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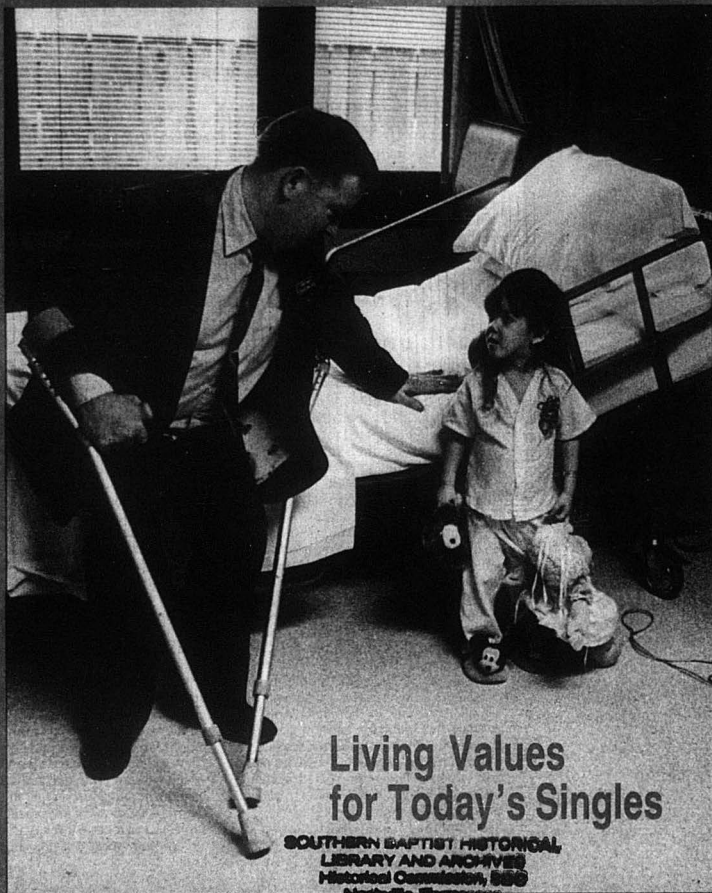
February 19, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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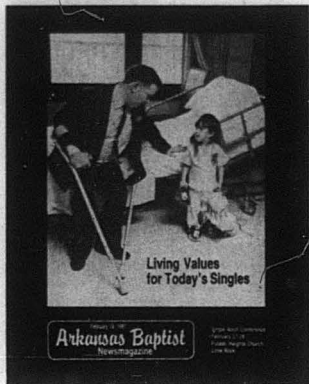
Living Values for Today's Singles

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

February 19, 1987

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

Single Adult Conference
February 27-28
Pulaski Heights Church
Little Rock



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Steve Hanley, a single adult member of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, visits with Lauren Henderson, age two, of Pine Bluff during her recent stay at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Hanley is a student in that hospital's clinical pastoral education program. "Living Values for Today's Singles" is the theme for the annual statewide Single Adult Conference to be held Feb. 27-28 at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

In this issue

5 how have we done?

ABSC Executive Director Don Moore reflects on Southern Baptist missions progress during the first 10 years of Bold Mission Thrust, the ambitious goal of carrying the gospel to every person by the year 2000.

11 difficult departure

Forced to leave West Beirut after 33 years, Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Leola Ragland bade a tearful farewell to friends and neighbors Jan. 31.

'PrayerLine' adds news; 2,749 call in first week

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new toll-free "PrayerLine" telephone number is adding another service: the latest missions news.

Each Saturday and Sunday listeners can dial 1-800-ALL-SEEK (1-800-255-7335) for a two-minute report on missions news from around the world. Callers in Virginia, Alaska and Hawaii must dial a toll number, 1-804-355-6581.

Already, hundreds of churches have used PrayerLine, organizers reported. More than 2,700 people called during the first week of operation.

The 1,800 who called over that weekend got the latest word from Lebanon, where missionaries are grappling with a U.S. government order to leave the country within 30 days. Such updates on crisis situations calling for prayer will continue to be

a feature of PrayerLine, said Minette Drumwright, who heads up the board's intercessory prayer emphasis.

Monday through Friday, "PrayerLine" offers around-the-clock taped prayer requests from missionaries in 109 countries. The weekend news report also will focus on stories and information highlighting overseas prayer needs. The news report will be taped by the Foreign Mission Board's news department, which also is the foreign bureau of Baptist Press.

"PrayerLine" began in January to support the "concerts of prayer" for world evangelization called for by mission board trustees last December. Southern Baptists are being challenged to set aside the first Sunday of every month for "concerted, united, sustained, extraordinary prayer" for the world.

Rogers undecided about second term

by Ferrell Foster
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Adrian Rogers says he has not decided yet whether he will allow himself to be nominated for a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

However, the current SBC president said, "Probably at this point I'm more inclined to, than not to. But, that certainly is not settled, by any stretch of the imagination, in my heart and mind. I do realize, however, that I mean to make up my mind moderately soon about this," Rogers said.

Rogers' comments came during a news conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He was on the campus to preach in the seminary's regular chapel service held Feb. 10.

The pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn., said his visit to the seminary had significance only in that "I love and appreciate this seminary, and I'm grateful for the atmosphere on the New Orleans campus and the reverence for the Word of God that is here." Rogers graduated from New Orleans Seminary in 1958 with the bachelor of divinity degree.

During the chapel service, Rogers said, "The key to living the Christian life is knowing who you are in Christ." Once we have

accepted who we are in Christ, we are free to accept each other, he said.

"... There's plenty of me to give because Christ is in me, and his love is in me. ... He giveth and giveth and giveth again. And, there's enough in me to share with you and still have all I need.

"I don't have to use you, con you, manipulate you, abuse you, put you down, or brag to you. I can just love you because I know who I am," Rogers said. "Fellowship ... that's what God is aiming at because he has made us acceptable in love."

Rogers, a member of the SBC Peace Committee, was asked during the news conference if he expected the committee to recommend that denominational workers be required to sign a statement of theological orthodoxy.

"No, I don't," Rogers said, "But, I want you to understand I'm speaking very unilaterally there. I don't think the mindset that I read in the Peace Committee is so much of a statement as it is a standard.

"We just want to have a standard toward which we work," he said, adding, "The convention, in toto, must set that standard. And, we have every right to expect those who serve us and receive a salary from us to fairly represent what the constituency wants taught."

Michael Haynes added to Super Summer roster

Michael Haynes of Lindale, Texas, the author of *The God of Rock*, has been added to the program for Super Summer, according to James Lagrone, coordinator of the program.

Haynes will present an "updated and expanded" version of his seminar during the Wednesday evening session of the week-long event, Lagrone said.

Super Summer is scheduled for June 29-July 3 on the campus of Ouachita Bap-

tist University. A \$15 non-refundable deposit for those planning to attend the program is due by March 1.

The event aims at training older youth in personal evangelism and discipleship and is jointly sponsored by the ABSC Evangelism Department and a steering committee of Arkansas Baptist youth ministers. Information may be obtained and reservations made by contacting Lagrone at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Controlling anxiety

Some people seem to believe that all anxiety is sin. Actually, anxiety is a God-given emotion and serves a useful purpose when kept under proper control.

