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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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12-23-1976

### December 23, 1976

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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December 23, 1976  
**Arkansas Baptist**  
NEWSMAGAZINE

The other side  
of Christmas  
page 2





## I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

### Violence, the ultimate threat

Floods, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, famines, tidal waves, epidemics and global wars are secondary when compared to a violence-oriented society. All the above will wear themselves out, run their course, and at last pass, but violence offers no such hope. Violence is a mood, an attitude, a stance, which is reproducing its kind in uncontrollable numbers and has come to such enormity as to drive us to action. The prevalence, preponderance, and popularity of police shows on TV and movies portraying violence is now showing its impact upon our youth in corresponding aggression and crimes.

Dr. Robert M. Liebert, professor of psychology and psychiatry at the State University of New York at Stony Brook states, "Dozens of studies have shown there is a positive relationship between the amount of violence a child watches and the amount of aggression seen in his daily attitudes and behavior."

"The single best prediction of how aggressive a young man will be at age 19 is the amount of television violence he was exposed to."

He observes that Saturday morning cartoons are perhaps the most aggressive and violent of TV programming and present an overt act of aggression about every two minutes. He further observes that "young viewers are affected by repeated exposure to social examples and learn from exposure to violence (committed) by heroes as well as villains that violence is a way to resolve conflict."

The effect of this exposure to violence may be catalogued in the muggings, rape, murder, mayhem and human indignities on every street and in every public facility in the nation.

When the dimension of violence is considered, there is cause for alarm. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute predicts within nine years 35 Third World countries will be able to manufacture nuclear weapons. By 1985 these 35 new countries, many violence oriented already, will make a global war more viable. Any highly strung leader in one of the developing countries could pull the switch in a heated moment and destroy half the world overnight.

This contagious rage must be cleared from the airways, but the deep cure resides in a new life. Cain never watched TV, but he slew his brother (Gen. 4:8). The cure of violence is a spiritual matter and here is where we come in (Mark 5:18-20). Those who are silent on this issue may be silenced forever. Violence is intolerable.

*I must say it!*

## In this issue

### On the cover



Thousands of Arkansans will see a life-size depiction of the Nativity this year on the steps of the State Capitol in Little Rock. The annual display offers an alternative to the bustling, noisy, spending side of Christmas. (Photo courtesy of Secretary of State)

### Baptist history 5

Arkansas Baptists' Executive Board has voted to commission a new history of Baptist work in the state. This was one item of business at the Board's recent meeting.

### Witness writes 7

A letter which might well have been written by a witness to the birth of Christ is the work of a Nashville man. The fiction feature tells the Roman's friend about the events of that night.

### 1976 index 10

If you read it in the Newsmagazine in 1976, it's probably listed in the year-end index, which readers may find useful in the future.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 75

NUMBER 51

J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. .... Editor  
BETTY KENNEDY ..... Managing Editor  
MARY GIBERSON ..... Secretary to Editor  
ANN TAYLOR ..... Bookkeeper

ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D ..... Editor Emeritus

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## Christmas: the Word became flesh

Christmas has many meanings. It is a time of reunion with friends and loved ones. It is the excitement of a small child opening a gift. It is a Christian reaching out a hand to help someone in need. But most of all Christmas should remind us of God's gift to mankind — "The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us ..." (John 1:14).

Closely related to the incarnation is the virgin birth. Both Matthew and Luke present Jesus as being born without a human father. Some argue that the miraculous conception is untrue because it is stated in only two passages in the New Testament. Repetition, however, is not necessary to give validity to a Bible statement. The virgin birth is, also, consistent with the idea set forth throughout the entire Bible that Jesus is the Son of God.

Perhaps the most vivid description of the incarnation is found in the gospel of John. The Word becoming flesh reveals that Jesus was completely God and completely man. The thought of God being embodied in the flesh staggered the minds of some. They said Jesus did not actually have a body but only appeared to have one. The teachings of this group of people called "Docetists", meaning "to seem to be", was totally refuted by both John and Paul.

The beloved disciple said that the incarnation declared that "grace and truth" dwelt among us. The word "grace" means that which is completely undeserved and unmerited. Jesus, through the incarnation, achieved for mankind that which we could not earn or obtain for ourselves. The incarnation, which

### Guest editorial Family viewing time

A federal court has struck down the Federal Communication Commission's concept of a family viewing time on television.

The family viewing time is not such a great idea. Why could not the entirety of television time be suitable for family viewing? To establish the ideas that the kids should be carted off to bed at a certain hour so that the adults can watch something the kids shouldn't is a reprehensible thought.

But with such an hour established and for it to be banned on the basis of freedom of speech is frightening. The thought that television is able to channel anything it pleases into the sanctuary of our homes is even more frightening. From time to time it seems that some network and syndicated programs and some advertisers on television are exploring the limits to which they will be allowed to go as they beam their concepts on unsuspecting audiences. Evidently there are to be no limits except what the public will accept.

The advice to turn off the set if it gets too bad does not hold water. Many times the things are on us without warning. And how many television sets are in children's bedrooms to be turned on behind closed doors after the family viewing hour is over?

To the credit of the networks, they have declared their intentions of continuing their family viewing hours on a voluntary basis even though now there is no mandate.

But why must there be a distinction between family

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



includes the life, death and resurrection of Christ, is an act of pure love on God's part.

In modern Greek the word translated "grace" in the New Testament, means "charm". In the incarnation we see the charm or beauty of what God has done for us. Grace shows man's helpless poverty and God's limitless kindness and love.

John, also, said that in the incarnation was found the imbodiment of "Truth". Most of us cannot grasp abstract ideas. We must be able to see before we can understand. Jesus came to us to show man the truths of God.

Truth is that which provides freedom. Occasionally, a person suspects that he is ill. When he visits his physician and learns the truth, he is immancipated from his fears. Similarly, Jesus liberated us from our estrangement with God.

Truth can be resisted but not destroyed. Men may refuse to accept Christ, but truth will remain. No one ever destroyed truth by refusing to listen to the voice that gave it to him. Everyone will ultimately be confronted by truth as he stands before the incarnate Christ at the end of the age.

Finally, truth is not something abstract. It is that which demands action. The message of the incarnate Christ must be known with the mind, accepted with the heart, and acted out in life.

Christmas is a time of joy. We should enjoy our friends and the giving and receiving of gifts. But the message of Christmas is that Christ came to earth in the flesh.

viewing and anything else?

Television is a powerful medium and its influence is awesome.

From the beginning of the broadcast industry the concept has been that the industry is transmitting its programs over the public airways; and, therefore, it is subject to a federal regulatory agency. But the court has told the Federal Communications Commission that it cannot infringe upon television's freedom of speech.

What about the freedom of all the rest of us whose air is being used to transmit television programs and advertising and into whose private living rooms and dens they are being beamed? Who is to decide what is objectionable and what is not?

The court has indeed placed an awesome responsibility into the hands of the television industry. Let's pray that the industry will be responsible.

To keep the record straight, it was not the networks which brought about this recent court decision. It was the result of a suit brought by independent program producers. What would be best is to convince someway the network executives that their local affiliates would be watched if all the programming from the networks is kept on such a level that kids can watch it too. — **Don McGregor in the 'Baptist Record' of Mississippi**



## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

### A mouse and a miracle for world missions

Christmas and world missions go together like Siamese twins. I suppose I have always known this, but it was impressed on me more vividly by the recent visit to our church of long-time friend Ann Wollerman, missionary to Brazil for almost 30 years. Christmas comes and goes so rapidly these days that it is easy to neglect or take for granted this beautiful relationship between the Good News of more than 2,000 years ago and the modern mandate to share the Good News around the world today.

Ann Wollerman has a disarming way of slipping up on one's blind side with some bothersome truths. She did just that as she spoke in our church during the emphasis on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. She compared the Christmas lists we all draw up to facilitate the giving and receiving of gifts, with the painful preparation of a list of urgent needs on the mission field at the annual missions meeting in a country like Brazil. It was a gentle reminder that we need to remember a world in need of Christ as we prepare our Christmas gift lists.

She also reminded us of some remarkable miracles that took place all along the way as she made her decision to go to Brazil on faith — without appointment by our Foreign Mission Board — and to find that God provided

for her in all kinds of ways. In the mid 1940's the Ouachita students, for example, raised money to buy the one-way ticket on the 28-day freighter that transported her to Brazil. She soon discovered in the heart of Mato Grosso that the Gospel can be carried by a woman on horseback. After she received appointment by our Foreign Mission Board, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering replaced her horse with a pickup truck. Before anyone had even heard the expression "Women's Lib," Ann Wollerman was the only woman truck driver in that part of the world.

I discovered one other mission miracle in the life of Ann Wollerman that even she had not identified. It went back to the days when she was Director of the Baptist Student Union of Ouachita and lived in an apartment in the old Student Center, Flenniken Hall. My wife was a Ouachita student at the time, roomed with her in the apartment, and was her assistant in taking care of the Student Center. While reminiscing, Ann Wollerman shared a crisis experience they had in trying to decide what to do about a mouse that was caught in a mousetrap in their apartment. I could not believe the terror she described in that encounter with a dead mouse, nor could I understand the final decision of their council of war — to

sweep the mouse, trap, and all, out of the apartment, down the back stairs, and out on the Ouachita campus.

Now when you compare that scene with the record of withstanding and overcoming all of the fears lurking in the interior of Brazil, this may be the biggest miracle of them all. God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform, even in missionaries who are afraid of mice.

### No paper next week

There will be no "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" for the issue date of Dec. 30. Your state paper skips two weeks each year, one near July 4 and one near Dec. 25. This issue contains Sunday School lessons for Sunday, Dec. 26, and for Sunday, Jan. 2, 1977. Since this issue is the last in 1976, it contains the index of 1976 items.

### OBU registration is announced

Registration for the spring semester at Ouachita University will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18, and Wednesday, Jan. 19, according to Carl Goodson, vice president for academic affairs at OBU.

New students should report first to the Arts and Sciences Office in Grant Hall to secure advisor assignments. All students should meet with their advisors prior to registration to prepare their trial schedules.

Registration will take place at Evans Student Center and Life Hall.

The schedule for registration on Tuesday begins at 9:30 a.m. with students who have identification numbers 0044-6521; 10:30 a.m., 6522-7028; 11:30 a.m., 7029-8000; 12:30 p.m., 8001-8500; 1:30 p.m., 8501-8820; 2:30 p.m., 8821-9038; 3 p.m., counseling for transfer students with schedule conflicts.

On Wednesday, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. for students with identification numbers 9039-9360, also transfer students with 59 hours or more; 9:30 a.m., 9361-9702; 10:30 a.m., 9703-9800; 11:30 a.m. 9801-9950; 12:30 p.m., 9951-10212; and 1:30 p.m., 10213 and up.

The last day to register or add a course is Feb. 2, and the last day to drop a course is March 9.

