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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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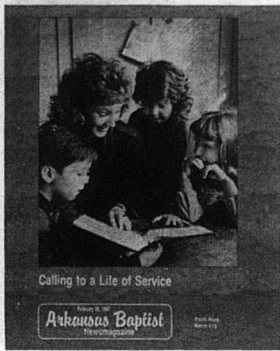
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Calling to a Life of Service

February 26, 1987

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

Youth Week
March 8-15



Calling to a Life of Service

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

April 1988
Page 11

Sunday School Board photo by Jim Veneman

"Calling to a Life of Service" is the 1987 theme for Youth Week, which will be observed March 8-15 in many Southern Baptist churches. Sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Church Training Department, Youth Week provides an opportunity for youth to become acquainted with leadership roles in their churches.

In this issue

6-7 no big secret

One Arkansas Baptist church understands that solid church growth comes readily through well-known, "tried and true" methods. This month's "Helpline" feature focuses on that church's successful Sunday School attendance campaign.

12 world trends

SBC Foreign Mission Board Executive Vice-President William O'Brien identifies six major trends which will dramatically affect the future of Southern Baptist missions education and support.

Executive Committee elects Moseley, Shackelford

Two staff positions were filled during the Feb. 16-18 session of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ernest E. Moseley, currently executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, was unanimously elected executive vice-president of the Executive Committee. Moseley will assist in numerous program planning positions and will oversee the production of the *Baptist Program*.

Al Shackelford, currently editor of the *Bap-*

tist and Reflector, newspaper of Tennessee Baptists, was elected vice-president for public relations on a 32-26 vote. Among Shackelford's key responsibilities will be directing Baptist Press, the denomination's news and information service.

Additional information on the elections of Moseley and Shackelford will be carried in next week's *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, along with other information on the Executive Committee meeting.

Baptists inch forward with small 1986 gains

by Jim Lowry
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists inched forward in 1986 but small gains coupled with losses in three major programs indicate a stagnant year for the denomination.

Bright spots are baptisms, and gains in church music and WMU.

These statistics are a final reporting of information gathered from 1986 Uniform Church Letters from more than 37,000 churches. Projections were released in December based on the first 26,000 letters received in the research services department at the Baptist Sunday School Board. The final report revealed no major changes from the projections.

The gain in baptisms of 3.4 percent, or 12,053, comes on the heels of losses for four consecutive years. The total number of baptisms in 1986 was 363,124. Projected statistics indicated a gain of 3.8 percent.

The number of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, which was not included in projections, topped 37,000 for the first time. The increase of 137 churches, or 0.4 percent, brings the total to 37,116, for the 57th consecutive gain in number of SBC churches. This year's total reflects the dropping of 40 churches in Canada which became part of a separate convention.

The 1986 statistical report shows there are now 14,618,567 persons who are members of Southern Baptist churches. This is an increase of 0.9 percent, or 132,164, over 1985. This increase confirms the projection of the 60th consecutive gain in membership.

Sunday school, the denomination's largest program, experienced a decrease this year of 0.2 percent, or 16,823, to a new total of

7,943,973. This loss follows a gain of more than 100,000 last year and increases for six consecutive years. The program was projected to lose 0.1 percent.

The next largest program, church training, decreased in enrollment in 1986 by 0.7 percent, or 14,693, to a new total of 1,954,345. This is the third consecutive loss for the training program, which has had an increase of 12.2 percent over the past seven years. The enrollment in church training had been projected to decline by 0.2 percent.

Enrollment in church music recorded its 21st consecutive gain, with an increase of 2.8 percent, or 46,354, to a new total of 1,724,092. The projected increase was 2.9 percent.

Enrollment in Woman's Missionary Union increased by 1.3 percent, or 14,673, to a new total of 1,179,913. This increase follows two consecutive losses for the program. WMU was projected to gain 1.8 percent.

Brotherhood enrollment showed a loss in 1986 of 0.8 percent, or 4,536, to a new total of 569,204. This year's decrease is the first for Brotherhood following seven consecutive increases. The actual loss is the same as the December projection.

Mission expenditures for the Southern Baptist Convention increased by 4.0 percent, or \$24.7 million to a new total of \$635,377,346. The increase for mission expenditures is smaller than for the past several years, when gains have been between 7 and 10 percent. The projected increase was 4.1 percent. As projected, total receipts increased by 6 percent, or more than \$231.5 million, as the denomination surpassed \$4 billion for the first time. Total receipts, which reached \$4,117,574,240, have not decreased since the early 1930s.

Seminary committee affirms Glorieta Statement

by David Wilkinson
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—The trustee executive committee at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has unanimously embraced the Glorieta Statement and commended President Roy L. Honeycutt for steps taken to implement the statement.

Acting on a recommendation from board officers, the 19 executive committee

members commended the denomination's six seminary presidents "for having initiated creative proposals designed to further the cause of reconciliation within the Southern Baptist Convention."

The Glorieta Statement was announced last October by the presidents of the six seminaries at a prayer retreat at Glorieta Center attended by SBC agency executives and members of the peace committee.

Last of a four-part series

Managing medical costs, a national concern

by William A. Willis

Managing medical costs has become a national concern. Some would say we are in a Catch-22 condition with health insurance being both a necessary protection and a contributor to the problem of rising costs.

The insurance industry, government, and, yes, even hospitals and physicians, are all concerned with cost containment. But the consumer has responsibility too. The first responsibility is to be prepared to pay the bill!

Everyone knows that for other than routine medical service, some form of health insurance is essential to protect family assets. Every church should be certain that its minister and other staff members have ade-



Willis

quate insurance.

Face it. There is no such thing as free medical care or free hospitalization. Not everyone pays, but someone pays. The cost of every unpaid bill is distributed among those who do pay. To neglect providing adequate health insurance is one of the riskiest financial decisions a person can make. One is gambling not only his future income, he is risking every accumulated asset.

A heart attack, a malignancy, even an unplanned pregnancy, could cost a family its house! Any one of these or other large medical costs could wipe out college plans for a child, no matter which member of the family is stricken.

If your minister or other church employee is not protected with a good health insurance plan, pick up the phone, right now, and call 1-800-262-0511. Ask for information about the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan offered by the SBC Annuity Board.

Information if free. Delay could be

disastrous.

All of us have responsibility to help control medical and hospital costs.

We ought to ask questions. Do I need these drugs? Are all these tests necessary? Can surgery be avoided? Can this be done for me as an outpatient? How can I avoid this in the future? If all of us routinely ask these questions, the money saved will be to our benefit.

But our first responsibility is to pay the bills we incur. And for major medical and hospital costs, insurance is the only possible way for most of us.

The care of the family is a provider's first responsibility. The care of the pastor and staff is a church's first responsibility. Part of that care is a sound health insurance program.

William A. Willis, CLU, is the Arkansas representative on the board of Trustees of the SBC Annuity Board and a member of Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock.



The Southern accent

William P. Oakley

'Amazing grace'

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound . . ." Most Baptists have sung this hymn hundreds of times. Yet do we realize just how awesomely amazing that grace really is? Romans 5:17 states, "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."

While grace does speak of God's unmerited favor and unconditional acceptance, there is another dimension to the "amazing grace." That dimension is God's supernatural and sovereign provision to live successfully now! Grace is both acceptance and power. I once heard it called "the divine enabler."

"We are beckoned by God's Word to 'come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need'" (Heb. 4:16). Not only do we stand before the throne of grace first of all for mercy and saving grace, but also that "amazing grace" that enables us to stand victorious in the present day.

There are times when the "heat is on" in our lives. Paul felt it in the weakness of his own flesh, but the God of grace and mercy knew he needed grace more than he needed deliverance from his physical problem.