God gives us the ability and responsibility of making choices, which automatically sets up tension and anxiety. Anxiety alerts us to the danger and challenges which confront us. Being anxious means that one has personal concern about the outcome of a certain event. The emotion makes it possible for a person to feel exaltation and excitement.

Psychologists and psychiatrists point out that human emotions are complicated and inter-related. Ambition will cause an individual to set high goals. But fear of failure will produce anxiety. A proper balance, then, between ambition and anxiety is necessary if we are to fulfill God's creative purposes.

Since anxiety is an important God-given emotion, why do some feel that it is wrong? There are probably two reasons. First, anxiety is frequently associated with the over-anxious person who worries about everything to the extent that he loses control of his emotions. Such an individual may become so overwhelmed by his anxiety that he has no reason and no will and becomes destructive to himself and others around him.

Jesus cautioned us about being too preoccupied with our needs. This does not mean that we should take no thought for our needs. The concern of Jesus was that we not become too obsessed with things about us. We are called to live by faith, but this does not mean that we should live foolishly. The Scripture teaches that when we consider a project, we count the cost. Otherwise we may not be able to finish and do what God would have us to do.

The second reason individuals tend to believe anxiety is wrong is because of a misunderstanding of the words of Jesus as he said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself" (Matt. 6:34). In this passage (Matt. 6:25-35), however, Jesus did not mean to imply that an individual was not to work or plan for the future. Rather, he was warning us not to be over-anxious about earthly possessions.

Jesus said that over-anxiety is essentially a distrust of God (Matt. 6:32). A heathen who believes in a jealous, unloving, capricious, unsympathetic God might have just cause for living over-anxiously. But a Christian who has a loving and sympathetic Savior should rely upon this relationship for strength.

There are many kinds of anxieties, some of which are necessary, but others can be avoided. Individuals are most often over-anxious over finances. God, being infinite, knows all things

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



and will never err; man, however, is limited in knowledge and wisdom; so mistakes are inevitable. Hence, we must live with some anxiety created by our own uncertainties.

There is also anxiety created by our surroundings. We live in an age of rapid movement and decision. Rapid technological advance produces both help and tension.

Our economic situation produces anxiety. Some are threatened by poverty, and all should be concerned for those who do not have proper food, clothing and shelter. Many of us, however, are caught up in materialism. Inflation creeps up, and many find themselves further and further in debt.

Finally, all experience anxiety because of sin and guilt. Sin is universal (Ro. 3:23). When we sin against God or our fellow man, separation and isolation are inevitable.

Closely related to sin is man's capacity for obedience or disobedience. Man, being created in the image of God, has the power of choice. When one chooses to transgress God's law, he has sinned. Disobedience always produces anxiety.

Sin also implies knowledge. If man's sin is willful, then his sin is transgression against the knowledge and light that has been provided him. In Romans, Paul carefully describes the light that is given to all and concludes that all are willful transgressors. Such willful transgression results in anxiety.

The guilt of sin manifests itself in man's consciousness. Man knows himself as blameworthy because of his sin. This consciousness of his transgression is a general phenomenon of human life. The more intense the sin, the greater the anxiety.

Sometimes it is difficult to pinpoint the source of anxiety. However, the most important question is, "How does one keep this emotion in proper balance?" First, it is essential to recognize the possibility of becoming over-anxious. It is impossible to cope with uncontrolled anxiety unless one is aware of it.

It is essential for everyone to take the proper rest and relaxation. Over-activity or overwork produces loss of energy and tension. Everyone has physical limitations and recognition of this fact is essential in coping with anxiety.

Every Christian should do his utmost to avoid sin. But when we do sin, we can receive forgiveness by confession (1 Jo. 1:9). Our confession and amends for sin should be made to God and the individual(s) involved. Confession to those not involved often produces additional problems.

Finally, our greatest source in keeping anxiety under control is the presence of the Holy Spirit. As we allow the indwelling Spirit to guide us, we can properly handle the demands of each day.

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

The beauty of bulldozers and sadness of sidewalk superintendents

One of the joys of being a college president is seeing new buildings under construction. The excitement of watching a new building grow from the ground up ranks very high on my scale of rewards, even though I know deep down in my heart that watching young people grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with man and God, is ultimately far more important. Somehow or other that new building under construction is a more visible symbol of growing strength in the cause of Christian higher education.

Thanks to many friends of Ouachita Baptist University, we were able to have a ground-breaking ceremony recently for our new information-age library construction and renovation project. A generous \$500,000 challenge gift from Frank Hickingbotham, matched by gifts of \$1.5 million from a host of other friends, gave the green light to this critically important construction venture. I had forgotten how beautiful the sound of bulldozers and air hammers can be, when they are dedicated to the right cause.

There is only one sour note in the midst of all of these beautiful sounds of progress. Hardly a day has gone by since the construction began that I have not walked along the

sidewalk bordering the construction activity, separated from the workers only by the thin width of a chain link fence. I have, after all, many years of experience in observing construction projects on the Ouachita campus since I became president some 17 years ago. Without intending to be immodest, I can say in all truthfulness that I have probably clocked more hours as a sidewalk superintendent of university construction projects than any other president in the 100 years of Ouachita's history. Shocking as it may seem, not one construction worker has paused to ask my opinion on how to do his job, or whether he is doing it properly. It just seems to be such a terrible waste to fail to utilize a highly experienced and qualified sidewalk superintendent to ensure the suc-

cess of such an important project.

I have even considered calling the company president about this serious omission, but my wife tells me this would be very un-Christian on my part. It might get the workers in terrible trouble with their president. Betty Jo also has pointed out that the workers seem to have lucked out so far in getting along all right without my advice. She adds that sometimes it is better to give people the opportunity to make mistakes on their own and then learn from these mistakes. I am always amazed at the remarkable record of my wife in helping me to avoid embarrassing other people.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Third of a four-part series The danger of disability

by William A. Willis

We've all heard it said: There are some things worse than death. Financially, disability is worse than death. If one dies suddenly from an illness or accident, the costs are known and final.

But what if you become ill and don't die, but you don't get well either? You become disabled. Income is lost, but worse, the disabled person becomes a continuing financial liability.

In the case of ministers, disability insurance is much more than good sense and compassionate protection for his family. Disability insurance is great protection for the church.

Few of our churches have ready assets to support both a disabled pastor and an active one. But if the church fails to provide disability insurance, it may one day face exactly that need.

Almost 30 percent of the general population over 30 will be at least temporarily disabled before reaching retirement age.

Because of this fact, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention provides disability insurance. A basic disability benefit is provided through state convention contributions for all ministers who participate in the Church Annuity Plan.

Church employees who participate in the



Willis

Church Term Life Plan of the Annuity Board become eligible to apply for the Church Disability Plan for additional benefits.

The amount of the monthly disability income benefit is determined by your church compensation: salary, housing allowance and utilities allowance. Cost is determined by age. The disability income begins six months after one becomes disabled and continues during total disability to age 65.

The Protection Section of the Church Annuity Plan provides monthly contributions to the member's retirement account during total disability so that the pension benefit continues to grow until retirement. It will then be available to the member or his survivor.