### Boyce Bible School offers short term

The next "J-Term" of Little Rock's Boyce Bible School will be Jan. 7-29, 1977. By meeting each class four hours per week the student may earn two semester hours of credit in one month. The schedule follows:

- Fri., 6-7:55 p.m., CH 6273, History of Christian Thought, Coppenger
- Fri., 8-8:15 p.m., Assembly, (All Students), Holland
- Fri., 8:20-10:15 p.m., CPR 6283, Planning your Preaching, Holland
- Sat., 8-9:55 a.m., CH 6273, History of Christian Thought, Coppenger
- Sat., 10-10:25 a.m., Chapel
- Sat., 10:30-12:25 (noon), CPR 6283, Planning your Preaching, Holland

Classes are held in the education building of Central Baptist Hospital, 12th and Marshall, which includes well-equipped classrooms, a small chapel, library, and dormitory space for 11 men on Friday nights. Students furnish the linens and lodging is free. A cafeteria, open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. is also in the building. Two and one half blocks of free parking is available across the street.

Cost is \$15 per course up to three courses with a \$50 maximum per student per term for four or five courses. For the "J-Term" pre-enrollment is scheduled for Jan. 7, 1977. Textbooks are available at the Baptist Book Store, 4418 University or at the school, Jan. 7-29, 1977.

# Executive Board votes to get history of convention written

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention convened in the Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock, on Dec. 7, with President Andy Setliffe presiding. A number of important business matters were considered, including the printing of a history of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the

election of a vice president of the Board, consideration of funds for the new department of Stewardship, and major emphases for the State Convention during the '80's.

The Program Committee recommended a history of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention be written in a profes-

sional and readable fashion. The motion stated that realistically a history could not be placed in the hands of a printer earlier than 1978. A history committee of the Executive Board is to work in conjunction with the History Commission of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. After considerable discussion the motion was passed by the Executive Board.

Kenneth Threet, pastor, First Church, Mountain Home, was elected vice president of the Executive Board. Dr. Threet was elected unanimously by acclamation.

Although the Executive Board in the Aug. 17 meeting of this year, voted to establish a new department of "Stewardship", Roy Lewis is to continue with the responsibility of stewardship until someone for the new position is secured. The new arrangement will leave Lewis as secretary of Cooperative Program, business manager, and associate executive secretary. It was recommended that the new department be funded by rearranging necessary items in the approved budget of the Annuity office, Stewardship Department, and Business Services. The motion further authorized \$24,556 to be taken from the reserve fund of Business Services-General to effect the personnel change. The reserve funds are to be replenished during 1977 from investment earnings. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Executive Board endorsed emphases for the 1980's. The emphases drawn from the Impact '80 plan are as follows: (1) 1979-80, Dedicated Leadership Emphasis; (2) 1980-83, New Testament Evangelism and Family Life; (3) 1983-86, Baptist Mission and Baptist Way Emphasis.

A motion was passed that three committees be appointed to work with Dr. Ashcraft to aid in the disbursement of certain funds from the 1976 overage. The committees are to assist with emergency aid, Boyce Bible School, and extreme mission needs.

A motion was made and carried that the Executive Board Minutes be made available to the moderators of our associations and to the directors of missions. It was further suggested that the associational Executive Board members make a report to their local association whenever possible.

Executive Board President Andy Setliffe observed that from 1969 to 1976, the Baptist Building staff employed by the Executive Board has increased one department head, one associate, three secretaries, one bookkeeper, and five BSU campus directors.

## Executive Board names committees

Committees of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, named by the Board at their meeting Dec. 7, are the following:

### OPERATING COMMITTEE, Paul Dodd, Chairman

1977	1978	1979
Mrs. George Tharel (Dist. 1)	*Henry Oliver (Dist. 4)	*John E. Miller (Dist. 2)
Leslie Riherd (Dist. 3)	Conway Sawyers (Dist. 8)	Andy Kerr (Dist. 5)
Tommy Cupples (Dist. 7)		Paul Dodd (Dist. 6)
*Andrew Setliffe, Board President		
R. Wilbur Herring, Convention President		

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE, Cline Ellis, Chairman

1977	1978	1979
*Gene Bell	Joe Atchison	Garland Brackett
*John T. Daniel Jr.	William R. Brown	P. C. Church
Joe Denton	Frank Carroll	David Crouch
John Gearing	Jim R. Davis	Cline Ellis
James E. Hill Jr.	James Hickman	John Finn
*Morris Jackson	W. H. Jenkins	*Dwayne Fischer
Paul McClung	James Lindsey	Bennie Franklin
*Edwin Moss Jr.	Eddie McCord	Jimmie Garner
*Charles Northen	*Paul Owens	J. T. Harvill
Mrs. Evelyn Pace	William Piercy	Mrs. Paul Henry
Elton Pennington	*J. O. Ross	David Miller
William L. Probasco	Paul Sanders	Daniel Threet
Jerry Wilcox	Curtis Smith	Pat Titsworth
	Mrs. Bob Wright	Vernon Wickliffe

### FINANCE COMMITTEE, Ray Wells, Chairman

1977	1978	1979
*Oscar Baker	Sardis Bever	*Virgil Blair
Mrs. L. C. Carter	J. E. Clark	Mrs. Carl Bunch
*J. P. Cheatham	Nodell Dennis	Dennis Dodson
Charles Chesser Jr.	Oscar Golden	Terrell Gordon
*Robert Harper	Mrs. R. E. Hagood	R. B. King
H. D. McCarty	Thomas Hinson	Bill H. Lewis
Trueman Moore	*C. J. Holiman	*Charles Mayo
*Raymond Morris	Roy Gean Law	Dean Newberry
Lester C. Nixon	Keith Loyd	Bert Thomas
Edward L. Powers	J. C. Myers	Kenneth Threet
Harry Wigger	Ernie Perkins	Ray Wells
Milton Wilson	*Auby Rowe	Mrs. C. S. Williams
	Oatis Vester Jr.	John Wright

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Andrew Setliffe, Chairman

*Andrew Setliffe	President, Executive Board
R. Wilbur Herring	President, Convention
Paul Dodd	Chairman, Operating Committee
Cline Ellis	Chairman, Program Committee
Ray Wells	Chairman, Finance Committee
James E. Hill Jr.	Chairman, Nominating Committee

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE, James E. Hill Jr., Chairman

1977	1978	1979
*Gene Bell	Nodell Dennis	Kenneth Threet
James E. Hill Jr.	Mrs. R. E. Hagood	

\*Laymen

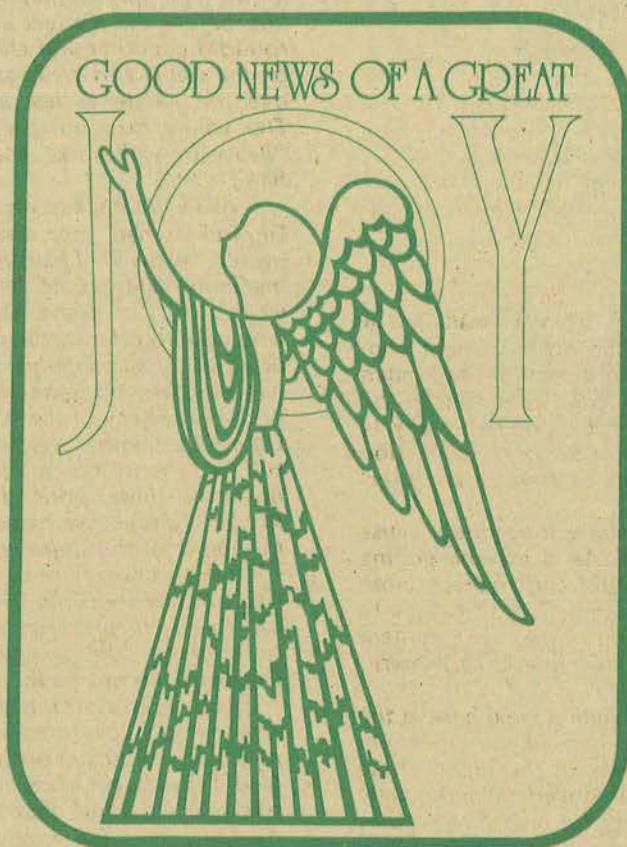
Thelma Anderson  
Charles H. Ashcraft  
Erline Bauer  
Johnny Biggs  
Jane Birkhead

Betty Kennedy  
Julia Ketner  
Betty Jo Lacy  
Roy Lewis  
Tom Logue

Carolyn Pence  
Willene Pierce  
Freddie Pike  
Annabelle Powers  
Linette Pryor

# Wishing for you a happy Christmas illuminated by the

Nadine Bjorkman  
Jeannie Breedlove  
Tommy Bridges  
Debbie Combs  
Don Cooper  
Wilson Deese  
R. H. Dorris  
Robert Ferguson  
Mary Giberson  
Millie Gill  
Joan Gresham  
Neal Guthrie  
Bert Haley  
Lawson Hatfield  
Ora Sue Higgins  
Doris Hinson  
Bob Holley  
Lucile Holley



Vera Rankins  
Pat Ratton  
Jesse Reed  
T. K. Rucker  
Karen Russey  
C. H. Seaton  
Clarence Shell  
Cornelia Shells  
J. O. Smith  
J. Everett Sneed  
Lera Stokes  
Ann Taylor  
Joyce Thomas  
Harry Trulove  
Betty Tyler  
Harold Vernon  
Jeanie Weber  
Delois White  
Betty Wilfong

## Your friends at the Baptist Building

Gerald Jackson  
Jane Jones  
Rose Jones  
Alma Johnson  
Ervin Keathley

Fay McClung  
Edith Mills  
Frances Murphree  
Bob Parrish  
Roger Patrick

Bonnie Williams  
Annie Mary Wilson  
Lynda Wigal  
Sue Winchester  
Jane Winstead

# A Christmas letter

by David Pile

An old gentlemen sits at a small desk in the inn at Bethlehem. His hair is streaked with gray, his shoulders slightly stooped, his ruggedly handsome face and muscular arms bear the scars of a hundred battles. He is the classic Roman citizen, embodying the strength, dedication and wisdom that has made Rome the ruler of the world. The hour is late and as the candle burns low, he begins his letter . . .



My Dear Friend Plotius:

I am writing this letter to you from a small inn at Bethlehem in Judea. As you know, after my retirement from the army, I was sent here as an administrator for the Roman government. My job is to assist the local authorities in the census which is taken in this area of the kingdom every 14 years. This census is taken for the purpose of tax collection and also to determine the availability of men for army service.

The events I am about to describe will no doubt cause you some concern that your good friend may be getting senile. I assure you my mind is sound and perhaps more perceptive than ever before in my whole life. I beg you to pay strict attention to my words and do not pass judgment until you have carefully considered every word I have written.

Yesterday, as I was eating my evening meal here at the inn, a young man and his wife approached the innkeeper and asked if they might find lodging for the night. These people were very simply dressed and looked much the same as all the residents of the area except for one thing — they had a look of humbleness and purity of countenance that completely captivated me. I could not keep my eyes off them. I noticed the young woman was soon to bear a child.

