanctuary will be remodeled to provide necessary education space. Church growth, in the last four years, from less than 100 average in Sunday School to an average of over 400 has necessitated this expansion. Pastor Wallace Edgar has led the growth program that resulted in the church's largest attendance ever Oct. 31 when 512 were in Sunday School. Financing for the construction work, to be done by Mark K. Construction Company of North Little Rock, was through the selling of \$500,000 in bonds.

Fouke First Church

recently completed a total renovation program in five days that allows for seating 90 additional people. Danny Bishop guided volunteer workers in this program.

Strong First Church

experienced a 'Great Day of Thanks/Giving' Nov. 21 when members gave, in cash, \$198,565.65 to be used in a 1983 building program. Pastor David Wilson reported that this money will be added to other building funds for the construction of an auditorium and fellowship hall and the renovation of the educational building. Donald Gaskin and Jerry Burson are serving as building committee co-chairmen. Serving with them are Leola Burns, Gill Johnson, Charles Johnson, Carolyn Bell, Iris Meshell, Richard Meshell and Phil Herring.



Moore

... We had a good convention. Attendance and spirit at the annual meeting were "good" if not great! We are a diverse and free people, so it isn't unusual for us to come to different conclusions. I feel certain that more prayer went into the planning, preparation and anticipation of this meeting than any in recent years. Because of this God helped us to be more respectful in our deliberations than we have been in some previous conventions. I think all of us long for the time when we can discuss controversial issues freely and can cast our vote with confidence. Such procedures involve deep theological truths. Our belief in the sovereignty of God, the soul competence of individual believers and the headship of Christ over his people are all involved. Based upon these truths we dare not deny, we can have confidence his will has been done even when it doesn't go the way we want it to. Such doctrinal presuppositions enable us to deliberate and vote with joy and confidence. They also give us the basis for receiving God's grace to pick up and go on loving and helping in the causes so vital to the kingdom. Thank you one and all for making it a good convention. Let's anticipate another good one next year at Pine Bluff. Let's grow in grace in these areas that reflect the Lordship of Christ over us all.

... What was revealed Wednesday night. What a great session we had! I wish all of our messengers would stay for the Wednesday evening session. Our Foreign Mission Board representative reported our mission ministries abroad had seen 127,300-plus saved and baptized this past year. Our home missionaries have been used of God to lead 75,000 to Christ. Our State Missions ministries have seen 400 conversions. Aren't you glad to know that ministries you provided through the Cooperative Program contributions of your church resulted in 202,700 souls saved and baptized. This will help you see the big picture.

... Our Arkansas churches have baptized 14,291 with two associations yet to report. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:3) We all have so much for which to give him praise!

Don Moore is Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



ABN Photo Mike Gill

"Joy" was theme of the day Nov. 14 when Marvell First Church celebrated the payment of an eight-year, \$36,523.17 indebtedness in 14 months. This feat saved the church \$12,296.47 in interest. Pastor Bob Harper, in his morning message, challenged members to continue their celebration by sharing daily the love of Jesus with others. A noteburning service was held to celebrate the payment of the note, made for parsonage improvements. This program included the addition of a sunken den, master bedroom, full bath and walk-in closet. Burning the note were (from left) Harper, Camille Brown, Allen Crisp, Jesse Collins, Robert Cuyton and Marold Bagwell. Building committee members not present were Pointer Hall and James Hill.

Former Arkansas pastor dies in plane crash

Clyde White, 61, a former pastor in Arkansas, Colorado, Texas and Iowa, died instantly in a single-engine plane crash on the north side of Mount Magazine near Paris Nov. 11. White was pilot of the plane. A passenger, Gary Dabbs, 24, Humphrey, died the next day from injuries suffered in the crash.

White, a resident of Quitman, was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Semi-

nary. His pastorates included Lockesburg Church and Cullendale Church in Camden, both in Arkansas. At the time of his death, he was a businessman in Denver, Colo.

Funeral services were held at Boyd Funeral Home in Lonoke on Thursday, Nov. 18, with burial following.

Survivors include the widow, Diana, and her daughter Yvonne, both of Quitman, two sons and four grandchildren.

Pastors' Conference includes preaching, teaching, music

by J. Everett Sneed

The 1982 Pastors' Conference, under the leadership of David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, dealt primarily with security of the believer vs. apostasy. Dale Moody, professor of theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., presented his views on apostasy (see Nov. 25 issue of the ABN).