After thrice seeking deliverance from the problem, the Lord assured him, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

James gives a clue to the obtaining of grace when he says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Ja. 4:6). God allows us to fall on our faces again and again until we come to the realization that we are helpless apart from his amazing grace. Jesus said, ". . . without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

So often we think that in our Christian lives all we need to do is follow the rules. Yet, we find ourselves repeatedly falling flat on our faces. After several times of looking into the "mirror" of our spiritual lives and seeing the wounds that the "falls on our faces" have caused, we can understand Paul's lament when he said he "had no confidence in the flesh" (Phil. 3:3). We can also conclude with Paul, "by the grace for God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10).

No one believes in God's justice more than I, but in my own life I have no desire for his justice, but yearn for his mercy and "amazing grace."

William P. Oakley is director of development at Southern Baptist College.

Missionaries denied permission to stay

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The U.S. Department of State has refused to exempt Southern Baptist missionaries from its order that Americans leave Lebanon.

Accordingly, missionaries will begin leaving Lebanon the week of Feb. 16, said Isam Ballenger, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

Gary and Jerree White and their two children are expected to be the first family to leave. White, who was school and mission administrator in Beirut, is from Pineville, La. Mrs. White, the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Bill and Vivian Trimble, still in Beirut, was born in Alexandria, La.

The State Department sees no "compelling humanitarian interest" in allowing Southern Baptist personnel to remain in the country, said William Wharton, director of citizenship appeals. "Nor (is it) in the national interest," Wharton said Feb. 12.

Requests for exemptions for the missionaries, who are assigned primarily to educational, publication and media ministries, were considered on an individual, case-by-case basis, he said.

The State Department order, announced Jan. 28, requires Americans to leave Lebanon by March 4 or lose their passport privileges.

a smile or two

"A nickel goes a long way today. You carry it around for months before you find anything to buy with it." —Nonnee Coan

Helpline

for the local church

Men, missions, music, marriage... What an exciting month is March! Those "M's" do not cover all of the rich opportunities coming to you. Let's start with missions.



Moore

Missions in March— "Who Will Win America?" This is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering. If you can't have this special time March 1-8, then please set aside some time to inform your church, join in prayer, and encourage the people to support home missions through the offering. Over 1,000 churches will be doing this. It would be great if all 1,277 of our churches would participate. Let your efforts reflect the high value Jesus placed on getting the good news to all of the world.

"Useful To Thee"—This is a fine theme for the big annual WMU Convention. First Church, Camden, will be stretched to accommodate this wonderful convention. From Mali, Venezuela, and Brazil, the missions personnel will come. From the four corners of Arkansas, the people will come. Mike Elliott, home missionary in Kentucky, will join the foreign missions people to provide the inspiration and challenge needed. You will have to provide the fellowship. Commitment to missions is not natural, normal, or usual in a merely human being. It is natural, normal, and usual to a spiritual being. Since the flesh tugs at us to leave missions to someone else, we all need times like this convention to renew our commitment to missions. The dates are March 17-18.

Men in March—Our men do not meet as often as the ladies. Perhaps this makes it more important for them to work hard at attendance. Here is what you have, fellows! A fantastic Friday night and Saturday morning is planned for you at Camp Paron, March 13-14. I know, the time is close at hand. But you can still make reservations until noon, March 6. You probably should do it now. You could call the Brotherhood office here at the Baptist Building (376-4791) or drop us a note in the mail (P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203). A layman from Florida, a state trooper from Arkansas, and Ed Bullock from Memphis will be used of God to spark your Christian life. Special training for those who want to serve in disaster relief will be conducted. The various medical, dental, agricultural, construction, and other fellowship groups will have separate organizational and planning meetings. Russell Miller, president of Arkansas Baptist Men, will preside and keep things moving. We must have reservations by March 6.

Marriage in March—Oh, I know! June is the month for weddings. Then, what is March? It is the month for marriage enrichment. A special retreat is planned this year, March 26-27. It's for ministers and their mates only. Any pastor, staff, associational, or denominational leader and their mate is eligible to attend. Here is a neat twist to this retreat. For those who will stay over Friday night and Saturday morning, training sessions will be conducted on how to do marriage enrichment retreats. What pastor

is there who is not looking for better tools and handles for strengthening marriages? Many of our leaders should pick up on this. The retreat is designed to make fair to good marriages better. Harold Bergen, from Nashville, Tenn., will be the leader.

Music in March—Two events will capture the attention of music lovers, particularly if you are into handbells or youth music.

The State Handbell Festival for youth and adult handbell choirs will be held at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, March 6-7. Each choir will play for adjudication and will join with others in a mass choir. Nancy Blair of Decatur, Ga., will be the handbell clinician.

The other big musical event is the Youth Choir Festival. It will be at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, March 28. What fond memories I have of bringing our youth choir to festival. This is a real challenge to youth choirs. The trip, fun, and fellowship are a good reward for the hard work they do in preparation. It will be a good one! Plan to be here!

Mighty things in March

by Don Moore

What else?—They do not start with "M", but they are very important, particularly to those to whom they pertain.

The Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments—there are eight of them. What a blessing these are to the participants. You will need to find the dates and places elsewhere in Helpline.

The Church Building Conferences are in March. Having four of them should put one in reach of every church that may be interested in remodeling or building.

Six Discipleship Conferences will be conducted in March. In these you will learn of the "Ingathering" approach to reclaiming inactive church members. You will also learn of L.I.F.E., or Lay Institute For Equipping. Most pastors and churches are looking for help in these areas. Many should explore these in these conferences. Check elsewhere in Helpline for dates and places, or check the *Vision*.

Another opportunity—A great **Mini Rec Lab** is scheduled for March 6-7 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. Thirteen conferences are planned on nearly every aspect of Christian recreation. Areas being covered are administration, camping, ministry through sports, crafts, drama, and senior adults. Tournaments in basketball and golf will be held.

See, March is a mighty month! I hope you can make the most of whatever help we are offering that might meet your needs. It's a pleasure to serve you!

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



Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 1-8, 1987

"Who Will Win America?"

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering National Goal: \$37,500,000

Church's solid growth comes through well-known

First Church, Perryville, has had good growth in Sunday School attendance for the past two years. The church also has had an unusual response to high attendance day.

When Pastor Horace E. Gray came to the church 28 months ago the church had averaged 163 in Sunday School for the previous year. In the 1985-86 church year the congregation averaged 185 in Sunday School. This represents an increase of 22 in average attendance in two years. These events have been accomplished through the use of regular Sunday School growth methods.

One of the significant events in the life of the church was the construction of new educational space. Approximately one year after Pastor Gray came to serve the church, he was stressing the necessity of visitation during an officers and teachers meeting when one of the teachers said to him, "I know a number of children that should be in my class but I haven't tried much to enlist

them because we're falling over each other now."

Gray said that everyone in the meeting began to nod in the affirmative. The church needed facilities badly. After approximately one year the church voted to build the new facility.

The church constructed a new 5,000 square foot addition and equipped it at a cost of approximately \$140,000. At the last church business meeting it was reported that the congregation now owes only \$26,000 on the new facilities including equipment.

The facilities were contracted with the exception of the fill that was made under the building. Much of the equipment, however, was donated as memorials.

Ken Stewart became Sunday School Director soon after Gray became pastor. Stewart had been an active member at the Life Line Church, Little Rock. Stewart's primary emphasis has been "inreach."

Stewart, who owns a computer business, is a native of Perryville. He felt that the greatest need of the church immediately was to re-enlist those who had dropped out of attendance.

Stewart enlisted another individual in the church to head up "outreach." Stewart has accomplished inreach through the use of Sunday School teachers and members visiting in those members homes that had become inactive.