The innkeeper also seemed to notice something different from his usual inn inhabitants and apologetically told them he had no rooms but he could arrange a clean stable for them which would most certainly be preferred to sleeping under the sky. They very graciously thanked him for his kindness, turned and walked out toward the stables.

I finished my meal and walked out into the garden to watch the sunset. A strange stillness covered the earth. The sun slipped below the horizon and I watched the darkness creep across the land.

As I went to my room my thoughts kept going back to

the young couple I had seen downstairs. What was this strange attraction for this couple that kept haunting me?

During the night I was awakened by a strange feeling that I was not alone. I got out of bed and walked to the door. Some invisible force was directing me toward the stable in which the young couple were spending the night. As I walked outside, the sky was literally aglow. A huge, bright star seemed to hover over our area. I could hear voices coming from the sky and singing the most beautiful music I have ever heard. My first reaction was fear, but as I listened and watched an aura of complete tranquility enveloped the whole countryside. Something wonderful and miraculous was happening; a new world was being born and I was at the center of this creation.

I walked slowly toward the stable, pulled back the crude curtain and looked inside. A child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, was lying in a manger and the beautiful young mother was standing over him, singing softly and sweetly. She asked me to come closer. Immediately I felt unworthy, as if I were on holy ground. I fell to my knees in humble adoration before the manger and watched a heavenly glow surround the mother and child. The angelic chorus descended on the stable and my heart was transformed. A peace came over me that defies description. I knew I had truly seen God. The young man put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Peace be with you." The mother smiled and touched my hand.

As I went back to my room the greatness of the Roman Empire seemed very small compared to what I had witnessed. All my life I have fought and bled for a Caesar, thinking immortality could be attained through our cruel and vicious gods of Rome. Do you remember my Greek slave who used to offer sacrifice to the Unknown God? He told us of a God of all mankind, whether Greek or Roman or black or white. Do you remember the Jewish captive who told us of the prophecy of the birth of a deliverer of their people? Do you remember the altar to the Unknown God on Mars Hill in Athens? We scoffed and looked down our Roman noses at these poor deluded people. We conquering Romans thought we had all the Gods that were needed plus the might of the Imperial army.

Now I know, Plotius, we were wrong. It is sad to think that we have lived our lives worshipping false gods; that we can waste our precious talents and energy and even inflict suffering on other people in pursuit of the approbation of Gods that do not exist.

I shall not return to Rome. I am resigning my commission with the government to dedicate the remaining years of my life to the pursuit of knowledge and prophecy of the True God. I shall begin here in Judea and go wherever I am led by this spiritual force that has entered my life. You are my dearest friend and I wanted to share this great experience with you. I leave you with this parting thought . . . Man cannot comprehend God through reason. Our senses betray us in this approach. We cannot receive his grace by demanding it or by earning it through our works. It is only through the spiritual application of faith that man can come into his presence. It is then the Unknown God becomes a reality and the vital force of the union will exist throughout eternity.

Your true friend,

Marcus

David Pile is a pharmacist in Nashville (Ark.) and is a member of First Church there.



**Joe Williams** has been called to serve as minister of music and youth at Life Line Church in Little Rock. A native of West Helena, Williams came to the Little Rock church from Newport First Church. Other churches in Arkansas where



Williams

Williams has served on the staff are Glenwood, Smackover, Norphlet and El Dorado. He is a graduate of Ouachita University. Williams and his wife, Margaret, are the parents of a son, Joe II.

**Barney Larry**, who has been minister of music and youth at First Church, Springfield, Ill., for the past three years, will assume similar duties at Mountain Home First Church in January. Larry is a graduate of Southern Illinois University. He and his wife Jodi have one daughter, Tanya, age nine. While serving on the staff in Springfield, Larry organized choirs for all ages with the adult choir presenting concerts in several other cities. This past summer the youth choir toured several Eastern states, singing on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for the Bicentennial celebration. In 1975, the youth choir was named outstanding

choir for churches of the same size at the Southern Baptist Youth Music Festival at Ridgecrest. Mrs. Larry, a vocal major, plans to continue her educational studies at Arkansas College, Batesville. She is also an interpreter for the deaf at church, as well as for deaf students attending college.

**Robin Griffith** of Little Rock, a sophomore at Southern Baptist College, is now serving as youth director of Imboden Church. Griffith, a ministerial student, is president of the Baptist Student Union at the college and was a former member of the Ensemble. He starred as a clown in the musical production "The Clown" which has been presented in various churches.

**Lawrence Dennis** of Pine Bluff, a student at Southeastern Seminary, has been presented a George A. Shinn scholarship. The scholarship fund was created by a Raleigh, N.C., businessman, Baptist layman and trustee at the seminary, to assist men and women in theological training.

**Mrs. Ruth M. Tolleson**, a former employee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, died in Olathe, Kans., Dec. 4 at the age of 74 after an extended illness. Mrs. Tolleson also served as the first secretary of the First Church in Siloam Springs, serving in that position for approximately 15 years.

**Emmanuel Church, Harrison**, is constructing a new facility which will consist of four classrooms, storage room and baptistry. Jack Lawson is pastor and Willis Cantrell is chairman of the building committee.

**Pleasant Hill Church, Bauxite**, held revival services Nov. 15-21. Les Aldridge, pastor of Cross Roads Church in Little Rock, was evangelist. Fred Bridges was in charge of music. There were two professions of faith and three joined by letter. Wayne Anderson is pastor.

**Cross Roads Church**, Mississippi County Association, recently ordained the pastor, Bill Volner. An ordination service was also held for two deacons, Alton Blaylock and Curtis Boren.

## Church Training Deacon ministry training available

Deacons all across our state are becoming involved in deacon ministry in their churches. There is a growing interest in and commitment to the servant/ministry concept of the deacon's role. This is the concept that sees the major function of deacons as that of ministry and witness rather than managing the business affairs of the church. Many deacons in our state are becoming involved in the Deacon Family Ministry Plan in their church and they are discovering a new sense of excitement and fulfillment as deacons.

We receive frequent requests for deacon conferences and deacon retreats from churches and associations. These may be scheduled as one or two-night conferences or as Friday night and Saturday retreats. Most conferences also involve the deacon's wife.

Eight pastors in our state recently received extensive training in conducting deacon training projects and they are available to assist our department with the requests we receive from churches and associations. These men are Larry Baker, First Church, Fayetteville; Kenneth Threet, First Church, Mt. Home; Ray Crews, First Church, Osceola; James Bryant, Second Church, Russellville; John Maddox, Wynne Church; Sidney Sample, Second Church, Hot Springs; John Holston, First Church, Nashville; and James Walker, First Church, Warren.

If your church or association would like to schedule a deacon training project during the coming year, please send your request to the Church Training department and we will assist you in planning and conducting the project. — Robert Holley

## Woman's viewpoint

Iris O'Neal Bowen

## A magi speaks

Behold, my friend, the stars that fill the sky  
Have always had their place, and we recall  
Their groupings and their movements, nor ask why  
Their patterns never vary. Though one fall,

Another always seems to take its place.  
And yet, tonight, my friend, we hear you gasp.  
You stand as one awe-stricken. On your face  
Is shining rapture, then we see you clasp

Your trembling hands and kneel as if in prayer.  
You say a new star glows above the earth;  
That God, our Father, surely placed it there,  
A token of His Son's, our Savior's birth?

Ah, you are right! Did not the prophet speak  
Of the Messiah? Rise! We must be gone!  
The star! It moves, and we must follow, seek  
By its bright rays, the Child it shines upon!



## Star City completes \$400,000 building

First Church, Star City, dedicated last month a \$400,000 sanctuary and office building. Construction was begun in October, 1975. The new building replaces one used since 1926.

The sanctuary and administration annex are the second phase of a building program begun in 1967 when the church built a two story education building.

The new facilities have been a goal of the church since 1973 when a building committee was appointed under the leadership of Pastor Bill Kennedy. The work was completed under the leadership of Dennis Dodson, who became pastor in June, 1974.

The new concrete and brick building has a seating capacity of 600, which includes a 54-seat choir area. The sanctuary furnishings include an Allen digital computer organ. Space is provided for pastor's study, secretary/receptionist's office, music director's office, choir rehearsal room, library, and work room.

The building was designed by Fletcher, Miller, Dean, and Associates of Little Rock, and constructed by Scott Construction Co. of Benton.

Five-hundred persons attended the Sunday afternoon dedication and open house. Charles H. Ashcraft, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was dedication speaker. Others on the program included Don Cooper, a former pastor; Edwin Moss Jr., chairman of the building committee; and Harold White, Director of Missions for Harmony Association.

Star City First's new sanctuary and administration annex replaces a building erected in 1926.



## Ward dedicates new building

First Church, Ward, dedicated a new sanctuary on Nov. 7. The new facility had a total cost of \$130,000. Members and friends raised \$33,000, leaving an indebtedness of \$90,000.

The new auditorium has a seating capacity of 430, including a balcony. The new facility which has 5,628 sq. ft., also includes six classrooms and a pastor's study.

The Sunday School attendance has increased 45 percent from Sept. 1, 1975, until the present time. The Sunday

School is now averaging 175 in attendance, and 96 people have united with the church during the past 14 months. Approximately 50 percent of these came on profession of faith for baptism. The annual budget has increased from \$42,700 to \$49,693 over the past year.

The church was organized on July 29, 1925, in the Masonic Hall with 54 charter members. The first building was a one-room school house which stood on land given by Walter Priest. This original building with remodeling served until 1939, when a new auditorium and classrooms were completed at the same location.

On Nov. 11, 1962, groundbreaking services were held for an Educational building which now stands adjacent to the new sanctuary. In 1973, the church voted to purchase adjoining property with a six-room house. The house is now used for the youth department.

The dedicatory message was brought by Executive Secretary Charles H. Ashcraft who spoke from I Corinthians 7, on "An Exciting Church". Dr. Ashcraft emphasized that a church is exciting because it has God's people, because it has God's goals, and because it is reaching people for Christ.

In conclusion Dr. Ashcraft said, "I promised long ago that I would never preach without asking people to trust Christ as Saviour." He admonished those present to become a part of an exciting church so that God could bless their lives.