The conference included preaching, testimonies and music. Those delivering more than one message included J. Harold Smith, evangelist and pastor emeritus of Windsor Park Church, Ft. Smith, and Sunday School evangelist Leon Killbreth.

The officers for the 1983 Pastors' Conference are Bill Sutton, pastor, Windsor Park Church, Ft. Smith, president; Lamar Lifer, pastor, Olivet Church, Little Rock, first vice president, and Fred Gay, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Forrest City, second vice president.

What the major speakers said at the conference

Hilton Lane, pastor, Fairfield Bay Church, told of losing two sons in a drowning accident. "After the death of our sons we learned

to depend on God's sustaining grace," he said.

J. Harold Smith said, "If we would realize our obligation to reach lost souls, we would literally turn this state upside down."

Clytee Harness, pastor, Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs, dealt with "Where is Your Church Going?" He said, "We need to thank God for the people who are serving him in our churches."

Max Briley, football coach at Gosnell, told of his witnessing experiences. He said that the Lord had given him great opportunity to witness to many of the students at the Gosnell School. He said, "I have come to realize that I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I am not a great Christian, but I just want to brag on Jesus."

Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, said, "God has revealed himself as Creator and, therefore, has authority over all the universe. Since truth has been revealed, the choices are limited — man or God."

Leon Killbreth, Sunday School evangelist, said, "Satan is using the word 'freedom' more than anything else. This has come

about by a sophisticated education system that lets every man do his own thing. A born-again person knows sin and must proclaim it to the world."

Bill Probasco, pastor, First Church, Conway, said, "I believe that the original autographs of the scripture are inerrant and that the text we have today is totally reliable."

John Wright, pastor, First Church, Little Rock, said, "The need today is for the logos, the revealed Word, to become the rHEMA, the living Word. The Holy Spirit touches the Word and makes it alive for an individual who is seeking truth."

Jimmy Milliken, professor of New Testament, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., said, "A man is saved by grace and is kept by grace. If I come to the conclusion that baptism is essential to salvation, then I ought to join the Campbellites. By the same logic, if I conclude that the Bible teaches apostasy, I should join some other church."

Morris Chapman, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, said, "A preacher must know that he is nothing but that God is everything in order for him to be effective."



ABN photos

Speakers for the 1982 Pastors' Conference included (from left, top row) Max Briley, a layman from Gosnell; Bill Probasco, Conway; Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge; Jimmy Milliken, professor at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis; (bottom row) Clytee Harness, Hot Springs; J. Harold Smith, evangelist formerly of Fort Smith; Hilton Lane, Fairfield Bay; Leon Killbreth, Sunday School evangelist from Herrin, Ill., and John Wright, Little Rock.



ALBY PHOTOS/BOB ANTON

Officers for the 1983 Pastors' Conference, elected at the 1982 pre-convention meeting Nov. 16, are (from left) Fred Gay, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Forrest City, second vice president; Lamar Liler, pastor of Olivet Church in Little Rock, first vice president, and Bill Sutton, pastor of Windsor Park Church in Fort Smith, president. President of the 1982 conference was David Miller, director of missions of Little Red River Association. Twelve messages were delivered in four sessions on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 15 and 16 prior to the start of the 129th annual Arkansas Baptist State Convention at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.



ALBY PHOTOS/MARIE GIB

The 1982 meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Women's Conference rang with laughter as Bobbie DeBusk of Little Rock, Boots Adams of Texarkana and Betty Ju...rant of Arkadelphia shared moments of hilarity in their lives as wives of pastors and a college president. Shirley Moore and Jeannie Wright, both of Little Rock, and Mary Lou Heard of North Little Rock were devotional leaders. Musicians were Tammy Deaton of Little Rock and Malvie Giles of Magnolia. Marge Caldwell of Houston, Texas, was featured speaker, complimenting the women on their new approach to their annual meetings through the sharing of both the funny and the serious with other convention wives. She shared her spiritual journey through the valleys of sorrow, onto the funny and joyful mountain tops of service for Christ. Joyce Dearlin (left), outgoing president, is shown here presenting a lighted candle to incoming president Jana King of Little Rock. Serving with Mrs. King will be (from left) Kay Glazener of Little Rock and Glenda Rusert of Fayetteville.

Executive Board reelects Lilly

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention reelected Ken Lilly, a Fort Smith physician, to his second one-year term as president of the 93-member elected administrative body.