Without life and disability insurance, there is no certain way to protect a family from the loss of the economic value of the breadwinner.

Churches who do not protect their ministers with available life and disability insurance are hedging. They are assuming that the protection won't be needed. That assumption is not only bad business, it is ethically suspect.

Call the Annuity Board (1-800-262-0511) and ask for the Church Insurance brochure.

In my next article, we will look at health insurance.

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.

Southern College slates homecoming activities

WALNUT RIDGE—Southern Baptist College has planned a full weekend of activities for homecoming, Feb. 20-21, with the theme "Come home to Southern."

On Friday, the Imperials will appear in concert in the Sutherland-Mabee Center. The concert will be followed by a bonfire and pep rally.

Activities planned for Saturday include a Southern Singers reunion and rehearsal, former students luncheon, and men's and women's basketball games against the Mississippi County Suns. Presentation of homecoming royalty will be held at the halftime of the men's basketball game. Saturday evening, the students will perform their first musical extravaganza.

a smile or two

Don't complain about the weather. It can usually find a way to get even.

Television has proved that people will look at anything rather than each other.

—Ann Landers

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

We have recently completed the first 10 years of Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is the theme that has coursed through the planning and programming of Southern Baptists. Adopted at Norfolk, Va. in June of 1976, the purpose of Bold Mission Thrust was to get the gospel to every person on the earth by the year 2000.

How have we done? Southern Baptists are recognized by authorities outside the denomination as the most effective church planters in America. I heard it again last night. A Presbyterian of wide notoriety and experience said, "Nobody can touch Southern Baptists in church planting." Another leader from another denomination said, "You all (Southern Baptists) seem to be the only people making a serious effort to reach our nation."

Annual baptisms overseas were 80,747 when we started Bold Mission Thrust. On the tenth anniversary of Bold Mission Thrust, baptisms were 158,626. The number of members in our churches overseas went from 896,063 to 2,000,847. We were in 82 countries in 1976. We are now in 107 countries.

Perhaps the greatest result of Bold Mission Thrust has been church planting overseas through our Foreign Mission Board. The number of organized churches overseas went from 7,584 to 15,635. This is a gain of 8,051 churches or over 100 percent increase. That is 805.1 new churches per year, 15.48 new churches per week, or 2.21 new churches organized per day for 10 years.

We praise God and commend our missionaries for this strong New Testament strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission. We also thank God for letting us be a part.

We had a 29 percent increase in foreign missionaries under appointment and a 500 percent increase in volunteer missionaries. At the same time, the number of our home missionaries was increasing by 49 percent. We are a missionary people. Amen?

Hardly! Gifts to foreign missions by Southern Baptists averaged \$12 each in 1986. If we say 50 percent of our people are inactive and non-resident for figuring our average, then we averaged \$24 each from all active Southern Baptists in 1986.

What could we do if...?

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

Hope dashed

Having lived through the Foy Valentine era of the Christian Life Commission, I had high hopes that a biblically ethical man would be elected executive director to end that era. Now I see that the pro-abortion, pro-ordination of women, against capital punishment stance of the commission is to be continued under Larry Baker. This stance is forced upon Southern Baptists by the trustees of the commission in spite of the fact, that as a convention we have taken issue with such "ethics" again and again. Situation ethics and humanistic thought have been given priority, and the hearts of a multitude of Southern Baptists must be saddened. Surely the convention should call such a move by the trustees into question in June.—**Bob Martin, Pargould**

Our mission

With the advent of the Genesis Commission, it seems that we Southern Baptists have something else to distract us and to divide us. Lately, with every little controversy, we blame either the fundamentalists—those who believe like me—or the liberals—those who do not believe like me. Southern Baptists have never agreed on every point of theology. We have calmly debated in the past.

We can agree to disagree and still teach solid biblical doctrine, preach the gospel, and be missionary. Is our problem theological? Perhaps, but not if we have open minds. Is the problem political? Perhaps, but not if we truly have servant attitudes. Is the problem sinful? Yes.

James 4:1-12 says that the source of conflict is selfish desires within each of us. Dr. Joel Gregory call this attitude "... any kind of self-gratification ... the lust for position, power, or prestige. ..." We are seeking to be masters, not servants. Mastery is for the world. But, in the Christian arena, the greatest is the servant who pours himself out as Christ did. Selfish desires result in spiritual violence which is presently evident. We criticize and slander others, forgetting our own faults and that God alone is the righteous judge.

It does not matter who caused the present state of the SBC. It does matter that we heed James' solution: prayer, repentance, submission to God, resisting Satan, total cleansing, grief over sinful divisiveness.

People are dying without Christ. Our mission is not theology nor politics. It is making disciples. I am sounding off for the Lord Jesus Christ, the SBC, unity in diversity, love among Southern Baptists. Selfish criticism will lead to a take-over of the SBC by the forces of Satan as he divides and diverts the greatest missionary organization in the world. In the light of James 4:1-12, examine your own attitude toward the SBC controversies.—**Ken Williams, Carlisle**

Letters to the editor

Three objections

Please allow me to object to three statements you made in your editorial of Feb. 5. First, I believe you have overemphasized the freedom an individual possesses both before and after salvation. Does not the Bible remind us that previous to salvation a man's only condition is that of enslavement to sin? And is it not true that following salvation we are free only to serve Christ? "But, thank God! that though you once were slaves of sin... you have been freed from sin, you have become the slaves of right doing" (Rom. 6:17-18, Williams). It is my conviction that, while you might only mean that in a Baptist church no man binds another, in today's world of overheated rhetoric about freedom and rights, your words could be easily misconstrued and become an encouragement, not to liberty, but license. In final analysis, a church is not a democracy, but a Christocracy.

Secondly, I am concerned about the implications of your statement, "Obviously, the society had no control of churches, but the churches, as such, had no control of a society." I hope you did not mean to imply that the adoption of the Cooperative Program changes this for, in fact, the churches still have no control over the denomination. Isn't that the point of calling those who go to conventions "messengers" instead of "delegates"?

Thirdly, you say, "the Cooperative Program has served Baptists well for 61 years." I take strong issue with that statement. The Cooperative Program has sheltered many things that would have died long ago had they not been piggy-backed on some very worthwhile causes. Many of our so-called leaders have arrogantly opposed the clear will of the denomination and did so with impunity because they knew their salaries were protected by the Cooperative Program.

Finally, the Cooperative Program has been the instrument for creating a psychological connectionalism that is stonger and more harmful than anything the Presbyterians or Methodists have. If, as you say, the churches are "totally independent," why the loud screams when some churches begin to exercise that independence and support additional mission work?—**Shafer Parker Jr., Holly Grove.**

missionary notes

Russell and Vicky Fox, missionary associates to Honduras, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado 100, San Pedro Sula, Honduras). He considers Little Rock his hometown. She is the former Victoria Hagan of Stuttgart. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Verne Wickliffe will begin serving March 1 as pastor of Des Arc First Church. He will move to Des Arc from Little Rock where he serves as pastor of Pine Grove Church. He also has served as pastor of churches in Indiana. Wickliffe is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is enrolled in Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary doctor of ministry study program in Little Rock. He and his wife, Vickie, have a daughter, Kara, two.