The sanctuary built by the Ward church also has a balcony. (ABN photo)

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Geyer, Ross, pastor of Mandeville Church, Texarkana 5/13p5

Geyer Springs, Little Rock, has revival 4/8p7

Gilbert, John — What's a BSU director? (F) 2/26p17

Gillett First begins construction of new parsonage 11/11p9

Gillham Church has revival 10/28p9

Gilliland, Mark C. Jr., of Siloam Springs receives master of divinity degree 7/29p5

Girls' Training School needs chapel funds 4/29p5; Special Fund Day for Chapel at Alexander 5/20p4

Give to Go (GE) 4/8p3

Glasgow, Gary, minister of music and education for Immanuel Church 10/7p7

Glover, Jim, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Paragould 8/19p5

God uses Arkansas volunteers 6/10p6-7 (F)

Golf tourney set 7/1p5

Gore, Jay B., serving as minister of music and outreach at Cabot First Church 9/23p5

Gore, Victor Albert, gets degree from Southern Seminary 1/15p7

Graber, Eddie, minister of youth at Ft. Smith First Church 10/28p13

Grace Church, North Little Rock, to have crusade 4/15p7

Grace Church, North Little Rock, in revival 2/19p11

Grand Avenue, Hot Springs, experiencing unusually fast growth 6/3p7

Grant, Dr. Daniel R., president of Ouachita University, to speak at National Colloquium on Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools 4/22p8

Grant, Mrs. Grace Stowers, dies 2/12p5

Graves, Robin Jo, receives national award merit in business education at Ouachita 5/27p9

Gray, Jerry B., gets degree from Southern Seminary 1/15p7

Green, Johnny, staff evangelist of Wynne Church 8/19p5

Griever, E. E. Sr., dies 2/5p4

Griffin, James A., honored as Kansas City metro mission director 6/17p5

Guatemala — need for more volunteers 9/9p12

## H

Hagarville Church has Life and Liberty revival 4/22p8

Hamburg, First, dedicates educational facility 2/26p5; Hamburg, First, remodels 7/22p7

Hammons, Thomas Reddings, dies at age 96 8/19p5

Hampton, First, has revival 4/8p7; Holds revival 10/21p5

Hampton, Rev. and Mrs. Charles A., appointed as missionary associates to Ethiopia 11/18p24

Handbell festival attracts 236 4/1p15

Hardin, Mrs. Mary Emma, honored by Clarksville First Church 9/2p5

Harris Chapel, Wynne, holds revival 11/25p11

Harrison, Lawrence, participates in church

renewal clinic 11/4p5

Harvey, Paul, to bring rally message 6/3p4  
Haynes, Roger, ordained as deacon by  
Hampton First Church 9/23p5

Hazen, First, gives pastor new car 1/22p9  
Heard, Samuel C. Jr., pastor of Park Hill,  
North Little Rock 1/1p11

Heard, William H., has many roles 2/12p9 (F)  
Henderson, David, receives master of divinity  
degree from Southern Seminary 6/3p7

Hendrix holds festival 5/6p4  
Helena First Church youth choir sponsoring  
TRUTH 6/17p4; To observe 125th anniversary  
9/30p5; Reviews 125 years 11/11p5

Henley, Jim B., resigns at Clarksville Second  
to enroll in seminary 7/1p7

Heritage - Challenge from past (E) 5/27p3  
Herring, Mrs. Homer, honored by McRae  
First Church 3/11p10

Herring, John Little, dies 2/5p4  
Heslip, Larry, minister of childhood educa-  
tion North Little Rock, Park Hill 2/19p6

Hicks, William, received 4-year attendance  
pin 3/18p7

Hilburn, Bill D., gets degree from  
Southwestern Seminary 1/8p7

Hill, William D., enrolls in Southwestern  
Seminary 9/2p5

Hilton, Roy B., to retire in April after 11 years  
at El Dorado Immanuel 2/19p6

History writing contest 3/11p8  
Hobbs, Oscar, honored by Clarksville First  
Church 9/2p5

Hocking, Lawrence, ordained as deacon  
2/19p8

Hodgson, Harold W., ordained to ministry  
11/25p11

Hogan, Martha Delura, gets degree from  
Southwestern Seminary 1/15p7

Hogan, William Charles, receives master of  
divinity degree from Southwestern 5/27p5

Hoggatt, Miss Lois, summer youth director at  
First Church, Brinkley 8/12p5

Holland, W. T., interim pastor of Hebron  
Church 6/24p5

Holland Church dedicates building additions  
and improvements at homecoming 10/21p5

Hollaway, Bill, pastor of Hot Springs,  
Memorial 4/29p5

Holloway, Jerry Dean, receives master of  
divinity degree from Southwestern 5/27p5

Holy Spirit - strength for daily living (E)  
11/4p3

Home missionaries most since 1970 1/15p4;  
Board appoints 24 5/6p16; Board names first  
Asian staffer 12/2p12

Homosexuality on TV 10/7p3 (E)  
Hope, First, has note burning service 9/2p5

Horatio Church has dedication 9/30p5  
Hoxie, First, has revival 4/15p7; Hoxie, First,  
has revival 9/16p7

Human rights - court rules on 8/12p24  
Humphrey, Lloyd Ray, receives master of  
divinity degree from Southwestern 5/27p5

Hunter, Joseph Boone, rewrites Amazing  
Grace for president-elect 11/25p5  
Huntsville, First, holds ground breaking ser-  
vices 5/13p6

Huskey, Paul, pastoring at Norfolk Church  
9/30p7

Hyde, Stephen, pastor of Ft. Smith, South  
Side 4/15p5

Hypocrisy, It is ever present (GE) 8/26p3

Identify Southern Baptists - How to (GE)  
7/29p3

Immanuel, Pine Bluff, has success with AC-

TION program 5/20p14

Immanuel Church, Warren, has laymen's  
revival 5/27p9

I Must Say It - Let's start '76 right 1/1p2;  
Churches can be too independent 1/8p2; Will  
God's people proclaim him 1/15p2; Be more  
charitable 1/22p2; Burdens 1/29p2; How good  
Samaritan 2/5p2; What's happening 2/12p2;

Making a criminal 2/19p2; Crime solution  
2/26p2; Who is called 3/4p2; Holy Spirit  
changes lives 3/11p2; Handling God's Word  
3/18p2; Bible integrity 3/25p2; Tongue speak-  
ing 4/1p2; Our public servants 4/8p2; Continu-  
ing revolutions 4/15p2; Sins of America 4/22  
p2; I Must Say - Fourth Branch News Media  
4/29p2; Limits of freedom 5/6p2; The First  
Amendment 5/13p2; Church-state debt  
5/20p2; Adjust life to running battle 5/27p2;

Don't let it happen to you 6/3p2; Life's supreme  
misfit 6/10p2; Where is East in theology  
6/17p2; Feeling is not enough 6/24p2; Join the  
club? (evil of money) 7/1p2; No day passes -  
mission needs 7/15p2; Christ is real 7/22p2; No  
unimportant people 7/29p2; Attitude identifies  
8/5p2; Where are the giants? - God needs a  
special man 8/12p2; Right, dead or alive  
(finding the truth) 1st in series 8/19p2; The dor-  
mant doctrine (2nd) 8/26p2; Theological yes or  
no 9/2p2; Every Christian a priest 9/9p2; Old  
guard will go when God's other priests stand  
firmly 9/16p2; Pig-sty-Christian practice  
needed 9/23p2; Troubles evaluated as oppor-  
tunities (Having troubles, anyone) 9/30p2;

Why? - God's children all significant 10/7p2; Is  
God a tenant? 10/14p2; Glory in the church -  
Aid BSU 10/21p2; Bears or bunnies? (We are  
to present gospel) 10/28p2; A word please,  
church, association and convention 11/4p2;

Convention is important too 11/11p2; Life and  
Liberty '76 leaves leaders 11/18p2; How  
spiritual are you, really? 11/25p2; Free at last -  
Under the Lordship of Christ 12/2p2; The rich  
man knew 12/9p2; Dead churches can live  
again 12/16p2

Inactive members - Churches begin  
emphasis 12/9p16

Independence of Baptists (E) 5/6p3  
Indestructible Church 10/21p3 (E)

Indian mission leader is church servant  
6/10p16

Ingram, Charles, ordained as deacon by  
Hopewell Church 9/23p5

Inspiration of Bible 6/3p3  
Internal Revenue hears Baptist protest  
4/8p16

International Conference held 12/9p7  
International workers to meet 10/21p6

Ironton Church, Little Rock, to have revival  
9/23p5

Is it ethical (GE) 1/29p3  
Israel - Archaeological discoveries 1/8p18

Institute of Theology opened by University  
Church, Fayetteville 8/19p9

Jackson, Johnny Jr., pastor of Chidester  
church 2/19p6

Jackson, Lendol, elected president of  
Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid  
Administrators 10/14p6

Jacksonville, First, youth choir goes to  
Glorieta 6/24p9

Jacobs, Mrs. Judy, employed by SBC as  
government reporting specialist 8/5p6

James, Ewing Stanford, Standard-setter (GE)  
5/20p3

James, Justus, former Arkansas pastor, dies  
in Muskogee, Okla. 7/15p4

James, P. J., president of Consolidated Mis-  
sionary Baptist Convention 1/22p10

January Bible Study - Importance of (E)  
11/18p3

Jefcoat, Joe, pastor of Woodland Corner  
Church, Blytheville 3/25p8

Jenkins, Rev. and Mrs. Orville Boyd, ap-  
pointed to Kenya. She from Arkansas 1/8p4

Jerden, Larry R., editor of Colorado state  
paper 11/25p16

Johns, Harrison, pastoring Pleasant Grove  
Church at Conway 11/25p11

Johnson, Pamela Jean, given reserve com-  
mission in Army Staff Specialist Branch 12/9p6

Johnston, John Vernon, gets degree from  
Southwestern Seminary 1/15p7

Jonesboro church cares 1/19p8

Jones, James, ordained as deacon by  
Hampton First Church 9/23p5

Jones, Jamie, honored 5/13p8

Jordan, L. B., resigns as pastor of Lamar  
Church 8/19p5

Joyce City holds revival 4/8p7

Joy Explosion in August 7/15p10

Joy, the meaning of (E) 1/8p3

Judging of others 12/2p3 (E)

Just a minute - salvation (GE) 7/15p3

Keiser First Church completes facility 11/18  
p5

Kennedy, Don, minister of youth at First  
Church, Ft. Smith 5/13p5

Kent, A. D., dies in Lavaca 3/4p5

Kesterson, Sharon, of Dierks on staff at  
Glorieta 7/15p4

Kibler church has note burning 1/1p7

Kimbrell, James Ronald, of Magnolia  
receives master of divinity degree 7/29p5

King, Robert Barry, licensed to preach 8/5p6

Kirk, Anita, of Fayetteville secretary of Stu-  
dent Council at Southwestern Seminary 4/22p5

Kirkland, Dale, believed in total stewardship  
9/2p8 (F)

Kuriel, P. N., speaks at Alma First Church  
6/24p9

Kwee, Dr. James and Sunny, are naturalized  
into American Citizenship 12/9p6

Lamont, Cannon, joins staff of Pine Bluff  
South Side Church 10/21p5

Langley, Claire Jr., minister of youth and  
music at Dollarway Church, Pine Bluff 5/20p7

Language ministries come to Arkansas  
3/4p10

Ledbetter, Veda Oran, dies in Harrison  
3/11p6

Lee, Dr. and Mrs. J. A., appointed as mis-  
sionaries to Europe, the Middle East and South  
Asia 11/18p24