With the ink barely dry on a list of 30 newly-elected Executive Board members, President Lilly suggested the board withhold the nomination of a vice president until its next scheduled meeting Dec. 14.

The organizational meeting was held Wednesday, Nov. 17. At an earlier Executive Board meeting the previous day, Lilly outlined accomplishments of the past year, including the hiring of an executive secretary and the creation of an open atmosphere where discussion is free. "Many of you feel free to speak up, and that's great," Lilly said. One risk, Lilly said, is "you might get misunderstood or you might get misquoted," but he urged members to continue to speak their minds on pertinent issues.

"I'm proud of everything we've done," Lilly said. "I think we have our minds clear to what we're doing."

Executive Secretary Don Moore addressed the board, reporting on his first four weeks at the helm of the Baptist Building crew. "I do not know how we could expect more to happen in four weeks than has taken place," Moore said. He said he has met with department heads, and has found "real acceptance, genuine concern and appreciation.

"We really feel like we are a team working for you."

Moore said he expects to bring a recommendation on a staff vacancy before the Executive Board in December. A vacancy has existed in the position of evangelism associate since Clarence Shell Jr. was promoted from that position to director of the Evangelism Department last year. Moore said a prospect is in mind, but his identity would not be revealed to protect the man's ministry.

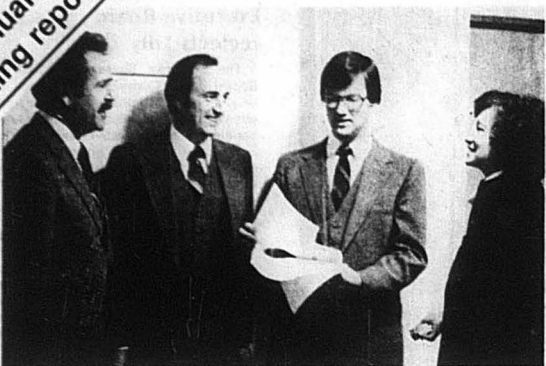
Moore said churches from around the state are inviting him to visit and he is booked almost solidly until next June.

"We need to continue in prayer that God will continue to make God's will known to us... to say what we believe God's will to be and to put our shoulders to the wheel to accomplish what we believe God's will is," Moore said.

Golden Gate alumni elect new officers

New officers of the Arkansas Chapter of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association are: L. Bert Edwards, director of missions, Calvary Association, president; William V. Garner, pastor of Immanuel Church, Texarkana, vice president, and James Threet, resident manager of Camp Paron, secretary-treasurer.

ABN photo/Betty J. Kennedy



RE members name officers, hear Moore

Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association members got some ideas for programs such as Backyard Bible Clubs, music and drama productions and Wednesday night programming when they met Nov. 15 and 16. The group's annual meeting, held prior to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, included conferences for the ministers in religious education and music who make up the group. They also heard Executive Secretary Don Moore at their Monday

night dinner meeting. Elected officers for the next year were (from left) Bob Presley, associate pastor at Markham Street, Little Rock, president; Pete Ramsey, minister of education at Fayetteville First Church, first vice president; Ken Stogdill, minister of music at Stuttgart First, second vice president, and Delores Lynn, minister of childhood education at Park Hill Church, secretary/treasurer. Also, in a business session the group adopted two constitutional amendments.

ABN photo/Mike Gil



Dillard Miller from Mena, president of the 1981 Arkansas Baptist State Convention reelected to serve until the 1983 annual meeting, goes over some notes after relieving the floor for a report by an ABSC agency. Twelve reports from agencies of Arkansas Baptists and other organizations were received by messengers to the three-day meeting at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock Nov. 16-18.



ABN photo/Mike Gil

James Sawyer, a layman from Benton, proposes a motion that layman not be identified with an asterisk on lists of board members in future state convention annuals. The convention approved the motion, made Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 17 during a business session.

Crucial questions for Christians
by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, I have just acknowledged my call to the gospel ministry and enrolled in a Baptist school. Already I am hearing about "stress", "crisis" and "burn out" in the ministry. Could you tell me how to avoid stress in the ministry?

To be quite candid and honest there is no way to avoid stress either in life or in the ministry. All people, regardless of their vocation, experience stress. The ministry, like other vocations, have some uniquely stressful dimensions. Perhaps a young minister does best in making his objective that of learning to control rather than avoid stress.