Steve Lemke will be one of the authors featured in the Winter, 1987, issue of the *Biblical Illustrator*. Lemke is chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Southern Baptist College. He also is currently serving as interim pastor of Immanuel Church, Newport.

Gaylon White is serving as minister of youth at Spradling Church, Fort Smith, coming there from Bluff Avenue Church, Fort Smith. He also has served the Burnsville Church. He and his wife, Lora, are both students at Westark Community College.

Bobby Adams of Russellville has entered the field of full-time evangelism. He has served three churches as minister of youth. Adams may be contacted at P.O. Box 2555, Russellville, AR 72801 or (501) 293-4798.

Bertha Taylor Gill of Fordyce died Feb. 8 at age 86. Services, led by Lawson Hatfield, Stephen Hatfield, and Lex Eaker, were held Feb. 10 at Pike Avenue Church in North Little Rock where she was a former member. She was a member of Fordyce First Church; a volunteer worker for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in North Little Rock; and had assisted for many years with work at Siloam Springs Baptist Assembly. Survivors include two sons, James E. Gill of Hurst, Texas, and William D. Gill of Sherwood; a daughter, Juanita Hatfield of Fordyce; a brother; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Bill Oakley is serving as interim pastor of First Church, Walnut Ridge. He is director of development for Southern Baptist College.

Ben Early is serving as interim pastor of Witt's Chapel, Maynard. He is director of public relations at Southern Baptist College.



Wickliffe



Lemke



White



Adams

James Edward Clemons is serving as pastor of Calvary Church, Osceola. He and his wife, Susan, have one daughter, Laura Beth, six.

Malcolm Sample will retire March 1 as pastor of Concord First Church, following 40 years of service as either a Southern Baptist pastor and staff member. He will reside at Route 1, Box 402-1, Clinton, AR 72031. Sample has served churches in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Louisiana.

Otis Mackey is serving as interim pastor of Pleasant View Church.

Marvin Ray Emmons is serving as pastor of Anderson Tully Church, Trumann.

William Whitlock has resigned as pastor of Faith Church, Tulot.

Doug Applegate began serving Feb. 8 as pastor of Tyronza First Church.

Mark Short observed 10 years of service Feb. 1 as minister of music at Fayetteville First Church. He and his wife, Elaine, were honored with a church-wide reception Feb. 15 where they were presented a love offering.

Brian Harbour was a featured speaker at the Louisiana Evangelism Conference in January and at the Mississippi Evangelism/Bible Conference in February. He is pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Melba Gatlin is serving as youth coordinator at Nettleton Church, Jonesboro.

Ed Glover was honored Jan 25 at Maple Avenue Church, Smackover in recognition of his retirement following more than 18 years of service there. Glover has served for 39 years as a Southern Baptist pastor. He was presented a plaque during the morning worship service, which

featured Michael Sharp of Baton Rouge, La., as speaker. Others on program included Mrs. Robert McMenis, Mrs. Russell Langley, Mrs. Bobby Calvert, the adult choir directed by J.T. Stocks, the Ladies' Ensemble, Peggy and Glenda Glover, and Pat Tabor. Mrs. James Langley, church hostess, coordinated both the morning program and an afternoon reception where Glover was presented a desk by church members and friends. Lawrence Bearden presented him a desk lamp from members and friends of First United Methodist Church.

John Robert Stratton of Harrison died Feb. 3 at age 76 in North Arkansas Medical Center. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having lived in Boone County for 44 years where he was a former justice of the peace. He was licensed and ordained to the preaching ministry by South Highland Church, Little Rock and had served churches in Arkansas, Washington, and Oregon. He had organized churches in both Arkansas and Washington. Stratton, a pioneer missionary, had served as associational missionary in Boone and Carroll Counties and had served in schools of missions for the Home Mission Board in Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Texas. His funeral services were held Feb. 5 at Northvale Church in Harrison. Survivors include his wife, Lola Pearl Moore Stratton; two sons, Jerry R. Stratton of Copperas Cove, Texas, and David W. Stratton of Boxley; a brother; a sister; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mike Fisher is serving as pastor of Griffithville First Church.

briefly

Judsonia First Church will ordain John D. Conley, Tom Phillips, Charles Sterling, Ronnie Miller, and Don Hopkins to the deacon ministry Feb. 22. Pastor Ray Meador will moderate the service.

Gravel Ridge First Church youth participated in a WOW weekend Feb. 6-8. Jim Lagrone, associate in the Evangelism Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was leader.

Highland Heights Church in Benton will launch a Royal Ambassador Chapter Feb. 19 with Don Procop and Tim Hinkson as leaders.

Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock honored Brent and Viki Jackson Feb. 8, recognizing his two years of service as music director.

Redfield First Southern Church will observe its 10th anniversary Aug. 9, according to Pastor Aaron C. Thompson.

Mississippi County Association Acteens held an overnight retreat Jan. 30 at Clear Lake Church. "Winter Wonderland Missions" was theme for the program directed by Angela Lowe, Acteens director for Arkansas Baptist State Convention. She also shared Studiact material information and gave a slide presentation on a recent missions trip made by Arkansas WMO staff to Brazil. Freda Jones of First Church, Blytheville, served as program chairman, using special booths to illustrate state, home, and foreign missions work. Johnny Lemons, pastor of the host church, presented a magic show for the recreation period. Others assisting with the retreat were Teresa Walls and Magalene Taylor of the host church and Mora Terhume of Calvary Church, Blytheville.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock ordained Louis Criswell, minister of music, to the preaching ministry Feb. 8. Pastor Jerry Hogan served as moderator.

Little Rock Second Church observed its 103rd birthday Feb. 8 with activities which included a senior adult breakfast, Sunday School, and the morning worship service where Heritage Club members were recognized.

Central Church in Jonesboro nursing home and homebound ministry group presented a Valentine's Day program at Skilcare Nursing Center.

Siloam Springs First Church commissioned Dale and Nancy Allison for mission service Feb. 1. The couple was recently appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to serve in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa.

Eureka Springs First Church voted Feb. 8 to sponsor mission work in Holiday Island. Floyd Tidsworth, Church Extension director for Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was guest speaker.

Atkins First Church ordained Al Davidson, David Harelson and Emmett Haney to the deacon ministry Feb. 22. Robbie Jackson brought the charge to the candidates and the church. Pastor Bob Richardson preached the message.

Dardanelle Calvary Church has purchased a 16-passenger van for use in its outreach ministries.

Morton Church at McCrory will conduct a Lay Renewal March 6-8. Buck Wood of Parkin will be leader.

Searcy Trinity Church will celebrate its

25th anniversary Feb. 22, according to Pastor Gary McCormick. Former pastors will be special guests.

Harmony Association sponsored a Laubach literacy tutor workshop at the associational office Feb. 17.