Lee, Robert, ordained deacon 3/18p7

Legalized gambling 3/25p16

Legislation, support of (LE) 2/19p4

Letters to the Editor: Back to the pulpit 9/2p4;

Open letter to Arkansas Baptists 9/14p4; Opin-  
ions on the proposed building 10/14p4; Part-  
time teachers 10/14p5; Estate planning  
10/14p5; Distorting issue on taxing churches  
10/28p5; Build for future 10/28p5; Don't build  
10/28p5; 'Yes' on building 11/4p4; Not all op-  
pose building plan 11/11p4; Opposing abortion  
12/9p4

Levy Church, North Little Rock, will celebrate  
70th anniversary 9/16p7

K

L

Lewis, Edmond Patrick, receives Christian theology degree from Mid-America Seminary 6/3p8

Lewis, Lee, retires as pastor of Warren Southside Mission 9/16p5; Fills Jonesboro pulpit 11/25p11

Lewis, Nathan Lee, joins staff of West View Church, Paragould 10/21p5

Life and Liberty Campaign a success (E) 7/15p3

Life and Liberty — Ark. to be spotlighted on TV 1/1p8; Using simple record system 1/8p9; Importance of crusades 2/19p16; Enlistment program 2/26p11; Counselor training 4/22p4; Area rally in Hot Springs 4/29p8; Rally counselors needed 5/6p5; Counselor training 5/20p7

Literacy tutor training offered 9/16p7

Little Rock, Second, among top five in Vacation Bible Schools 4/15p5

Linton, David, ordained as deacon 2/26p9

Literacy workshop planned 2/12p4

Lively, Billy C., of Little Rock dies 6/10p9

Loaf of bread — Will we be held responsible 6/3p8 (F)

Loftis, Milt, resigns from Levy Church, North Little Rock, to go to seminary 9/16p5

Lowry, Forrest Eugene III, receives master of theology degree from Mid-America Seminary 6/3p8

Luck, Joe Fred, honored with retirement and birthday party 8/12p5

## Mc

McClanahan, John, to lecture 3/4p5

McClellan, John, gives official papers to Ouachita 7/15p16

McClure, Miss Nancy, coordinator of ministries for Oak Grove Church near Van Buren 10/14p6

McCormick, Don, ordained to ministry 4/8p8

McDonald, Bradley Franklin, dies in Augusta, Ga. 8/5p6

McElroy, E. O., retires following 17-year ministry at 16th Street Church, North Little Rock 11/18p5

McGough, Mrs. Bobby C., is art instructor at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge

McGregor, Donald T., elected as editor of Mississippi Baptist Record 9/2p16

McKean, Gary Franklin, minister of music and youth at Crossett, First 3/11p5

McLemore, Coyse David, gets degree from Southwestern Seminary 1/15p7

## M

Macks, Manuel, ordained to ministry 3/11p8

Maddox, John R., returns from evangelistic campaign in France 11/11p11

Magnolia, Central Church, has revival 6/3p7

Maheer, Harvey, pastor of Shirley Church 7/22p5

Manuel, Ralph, has hymn arrangements accepted by Southern Baptist Convention Church Music Department 9/16p5

Marijuana and public drunkenness 4/15p12

Marlin, Harold, ordained as deacon of Belview Church in Melbourne 11/4p5

Markham, H. A., to stand trial 7/29p16; Get probation 11/11p17

Markham, W. H., pastoring Immanuel Church in El Dorado 10/7p7

Marshall, Molly, minister of youth and single adults at Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock 9/16p5

Marshall Road, Jacksonville, has bicenten-

nial day 7/1p7

Mears, Harold D., ordained as deacon 4/8p8

Meditate God's way 3/25p5

Merritt, Velma, editor of European monthly periodical, Highlights 6/24p5

Messiah performance at Immanuel 11/25p4

Migrants receive aid 7/1p15

Military Road Mission, Jacksonville, completes and dedicates new auditorium 10/21p5

Miles, Ken, joins Wynne church staff 3/18p6

Miller, Dillard S., observes 20th anniversary at Mena Church 6/17p6

Miller, Warren Jr., minister of youth-education, First Church, Batesville 4/1p5

Ministerial Ethics — Local pastorate 4/15p6; Getting it all done 4/29p4; Hour guidelines 5/6p7; Pastors should not be lonely 5/13p16; Family or church 5/20p4; Minister's wife, problems of 5/27p4; Money terms 6/3p6; Keep growing mentally 6/10p4; Keeping in spiritual trim 6/17p4; Maintain growth 6/24p4; Disagreeing with other pastors 7/1p5; How much denominationalism 7/15p5; What is success 7/22p8; Minimizing the ministry 7/29p5; Minister's proper place 8/5p5

Ministers workshop scheduled 5/6p6

State ministers' wives included in state official program 1/8p8

Miracle of church existence 5/6p7

Mission Directors to be honored at banquet 11/11p11

Monticello, Second, to start educational building 7/29p4; Has groundbreaking ceremonies 8/12p8; Has revival 10/14p6

Missions — Witnessing in deed (E) 9/9p3

Mississippi dedicates medical center 2/12p11

Mitchell, Dr. and Mrs. Harold E., career missionaries to East Africa 6/10p5

Monette, First Church has revival 4/29p5

Moore, Don, is prophet in own country (LE) 1/8p4

Moore, Ullie E., dies in North Little Rock 9/9p16

Moral Issues — '76 voters need to be informed 10/7p12; Focus freedom 10/14p18; Economic issues 10/21p12; Focus on responsible government 10/28p12-13

Moral responsibility (GE) 3/11p3

Morgan, Glenn, receives doctorate of ministry and pastoral counseling degree 8/26p5

Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Quinn P. Jr., appointed as missionaries to Rhodesia 11/18p24

Moseley, Don, serving as pastor of Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock 1/8p10

Mountain Home youth choir sings at legislation opening 3/4p6

Mt. Carmel Church has crusade 5/6p6

Mount Zion associational camp ready for summer 5/27p11

Mulberry, First, has revival 5/13p5; Observes "Beat the Devil Sunday" 9/30p5

Mullens, Steve, minister of youth at First Church, Augusta 1/8p10

Muse, Jerry, elected chairman of Area BSU Committee of Arkansas State University 7/22p9

## N

Nation has need for what Baptists believe 8/5p12

Nation-Home base (GE) 3/18p3

National-Southern Baptist retreat held 3/11p10

Neal, Caterina, attains Certificate of Excellence 9/30p5

Nelson, Lynda, of Arkadelphia on staff at

Camp Crestridge 8/5p6

Newberry, Dean, attends Midwestern trustees meeting 5/20p7

New Orleans Seminary to hold annual alumni reunion 11/11p10

New titles for Miss America 1/29p15

New Hope Church, Greenwood, has dedication 8/12p8

New Hope Church, near Pollard, has special day 9/30p7

Newman, Warren, ordained as deacon by Mount Zion Church 12/9p7

Newton, Glen, minister of youth and outreach at Forrest Park, Pine Bluff 6/17p5

Newton, Mrs. Lucelle Smith, honored by Camden First Church 9/30p7

Nichols, Becky, missionary journeyman to Argentina 8/5p7

Nichols, Rex, speaks at memorial service near Greenwood — survivor of disaster at the crossing 8/12p8

Noble, Gayle Linwood, minister of education at Olivet Church, Little Rock 6/10p9

Norrington, Don, becomes Baptist Student Director at Southwest Missouri State University 8/26p7

North Main Church, Jonesboro, observes nation's 200th birthday by reading entire Bible 8/19p5

## O

Oak Grove Church honors bus workers 2/26p9; Oak Grove Church presents bus to Open Door Church, Rogers 10/7p5; Begins plans for building program 10/21p5; Miracle Day reported with 788 in attendance 10/28p9

Offenders to television 9/2p3 (GE)

Ogden Church dedicates new annex-education building 11/11p9

Old Union Church occupies new facilities 10/28p9

Olivet Church begins puppet ministry 6/17p6

Omaha, First, has note burning 4/8p7

One Layman's Opinion — The dangers of believing temporary things are temporary 1/1p4; Helping explain happiness 1/8p4; Plight of magazine 1/15p4; Congressmen getting own medicine 1/22p4; Good news 1/29p4; Traditions best for children 2/5p4; Medical missions trouble 2/12p4; Diversity and unity 2/19p4; Will Democracy survive? 2/26p4; Understanding suffering 3/4p4; Stress the do's 3/11p4; Students' gratitude 3/18p4; Fun in caring 3/25p4; Atlanta airport 4/1p4; Write more letters 4/8p4; Evangelists, their wisdom 4/15p4; Music, its witness in Russia 4/22p4; Political advice 4/29p4; Bad news on religious front 5/6p4; Great gettin' up 5/13p4; Toe appreciation 5/20p4; Ouachita mace 5/27p4; Generousness of women 6/3p4; Church homecomings 6/10p4; Moral relativism and Christian colleges 6/17p4; Old versus new 6/24p4; Hard to hide sunrise 7/1p4; When colleges go back to Bethel 7/22p4; Reaffirmation 7/29p4; Small world 8/5p4; Are our pastors short-changing us? 8/12p4; Russian bell too big 8/19p4; Are freedom and discipline incompatible? Separation of church-state-Communist style 9/2p4; Opportunity, how long knock 9/9p12; When there ought not to be a law 9/16p4; Love that grows cold 9/23p4; Is a Baptist college president a missionary? 9/30p4; Education — weaken faith? 10/7p4; Joining the anti-cliche' crusade 10/14p4; God's Will for your life 10/21p4; Amendment 56 — fair day's wages 10/28p4; Bucket stops here 11/4p4; 'Victimless' crime 11/11p4; Confessions of a new

grandfather 11/18p4; What does Carter victory mean 11/25p4; Trends in voting 12/2p4; Bringing honor while being honored 12/9p4; Goals for Centennial Decade 12/16p5

One life to give (GE) 10/28p3  
Open Door Church at Rogers observes Harvest Day 11/25p11

Opportunity offered to honor students and young adults 7/22p4

Ordination, meaning-purpose (E) 3/25p3  
Ordaining women, pro-con (LE) 1/15p5  
Orthodoxy fights, warning against 4/8p12  
Orton, Melanie, on staff at Ridgecrest 7/22p5  
Osceola East Side dedicates building 3/25p7  
Osceola, Calvary, starts second building program 7/29p7

Osceola handbells enrich church music 4/15p8-9 (F)

Ouachita gives awards to Lawson Hatfield and Dr. Doyle Wright 1/9p12; College to give scholarships from W. J. Pollard bequest 1/8p12; Registration 1/8p5; Women's role 1/15p4; Urban planning to be taught 1/22p11; Publication to feature poetry 2/5p5; Seeks church-university link 2/5p6; Enrollment up 2/26p9; Tiger day set 3/11p8; Students to raise funds 3/18p5; McMullan, Sheri, is Miss OBU 4/15p15; President pledges to develop individual 5/27p10; Alumni to get together at SBC in Norfolk 6/10p5; Commencement set for Aug. 6 7/22p5; Fall registration set 8/19p5; Scholarship fund established 8/26p7; Commencement held 9/2p6; President's Leadership forums scheduled 9/16p7; State of OBU, stronger 9/23p6; To aid churches 9/30p5; Enrolls 3% more 10/7p5; Dr. Grant presents Ouachitonian awards 10/21p7; Box supper to be held 11/11p10; Graduates form music group 11/11p12