McGriff

Be assured that while you embark upon a stressful vocation you do not have to be a victim. Take care that the tension you experience grows out of situations that are encountered and not from conflicts with

your own values. One who is at peace with himself is often able to become a peacemaker.

Do not fear stress. Fear is indeed a common fear. Continue a concentration upon the most obvious truth of the gospel, God loves you! He loves you with your limitations. To deny limitations is to deny ones humanity, and to deny ones own humanity is a crime. The subtle satanic suggestion coming from many quarters is to "be as God." There is a vast difference in "being godly" and in "being God". Learn to express your God given abilities with astuteness, and to acknowledge limitations freely. Expect the best of yourself in the expression of your abilities and avoid unrealistic demands of yourself.

Dr. Glen McGriff is Director of Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Inquiries, comments or questions to be used anonymously in this column should be sent to Questions, Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Towers Building, Suite 660, 9601 Lile Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.

APM photo/Mike Cox



APM photo/ Everett Stone



APM photo/Mike Cox

A presentation of flags (left) highlighted a Wednesday night service dedicated to missions. Stewardship director James Walker (above) stands with Carroll Caldwell and W. O. Vaught, pastors of the leading percentage CP-giving church in Arkansas and Immanuel Little Rock, which has contributed more than \$1 million in six years. (Above, right) the girl's ensemble from Heber Springs First performs. (Below, left) a listener jots down notes during a message. (Below, right) Linda Anderson and Dick Boyles, BSU directors at Ouachita and UCA, talk with John Dresbach of Osceola.

APM photo/Mike Cox



APM photo/Mike Cox

El Dorado church leads Arkansas in Study Course awards

NASHVILLE — West Side Church, El Dorado, led Arkansas churches in 1981-82 study course awards with 352, according to annual survey results compiled in the Church Study Course office at the Sunday School Board.

First Southern Church, Bryant, was second with 251, and Second Church, Clarks-ville, third, with 247.

First Church of Anderson, S.C., ranked first among SBC churches with 1,014 awards, followed by Catawba Church, Rock Hill, S.C., 983, and Highview Church, Louisville, Ky., 914.

In total awards earned by states Florida was first with 58,762, followed by Texas, 41,758, and Mississippi, 38,284.

Nationwide, total study course awards increased from 448,674 to 491,780, for a gain of 10 percent from the previous year.

Diplomas earned jumped 21 percent,

from 27,656 to 33,508.

William R. Cox, church study course coordinator, explained that the Southern Baptist education system combines short-term courses with a credit and recognition system.

Presently, 46 percent or 16,946 Southern Baptist churches participate in the church study course system. Ninety-eight percent or 1,226 associations received study course awards during the year.

The top five course award areas were 1982 January Bible Study, 98,623 awards; *Survival Kit for New Christians — Adult edition*, 44,702; *The Way to Timbuktu*, 18,733; *Basic Adult Sunday School Work*, 14,824, and *Basic Sunday School work*, 14,729.

Christian Growth and Service, and Church Training Leadership were the two subject areas which experienced the largest

numerical increase.

Effective Oct. 1 the study course system began a new computerized record and report service.

Requirements and diplomas remain the same, Cox said. The new system simplifies the old record keeping system in addition to providing benefits to individuals, churches and associations.

The added services provided by the computerized system include personal transcripts which will be sent twice a year to participating churches. These transcripts contain a course-needed planning printout, as well as up-to-date information on courses already completed and diplomas earned. The computer will automatically issue diplomas when all course requirements have been filled.

Presently, 25 diplomas are offered through the study course system.



Little Rock Baptist Medical System broke ground Nov. 11 for a retirement community, Parkway Village. The \$40 million, 600-unit community, to be located in western Little Rock, will be built in three phases and is expected to be completed within five years. Don Moore, Executive Secretary of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and W. O. Vaught, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, participated in the service. Moore (far right), speaker for the occasion, visits here with some of the groundbreaking guests, including R. H. Dorris (third from left), a former president of the Baptist Medical System Board of Directors.



The Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions received a good boost recently from the Wheatley Church in the form of a check for \$1,050. This represents approximately two weeks' salary for one of the five chaplains employed by the Missions Department. The check is the largest contribution to date from churches averaging 65 or less in Sunday School. Pastor Earl Ashley, pictured (left) with Missions director Conway Sawyers and WMU executive director Julia Ketner, reports his church gave over \$1,000 to the Annie Armstrong Offering and has a \$1,500 goal for the Lottie Moon Offering.