Another method used by Stewart has been class division. The class that Stewart attended in Little Rock was divided each year. The results of class division is evidenced in that the Little Rock class was reduced to 16 at the beginning of one year and by the end of the year there were 48 enrolled in the class.

Another method of increasing church Sunday School attendance is the contacting of every class member. Some of the classes at Perryville have adopted a method by

Pike outlines methods, hurdles to church growth

Freddie Pike, Director of Sunday School for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, commended Perryville on the growth that they have experienced during the last two years. He, also, discussed with the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine growth principles.

Pike said that there were three exceedingly important growth principles that should be utilized by every church. First, it is incumbent that the church find an adequate number of prospects. The number of prospects should be equal to the Sunday School enrollment. Second, a church should start new Sunday School classes and finally a church must visit people.

He said, "This plan will enable almost any church to grow. As long as a church has prospects it can grow."

Pike believes that special events can help a church but permanent growth comes from the use of good solid Sunday School principles. He said, "The first thing a church needs to do is to find adequate prospects."

Pike defined a prospect as any individual not involved in regular Bible Study. These individuals may call themselves Methodist, Presbyterians, Baptist out-of town, but if they are not in regular Bible Study they are prospects.

Pike observed that some prospects may never join the church where they are attending Bible Study. Some churches do not accept these individuals as prospects. To them a prospect is anyone who is not affiliated with some church. Pike notes that this limits prospects dramatically.

There are many ways to discover prospects. The basic way is to do a good door

to door survey in the community. Most churches will never have an adequate number of prospects equivalent to its Sunday School enrollment unless it does a door to door survey. Pike says that this will give an excellent start for any church.

A second way to discover prospects is to take all of the resident church members not enrolled in Sunday School and put them in a prospect file. In most churches this will provide a large number of prospects for Sunday School.

A third method of discovering prospects is to use an inside search. Take the Sunday School enrollment and check to see if the spouse or children of individuals enrolled in Sunday School are also enrolled. In most churches there are members of families affiliated with the Sunday School who are not enrolled in Sunday School. They should be considered prospects.

Pike believes that these three methods of enlisting prospects are basic for any Sunday School. There are additional methods of securing prospects by asking the people to write down one name of someone not enrolled in Sunday School. Pike said, "This method can be carried out simply by giving a 3x5 card to every individual in the worship service. Ask them to write down the name of a prospect with the address or phone number of the prospect. Then have them to write their own name on the card and circle it so that the individual giving the prospect can be contacted if necessary."

Pike used this method recently in a First Baptist Church of a county seat town and discovered 117 prospects in less than 5 minutes. Pike has used a method which he

calls FORM in visiting individuals in Sunday School. He said, "After we have visited with the prospect briefly we talk about family, occupation, religion (church) and the Master. This method takes away alot of the fear for people who are going to a home to enroll individuals in Sunday School. It provides them with definite things that they are to talk about. The number one reason why people don't want to visit prospects is fear."

Pike says that there are still many churches that have inadequate space. An education building that is 70 percent full is full. Most churches cannot average above 70 percent of their educational capacity. They can get more people in the building on high attendance days but most churches cannot maintain more than 70 percent of capacity over a long period of time.

Pike believes that lack of classroom space or other adaptable space such as an auditorium or a fellowship hall is one of the major hurdles to overcome in church growth. Pike said, "Other factors can be solved quicker, easier and cheaper than space problems can."

Some churches are temporarily solving their space problems by finding outside buildings near the church. However, it is essential to have space if growth is to take place.

Pike said, "High attendance days can be helpful but I have never known of a church that could sustain a basic Sunday School program on gimmicks or high attendance days. High attendance days do help because they stretch the imagination of the people. They give the people a vision of the possibilities. They are motivational and in-

which they call every class member whether the class member was in attendance during the previous week or not. The fastest growing class in the church has utilized this method of contacting every class member.

Pastor Gray observes that there are a tremendous number of prospects in the area. The church conducted a survey in the immediate area of the church and found 100 prospects. Gray said, "We need to survey the additional areas that our church serves. I've been told that there are a large number of prospects in the Harris Brake area near the lake."

Perhaps the most successful project conducted by the church since Pastor Gray arrived has been the high attendance day. Dan Palm had just arrived as music-education director when high attendance day took place. Palm recalls, "When I arrived the church was holding nightly visitations. This really paid off."

Sunday School director Stewart said that

the church decided to conduct a high attendance day three months in advance. The second step was to have each class to set its own attendance goal. At the time the church was averaging about 185 in Sunday School. The church leadership was astounded when the classes set a goal of 286 for the Nov. 2 high attendance day.

Stewart said, "The most positive results of the high attendance day was to prove to our congregation that we can have an excellent attendance." The Nov. 2 attendance actually was 298.

Stewart said, "We knew we had a lot of work to do when the Sunday School classes set a goal of 286."

In the teachers and officers meeting," he continued, "we emphasized getting the members to attend. We let the teachers and officers of each class devise the methods of enlistment they would use. The key, however, to our high attendance that day was church member visitation. There were very few visitors who were present on Nov. 2."

The church conducted visitation every night during the week prior to the high attendance day. Each class was asked to have at least two members present to assist in the visitation each night.

The church also printed up ribbons that said, "I am one of the 286—November 2nd. This ribbon helped because people would ask, 'What does this ribbon mean?' This provided an opportunity to enlist the individual who was asking about the ribbon. Everywhere a person would go the week prior to the high attendance day they would see someone wearing the ribbon.

At the time of the high attendance day the church in Sunday School enrollment was 309. There were approximately 500 resident members.

The church has a number of goals for the upcoming year. One of these is to increase Sunday School enrollment. Gray says that there is no doubt that the attendance will increase when the Sunday School enrollment is increased.

Palm said that one of his major goals is to increase music education particularly in the area of children's choirs. He said, "It's not so much to get more performance from our children as it is to teach them about worship. I want them to learn how music relates to the entire worship program of the church."

Palm is also in the process of making maps of the entire area. Every house will be shown on the maps. He said, "This will let a visitor see exactly where he or she will be visiting." The prospect file will be correlated to the map.

A final goal for this church year is to have more involvement in evangelistic outreach. Pastor Gray said that the church was developing options for the church members. Gray is certified in the Continuing Witness Training program while Palm is certified in Evangelism Explosion. Gray said, "We also, will teach our people to use the Good News Arkansas pamphlet. This will be taught on Sunday evenings. If an individual can read they can use this booklet to lead someone to the Lord."

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



(Left to right) Perryville First Church pastor Horace Gray, Sunday School director Ken Stewart, and education minister Dan Palm look over an area map, plotting the location of prospects in their community.

spirational and they make the people feel good about themselves. Often high attendance days can encourage people to try other new things."

Pike believes that the church should have two high attendance days a year. One should be in the fall and another in the spring. The state Sunday School Department promotes a high attendance day each spring.

This year's high attendance day, based on a Deuteronomy scripture, will be entitled "Gather the People." All of the high attendance days promoted by the Sunday School Department are based on a passage of scripture or a biblical principle.

The key to a good attendance on a high attendance day is to have every class to set an attendance goal. The Sunday School department provides sign up charts, commitment cards, certificates, and stickers as recognition for those who meet their goals.

Pike says that it is essential for the pastor to assist in promoting high attendance day. He notes that the most important individual in promotion is the pastor and the most powerful place for promotion is the pulpit. He said, "For these reasons, we encourage promotion during the worship hour."

High attendance days are dependent on involving individuals who will work to make it happen.

Pike concluded by emphasizing, "The most important thing in Sunday School growth is to use good Sunday School principles. The growth spiral is now available as a tool which takes basic Sunday School principles and puts them into a measurable form."