Our Heritage - Bill Wallace 1/1p10; Edgar Y. Mullins 1/8p5; William Carey and Dr. Thomas 1/15p11; Philadelphia Society for Sunday School 1/22p4; Evangelism 1/29p4; Why Baptists in Civil War? 2/5p20; Isaac Backus 2/12p4; Adorim and Nancy Judson 2/19p11; Materials for missionaries 2/26p9; Luther Rice 3/4p7; How Baptists fared 295 years ago 3/11p6; Missions 3/18p5; State conventions 3/25p5; Jonathan Going 4/1p5; Evangelism, its history 4/8p4; Hunded Thousand Club 4/15p7; Van C<sup>h</sup>burn Jr. - young Baptist musician 4/22p4; Organization of SBC 4/29p11; Jeremiah Vardeman 5/6p6; Jonathan Haralson 5/13p7; General missionary convention 5/20p7; Paul Geren 5/27p11; Assisting black brethren 6/3p7; Walter Rauschenbusch 6/10p5; Broadened perspectives 6/24p9; Freedom and organization 7/1p4

Overton, Carl, new missionary for Central Assn. 3/11p6; Overton works in Kenya 1/22 p6

Owen, Ben, receives doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary 6/3p7

Owen, Hugh, retiring as missionary of Central Assn. 3/11p6

Ozark, First, honors Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Heard 3/25p8; Ozark, First, dedicates adult educational wing 8/19p5; Has note burning 12/9p5

## P

Palestine church burns debt note 1/29p5  
Pangburn, First, has revival 5/13p5  
Paragould, Calvary, has revival 4/29p5  
Paranoia on TM? (LE) 3/11p4  
Parchman, Jack, evangelist, holds revivals 4/22p8

Park, Hewitt, ordained as deacon by Hopewell Church 9/23p5

Parker, Ernest, joins staff of Pine Bluff South Side Church 10/21p5

Parker, John, attends Religious Education Association Presidents' meeting 8/26p5

Park Hill, North Little Rock, gives organ to Cummins Prison 4/8p9

Parker, Ray Allen, receives master of divinity degree from Southwestern 5/27p5

Parks, George M., ordained to ministry 3/11p8

Parks, R. Keith, speaks at Russellville First Church 12/9p5

Parking-Office Building - Open letter to Arkansas Baptists - Don Fuller, Chairman of parking lot development 9/16p4; Interview with Dr. Ashcraft - basic questions 9/30p6; Opinions on the proposed building 10/14p4; Editor's note 10/14p5; Association Executive Secretary answers questions 10/14p7; Build for future (LE) 10/28p5; Don't build (LE) 10/28p5; 'Yes' on building (LE) 11/4p4; Bank makes loan commitment 11/4p5; Not all oppose building plan 11/11p4; Summarizing proposal for new office-parking facility 11/11p6-7-8

Parkway church has note burning 1/22p10

Parochial schools tax bill defeated 8/19p9

Parish, Mrs. Robert, (Arkansas) writes and designs first resource kit for deaf children 9/30p8 (F)

Pastors-Church Staff golf tournament held 7/29p5

Pastors' Conference: pro and con (L) 5/20p5

Pastor's extra expense (GE) 9/9p3

Pastor has important role (E) 1/22p3

Pastors must speak out on issues 8/5p12

Pastor's responsibility (E) 2/19p3

Pastor's salary a priority (GE) 8/5p3

Pastor's salary too low - small churches 9/30p16

Pastors' wives call for understanding 10/28p20

Pearson, Philip Jr., minister of music and youth at Calvary, Hope 4/22p7

Pegram, Ken, pastor of Marion Church 11/25p11

Pension Plans protection to be presented at SBC 6/10p19

People - Are they good? (GE) 10/21p3

Personal evangelism aids growth in Texarkana Trinity Church 1/22p5

Peters, Georgia A., pastor of 16th Street Church, North Little Rock 11/18p5

Petty, Rev. and Mrs. Pete, honored by Washington-Madison Association 7/29p5

Phillips, Mrs. Cecil, of Hot Springs dies 4/8p8

Phillips, Don, on staff at Ridgecrest 7/22p5

Phillips, Kendall, ordained deacon by Runyan, First 5/20p7

Philyaw, Mrs. W. C., honored by Valley View Church 10/7p7

Pickett, Miss Sheri, is English instructor at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge

Pierce, Carroll, ordained as deacon of Mount Ida, First 6/24p5

Pierce, Thomas Michael, awarded master of religious education degree from Southwestern 5/27p5

Pilot, Douglas Montgomery, of El Dorado receives master of divinity degree 7/29p5

Pine Bluff has area Life and Liberty rally 3/25p10

Piney Grove, Hot Springs, to have new sanctuary 5/13p6

Pinkston, D. Edwin, preaches to rich and poor alike 7/29p12

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## Cooperative Program giving slows in Nov.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget, after a fairly strong start in the first month of the 1975-76 fiscal year, has decreased somewhat, according to reports here.

In November, undesignated Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$3,589,571 compared to \$4,221,122 during October, the first month in the fiscal year. The November figure is 5.03 percent ahead of November, 1975.

For the first two months, Cooperative Program receipts of \$7,810,693, which are intended for budget needs of the SBC's worldwide missions program, are running 9.41 percent ahead of the same point last fiscal year, according to Billy D. Malesovas, director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Cooperative Program started off the fiscal year 13.43 percent ahead.

Total gifts, including the Cooperative Program figure and specially designated funds, amounted to \$8,634,508 after two months — 7.35 percent ahead of last year. Designated receipts alone, which amount to \$823,816, showed an 8.88 percent decline.

In the month of November alone, designated receipts of \$302,775 showed a 33.73 percent decline over the \$456,880 received in November, 1975.

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 (Paper Edition will be available in March, 1977)
- I LOVE THE WORD IMPOSSIBLE by Ann Kiemel (Tyndale/WHSE)  
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- RICHEST LADY IN TOWN by Joyce Landorf (Zondervan/WHSE)  
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- TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER by Paul Tournier (John Knox/WHSE)  
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## The promise fulfilled: reason for celebration

Dec. 26, 1976

Luke 2:25-38

There are lonely voices crying from the darkness all around us. There are the voices crying out in the desperation and anonymity of the great cities. There are the lonely voices crying from the darkness of fear. The prophet of old



Wells

declared that the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. There are perhaps as many different kinds of darkness as there are people who live and walk. The great message of the ages is that God has shone a great light upon the darkness and now men may walk in the light even as he is in the light.

### His coming: he identifies with the needs of men

God sent his son in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3). In all things he had to become like his brothers (Heb. 2:17). When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem them that were under the law (Gal. 4:4). Thus it is that he who is himself without sin or guilt and who has been conceived of the Holy Spirit must nevertheless also perform all the obligations of the law and fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:15).

The circumcision and purification customs after a birth had reference to the state of sin in which each human being is born and to the purification therefrom by blood-sprinkling and sacrifices. Where, therefore, Jesus, the stainless and Holy One, undergoes these things, this is not on his own account, but serves as a sign that he voluntarily places himself under the law and takes upon himself the obligations of his people so as to procure their redemption. He takes upon himself their impurity and guilt therefore he undergoes circumcision and later on also the baptism of John. Along this road he moves to undertake the work of redemption. The name Jesus ("Jehovah the Saviour") given him at the circumcision in obedience to the command of God (Luke 1:31) indicates this fact forcibly. That is why Luke lays so much emphasis on this designation.

The correct reading of the first words here is (as in RV) "after the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished". This refers

to the provision of Leviticus 12. A woman was regarded as ceremonially impure for 40 days after the birth of a son. Because her "impurity" was connected with the birth of a child, the child was involved in it, and therefore the original reading is "their purification". Through this also the Saviour undergoes humiliation. For the sake of the redemption of his people, he takes their impurity upon himself also in this connection.

After the 40 days two "purification" sacrifices — a lamb as burnt offering and a pigeon as a sin offering — had to be brought. But in the case of poor persons a pigeon could also be sacrificed in place of the lamb. Because Joseph and Mary were poor, they brought two pigeons to be sacrificed in the temple at Jerusalem. The sacrifices symbolized that the sacrificer deserved death, but that the sacrificial animal is loaded with the guilt and death penalty and for the sake of the sacrificer enters upon death to set him free from his guilt of sin. According to Exodus 13 a sacrifice had always to be offered for a firstborn to symbolize the fact the death penalty lay on him and had to be taken away through the sacrifice. This sacrifice is brought in the case of Jesus because he had taken upon himself the death penalty of the sinful people for whose salvation he became man.

Apart from the bringing of the sacrifices, Joseph and Mary also brought Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord, to consecrate him to the services of God. And while the consecration of firstborn babes was but too often unrealized in later life, in the case of Jesus it was completely fulfilled. Right from the very beginning until the end he served God perfectly and glorified him by his voluntary and complete devotion.

### The quiet ones who wait expectantly

There is a beautiful picture presented here. It is a picture of a master who chooses a servant and sets him to watch for the rising of a star and when the first rays of light are seen the servant awakens the master for the marvelous event. With the announcement of the event the servant who has kept the long and alert vigil is dismissed to his own chambers to rest. Simeon was a faithful

and alert servant waiting and watching for the coming of that light that would come to light the darkness of men's hearts. When he saw the "light" he declared the message with the words of unchallenged beauty.

Also there was a woman of great age who had been married but a short time and then was widowed. She spent her days and nights serving God faithfully in the temple. Upon the arrival of the party at the dedication service she blessed the name of God and she, too, broke forth in a song of unparalleled beauty.

So it has been down through the ages and so it is today. There is a group of people who are perhaps many in years but alert of heart and spirit. There is a group whose physical mobility may be limited by the effects of age but their spirits are not weakened. It is in this group many of whom have walked with the master over the decades that much of the strength of the church lies. Let those who are young in years receive those good gifts that the "Simeons" and "Anna's" of every age have to give.

### The universality of the salvation his coming wrought

When that baby was born in the humble settings of Bethlehem God was forming the key that was to open wide the gates of heaven. It would be with that voice to preach the gospel to the poor; with those hands he would heal the broken-hearted; preach deliverance to the captives and the recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19). The work of redemption that God thrust into the time span of history would be effective for every man who would look to the Christ of Christmas with trust.