Begin-Israel rally in Dallas cancelled

DALLAS (BP) — The death of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's wife cut short his U.S. visit and sponsors cancelled a Nov. 16 Dallas rally in support of Israel at which Begin was to be primary speaker.

Paige, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, said the rally at First Church primarily was to give the prime minister a chance to tell Israel's side of the Middle East conflict — a side Patterson said goes untold in the secular press.

All 3,000 rally tickets were gone a week before the event and First Baptist was preparing closed circuit television for overflow attendance by another 1,500.

According to both Patterson and Regional Director of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League Mark Briskman, Israeli officials already are speculating Begin will seek a return trip to the U.S. He hopes to talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, a conversation originally scheduled for this trip.

Begin participated in several rallies spon-

sored by Jewish constituents while in the U.S. He was "eager" to attend the First Church event, Patterson said, because "Israel may be in need of good public relations right now."

Patterson feels, despite widespread criticism of Israeli military decisions and conduct in the Middle East, fundamental evangelical support for the nation is unshaken.

The Dallas rally, proposed by the ADL after which First Baptist invited Begin, was not "to endorse a particular person, government or governmental policy," Briskman said, but was to reaffirm basic support of the nation of Israel.

A possible side effect, he said, was improved relationships between Christians and Jews and specifically between Baptists and Jews. A significant part of that side development was the rally's location at what Briskman called "the most important Baptist church in the world."

Baptist humorist dies in plane crash

Grady Nutt, known as "prime minister of humor" to many Southern Baptists, was killed in the crash of a private plane at Cullman, Ala., at 10:45 p.m. Nov. 23. Two professional pilots with him also were killed as he was leaving after speaking at a Cullman civic event and to a youth meeting sponsored by First Church there. The Federal Aviation Administration at Huntsville has said weather is not believed to be a factor in the crash.

Services were tentatively set for Nov. 26 at the hometown of his wife, Eleanor, near Memphis. Also surviving are two sons, Perry and Toby.

Nutt, a licensed Baptist minister, had been a pastor, youth director, and minister of music. He was director of alumni affairs and assistant to the president of Southern Seminary at Louisville before beginning a career of personal appearances, book writing and television. He spoke to Baptist Youth Day at Hot Springs in September.

A native of Amarillo, Tex., Nutt was a deacon at Crescent Hill Church in Louisville.

Hunger facts

☐ Children are the first victims of hunger and malnutrition.

☐ Each year 100,000 children become blind due to lack of vitamin A in their diets.

☐ The U.S., with only six percent of the world's population, consumes about one-

third of the world's minerals and energy each year.

☐ In the past five years, more people have died of hunger than were killed in all the wars, revolutions and murders of the last century.

☐ Every minute, 28 human beings die of starvation.

Sunday School

New linkage emerges in Sunday School work

Another linkage or relationship between Arkansas and Indiana in Bold Mission Thrust has been established in Sunday School work. Pastor Jim Douglass, formerly of Arkansas, now pastor in Plainfield, Ind., requested of our department materials for enlarging the Sunday School in a church with less than 150 enrolled in Sunday School. This project is called The People Reacher, and has been successfully used by many small churches in Arkansas.

Lew Reynolds, Sunday School department director for the Indiana Baptist State



Hatfield

Convention, has copies of the material to share them with Indiana Sunday School leaders and pastors who request them. The Arkansas Sunday School department will furnish the required materials without cost to the churches in Indiana, as well as in Arkansas.

Bold Mission Thrust in Indiana is a strong program to expand the number of churches in their convention and to enlarge the Sunday Schools. The Associational 8.5 Sunday School Enlargement Campaign is the basic program used across the nation for Sunday School enlargement. The People Reacher project is very much like the 8.5 project and may be used by a church any time.

Arkansas associations are urged to conduct one 8.5 Enlargement Campaign before the end of 1985. Other enlargement efforts are always in order. — **Lawson Hatfield, director**

Evangelism

'A personal witness' life

The apostle Paul, in Romans 12:1, exhorts a Christian to live the right life. He states, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

A good witness lives a purposeful life. I Corinthians 9:22 states, "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." Billy Sunday was asked the secret of his success in reaching so many souls for Christ. It is said that he walked over to the window and looked out at the masses of people on the streets and said, "They are going to Hell. They are going to Hell."