Church Training

Area Discipleship Conferences March 9

Area Discipleship Conferences the week of March 9 will focus on the disciplining/equipping ministry of the church. In addition, these conferences will help to launch ingathering, a new strategy for reclaiming inactive church members in our state.

The conferences will meet on Monday, March 9, at Calvary Church in Little Rock and at Central Church, North Little Rock. The conference locations on Tuesday will be Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith, and South Side Church, Pine Bluff. On Tuesday, the conferences will be held at First Church, El Dorado, and at First Church, Jonesboro. The time of the sessions



Holley

will be 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 7:00-9:15 p.m. at each location.

Inspirational speakers for the general sessions include Dr. John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmore Church in Shreveport, La.; Dr. Marion "Bud" Frey, chairman of the religion department at Ouachita Baptist University; and Dr. Henry Webb, consultant at the Sunday School Board.

There will be age-group leadership conferences at each session, as well as general sessions. There will be a special conference for pastors, staff members, and other general officers. This conference will include an introduction of ingathering, LIFE, and other aspects of the Church Training program.

Don't miss this opportunity to provide the best of leadership training for your church and to focus attention on the disciplining/equipping ministry of the church.—**Bob Holley, director**

Church Training

Youth Convention and more coming up

There may have been ice on your windshield as recently as this week, but, believe it or not, spring and Good Friday will be here soon. As has been the tradition for over 30 years, Good Friday, April 17, marks the State Youth Convention at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

This annual event draws approximately 4,000 youth and their leaders together for a day of celebration, worship, and fellowship. This year's program promises to be particularly exciting. Our personalities will include Charles Page, pastor of First Church, Nashville, Tenn.; the music of Harbor; Christian mimes Mark McMasters and Doug Berky; music from Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College; the State Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament; and much more. A special feature will be the climax of the 3,000 mile "Good News Arkansas" run as they torch is carried into the evening session.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Mark April 17 on your calendar and plan to join us for a great day together.

Even more opportunities for youth—Although the State Youth Convention is definitely a "biggie" in the spring, there are still more things going on for youth before



Page

and after April 17.

Youth Week, March 8-15 is a great time to put the church's spotlight on its youth, both in recognition and service. Many teenage lives have been changed as a direct result of serving as a teacher, youth pastor or some other position of service in the church during Youth Week. The Youth Week Idea Pak is a great resource for planning Youth Week and is available through the Baptist Book Store. The only thing that makes Youth Week in the local church even better is Associational Baptist Youth Night on Saturday, March 14. Let us know if we can help you in participating in these worthwhile emphases.

District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments are coming up the week of March 30-April 3 in the eight districts throughout the state. This is an exciting time as older children demonstrate their Bible and communication skills. You are welcome to attend with or without participants. The drills begin at 7:15 p.m. in all locations, with judges coming at 6 p.m. and participants at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact your association office or the state Church Training Department.

Ridgecrest and Glorieta, 1987, are great experiences for youth. Why not consider inviting your youth to participate in one of the Summer Youth Celebration weeks at Glorieta, June 6-12 and July 4-10; or Ridgecrest, June 13-19 and July 18-24? Contact the Church Training Department for more details.—**Bill Falkner, associate**

Family Ministry

Senior adults to meet in national convention

Senior Adults from all across America will gather at the Ft. Worth (Texas) Convention Center April 27-29, for the first National Senior Adult Convention. The convention program begins at 6:45 p.m. on Monday and concludes at noon on Wednesday.

Transportation by charter bus and first class motel rooms are available through our office to those who may be interested. Room reservations have been made at the Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth within walking distance of the convention center.

The cost is \$122, which includes round-trip transportation from Little Rock (\$40), room for two nights, double occupancy (\$72), and registration (\$10). This is the cost per person. If you are interested, call or write the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—**Bob Holley, director**

Stewardship/Annuity

Why adopt the expanded plan?

Pastors and chairmen of deacons have received information from the Annuity Board on the Expanded Church Annuity Plan.

Why should churches adopt the expanded plan?

Adoption of the plan by the church sends a positive message to pastors and staff members. Approval of the expanded plan encourages church participation in the Annuity Board's retirement program for ministerial personnel.

The expanded plan encourages participation by the individual and by the church. A five percent contribution is suggested from the individual and a 10 percent contribution from the church. This is the ideal. Individuals and churches will determine their own level of contributions.

The state convention will contribute up to one-third of the individual/church contribution, not to exceed \$420 during the year. One-half of this amount (\$210) will go to the participant's retirement account. The convention's contribution means additional retirement benefits. The other half (\$210) provides protection benefits for participants.

A church may adopt the expanded plan agreement during a business meeting. Address questions about the plan to your Annuity Representative, 376-4791, or to the Annuity Board.—**James A. Walker, annuity representative**



The manner in which children were treated by primitive man is totally unthinkable to contemporary Americans. In primitive society, children were sacrificed to heathen gods, female children were left to die, and sometimes every third or fourth child in the family would be killed. Before the Christian era, cruelty to children staggered the imagination.

Yet, today countless thousands of children are the recipients of abusive treatment. The Bible teaches us that "... children are an inheritance from the Lord..." (Ps. 127:3) and parents have a responsibility to train him up "... in the way that he should go..." (Pro. 22:7). We, as Christians, have a particular responsibility in solving this awesome problem.

In the Roman civilization contemporary with Paul, there existed certain features which made life perilous for children. A Roman father had absolute power over his entire family. He could sell his children as slaves, he could make them work in the fields even in chains, and he could even inflict the death penalty on his children.

Under Roman law in the time of Paul, the father's authority continued as long as the father lived. A Roman child never became of age. Even if he were grown and the magistrate of the city, he still remained under the absolute authority of his father. It is true that the father's power was seldom carried to its limits, because public opinion would not have allowed it. But the fact remains that there were instances in which fathers condemned their children to death.

Child abuse may be defined as any habitual behavior that is harmful to the growth and well-being of a child. A parent or guardian may abuse a child psychologically, emotionally, sexually, or simply through neglect. Physical abuse includes any type of repeated or violent assault on a child's body, while emotional abuse includes continual belittling, scolding, nagging, yelling, etc. The annual total of abuse to children in our nation is estimated as high as 4.5 million.

There are a number of reasons why parents abuse children, according to psychologists. Some parents simply repeat the treatment they received when they were children. If they were harshly beaten as children, when they become parents, they beat their children.

It also is suggested that parents punish children severely because of their own guilt feelings. A parent may think, for example, that other people hold him responsible for the child's failures or misconduct. So the parent reacts by punishing the child.

The most important question is: "What can be done to stop

the growing problem of child abuse?" First, we must recognize that it does exist even among "nice" people. Solutions will never be found until Christians recognize the problem.

As Christians, we should support legislation which will make it easier for concerned parents to do something about the problem. If we know of an abusive parent and do nothing, then we also become responsible. The laws of several states make both lay and professional people liable for withholding such information.

We should support legislation to provide free psychological help when needed. Children represent the future of Christianity and our nation. Thus, they become everyone's treasure and responsibility.

As Christian parents, each of us should strive to set a proper example. The balance of freedom versus restriction is an important one. To keep a child too long in leading strings is simply to say that we do not trust him. When we have no trust in our children, we are saying we have no confidence in the way that we have trained them.

On the other hand, to thrust a child into too much temptation before proper foundations have been laid is irresponsible. The balance between control and freedom is a delicate one indeed and one that must be carefully managed by a responsible Christian family.

Encouragement also is of vital importance to the life of our children. Martin Luther's father was extremely strict. Luther felt that his father's strictness was close to the point of cruelty. Luther said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child—that is true; but beside the rod keep an apple to give him when he has done well."