### Anna's words of wisdom

Life that brings joy and happiness and fulfillment can also bring sadness, sorrow and pain. She spoke to Mary of a day when her joy would turn to grief and it would be as a sword being penetrating her very own heart. From our vantage of time we can see how it came to pass on a lonely hill outside the beautiful city of Jerusalem. Because life can bring both joy and sorrow, we need to learn to depend upon God. Anna could be our example. We need to learn of his comfort and strength. There is the truth of his promise, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest . . ." His coming — our joy, our life, our hope.

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## Jesus affirms his sonship

Jan. 2, 1977

Luke 2:39-52

With this lesson we begin a new unit, "Jesus Begins His Ministry." The title of this week's lesson is "Jesus Affirms His Sonship" with Luke 2:39-52 as our focal scripture.

Luke concludes his infancy narrative with verse 39, stating that Joseph and Mary had performed all of the requirements of the Mosaic law and returned to Nazareth. He omits their trip to Egypt, the wise men and gives no reason for them going to Nazareth instead of returning to Bethlehem. No Gospel gives complete details for they are to supplement each other.

Twelve years of our Master's life are summarized in verse 40. The structure of the sentence shows that the process of filling with wisdom kept pace with the bodily growth. It's a shame that this is not always true with everyone today. We need to be reminded that this is a perfect human we are speaking of and not one who has inherited or acquired defects as we have today. We can be sure that the full measure of God's grace was on him.

Jewish males were expected to attend three feasts each year (Deut. 16:16). Because of the dispersion this became impossible. They attempted to attend the passover at Jerusalem. Mary chose to attend. We do not know whether Jesus attended any previous passover. He did make this 60-mile journey with them. Jesus, at age 13, would be allowed to participate as a member of the Jewish community. Perhaps he came to be better prepared for the next year.

After the passover, the group from Galilee met early to beat the heat and began their walk home. They banded together for protection. The women led the way and the men followed. Verse 43 tells us that Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem.

As the caravan walked home, Joseph and Mary both thought Jesus to be with the other. As a 12-year-old he would be considered a child and walk with the women. He might be considered a boy and walk with the men. As Mary thought, he might have been with some relatives or with his peer group. Nevertheless, Jesus remained behind without their knowledge.



Blackmon

In remaining in the temple Jesus begins to affirm his Sonship. It was not disobedience on Jesus' part that made him remain behind, but it was his intense interest in the services of the temple. As Bruce says, his "involuntary preoccupation" held him fast. The temple will always draw Christ to it.

Jesus was finally missed and his parents began looking for him. They looked all over and, as we might say, they looked under every stone but did not find him. They made their way back to Jerusalem and searched throughout the town before they made their way to the temple, the reason for their trip. In the temple they saw Jesus sitting in the midst of the theological scholars.

It was common for scholars to hold open forums and discuss moral and theological questions. People would stand around and listen. In the middle of them was a 12-year-old boy, not just listening, but rather asking questions. He was astonishing these learned men.

It is not uncommon for boys to ask questions. My son often stumps me. I can even ask difficult questions. What is remarkable is that Jesus answered their questions! In fact, Jesus had these men so marveled that they remained with him these three days. Oh, to be able to have a few of my questions answered would be great, yet these men were with Jesus for three days and knew it not.

Finally, as Joseph and Mary saw Jesus in the temple with the scholars, their eyes popped out, their lower jaws dropped, they were amazed. Mary asked why he remained behind and caused them their sorrow. And in the first words recorded, our Master said, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Jesus expressed amazement that his parents should not know that the only place in Jerusalem for him to be would be the temple. His next statement proves to me that Christ, at age 12, was aware of his Messianic task. When he first became aware of his duty as the Suffering Servant we do not know. But I am sure that at this time he is aware of the relationship between him and God, because Jesus refers to God as Father. From this point on we should be aware

of the Sonship of Christ.

With this statement Jesus ushered in the idea of God as Father. First, Jesus claimed that his Father is God. With that statement we can assume the personal relationship of father-son to be brought into our context of that ideal. Next, Christ shares the sonship with each of us by claiming God as "our Father" (Matt. 6:9). Each of us can have the personal relationship with God that we have with our own fathers. We might say that Jesus brought a personal meaning to Isaiah 6:9 where we read, "O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

As I lead my son in his development and guide him down the paths of life, we can be sure that God led Jesus. But much greater than all of this we, through Christ, can receive the same guidance from our Heavenly Father. We need only to ask for it.

Much of that which happened was pure mystery to his parents and those scholars. They did not understand his statements. Even today we do not understand everything that Christ has said. I'm not sure that we completely understand the Fatherhood of God.

Jesus went with his parents and was subject to them. For 18 years we hear nothing of his works and deeds. We know that he worked with Joseph as a carpenter and became known as the carpenter of Nazareth. As a note on his family, Joseph is not seen again in the Bible.

During these 18 years Mary had time to ponder these sayings in her heart. As all mothers keep social events of their children in their hearts. Mary had many events to think about. From this statement it is easy to surmise that Luke spoke to Mary while researching for this Gospel. Who else would know that she kept these sayings in her heart?

Since Jesus was aware of his Sonship at age 12, we can be sure that as years progressed he became more aware of the task that was before him. He had 18 years to prepare for it. Verse 52 states that he advanced in wisdom (not just knowledge) and stature. His physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual development was perfect, for he is perfect!

Jesus, the Son of God, is now ready to face the world. Next week we will see "Jesus Face His Calling."

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## The joy of life in Christ

John 10:7-10; Philippians  
1:3-5, 19-26

Dec. 26, 1976

What was the most joyful thing that happened to you during the Christmas holidays? You may want to ask this question at the beginning of the class session on Sunday. All will conclude that the most joyful moments were centered around Christ. Christ brings joy. The more a person is open to Christ, the more joy Christ brings.



Cooper

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus suggested things that one may do to have joy and happiness. You may want to read aloud Matthew 5:1-12 as you begin your class session on Sunday. Jesus promised joy for those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, those who are merciful, pure in heart and peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for his name's sake. For all of these Jesus names a joyful reward.

The last Sunday of the year is a good time to be reminded of our joy in Christ. We can look back and count on our blessings. We can look to the future with expectancy. God has been with us. God will be with us. The Christmas season has reminded us of the coming of God in Christ. As we anticipate the new year, our faith gives us cause to rejoice.

### The joyful life

The joyful life which we seek comes from a close relationship with God. This relationship is developed through Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship with God. Each one must discipline himself to the kind of life that makes him feel and live in the presence of God.

Our troubled world needs repeated demonstrations by Christians who have joy as they practice the presence of God. The Christian's joy does not depend on outward circumstances. The Christian's joy does not depend on absence of all trouble and suffering. The Christian's joy is directly related to his closeness to God.

### The abundant life (John 10:7-10)

The word "life" is used repeatedly in connection with Christ. This is especially true in John's Gospel. In the immediate text, John 10:1-11, Jesus is presented as the Good Shepherd. Note in the example that there can be only one Shepherd. Jesus is the only true Shepherd. He offers salvation, security, and sustenance. Jesus deliberately contrasted himself to those who prey on others. Their purpose is to destroy life. Jesus came to bring life. He came to bring abundant life.

In using the figure of the door, Jesus placed himself as the entrance. It is Jesus who is the entrance way. Salvation lies in meeting him, not in baptism or morality. Jesus is the living door. Nothing comes in or goes out without his personal will, knowledge, and permission. His individual care is shown by his constant attention. Jesus offers full protection.

### The abundant life serves (Phil. 1:3-5)

The joyful life focuses on God and others. Joy begins when we walk into God's presence through the door of Jesus Christ. We do this by accepting Christ as Lord and Savior. Joy continues as we serve God.

Paul's words to the Philippian church offer a good study in the characteristics of joyful things. Philippians 1:3-5 show how Paul prayed with joy, offering thanks to God for the believers in Philippi. This illustrates the twin fact of the joyful life . . . it focuses on God and others. Paul communed with God and expressed gratitude to God. He was concerned about and appreciative of other people.

Someone said that the three letters of the word "joy" mean: Jesus, first; others, second; yourself, last. The saddest people in all the world are those who always put themselves first!

### The abundant life in death (Phil. 1:19-26)

Personal testimony will always be heard. Paul's testimony was one of faith

and joy. His joy was not dependent on outward circumstances. Paul demonstrated that Christians can have joy in hard times as well as in good times.

Paul was in prison for preaching the gospel. He was facing possible execution. He did not blame God. He was concerned that he be true to Christ. The centering of his life on Christ gave Paul assurance, courage, and joy as he continued to magnify Christ and to serve others.

As we close out another year it is a good time for us to evaluate the purpose and direction of our lives. In reading Philippians 1:21-26, read it as though you were speaking. Does your testimony agree with Paul's?

### The abundant life for you

Do you have real joy in your daily Christian living? If you don't, it's your fault! You may be leaving Christ out of the happenings in your life. You may be the center of your life. Christ must be the center of your life if you are to have joy.

### The lesson

1. Life begins when we accept Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus gives us joy.
2. We experience joy every day as we live in union with Christ and serve others.
3. We have the greatest joy when we help others to accept Christ.
4. We have joy in hard times through the presence of Christ in us.

### Identification

At the year's end is a good time for reflecting and goal-setting for the new year. There is a difference in goal setting and resolutions. In goal setting you pinpoint some projects to work on all year. Resolutions are often rather drastic and so soon are broken.

In the class session on Sunday, ask class members to jot down some goals they want to work on in 1977. These should be in several areas of life: personal, social, spiritual, financial, relation with others, and so forth. Such a list may be confidential unless they want to share with others.

### Looking ahead

Next week we begin a new year, a new quarter, and a new series of studies. The theme for the next quarter is "Persons in the Life of Jesus."

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## Mary: Faithful in life's perplexities

Jan. 2, 1977

Luke 1:38; 2:41-51  
Acts 1:14

Although Mary held a unique place with Jesus, the questions she raised in the face of life's perplexities never found answers. From her we learn that faithfulness does not depend on knowing all the answers, nor in refusing to ask the questions.

True faith looks life full in the face and asks its questions unashamedly, but does not depend on answers for its vitality.

### Mary's obedience to God (Luke 1:38)

God sent an angel to Mary to tell her that she would give birth to a child that would be called the Son of God. At the time Mary was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. The conception, she was told, would be of the Holy Spirit.

Many have questioned the historical fact of Jesus' virgin birth. It is true there is comparative silence on the subject in the New Testament. However, there is sufficient evidence for its inclusion in a body of doctrine. Beyond the birth narratives of Matthew and Luke there are various evidences that Jesus was regarded by the Jews to be the child of Mary, but not of Joseph. (Study Mt. 11:19; Luke 7:34; Mark 6:3-4.)

The husband of Mary yielded to the will of God. He did not denounce nor abandon Mary, but took her into his house as his lawful wife and legitimized the son of Mary by personally naming him. If a husband gave a newborn child his name, he recognized the child as legally his own. It was by this act that Jesus was admitted in a formal, legal sense to the house of David. Custom would have allowed the stoning of Mary for unfaithfulness even though she was only a betrothed bride rather than a wedded wife. The wedding ceremony was completed when the bride was brought to the bridegroom's house.