Charity Mission in Little Rock was recently organized by Grace Mission members and Pastor Paul Williams. Assisting with organizational needs have been Pulaski Association and Little Rock Second Church. Mission Pastor Larry Rogers reported five additions Feb. 8 with two of these coming on profession of faith.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock launched Youth Week Feb. 15 with Joe White, a teenage author and speaker, as speaker.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Maynard Sneed

Two kinds of Christians

Although when we become saved we are baptized into Christ's body, we are not all equally mature. In Corinth, Paul recognized that many of the believers were not growing and called them carnal Christians. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (I Cor. 3:1). In I Corinthians 2:14, Paul uses another term for the carnal Christian. He calls him "natural," which, in this instance, refers to our fallen nature.

As "babes in Christ," carnal Christians have had the new birth, but they have not grown spiritually. Therefore, these immature Christians must be fed babyfood, as were the Corinthians (I Cor. 3:2). The reason so little is being done for God today is that babies cannot work. They just complain and cry for comfort.

Carnal Christians also are those whom bodily care is their greatest concern. Paul sometimes felt so defeated by the old man within him that he even called himself carnal (Rom. 7:14). The Greek word for carnal is derived from a word which means flesh or body. We also should discern the same struggle between flesh and spirit in ourselves.

Another symptom of Christian babyhood is attachment to the humans who nurture them. In Corinth, the believers became followers of Paul, Peter, Apollos, etc. Paul

tried to bring the Corinthians to their senses by asking who, after all, was crucified for them, Christ or himself.

The Corinthians also were filled with an attitude of spiritual superiority, which is another mark of an immature Christian. When Paul addressed them, as in I. Cor. 12:1, he really intimated that they were ignorant of spiritual gifts.

Spiritual Christians are exactly the opposite of carnal Christians. See again I Cor. 3:1. A spiritual Christian is one who does not try to please the body and satisfy its lusts but one who is led by the indwelling Spirit of God. No matter how much he accomplishes for Christ, he realizes that it is God who gives the increase.

A mature Christian is one who never considers himself as having arrived. He is constantly growing. The moment he stops growing he is reverting to the status of carnality.

We should all ask ourselves, "What kind of Christian am I—carnal or spiritual?" The quality of our home in heaven will be determined by the quality of our lives as Christians on earth.

Mary Maynard Sneed, the wife of the editor and mother of two daughter, is a active member of the Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Laity can end SBC conflict, Baugh says

by Mark Kelly

A rapid solution to the ongoing turmoil in the Southern Baptist Convention is available, members of Second Church, Little Rock, were told Feb. 9.

John Baugh, a member of Second Church, Houston, Texas and one of the founders of "Laity for the Baptist Faith and Message," said Southern Baptist laypeople themselves "will take stringent steps to stop political activities in the denomination when they know how. Our people will not tolerate the ongoing political misdeeds which have so severely damaged our witness."

Baugh addressed the Second Church group on behalf of the Texas-based "Laity for the Baptist Faith and Message," which he described as composed of "many hundreds" of people concerned about the conflict who are seeking a solution to the "public spectacle" of denominational wrangling. Baugh is founder and president of Sysco, Inc., the world's largest food service company.

The meeting was planned as an "informational forum" for members of the congregation, although it was open to anyone who would attend, said Billy White, Second Church pastor. Attendance was estimated at 125, largely members of Second Church and other Pulaski County churches.

The eight-year-old, highly-publicized controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has compromised the SBC witness to the unsaved, Baugh told the assembly. Lost people cannot believe Southern Baptists love them when they "seek out every opportunity... to attack each other," he declared.

Public attacks against Baptist institutions and agencies have continued, despite the urgings of the denomination's Peace Committee to abandon such activities, Baugh asserted. He cited recent public statements against Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, allegedly made by a leader in the SBC's "fundamental-conservative" wing, despite the fact that the Peace Committee's

report to the convention in Atlanta last June said the seminary's teaching was consistent with the denomination's statement of faith.

Baugh praised the efforts of the Peace Committee, which is nearing the end of its two-year commission to seek a resolution of the conflict, but he was critical of the lack of attention given by the committee to "political misdeeds" associated with the controversy. He also criticized the Peace Committee for conducting closed-door meetings and sealing its minutes for 10 years.

Baugh called for the committee to draft a strong statement addressing irresponsible political activities and advocated a "moderation" of the appointive powers of the SBC presidency and a change in format and content for "pre-convention" meetings like the Pastors' Conference.

A public airing of the behind-the-scenes politics which have characterized the struggle would serve the denomination's best interests far better than continued secrecy, Baugh asserted. Aware of the extent of the "misdeeds," Baptist laypeople would rise up and demand an end to the maneuvering and a return to the denomination's agenda in missions and evangelism.

During a question-and-answer period following his presentation, Baugh said laypersons should unite in prayer for a "bilateral solution to this folly" and suggested they might consider other steps such as taking out newspaper advertisements to condemn "political chicanery" and emphasize the mission of the church.

Also present for the forum was Gordon James of Dallas, Texas, who recently released *Inerrancy and the Southern Baptist Convention*, a book examining the growth of inerrancy as a theological and political movement within the denomination.

Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Southern College reports enrollment

WALNUT RIDGE—Southern Baptist College reported 406 students enrolled as registration closed on Friday, Jan. 23.

Southern Baptist College is the only Baptist-supported college in the northern half of the state. D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern, states, "The college is moving into the most exciting period of her history."

As Southern continues to strengthen the areas of academic excellence and enrollment, it seeks those students who are looking for a liberal arts education in a Christian atmosphere.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship sets meeting for March 5

The Arkansas chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will meet Thursday, March 5, at the home of Virginia Brown, 10812 Beverly Hills Dr., in Little Rock (across from Kroger's on Shackleford).

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and feature reports from members who attended the National Baptist Nursing Fellowship convention. Service projects for the future also will be discussed.

Interested RNs, LPNs, and nursing students are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Maggi Payne, president, at 246-9107 (Arkadelphia) or Virginia Brown, 227-9805 (Little Rock).

Holst serving as admissions rep at Southern College

WALNUT RIDGE—Fred Holst is now serving as admissions representative at Southern Baptist College.

Holst is a native of Collinsville, Ill., and has been a recent student at the college. He and his wife Sheila have two children, Paul, four, and Kyle, two.

Foreign missions brief

3,042 profess Christ in Korean crusade

SEOUL, South Korea—Seventy-two Southern Baptist volunteers from 16 states led 3,042 Koreans to faith in Christ during a partnership evangelism crusade late last year. More than 900 Korean Baptists rededicated their lives to Christ, and 25 made commitments to Christian service. The volunteers worked with Baptists and missionaries in churches and evangelistic visits to homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and factories. Three deaf members of Appletwood Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo., participated in the effort, sharing their faith and encouraging ministry to the deaf.

Farmers, we thank you!

During these days of crisis and change that Arkansas farm families are experiencing, we also pray for you! You greatly deserve and need our gratitude for the way you have over the years fed us. Since wool and cotton are basic clothing materials you have also clothed us by your hard work and dedication.

Those of us who were raised in cities and towns of Arkansas don't understand as we would like that all that is happening to our nation's farm economy. As Christian brothers and sisters, we know that many of you are



Parker

hurting. We don't want to do anything to add to your hurt. We hear that some, even among Christians, have been more judgmental than loving and understanding. We want you to know that our sincere desire is to believe in Christ and then to behave as Christians. When the Good Samaritan saw one in need, he responded in a positive way. That is what many of your fellow Arkansas Baptists want to do regarding your present need.