The renowned artist Benjamin West says that his mother was responsible for him becoming an artist. One day, his mother left him to watch over his younger sister, Sally. While his mother was away, he discovered bottles of colored ink and began to paint a portrait of his sister. In so doing, he left ink blots over a considerable number of sheets of paper. When his mother came back she saw the mess, but said nothing. She picked up the bits of paper and saw the drawing. His mother said, "Why, it's a picture of Sally!" and she stooped down and kissed Benjamin. Benjamin West often said, "My mother's kiss made me a painter." Encouragement did more than a rebuke could ever do.

We do well to heed the instructions of Paul as he said, "... ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). When we as parents follow the perfect instructions given by Paul, our future will become more secure.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 9

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Support Services

Vision is here!

A new year always brings new things—new resolutions, new products, new cars, new tax laws. There is something else that is new for all of you who are church staff members or hold leadership positions in your churches: *Vision*.

The Long Range Planning Committee, made up of pastors, directors of missions, and Executive Board employees, requested that the number of mailings to the churches be reduced. It was determined that a more efficient, concise way of communicating needed to be developed. *Vision* is our response to your needs and is our commitment to serve you in the best way possible.

Each month, with the exception of the November and December issues which will be combined, we will provide information about events scheduled during that month, some upcoming events, and current SBC emphases. There will be some duplication between *Helpline* and *Vision*, but it is our hope that this will serve to reinforce the information. Clip art will also be provided for your use.

At the present time our computer services staff is working to enter the 1986 church letter information regarding names and addresses of church staff and other church leadership. Therefore, we are presently using 1985 information. If you are a church or associational Sunday School director, Church Training director, or WMU director and are not presently receiving *Vision*, please send us your name, address, and leadership position and ask to be placed on our mailing list. Send other corrections or duplications (include the mailing label) so that we can more accurately serve you.

Thanks for voicing your needs. We're listening.—**Jan Kelley, director**



Kelley

Music Department

Handbell, youth choir festivals slated

Music Men of Arkansas are going to Brazil. Twenty-five men signed commitments at the Evangelical Conference saying they were definitely going. That's a great start! With this nucleus committed, we're going to trust God to provide the other 25.

Along with these definite commitments, we also have about 10 others who are interested. We're hoping their churches will get behind them and provide the financial assistance needed and also approve the necessary time off. Those dates again are Oct. 21 - Nov. 1. The total cost is estimated to be \$1,200.

Several men suggested a layman from their choir who was interested in singing with us. We have decided to invite these laymen to join us for this mission project. Perhaps there are others out there who also would be interested in going. I invite you to contact us immediately for the details. Rehearsals are being scheduled, and you will need to know about them.

The bells will be ringing at Geyer



Springs First Church on March 6 and 7. That's when the State Handbell Festival meets there. We're looking for a record number of choirs to participate. The festival is being led this year by Nancy Jane Blair from Briarlake Church in Atlanta, Ga.. Nancy was formerly minister of music at First Church, Osceola, where she developed an outstanding handbell program. We're pleased that she could return to be our clinician this year.

The final performance will begin about 2 p.m. on Saturday. We invite you to come and be a part of this exciting experience. If you are considering purchasing bells at your church, this would be a good time to bring some people to show them what can be done with this instrument.

Little Rock will be invaded by Baptist youth again on Saturday, March 28. This is the date for our annual youth choir festival. We'll be meeting at Immanuel Church for both junior and senior festivals. Final performances will begin about 11 a.m. on Saturday and the public is invited to attend.

The deadline for registering your choir is Monday, March 16. That doesn't leave you much time, but you can still make it. Join the crowds at Immanuel for the Youth Choir Festival this year.—**Ervin Keathley, state music secretary**

Administration

Task force begins work

The Task Force of 100 elected by the state convention in November will begin its work in March. The training of the 100 is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 23, at the Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

"Missions Advance 87-89" has been selected as the theme for the emphasis. The logo is shown with this article. The logo emphasizes the church advancing into the world with the message of Jesus Christ. The years of the emphasis are 1987-89.

The need for the task force became evident as the Executive Board faced the desire to move to a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program funds between state and Southern Baptist mission causes. The Task Force of 100 has the following purpose:

—To challenge churches through preaching, speaking, and personal contacts to adopt a plan of advance in Cooperative Program support by showing: (1) the

biblical basis, (2) the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program, and (3) the need for growth.

—To interpret the crisis we are facing in Cooperative Program support.

Your church can have a task force speaker upon request. Watch for details on the emphasis in the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine and *Vision*, a monthly publication for church leaders about Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board programs and ministries.

In addition, an information leaflet will be mailed to every pastor in February. This is a "how to" leaflet describing why and how churches can get involved in "Missions Advance 87-89."

The committee assigned the responsibility of planning and implementing "Missions Advance 87-89" is: Allen Thrasher, chairman; Jack Nicholas; Carroll Caldwell; Paul Sanders; Jere Mitchell; Trueman Moore; Jimmy Wallace; Russell Miller; David Crouch; and Jim McDaniel.—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**



**OUR BOLD MISSION
THRUST
GOAL—**



**"to reach
the world for
Jesus Christ by
the year 2000!"**

Woman's Missionary Union

Spring activities include annual meeting, Acteens encounters

The arrival of spring is always a refreshing sight, for the grass becomes green again, the tulips bloom, and gardens are planted with anticipation of a bountiful harvest. Spring is also a refreshing time for Arkansas WMU. Women and girls anticipate the exciting missions-filled events which have been planned especially for them.

The month of March proudly welcomes the first day of spring, but more importantly extends greetings to all the women and men who will attend the Annual Meeting of Arkansas WMU, March 17-18. First Church, Camden, will host this missions event, which will focus on the theme "Useful To Thee." Those attending will hear how God has used Stan and Charlotte Parris in Venezuela, Norman and Beverly Coad in Mali, James Bryant in Thailand, and

Michael Elliott in Kentucky. Catherine Allen, WMU, SBC, will challenge us to be better missions educators now and in the future. Waldelice de Souza will share what the AMAR partnership has meant to the Brazilian people. Everyone needs to come prepared to contribute to the love offering for missionary magazines. A VISION 88 Fair is planned for Monday evening, March 16, at the Holiday Inn, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

The month of April is known for bringing showers for May's flowers. This year, two Acteens Encounters will take place during these two spring months. Ouachita Baptist University will host the April 3-4 Encounter. Southern Baptist College is the site for the May 1-2 Encounter. These events are planned especially for girls in grades 7-12.

These missions-filled weekends will give girls an opportunity to meet missionaries

and MKs, participate in a missions fair, learn more about the Acteens organization, and meet new friends. Conferences dealing with training for Acteens officers and interests of youth will be offered. A Student Recognition Service is planned to recognize all Acteens who have achieved the level of Queen and above. Registration for both Encounters will begin Friday evening at 6 p.m. and the general session will start at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will conclude Saturday at noon.

The WMU Annual Meeting and the Acteens Encounters offer inspiring programs which will challenge participants to greater missions service. Plan now to attend these events. For additional information, contact the WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501) 376-4791. —**Angela Lowe, Acteens director**

Sunday School

Why not bring your kids to camp?

Why not bring your kids to state camp this year? The Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs offers one of the finest summer camping programs to be found anywhere.

When you bring your kids to Siloam Springs, you can be assured that they will

hear good, solid conservative preaching that is balanced between Christian growth and evangelism. Just under 400 persons accepted Christ last year during the seven weeks of camp. More than 400 made a commitment of their lives and a significant number responded to the call of God

for vocational Christian service.