Throughout the entire experience, Mary's question (v. 34) was never fully answered. She joins Christians through the ages asking, "How can this be?" God never tells us how; he just tells us that it



Pipkins

will be. The Christian is never obedient because he understands. He is obedient because he is obedient. Faith always has a lot of loose ends that can never be all clipped off neatly. The Christian obeys because he believes and believes because he obeys.

### Mary's faith in Christ (Luke 2:41-51)

Twelve years elapsed between the birth narratives and the account of the boy Jesus in the Temple.

The Law prescribed that every male Jew should go up to Jerusalem for three annual feasts: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles (Ex. 23:14-17; Deut. 16:16). Although women were not required to go, Mary always did (v. 41). Children could be taken along as an early introduction into their adult religious obligations.

For protection against robbers, people travelled to the Feast in caravans. A city of 50,000 would swell to 100,000 for such festive occasions. It is no wonder that family groups were separated on these journeys.

When Jesus was missed, a search turned him up in the Temple, taking part in the instruction of the rabbis. He was "listening" to them, "asking" information from them, and "answering" their questions. Although they were amazed at his grasp of spiritual truth, there does not seem to be anything miraculous about the event.

Mary's gentle rebuke that she and his father were anxious about him is met by a play on the word "father" by Jesus (v. 49). This is the heart of the story. It suggests that Jesus was conscious of a unique relationship to God. In God's house, Jesus was at home.

Mary did not understand (v. 50) what Jesus said. She had a son, but she did not have a son. He belonged to her, but in a way that she could not yet understand, he belonged to all men.

Again, her question, "How can it be?" is not answered. However, she does the only wise thing she can when she does not understand. When God's truth is not clear, it should not be cast off, but rather hidden in the heart while one waits for fuller light (v. 51).

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### Mary's Christian faithfulness (Acts 1:14)

This is the last mention of Mary in the New Testament. It is significant that she is found in prayer with the disciples. Her name here is the form of the Old Testament name Miriam. It seems reasonable to believe that she was highly esteemed among the early Christians as the Mother of Jesus, but there is no evidence that she becomes a dominant figure in the movement of the church.

The brothers of Jesus are not named here, but are in Mark 6:3. If they are to be understood in any other way than the literal sense of later children of Mary, there is no evidence here. They did not believe in the Lord before his death (John 7:5), but were convinced by his resurrection. James was granted a special resurrection experience (1 Cor. 15:7). It is assumed that this James, so prominent in Acts, is likewise the author of the New Testament book bearing his name. Judas was presumably the writer of the Epistle of Jude.

The "brothers of the Lord" were surely the sons of Mary. There is no evidence that Joseph was previously married, and the New Testament does not teach the perpetual virginity of Mary.

How Mary had been able to hold together the idea of worshipping as God, the child to whom she gave birth is almost beyond imagination. When religion becomes commonplace it has less impact on its adherents. Nothing could make a God more commonplace than to give him birth, care for his infant needs, correct him in the home, and watch him enter the adult world.

The first question of Mary was never answered. The question remained the same. The events became greater mysteries. Her earth-born child became the risen, reigning Lord of all, coming to men in the Holy Spirit. How can this be? Unanswered, her question can only be settled by a quiet faith that looks for answers but is not tested when they do not come; an active faith that worships and trusts, regardless of the circumstances; and a comfortable faith that allows God to work in the world without demanding that he explain what he is doing.

## A smile or two

The handwriting on the wall usually means you're a parent.

A tourist in Florida called to an old resident, "How far is it to Orlando?" He said, "I can't rightly say, mister. It used to be about 25 miles — but the way things have gone up around here, it wouldn't surprise me none if it weren't about 45 now."

□  
Intelligence is very much like money — if you don't let on how little you've got people will treat you as though you have a lot. — Dr. O. A. Battista

□  
You can usually tell a self-made man. He's apt to get the arms long enough to pat himself on the back.

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## Attendance report

Dec. 12, 1976

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church Adds.
Alexander, First	94		
Batesville, First	218	109	2
Benton, Trinity	107	40	
Bentonville			
Central Avenue	83	37	
Mason Valley	77	57	
Berryville			
First	170	100	
Freeman Heights	179	70	2
Rock Springs	55	36	
Biscoe, First	99	46	
Booneville, South Side	94	77	3
Bryant, First Southern	213	106	
Cabot			
First	443	116	
Mt. Carmel	233	106	4
Camden, Cullendale	555	184	3
Cash, First	117	64	4
Charleston, First	178	59	
Conway, Second	355	147	
Crossett, Mt. Olive	328	128	2
Dell	133	51	1
El Dorado, West Side	405	403	
Elkins, First	88		
Forrest City, First	562	50	
Ft. Smith			
East Side	340	94	6
Haven Heights	203	137	1
Temple	139	73	
Trinity	150	55	
Fouke, First	110	56	2
Gentry, First	150	65	
Gillett, First	47	40	
Gillham	80	58	2
Grandview	80	69	3
Green Forest, First	191	57	7
Hampton, First	147	76	
Hardy, First	103	45	1
Harrison, Woodland Heights	114	74	5
Hope			
Calvary	157	96	
First	383	82	
Hot Springs			
Lakeside	164	65	
Memorial	108	47	
Park Place	301	66	
Hughes, First	173	54	
Jonesboro, Friendly Hope	120	94	2
Kingston, First	62	59	
Lavaca, First	301	142	
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	155	49	
Life Line	514	101	4
Martindale	115	56	
Woodlawn	127	53	
Magnolia, Central	651	213	
Monticello, Second	284	95	
Mulberry, First	202	102	3
Murfreesboro, First	141	44	
North Little Rock			
Calvary	401	114	2
Levy	411	69	
Park Hill	919		1
Paragould			
Calvary	237	193	4
East Side	266	129	
First	469		
West View	198	119	
Paris, First	389	101	
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	148	66	1
Central	138	56	
East Side	186	93	
First	692	87	2
Lee Memorial	224	120	1
South Side	545	99	4
Tucker	15		
Sulphur Springs	157	90	1
Watson Chapel	378	121	1
Rogers, Immanuel	514	93	
Russellville			
First	575	103	3
Second	158		
Sheridan, First	188	68	
Sherwood, First	277	76	7
Springdale			
Berry Street	87	29	1
Caudle Avenue	154	70	2
Elmdale	311	128	1
First	1410		4
Texarkana			
Highland Hills	156	60	1
Shiloh Memorial	140	54	4
Vandervoort	50	18	
West Helena, Second	173	122	1
Wooster, First	114	72	
Yellville, First	131	43	



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# Celebration Evangelism Conference

The 1975 Advisory Committee on Evangelism recommended a great victory celebration for the 1976 Life and Liberty Campaign. As a result of this the three conventions involved are getting together for a rejoicing period Jan. 24-25, 1977.



Reed

As a prerequisite to a successful con-

ference three things are to take place Jan. 23: (1) fasting (2) praying (3) exchange of pulpits all over the state between Arkansas Baptist pastors and National Baptist pastors.

The general theme for this special conference is "Let Our Churches Stand Up." There will be five sessions: "Stand Up for Missions", "Stand Up for Our Distinctives", "Stand Up for Evangelism", "Stand Up and Witness", and "Stand Up in Training".

The conference will be held at First Church, Little Rock, (Immanuel, where it was originally scheduled, is in a renovation program) starting at 1:45 p.m. Jan. 24 and closing Tuesday evening, Jan. 25. Special simultaneous conferences will be conducted Monday afternoon and identical conferences will be conducted Tuesday evening to accommodate people who work in the daytime and cannot come Monday. They are as follows: 1. "Evangelism Through the Sunday School", Lawson Hatfield, leader, C. D. Edwards, convener; 2. "Jehovah Witnesses", Tommy Bridges, leader, John Watson, convener; 3. "Mormons", Glen Ingleheart, leader;

4. "Muslims", York Williams, leader, Mrs. Charles Ashcraft, convener; 5. "Bold Missions", R. H. Dorris, leader; 6. "Church Bus Ministry", Bob Ebersold, leader, Lemmie Downs, convener; 7. "Young Adult Involvement", Robert Dickerson, leader, Phil Lineberger, convener; 8. "Witnessing Schools", Neal Guthrie, leader, Robert Willingham, convener; 9. "New Member Training", Robert Holley, leader, W. W. Walker, convener; 10. C.A.R.E. Revivals, Clarence Shell, leader.

We shall have testimonies by Mary Sawyer, president, WMU of Arkansas Baptist, and Mrs. Emma Stewart, an outstanding Christian leader from Jonesboro.

Combined choirs from the three conventions directed by David Hodge will sing at the closing session. A special offering will be taken to defray the extra expenses involving so many people.

Read Isaiah 58:6-14 and follow this Sunday, Jan. 23, and pray, pray, pray for the conference.

A nursery will be provided, infants to four years.

Prayerfully, Jesse S. Reed, Director

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*Ark Baptist News*

## Workshop will explore stress and the pastor

"The Pastor and Stress" is the subject for the first annual Continuing Education Workshop to be held in 1977 in five areas of the state and sponsored by the Department of State Missions. These one-day workshops are scheduled for First Church, Dumas, Jan. 17; Park Hill Church, Arkadelphia, Jan. 18; First Church, Trumann, Feb. 14; First Church, Clarksville, May 2; and Calvary Church, Batesville, May 16.



Dorris

Pastors". There will be ample time for open discussion and input by participants in the workshops.

Hassell is a native of Pampa, Tex., and was ordained to the ministry by the First Church, Dallas. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary. Former pastorates in Arkansas include Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, and Central Church, North Little Rock. He has served as interim pastor of Pulaski Heights and Markham Street churches, Little Rock, First Church, Cabot, and Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Hassell received his clinical pastoral internship in 1961 at the Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock, where he then served as associate chaplain until 1964. He later returned to the hospital to serve as Supervisor of Pastoral Care from 1967 until 1976 when he went to the pastorate of the Stuttgart church.

He is married to the former Barbara Ann Dabney of Dallas. They have two daughters, Patricia Lynn, student in ASU, Jonesboro, and Nancy Carol, student in Stuttgart High School. — R. H. Dorris, Director of Department of State Missions

Pastors, church staff members and interested persons are welcome to attend either workshop. Each session will begin at 10 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. There will be no registration fee, and lunch will be "dutch" at local restaurants.

Jerre Hassell, pastor of First Church, Stuttgart, will be discussant of such subjects as "Attitudes of Pastors Toward Stress", "Areas of Stress the Pastor Faces" and "Arenas of Help Open to

## No paper next week

There will be no "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" for the issue date of Dec. 30. Your state paper skips two weeks each year, one near July 4 and one near Dec. 25. This issue contains Sunday School lessons for Sunday, Dec. 26, and for Sunday, Jan. 2, 1977. Since this issue is the last in 1976, it contains the index of 1976 items.