Shell

And then he said, "If there is a secret to my winning so many souls, it is because I really believe that men without Christ are going to Hell." My friends, when this truth really lays hold on your heart, it will stir you to rescue the perishing and give you a purpose to care for the dying.

The good witness lives a persevering life. I Corinthians 2:2 states, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Philippians 3:13-14 states, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." R. A. Torrey said, "Anyone who wishes to win souls at the rate of one every 15 minutes had better go into some other business." — **Clarence Shell Jr., director**

Stewardship

Lottie Moon offering furnishes wheels

Most missionaries are on the move . . . wheels, so important for missionaries, come from the Lottie Moon offering. The car doors opened at 5:30 a.m. Marge and I climbed in and drove out of Manuacu, Minas Gerais. At 7:30 we were to be 100 miles away in Ibatiba, Espirito Santo, for the first service of the day.

A large flat-bed truck awaited us on the courthouse square. Music and evangelistic preaching were the first order of the day. Three special groups were there to celebrate the organization of three new Baptist churches.

Some 250 miles away was Joao Neiva. At 2:00 a group of youth began to run with the torch of love. After some three miles of following runners in the car, we arrived at another public square. Hundreds of people with many special buses filled the area. Evan-

gelistic preaching, singing, three more new churches and on the road again.

At about 4:30 we arrived in Linhares. More singing, more testifying and preaching, two more new churches. They would continue services until 9:00 that night.

The last activity of the day was a march through Victoria, the capital city, and the organization of another new church.

Ten-thirty p.m. found us on the road again. Nine new churches, many decisions. Now, we needed our mission vehicle to see if we could go find us some lunch!

We were hungry but understood better than ever Jesus' words about satisfying spiritual experiences, thanks to Southern Baptists' giving. — **Glendon Grober, missionary-in-residence**

Christian Life Council

The happy handful

On the final day of our recent state convention, Ed Harris, the executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation, reported a matter of grave concern for us all. As a means of providing additional state revenue, the lottery issue will, in all probability, be promoted in the 1983 legislative sessions as a financial panacea. That would be an extension of legalized gambling in our state. With the advent of cable television such gambling receives added publicity from cities such as Chicago and New York. Also, Little Rock area newspapers rarely miss an opportunity to report the gigantic winnings of lottery and casino gambling.

On the other hand, even more rarely do television, radio, newspapers or anyone else mention the big losers. Among these

are families who go without necessities of life because of gambling. These are of necessity added to our welfare rolls. There is also a growing number of compulsive gamblers in our nation. These are sad consequences of a trend to let sin of all type run wide open with little protest from many social workers and even some pulpits.

Don't hesitate to let the state representative and senator from your area know exactly how you feel about any type legislation which, while bringing temporal joy to a handful, would greatly increase human misery. "Better is little with righteousness than great revenues without right." (Prov. 16:8). Anything gained through unrighteousness calls down the judgment of God. — **Bob Parker, director**

International

The nature of Luke's gospel

by Jere D. Mitchell, First Church of Fayetteville

Basic passages: Luke 1:1-4; 5:29-32; 8:19-21; 18-22

Central truth: Jesus is the savior for all.

One of the things that many Baptists will quickly agree upon is that the gospel is to be shared with the unsaved. The other side of that is that one of the most difficult things to do is to get people to share the gospel with the unsaved.

Luke was sharing what he had discovered about Jesus with his friend, Theophilus. We really do not know if Theophilus was a believer or not, but Luke was going to tell his story. The point that others had already written on the subject, thus inferring that Theophilus had already heard, was no deterrent to Luke. Like Luke, we must be willing to tell others in our homes, communities, and around the world.

That Luke was writing this account points out there are several ways we can communicate the good news. However we do it, good news is for telling.

In sharing his story, Luke uses events from Jesus' life to point out that the gospel is for all.

People have a tendency to compartmentalize their lives. There is a compartment for work, for home, for social activities, and for church. Many of us socialize with the people we go to church with. That's not bad, but it means that we do not have a great deal of contact with the unsaved or the unchurched. What we must do is realize that the gospel is to be shared with people who are unchurched. In order to do that we often need to look for opportunities to cultivate the friendships of fellow workers, neighbors, or acquaintances who are not in our church. This takes effort, discipline and boldness. The gospel is for those who need it. Those who need it the most are often "not like us."

How do we do it? People responded to Jesus because he expressed concern for them. The most difficult can be reached through love, active concern, and prayer.