As you face these trying times on the beautiful farms of Arkansas, our prayer is that God will intercede and give wisdom for solutions. We want also to grow in love, understanding and sense of Christian purpose. Again be assured of our gratitude, concern and prayers for you and all the farm families of Arkansas and America.—Robert A. Parker, Christian Life Council

Who will win America?

Wide open spaces mean special mission strategy

by Barbara Denman

Woman's Missionary Union, SBC

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—In a very real way, Dennis Hampton's ministry is shaped by the land where he lives.

As a home missionary serving as church starter in north central Nebraska, Hampton covers 20 counties of isolated gravel roads, and goes to farms and ranches great distances apart.

Partly due to the remoteness, no other state has more counties without Southern Baptist work.

Hampton serves farm country, the heart of America and the breadbasket of the nation. The sparse population clusters around large ranches and farms. Sometimes it takes Hampton several hours to drive from house to house.

"I can't go door-to-door in the neighborhoods as many church planters do. It may take me a whole day to get to two or three houses," Hampton explains.

He has found that it is impractical to have a centrally-located church building where everyone gathers. Therefore, Hampton's ministry is built around home Bible fellowships. Instead of people coming to church, Hampton takes the church to them.

"The lost man that lives 40 miles from the

church is not going to drive 40 miles to the church. So we're taking it to him and we're reaching him," he said.

Such a ministry presents a challenge for Hampton, who can't be in more than one place at a time. He solved that problem by training and equipping lay leaders to lead Bible studies and minister to the people.

"The work here cannot be done by the missionary alone. That's too limiting. If we are to win America, we must reach and train local leadership in sparsely populated and isolated areas of the Midwest. That is the only way we can saturate the area with the gospel," he said.

Each week, Hampton leads four ranch Bible fellowships where he teaches a particular Bible study to key leadership around the area. The next week, those leaders go out and teach the same Bible study to another group.

He does the preparation, but the scope of the work is multiplied.

During Hampton's off-week, while his layleaders are teaching, Hampton spends individual time with his layleaders, discipling them informally.

Although this area of Nebraska sees its share of snow storms, the winter, according to Hampton, is the most ideal time for his

work to grow.

In the spring, summer and fall, most of the families and ranch hands spend 14-16 hours a day working the ranch and caring for the livestock. But during winter, not much work can be done.

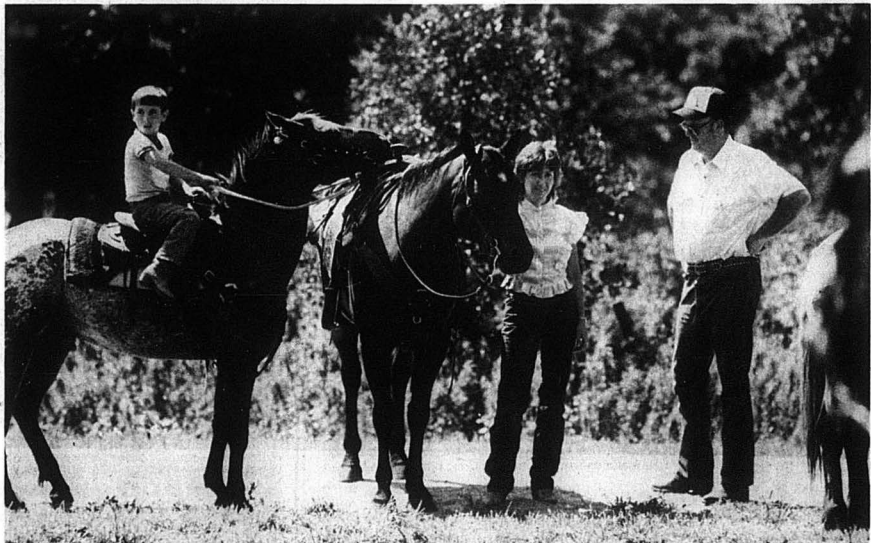
"Our summer projects serve to stir up prospects, create awareness and give credibility to our ministry. But January, February and March is the best time of the year to start new churches," Hampton said.

Most of the people drive four-wheel vehicles that are able to plow through the toughest weather conditions, and they "anxiously await the time spent in fellowship and Bible study to escape the isolation," he said.

The isolation experienced by missionaries in this type ministry could be hard on families, but the Hamptons and their two children have learned to enjoy each other. They read aloud, play games and learn Bible verses.

"We are here because when Jesus commissioned us to win the whole world, he knew that it included things from the badlands of Nebraska to the beautiful pastoral sandhills. He knew that he died on the cross for these people, just as he did for the masses in the city."

HMB photo by Paul Obregon



Church planter Dennis Hampton (standing at right) leads Bible studies for ranchers living in the high plains of Nebraska. He teaches people through horseback trailrides, which include a devotional time for sharing the gospel.

Maston shares wealth of advice with youth

by Terri Lackey

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Anyone who has lived nearly a century and gained the wisdom and knowledge serving God can award deserves the right to bestow a bit of advice on others.

In *God's Will: A Dynamic Discovery*, author T.B. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, gets a chance to do just that.

Christian youth and their church leaders comprise the majority of people who benefit from the 89-year-old Maston's information on discovering God's will. His book will be released in April.

The book is a remake of his 1964 book, "God's Will and Your Life," which will go out of print with the circulation of the new book. With 72,530 copies sold, "God's Will and Your Life" is considered the most popular of the 25 books Maston has written to date.

The youth section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department has adapted the book as part of its DiscipleLife Centers, a source of undated materials for youth.

"Knowing God's will is not God's responsibility, but our responsibility," Maston said in a recent interview. "We have to be able to be willing to know God's will, and an obedient heart allows us to know his will."

Maston voiced his views on finding God's will in five 15-minute segments on a Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) broadcast which will air April 15 and 21. In the televised preview for youth and youth leaders who plan to study his book, Maston



T.B. Maston (left), author of "God's Will: a dynamic discovery," makes a point during a recent interview with Wayne Jenkins, a youth specialist with the Sunday School Board.

shared a sometimes emotional look into his past and how he arrived at the conclusion he was to give his life to God.

Maston said as a young man he had a "terrific struggle knowing what the Lord wanted me to do. I did not want to be an ordained preacher, yet I felt a call to preach.

"So, I became a teacher," Maston quips. "I started teaching at Southwestern in 1920, and I have been there ever since.

"I think we come to stages of our lives where we must say to our heavenly Father, I think this is your purpose, but if I am wrong, give me an additional light or stop me,"

Maston said. "And he never stopped me (from teaching)."

God will not place a person who seeks his will into a career he or she cannot be comfortable with or enjoy, Maston said: "God's will for our life's work will be in harmony with our ability. In other words, God doesn't call us to do something that we don't have the ability to do."

(BP) photo by Terri Lackey

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Elisabeth Elliot has written several books, one of which is *Shadow of the Almighty*. Various seminars and two concerts featuring Jean Costner and Craig Smith will be held.