When you bring your kids to Siloam, you can expect an atmosphere that is geared to help each person hear and respond to God's call on his life. No radios, stereos, tape players, etc., are allowed. We want the kids to get away from the influences of the world so they can hear the voice of God. A modest dress code is enforced. This helps create an atmosphere free of distractions that would hamper the work of God.

When you bring your kids to Siloam, you have the advantage of an afternoon of quality recreation. Swimming, softball, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, horseshoes, tennis, and a variety of table games are available. A full-time recreation staff oversees our outstanding program.

Each church has received a packet of materials about camp for this summer. See for yourself the quality of speakers and program available. Choose a week and make reservations as soon as possible. Weeks fill up very fast (one is already full and closed to reservations), so don't delay. It will be one of the greatest weeks of camping and spiritual renewal you and your kids have ever experienced. —**Freddie Pike, director**

Two **BIG** Events
for teenage girls in grades 7-12

Acteens Encounters

- Where:** Ouachita Baptist University, April 3-4
Southern Baptist College, May 1-2
- Time:** 7:30 p.m., Friday, to noon, Saturday
Registration will begin at 6 p.m., Friday
- Theme:** "Love In Any Language"
- Features:** Missionaries and MKs, Missions Fair, Conferences, for Acteens and leaders, Recognition service for all Queens

Registration deadlines: OBU, March 23; SBC, April 10

For more information, contact: WMU Office, P.O. Box 552,
Little Rock, AR 72203; phone (501) 376-4791



Quality
VAN Sales

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

Next month in Arkansas: March

March 1-8, Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, local church emphasis challenging people to support Southern Baptist home missions (WMU)

March 6-7, State Handbell Festival, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church, Arkansas handbell choirs ringing for adjudication and sharing in a mass bell choir performance (M)

March 6-7, Mini Rec Lab, North Little Rock Park Hill Church, training in church recreation for youth directors and recreation leaders (CT)

March 9-12, Area Church Training Leadership Conferences, training opportunity for pastors, church staff, and Church Training directors and age-group

leaders (CT)

March 17-18, WMU Annual Meeting, Camden First Church, annual time of missions challenge, inspiration, and fellowship (WMU)

March 23, Church Building Conference, Mount Ida First Church, assistance for churches needing to build or remodel facilities (SS)

March 24, Church Building Conference, Fayetteville Sang Avenue Church, see March 23 (SS)

March 26, Church Building Conference, Gassville First Church, see March 23 (SS)

March 26-27, Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat, Ozark Folk Center, Mountain Home, marriage enrichment

experience for ministers and mates (CT)

March 27, Church Building Conference, Little Rock Calvary Church, see March 23 (SS)

March 28, Youth Choir Festival, Little Rock Immanuel Church, Arkansas youth choirs sing for adjudication and participate in a mass choir experience (M)

March 30, District Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Huntsville First Church, Hope First Church, district Bible drill and speakers' competition for children and youth (CT)

March 31, District Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Paris-First Church, Warren First Church, see March 30 (CT)

April

April 2, District Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Mountain View First Church, Jonesboro Central Church (CT)

April 3, District Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Wynne Church, Little Rock Olivet Church (CT)

April 3-4, Acteens Encounter, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (WMU)

April 4, Missions Friends Leaders Training Conference, Little Rock

Calvary Church (WMU)

April 16, Small Sunday School Leadership Updates, Reyno First Church, Crossett Pleasant Lane Church, Alpena First Church, Dermott Bellaire Church, Griffithville First-Church (SS)

April 17, State Youth Convention, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (CT)

April 20, Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)

April 20-22, National Conference for Ministers of Education, Nashville, Tenn. (CT)

April 20-23, Area Summer Youth Ministers Conferences, Ouachita Baptist University, Southern Baptist College, Baptist Building (CT)

April 21, Advanced Growth Spiral Workshop, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (SS)

April 27-29, Senior Adult Convention, Fort Worth, Texas (CT)

May

May 1-2, State Acteens Encounter, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (WMU)

May 1-2, Pastor-Deacon Conference (CT)

May 4, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference, Van Buren First Church (S/A)

May 5, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference, Nashville First Church (S/A)

May 6, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference, Little Rock Baptist Medical Center (S/A)

May 7, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference, Wynne Church (S/A)

May 8-9, GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)

May 11-13, Mid-South Conference on Preaching, Memphis, Tenn. (CT)

May 16, Baptist Young Women Retreat, Morth Little Rock Mill Valley Camp (WMU)

May 18-22, MasterLife/MasterBuilder Workshops, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)

May 28-30, Senior Adult Celebration, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)

Abbreviations: Bhd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; SS - Sunday School; S/A - Stewardship/Annuity; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

STRESS!

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

First Baptist Church, Bettendorf, Iowa, is praying and searching for a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Please send resume to: Staff Search Committee, FBC, 17th and Brown St., Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Development Officer

Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., is looking for a development officer. Please send a resume to Dr. Bill Oakley, Box 454, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476.

FMB retains name, conducts strategic reorganization

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted Feb. 11 to retain its present name for stateside use but to register a second name, International Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, for operational purposes abroad.

The decision, recommended by a special transition committee, enables the board to maintain the name with which Southern Baptists have strongly identified through the board's 142-year history. But it also provides flexibility that may be needed to operate most effectively overseas, board officials said.

The new name had been recommended in December as part of a major reorganization to prepare for full-scale efforts toward global evangelization.

Moving ahead with all other aspects of the new plan, the board elected seven staff members to top-level positions. They will be members of a new global strategy group that will study ways Southern Baptists can more effectively do their part in taking the gospel to all people of the world.

The board also created a ninth geographic area, dividing Europe and the Middle East, and redrew the lines for the three areas formerly known as Latin America under a new overall region called the Americas.

Elected vice presidents were Isam Blagrove, Europe, Middle East and North

Africa; Don Kammerdiener, the Americas; Davis Saunders, Africa; William Wakefield, Asia and the Pacific; and Lewis I. Myers Jr., Cooperative Services International. Cooperative Services was created in April 1985, as the channel through which Southern Baptists can respond to requests and opportunities in countries not open to a traditional missionary approach.

Harlan Spurgeon was elected vice president for Mission Management and Personnel, an expanded administrative role which brings together many of the units formerly under separate overseas and stateside support offices.

Clark Scanlon will be director of Research and Planning, coordinating the fact-gathering and interpretation necessary to shape the denomination's worldwide evangelistic strategy.

President R. Keith Parks will be chairman of the new global strategy group and Executive Vice President William R. O'Brien will be vice chairman.

The board also elected two associate vice presidents who will work under Spurgeon—Thurmon Bryant as associate vice president for missions management and Tim Brendle as associate vice president for personnel.

Trustees also reorganized their own committee structure to conform to the new

regional structure, with new regional committees holding their first meetings in the final hour of the time normally reserved for the board's business session.

The major item discussed at the four meetings related to geographic regions was selection of replacements for the area directors elected to new posts. The new regional vice presidents are writing missionaries in the areas for their suggestions, and Parks said he hopes many of these positions can be filled at the April and May meetings. Under the new plan the area directors will live in one of the countries of their area, moving more decision-making closer to the fields they supervise.

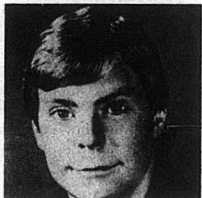
In redrawing the areas of the world to match the scope of its work, the board adopted the term, the Americas, because Canada is now included in the grouping formerly called Latin America. But Parks emphasized that the United States, where the Home Mission Board works, is not part of this area.

The other major area of change involves Asia and the Pacific region. East Asia will remain the same, but the other area will be known as Southern Asia and the Pacific, embracing work formerly in South and Southeast Asia. The new title recognizes expansion of work underway in the Pacific islands.