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Life and Work

Faith and repentance

by Bert Thomas, Toltec Church, Scott Basic passage: James 4

Focal passages: James 4:1-4, 7-12, 17
Central truth: Repentance is a continual and vital part of Christian's life.

Repentance is a part of the initial salvation experience and a continual and vital part of the Christian's life after conversion. James recognized some problems in the lives of many of the early Christians. Things of the world had damaged their relationship with God and with each other. In attacking the problem directly, but tactfully and lovingly, James challenged them to repentance.

"Look inside," James said, "you will find the source of your problems." Quarrels and conflicts originate from a two-fold problem within the human heart. The first is a desire for wrong things. The second is a desire for right things but for the wrong motives. If we could look inside the heart we could find the same thing. The Word of God commands us to look. He does.

Repentance involves choice. "Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). Friendship with God should be the obvious choice of each Christian. Friendship with the world is unfaithfulness to God and is open hostility toward him.

Repentance involves change. This change is both inward and outward. It is an outgrowth of making the right choice and comes by submission to God. This means to set ourself under God; to bring our will under his control. As a result of this, the devil will flee. The devil's presence or the works of the flesh is an indication that God is not in control. Verse 9 is written as a command, an invitation, and a promise. God commands and invites us to draw close to him. He promises to draw close to us when we obey him. His presence changes our attitude toward our sins and should lead us to a spirit of humility. The evidence of this inner change can be clearly seen in the daily life of the Christian. This change is evident in one's respect of his fellow man and a deep sense of reverence for God.

Repentance is more than knowing the right things to do. Multitudes already have this knowledge. Repentance is confessing our sins to a loving, forgiving, heavenly Father and then putting our knowledge into righteous deeds. "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17 NASV).

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Bible Book

Evidence for authority

by Larry Maddox, Second Church of Little Rock

Basic passage: II Corinthians 11:16-12:13
Focal passages: II Corinthians 11:22-23, 12:2, 4-5, 7-13

Central truth: The mark of a true Christian leader is not glamour or credentials but service.

Some people might have the impression of Paul as a "macho" leader — a combination of John Wayne, Tom Selleck, and the Incredible Hulk all rolled into one. After all, he was a man that got things done.

Such an impression is false. Almost without exception Paul described himself as "servant" or "bond-slave." This man who could have expected preferential treatment or demanded a high-and-mighty role of authority over others, referred to himself most often as a "servant" of Christ. Paul said, "Are they servants? I more so" (11:23).

Jesus taught, "... whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant" (Matt. 20:26). Unfortunately these words are often either forgotten or ignored. Even in church we tend to get so caught up in the success and size syndrome that we lose sight of our calling to be servants. We cannot be Christ's disciples unless we possess the spirit of service, know the meaning of servanthood, and fill the role of servant.

Being a servant is costly (see verses 23-28), but God provides sufficient resources (see 12:9) and promises eternal rewards (see Matt. 25:21) for the faithful servant.

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Missionaries face following Upper Volta coup

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — In the first phone contact with the Foreign Mission Board since a coup overthrew the government of Upper Volta, Southern Baptist missionary J. B. Durham reported Nov. 10 that missionaries and volunteers are safe.

His call confirmed a message he had sent Nov. 9 through U.S. Embassy channels. Disrupted communications had prevented earlier contact with the 22 missionaries and 25 to 35 volunteers in the country, said John Mills, Foreign Mission Board director for west Africa.

News reports indicated that disgruntled soldiers overthrew the two-year-old government of Col. Saye Zerbo and formed a junta. A radio broadcast Nov. 8 by the rebel forces said the new government would respect its international commitments but failed to indicate the political direction planned for the country.

Missionaries assigned to Upper Volta include Norman and Beverly Coad, Al and Karen Hodges and Monica Keathley, all from Arkansas.



OBU Photo

OBU crowns queen

Leanne Sandifer (right) is crowned the 1982 Ouachita Baptist University Homecoming Queen by last year's first runner-up Rita Sutterfield of Little Rock in pre-game ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 13, at A. U. Williams Field. Sandifer is a sophomore biology major from Arkadelphia. She represented the sophomore class in the competition between 25 contestants, who were nominated by campus clubs, classes and organizations and then voted on by the student body at OBU. Sandifer is the daughter of C. K. and Lucille Sandifer of 211 Cherry St. in Arkadelphia.