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Raglands leave West Beirut in heavily armed convoy

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—First in a bullet-proof car surrounded by heavily armed militiamen, then in a convoy guarded by militiamen and Lebanese soldiers, Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Leola Ragland left West Beirut Saturday morning, Jan. 31.

"Tomorrow will be our 33rd year here," Leola Ragland said in a Feb. 2 telephone interview from East Beirut, their temporary residence.

The Raglands described their departure as "very sad." Their careers have been devoted to the Beirut Baptist School, his as superintendent and hers as director of the preschool program. The Raglands hope to remain in East Beirut to help the school, which now is being operated by a committee of three Lebanese teachers.

On Jan. 28 the U.S. Department of State ordered all Americans in Lebanon to leave within 30 days.

Ragland said he was notified by telephone at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, that arrangements could be made for him to leave West Beirut the following morning at 7:30.

"We were told by the embassy that... that might be the last time they could do anything for us," Ragland said. "It was a very rushed-up thing."

West Beirut has been the site of numerous kidnappings of Americans and other foreigners the past two years. After the most recent kidnappings, militia guarding the area doubled the guards on the Raglands' street.

Soon after the call, Mrs. Ragland said, breaking into tears, "local people just massed in the house to tell us goodbye..."

(BP) photo by Don Rutledge



Jim and Leola Ragland, shown here in a 1984 picture at the Beirut Baptist School, where they have worked for 30 years, had to leave with less than a day's notice.

The Raglands placed a call to the 950-student school Feb. 2, when students and faculty members learned of the departure. "They told us it was really a sad occasion at school today," Mrs. Ragland said.

The bulletproof car was provided by the militia in control of the neighborhood where the school is located. Several of the militia's leaders have children in the Baptist school, which has more students from Muslim families than Christian families.

The car took the Raglands to the barren U.S. embassy in West Beirut. After a three-hour unexplained wait, the Raglands then were taken in separate cars tucked in a convoy to East Beirut.

Two armed guards were in each car with the Raglands. The Raglands said the guards were quite tense, fearing a possible attack, especially each time the convoy came to a stop in heavy traffic.

In East Beirut, a U.S. embassy official remarked, "I can't believe we got him (Ragland) out safely."

"Please remember that the Lebanese people are very wonderful people, and we love them," Mrs. Ragland said. "It's so sad that a few have just ruined the country" during Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war. "There are so many wonderful people who are having to suffer—so much pain and suffering that you just can't imagine."

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BSSB approves reorganization, four executive officers

by Linda Lawson

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A reorganization of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and reassignment of four employees in vice presidential slots were approved by the board's trustees Feb. 3.

After extended discussions about whether the Sunday school program, termed by President Lloyd Elder the "highest priority," was placed high enough in the organization, trustees voted to ask Elder to study the management level of Sunday school and report back at the August 1987 meeting.

During six hours of presentation and discussion, Elder said the reorganization is an attempt to "downsize" the structure of the board and reduce the number of levels of management between the president and the board's 17 programs. "We want to structure the board to say that 'Bible Mission Thrust and the urgency of evangelism are our heartbeat in service to Southern Baptists,'" he said.

The revision, which becomes effective March 1, changes the concept of the ex-

ecutive office from a president and executive vice president to an executive officers' team that includes the president, five vice presidents who report to the president and an assistant vice president for communications reporting to the executive vice president.

James D. Williams, associate to the president and director of the office of planning and research since 1984, was approved as executive vice president. Williams, 52, will be the first executive assistant to Elder.

James W. Clark, executive vice president since 1976, will become senior vice president for publishing and distribution. A 32-year employee of the board, Clark, 55, will direct the Broadman, Holman and book store divisions and the Genevox music group.

Jimmy D. Edwards, vice president for publishing and distribution since 1981 and an 18-year employee, moves to a restructured position as vice president for church programs and services.

Edwards, 48, will oversee the family ministry, national student ministries,

telecommunications, art and materials services departments and a new marketing department, along with the church services division. That division includes Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers and the church media library, church architecture and church recreation departments.

Gary D. Cook, 44, director of the church and staff support division since 1981, was approved for a newly created position, vice president for church program organizations. Cook will oversee the Sunday school, church training, church music, church administration and special ministries departments.

In the reorganization, three divisions—Bible teaching, Christian development and church and staff support—were deleted. Ralph McIntyre, director of the Bible teaching division, will become special assistant to the president until his retirement after August 1987. Howard Foshee, director of the Christian development division, will become director of planning services, a new post.

Also, Lloyd Householder, director of the office of communications, becomes assistant vice president for communications.

Trustees authorize new Bible commentary

by Jim Lowry

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A new multi-volume Bible commentary reflecting the views of biblical inerrantists was approved during the semiannual meeting of Sunday School Board trustees Feb. 2-4.

In addition to the new commentaries, trustees approved a total of 15 recommendations, including new music publishing guidelines and a report on plans to provide adequate office and warehouse space.

Board President Lloyd Elder said he was pleased with the cooperative spirit of the meeting in which trustees worked together to make responsive decisions.

With approval of the new Bible commentary, in response to a motion made by a messenger at the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, the board will spend an estimated \$1.5 million to develop and publish the new product. Broadman division director Dessel Aderholt estimated the break-even point on sales would be approximately 200,000 volumes. The first volume is expected to be released in 1990.

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BJCPA joins protest of INS church infiltration

by Stan Haste

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has joined a broad coalition of religious bodies in a legal protest to the infiltration of four Arizona churches by agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service during 1984.

In a friend-of-the-court brief filed Feb. 2, the religious bodies asked the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to review a federal district judge's finding that they had no legal standing to bring the case.

The religious groups had asked Judge Charles L. Hardy to rule the INS and its agents violated the constitutional rights of a Lutheran church and three Presbyterian congregations involved in the sanctuary movement. These and numerous other churches across the country have declared themselves places where political refugees may find refuge, or sanctuary.

In their brief asking the 9th Circuit to review Judge Hardy's decision, the religious

bodies—led by the National Council of the Churches of Christ—insisted they were entering the case not because they approve of the sanctuary movement but out of concern for the free exercise of religion and other constitutional rights. Those rights were abridged, the brief stated, when INS agents posing as worshippers repeatedly entered the four churches to tape-record worship services and Bible classes through the use of "bodybugs." The agents also took down license plate numbers in the churches' parking lots, the brief charged.

Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, underscored his agency is involved in the suit seeking judicial review of the INS agents' tactics but was not a party in the criminal case brought against sanctuary workers in the four churches that followed the infiltration.

"Our case has nothing to do with the sanctuary movement," Thomas said. "It has everything to do with how government investigates churches. . . . The free exercise

clause requires that government utilize the least intrusive means of investigation. The INS didn't do that. This powerful government agency leaptfrogged over all of the traditional methods of fact-gathering, such as the examination of witnesses and the use of subpoenas and search warrants. Instead, it infiltrated the churches with undercover agents and paid informants."

"Can you imagine learning that your prayer partner is a federal agent who is taping everything you say? It would destroy your trust and confidence in your church and fellow members."