It's not too late to sign up for . . .



Rick Ousley
youth communicator



Al Denson
musician

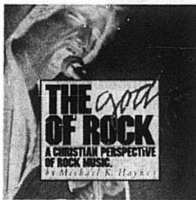
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Hunger gifts decline; continued support needed

by David Wilkinson
SBC Christian Life Commission

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists in 1986 contributed more than \$9 million to their denomination's program of world hunger relief, according to figures released in February by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Total hunger receipts last year were 23 percent less than the record \$11.8 million given in 1985, and a hunger expert at the SBC Foreign Mission Board underscored the need for continued support for hunger relief.

The 1986 total of \$9,089,279 is still the second largest amount ever given and represents nearly a \$2 million increase over the amount given in 1984. Figures do not reflect receipts for "general relief" at the Foreign Mission Board or monies given for hunger that were utilized in local churches, associations and state conventions.

"I think the overall picture for Southern Baptist hunger relief is encouraging," said Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission which coordinates education and action on hunger issues among Southern Baptists. "The broadening base of support for hunger relief during the last decade is a sign of growing confidence in the hunger programs of our mission boards."

For 1986, the Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$7,790,128 for overseas hunger relief, compared with \$10,625,897 in 1985. More than a third of the receipts came during the last two months of the year after the denomination's observance of World Hunger Day in October. Receipts for November topped \$1.1 million—a record for that month.

While FMB receipts declined in 1986, gifts to domestic hunger relief through the Home Mission Board climbed slightly. Total receipts in 1986 were \$1,299,151, compared with \$1,204,249 in 1985.

John Cheyne, senior consultant for human needs ministries at the SBC Foreign Mission board, underscored the need for continued support of hunger relief, reiterating his view that a "hunger holocaust" remains a "frightening possibility."

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Every ministry has its place in the Cooperative Program



Kay and Ronald Ford

"I have never once wanted to be part of any other plan."

"I was 24 years of age when I entered the Church Annuity Plan. That was 14 years ago. I have still got many good years of active ministry left, but when it's time to retire, I will be ready.

"I am thankful to be a part of the Church Annuity Plan administered by the Annuity Board. I have never once wanted to be a part of any other (retirement) plan."

Ronald Ford, pastor
Central Baptist Church
North Little Rock

Now, the Church Annuity Plan is being expanded to include matching funds from the Arkansas Baptist Convention. Help provide members of your church staff with a retirement program they can depend on.

Vote — this month — to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan in your church.

For more information contact:



James Walker
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
P. O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203
Or call (501) 376-4791.

Convention Uniform

Entry into Jerusalem

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: Luke 19:28-44

Focal passage: Luke 19:28-44

Central truth: The Lord's death was a voluntary sacrifice of himself for a lost world, not a penalty imposed on him by Jewish leaders or Roman authorities.

In today's study, Jesus is still trying to teach his disciples the true meaning of his Messiahship. Like the Jews as a whole, the disciples still saw Jesus as come to deliver them from Roman rule.

(1) The disciple's instruction (Lu. 19:28-34)

The first verse of this passage contains the key words "... he went before. . ." As the Lord approached Jerusalem for the observance of the Passover, there was an unusual tenseness in the air. His eagerness to get on with what he knew lay just ahead, his sacrificial death, struck fear in the hearts of his followers. They had tried to pass up his references to his approaching death, but they could not forget them. In the events recorded here, they were seeing Old Testament prophecy fulfilled (Ze. 9:9).

(2) The crowd's reaction (Lu. 19:35-38)

The crowd witnessing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem had come with him and the disciples from Galilee and had seen "all the mighty works" that he had performed in Galilee and along the way. They shouted Messiah passages from the Psalms. Luke, for the benefit of his fellow Gentiles, substituted "glory in the highest" for the Jewish praise term "Hosannah," found in Matthew 21:9.

(3) The Pharisees' objection (Lu. 19:39-40)

The adulation of the crowd proclaiming Jesus as "the King that cometh in the name of the Lord" was a slap in the face to the Pharisees present. Jesus had riled them by challenging their religious traditions that had made religion an end in itself, setting it above people and their desperate needs. By his great popularity, Jesus constituted a threat to their control over the people.

(4) The Savior's tears (Lu. 19:41-44)

As the Lord and his great crowd of admirers approached Jerusalem ("mount of peace"), and as the city lay before them, Jesus suddenly had a vision of what was going to happen just 70 years in the future. Instead of the peaceful, prosperous community, he saw the city ravished by a Roman army. Because of his love for the rebellious, wayward city, he wept.

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

Life and Work

God answers prayer

by Harry T. Kennedy, Calvary Church, Hope

Basic passage: Luke 11:1-10

Focal passage: Luke 11:2,9-10

Central truth: A disciple of the Lord needs to understand prayer life and the importance of continually approaching the Lord.

We cannot read the Scriptures or visit with a maturing Christian without discovering the priority placed upon prayer. Yet, the most difficult task a Christian faces is making prayer a priority everyday. The disciples of Jesus knew by the life of the Savior that prayer was important and they wisely ask Jesus for help.

Jesus gives to them and us the model prayer. Within the prayer is adoration or recognition of who God is and what the Lord's desire is for this world (v. 2).

This is our beginning point in a consistent fruitful prayer life, recognizing who we are praying to. We pray to our heavenly Father. He is a personal Lord which means a relationship exists that strongly suggests "salvation." It is then that God is seen as a "father."

When we see our God as a father, we no longer fear him, but love and respect him. Neither do we question him because we know our best interest lies behind everything he directs us to do and permits to enter our life experiences.

We are to see our Lord in his glory and establish a proper reverent spirit towards him and accept his purposes in our prayers. It is then we are ready to share our needs; acknowledge our sins; see our relationships clearly; and realize we are completely dependent upon our heavenly Father for deliverance from Satan's temptations.

These passages end with an example of how we are to approach the Lord consistently. This is not a story to say the Lord doesn't want to meet our need; but wants to know how much we see him as the only source to meet that need.

After all, if you'll ask, you will receive; if you'll seek, you will find; if you will knock, it will be opened because that's the way of our heavenly Father.

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Bible Book

The Lord's Prayer

by Tim Reddin, Barcelona Road Church, Hot Springs Village

Basic passage: John 17:1-26

Focal passage: John 17:1-5,14,21,24-26

Central truth: By observing our Lord at prayer, we learn how we are to pray and how he wants us to live.

John 17 is the real "Lord's Prayer." In Matthew 6 and Luke 11 we find the Model Prayer, a guide Jesus gave his disciples to teach them how to pray. Today's text shows us the very heart of Jesus. We hear him in earnest prayer as he speaks with his Father. And while this is not given as a model for us to follow, our Lord's prayer reveals many truths which indeed teach us how to pray.

Jesus' prayer takes three basic forms. First, he prays for himself (vv. 1-5). He prayed for God's will to be done and for the Father to be glorified in his life.

It is not always selfish to pray for ourselves. It is our motive that determines whether our prayer is acceptable. Are we praying to God like the child who asks Santa Claus for Christmas toys? Are we asking "amiss, to consume it upon our own lusts" (Ja. 4:3)? Or are we, like Jesus, truly submitting ourselves to God's will for his glory?

Second, Jesus prays for his disciples (vv. 6-19). He knew the tests which they soon would face. He knew their human weakness and their lack of faith. He prayed for their protection from evil (vv. 11-12,15), for their joy (v. 13), for their sanctification (vv. 17,19), and for their mission (v. 18).

Third, Jesus prays for us (vv. 20-23). Think of it! Jesus prayed for me! He said, "I pray for all those who will believe" (v. 20).