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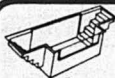
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'State of denomination' discussed by SBC leaders

IRVING, Texas (BP) — Forty Southern Baptist leaders — representing all sectors of denominational life — met Nov. 12 to talk about the problems of the denomination and most came away talking about the depth and seriousness of the differences.

The leaders included heads of four of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Foreign and Home Mission Boards and Executive Committee and representatives of all factions in the SBC.

At the conclusion of the meeting, one participant, C. Welton Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, commented: "I am disturbed by the depth of (theological) difference between us, but encouraged by the desire of us to find a

is a high level of concern."

Draper, pastor of First Church of Eules, Texas, commented that "only time will tell if it (the meeting) did any good or not, but I feel it was positive a thing... in which participants were able to discuss differences without anger or hostility."

R. Keith Parks, president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, said results of the meeting are "intangible" and added "I felt there was a little moving together... a little emotional drawing together, and I felt good about that."

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said he is "optimistic and grateful leaders with different theological positions are talking together about the work of our convention." He added that "if we will let ourselves, I believe God can bring us together in strong commitment and support of his work through the SBC."

William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, said the HMB must have "diversity in the field" if it is to be effective in reaching people for Jesus Christ. "We have never been polarized on our board. If we become so, we will not be as effective," he said.

Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, said the admission the problems are extensive is "progress. You have no hope of a solution until you can clearly identify the problems."

Patterson and Don Harbuck, pastor of First Church of El Dorado, Ark., presented papers on "My Definition of a Theological Conservative." Patterson has been a leader in the inerrancy movement and Harbuck has been identified with the "moderate-conservative" faction.

Patterson used the occasion to pose six questions, which he said must be seriously considered by denominational leaders, particularly agency heads.

Five of the questions start with, "Can assurances be provided that... The first two concern "parity" or representation of inerrantists on faculties, administrations and boards of SBC agencies and in the literature and books published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The third concerns coverage of the views of inerrantists in denominational press. The fourth asks if assurances can be provided "that those theologians and denominational executives who do not adhere to inerrancy can be counted upon to state publicly, clearly and unambiguously precisely what they do believe without hesitancy and without duplicity?"

The fifth seeks assurances that students who are inerrantists will not be harassed in state or SBC-related institutions.

His sixth question raises the issue of financial support. "Is there a plan by which all Southern Baptists may participate together in a cooperative way without the

necessity of supporting that which is morally and theologically repugnant to them? The question here is not that of funding some things about which there is disagreement. The question relates to the funding of that, which to us, is unconscionable."

Patterson noted he is aware the answer could result in a "radical revision" of the denomination's unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program. He told Baptist Press he believes "there is either going to have to be a revision of the Cooperative Program — not an abolition, merely a restructuring — or it will suffer some enormous trauma. That is not a threat, but just an observation of what I see developing."

Patterson said he would "be very comfortable" supporting the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, but "could not support the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs or the Christian Life Commission, as presently structured." He declined to say whether he could support the SBC seminaries or the other agencies "without giving it extensive thought agency by agency."

Harbuck commented he "feels a lot like Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities*. It was the best of times and the worst of times." He added the positive side was the sharing of ideas but noted there was no agreement as to ways these differences "can be composed in terms of denominational life."

He said that "our differences are probably wider than they have ever been, our diversity is greater than it has ever been." He said he believes "our confession of faith and our commitment to evangelism and missions, to the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of local churches will permit us to stay together in great dynamic unity as a denomination."

Harbuck added he believes the denomination can remain intact, "provided that the judgmental spirit and exclusivistic posture of fundamentalism does not insist upon a narrowing of our common faith to the point that many significant segments of Southern Baptist life are excluded."

"There is a strong tide of neofundamentalism in Southern Baptist life. The thing that is distressing to me is that fundamentalism is accompanied by an exclusivist character. Fundamentalists give others the right to hold different views, but insist their view is the only right and the only Baptist view. They also would exclude other views from the Baptist framework," Harbuck said.

He concluded, however, that "we have all imbibed the fundamentalist spirit and have not understood fully the fact that the heritage which calls us to be obedient to our own conscience also calls others to be obedient to their own consciences."

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way to work together.

John Sullivan, SBC first vice president and pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport, La., who arranged the meeting, said it was part of SBC President James T. Draper Jr.'s effort to get the factions talking to one another rather than about one another.

While admitting "no resolution came about," Sullivan commented: "I think the most positive thing was a willingness on the part of these men to come to be a part of the healing process, adjusting busy schedules and paying their own expenses. There