How much do you suppose the power of Jesus' prayers (Lu. 22:31-32) was responsible for Peter's recovery of faith after his denial and desertion?

Just so, dear friend, how powerful can our Lord's prayer for us and our knowledge that he prays for us be in our experience today?

And what is his prayer for us? That we might be one! How we need to hear this heartcry of our Lord today! With all the name-calling and suspicions, the posturing and broken relationships—both within local churches and in our denomination—how our Lord must grieve! Could it be that in our quest to be right, our attitudes have gone wrong?

May God help us to be one with Christ and one with each other "so that the world might believe" (v. 21).

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Baptist Alliance formed to counter 'threat'

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—A new Southern Baptist organization—the Southern Baptist Alliance—has been formed to counter what leaders call a threat to the denomination's "historic principles, freedoms and traditions."

The Alliance was announced Feb. 12 in simultaneous news conferences in Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C., and in Atlanta.

Henry Crouch, pastor of Providence Church in Charlotte and chairperson of the SBA, led the news conference in Charlotte. Two Raleigh pastors, William R. Puckett Jr., of Millbrook Church and M. Mahan Siler of Pullen Memorial Church, led the Raleigh meeting. Jim Strickland, pastor of Cartersville (Ga.) First Church, headed up the Atlanta news conference.

"We are not a splinter group," Crouch said. "But we want to be a voice of conscience within the convention. The fundamentalist-conservative takeover of the SBC has left many Southern Baptists disenfranchised... and we will exist as long as we feel disenfranchised."

Crouch maintained the group is not intended to be a new political organization. "We are moving beyond politics," he said.

In Raleigh, Siler said the group "has no intention of starting a new denomination. This is an effort for persons to remain within the Southern Baptist denomination. . . ."

In Atlanta, Strickland, who has been active in the moderate-conservative political

effort in the SBC, said the new organization will not support a candidate for presidency of the 14.6-million-member denomination. "We will vote our own consciences."

During the new conferences the officers of the SBA were announced. They include Crouch, Susan Lockwood Wright, pastor of Cornell Avenue Church in Chicago, Ill., vice-chairperson; Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., secretary; and Bruce Morgan, pastor of First Church, Greenville, S.C., treasurer.

Although organizers say SBA is composed of representatives from "more than 15 states," no information was made available on the number of churches or members participating.

In Raleigh, Puckett said the Alliance's operating budget will be financed through an annual \$25 membership fee for individuals and \$1 per resident member for church membership. He added SBA has "some seed money" and speculated the amount is between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

In materials prepared for release at the news conference, organizers said the SBA "will concentrate on three areas: first, the articulation of positions on issues and events within the SBC; second, the confrontation of agencies and the SBC itself when historic principles and practices are violated; and third, the creation of a channel for the funding of SBC mission efforts and agencies that have been denied or defunded."

President, leaders respond to Alliance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers says he is "not surprised" by the formation of the Southern Baptist Alliance, and the chairman of the SBC's Peace Committee says he wishes SBA organizers had waited a bit.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn., told Baptist Press he "gives them (SBA organizers) every right to express themselves," but disputed their claims they have been disenfranchised in the current convention controversy.

"They spoke of disenfranchisement. I certainly do not feel they have been disenfranchised. No one is disenfranchised who has the right to express himself and to vote. Disenfranchisement means we have those things removed. The moderates do not have those things removed," he said.

Moderate leaders in the current controversy have maintained a series of conservative presidents have systematically excluded from appointment anyone who does not hold to a strict position of biblical inerrancy.

Rogers said: "We are not trying to force our views on them. But, as president, I could not help but be loyal to the stated views of our convention in making my appoint-

ments."

He added that while he does not believe anyone with a vote is disenfranchised, he thinks that if moderates "find themselves out of step with the majority, then they ought to conform to the wishes of the majority or they should seek a new majority."

Rogers said, that contrary to reports in the secular press, he "is not suggesting that they should or ought to leave the Southern Baptist Convention."

Charles Fuller, the chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, created in 1985 to seek the causes of the controversy and to make recommendations for ways to end the strife, told Baptist Press:

"I could have wished that during the two years the Peace Committee has functioned there might not have been organizational efforts by any group that is theologically positioned, whether it is the Southern Baptist Alliance or the Genesis Commission.

"If, at the end of our report, people are not satisfied, then they might take whatever steps they wish. But the problem is that we have not finished our work and each time this sort of thing arises, it just calls attention to our fragmentation and division."

O'Brien identifies world trends affecting missions efforts

by Carol Garrett

Woman's Missionary Union, SBC

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Six major trends or movements will impact the future of missions education and support, William O'Brien told Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union leaders.

O'Brien, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, pointed to:

- Globalization of the world's economy.
- A shift in world emphasis from East-West to North-South.
- Urbanization of the world.
- Internationalization of the cities.
- Growth of the church in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Equalization of sending of missionaries.

By the century's end, seven of the super-giant cities will be Islamic, hostile to the gospel and the presence of missionaries.

Missions strategists must consider that Southern Baptists live in an age of global industries, global patterns and global economies, O'Brien said. "Part of the problem we have now is still acting as though ours is a national economy and everybody else's is a national economy in competition one with another," he explained.

Southern Baptists also must adjust their view of the world as balanced between East-West hemispheres to North-South, he added noting, "The real problems and the real issues of the future lie in the vertical axis."

Too, O'Brien said, 52 percent of the world's population will live in major cities

by the year 2000. Trends indicate that more than 400 of those major cities will be megacities, with populations of between 1 and 4 million people. At least 17 cities will be supergiant cities, with more than 10 million people in each.

By the end of the century, seven of the supergiant cities will be Islamic and "basically hostile to the gospel and the presence of missionaries," he said.

In addition to the urbanization of the world, the internationalization of the cities will have great impact on missions, O'Brien continued. "Look at any major city here in the United States, and you see a small microcosmic United Nations," he said.

In New York City, more than 6 million people speak English as a second language. More than 14 percent of the population of Paris, France, is Arabic.

The rising of the church in the Southern Hemisphere also must be considered by serious mission strategists, O'Brien stressed.

By the end of the century, there will be about 100 million Protestant evangelicals in Latin America, and between 250 million and 300 million Christians on the continent of Africa, he said. Already, most of the Christians of the world are not white.

"The churches of the Southern Hemisphere, and in China, the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc are the most dynamic and alive churches in the world, who literally should be our teachers rather than learners," O'Brien said.

Dynamic churches in the Southern Hemisphere and the developing part of the world "have their own sense of responsibility

for evangelization and missions," O'Brien said, and they must play an important part in the sending of missionaries.

These churches have already sent about 15,000 missionaries of their own, across tribal and national lines and geopolitical boundaries, "and they're doing it out of their poverty, not out of affluence," he said.

In light of worldwide trends that already are affecting missions, WMU and Foreign Mission Board must consider tailoring the missions message at local and regional levels, O'Brien said.

"How do we infiltrate the grassroots precincts of this great denomination with the seeds of contagion on behalf of our missions potential?" O'Brien asked.

WMU and Foreign Mission Board must take responsibility for spreading "missions contagion" in order to "help Southern Baptists stop stealing from their missions future," he said.

"Some of the churches of our convention are annually increasing their world missions knowledge indebtedness. Many churches are mortgaging missions education, cashing in awareness and knowledge potential for quick growth and/or survival in the pawn shops of pragmatism."

O'Brien called WMU and the Foreign Mission Board to renew their coalition in pointing Southern Baptists toward "biblical and Kingdom priorities."

"In an ecclesiastical world that is more comfortable with ladders and authority, let us form a circle of servants that is not so much concerned with moving up as it is with moving out."

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