Thomas noted the Baptist Joint Committee formally addressed the issue of church infiltration nearly a year ago, when the agency's trustees adopted a statement condemning "the use of paid informants, undercover agents and surreptitious tactics by any government agency investigating religious organizations as improper and illegal when less intrusive means of investigation or fact gathering are available."

Most of the brief, however, urged the 9th Circuit panel to reverse Judge Hardy's ruling—issued orally from the bench with no written opinion—that the churches lacked standing to bring the suit. Hardy said he might have ruled to the contrary had the case been brought by individual members rather than by the four congregations and their mother denominations, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the American Lutheran Church.

In his ruling, which came at the conclusion of a two-hour hearing last October, Judge Hardy decried the government's tactics. "It frankly offends me that the government is snooping into people's churches."

But he added the churches lacked the standing individuals could have brought to the case. "Only individuals can go to hell."

In the 9th Circuit appeal, the religious bodies seek to convince the higher panel that churches should be allowed to bring such cases. "At the core of this dispute," the brief stated, "is a simple question: whether churches are entitled to the same constitutional dignity as adult bookstores and movie theaters, newspapers and commercial corporations. We think they are."

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Annuity Board reaches \$2 billion, elects Hobgood

DALLAS (BP)—Total assets of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board exceeded a record \$2 billion, trustees learned during their first meeting of the year.

Board President Darold H. Morgan told the trustees total assets increased to a record \$2.03 billion on Jan. 31, after closing the calendar year at \$1.95 billion.

"We took 65 years to reach \$1 billion. In only four years we have crossed the \$2 billion mark," Morgan said. He cited substantial gains in income and excellent earnings in retirement plan funds as the reasons for the growth.

The trustees elected W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., executive vice president of InterFirst Bank Dallas, as trustee chairman. Hobgood succeeded Willis L. Meadows of Shreveport, La., who has been chairman since 1985.

B.J. Martin, vice president of church relations at Houston Baptist University, was elected vice chairman.

Genesis Commission head responds to statements

by Marv Knox

Baptist Press

HOUSTON (BP)—The leader of Southern Baptists' newest missions organization has responded to "not factual" statements that have linked his effort to the "resurgence of the conservatives" within the denomination.

The Genesis Commission, formed by two Southern Baptist pastors and a layman late in 1986, has come under attack by people who do not understand the purpose and function of the organization, Executive Director Bill Darnell told Baptist Press.

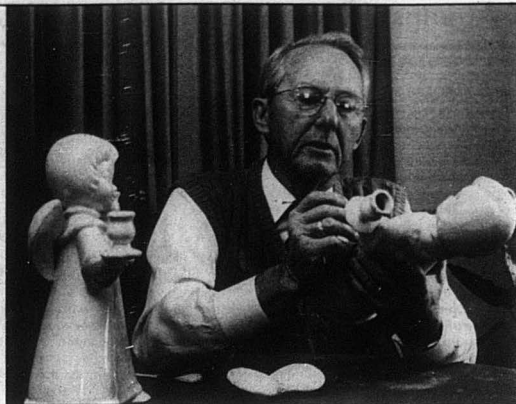
"Those (statements) linking the commission with the resurgence of the conservatives in the SBC are not factual.

"The Genesis Commission... has a dual mission of soul-winning and church planting," Darnell said.

The Genesis Commission will recruit and finance pastors to start Baptist churches, primarily in foreign countries, targeting Mexico first. It has drawn criticism from some Southern Baptists who maintain the commission will compete with the SBC Foreign Mission Board, particularly for funds.

"In no way is the Genesis Commission a foreign mission society. There is no anticipation of appointing missionaries," Darnell countered. "No effort will be made to secure gifts which would have gone to our Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program of world missions."

Darnell said people who would like further information about the Genesis Commission can write to him at the organization's offices: 515 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77027.



R. H. Dorris

"The nicest thing about retirement is not worrying about where my next dollar is coming from."

Six dollars doesn't sound like much, but for retired pastor R. H. Dorris it has gone a long way.

"I had just returned home from World War II and settled into my first pastorate when I started putting money in my retirement plan at the Annuity Board. I paid \$6 a month and the church paid \$6 a month. That's all we could afford, but it was a start."

From then on Rev. Dorris and the churches he served kept increasing their monthly contributions. Their labor was fruitful. Now he and Mrs. Dorris are enjoying their retirement years in financial security.

"I am free to do ceramics, spend time with friends and get involved in church organizations that I never really was a part of while I was a pastor."

Now, the Church Annuity Plan is being expanded. The Arkansas Baptist Convention will match the contributions of the minister and the church.

But first your church needs to:

1. Vote to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan;
2. Mail the Cooperative Agreement to the state convention office. You will be notified upon approval.

Now is the time to vote the expanded Church Annuity Plan as the permanent part of your church's ministry.

For more information contact:



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



**Bold Mission Thrust:
reaching the world by the year 2000**

Convention Uniform

Encouragement

by Andrew M. Hall, Fayetteville

Basic passage: Revelation 1:4-10,12-18

Focal passage: Revelation 1:4-10,12-18

Central truth: God never leaves or forsakes us.

Martin Niemoller, the great German pastor and theologian of Hitler's Germany, was thrown into prison for his anti-Nazi statements and his outspokenness of truth. When his Bible was confiscated he wrote out passages of Scripture which he knew from memory. He was able to smuggle them over the transom of his cell to the next prisoner, with instructions to "pass it on."

Most scholars agree that Revelation is the most difficult of all the books of the Bible to interpret; however, there would be a unanimous vote as to the clarity of today's passage which depict endless hope for those who believe in Christ.

A modern school teacher's affirmation, "This truth is as simple as A-B-C" might compare with John's statement in verse eight as he speaks of the Alpha and the Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet) as representing the presence of Christ.

In verse nine John states "I am your brother and companion in tribulation" and the Greek literally means "co-sharers." He assured his readers that he was their brother in persecutions. The key to their effective living was the freshness of their testimonies. No believer must ever forget "the rock from which he was hewn."

An unforgettable experience for my wife and me was the trip was took a number of years ago to Rome, and in particular a visit to the famous Catacombs. We visualized the terrors the early Christians must have felt as they hid from Nero far beneath the surface of the earth. As we made our way down, down a winding narrow path, suddenly we came to a small underground chapel. It had been carved from the earth, and above us was an arched ceiling, also meticulously carved out with small instruments and tools. We knew that the small groups of people who had huddled there centuries before had been "co-sharers" of their faith and fate.

John saw the Son of Man (v. 17) and fell at his feet, then heard him say, "Fear not, I am the first and the last."

Our physical bodies are not indestructible, but our souls live forever in Christ's keeping. In 1 John 2:5 the author speaks of how God keeps us as being protected by Divine walls! God never leaves us. Hallelujah!

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Life and Work

Caring for others

by Harry T. Kennedy, Calvary Church, Hope

Basic passage: Luke 10:27-37

Focal passage: Luke 10:27-28

Central truth: Knowing what God expects and refusing to practice those truths is to deny them as valid. Ministering to others is the outgrowth of a life centered in the Lord.

The question about our world being filled with people in need is answered daily. All we have to do is pick up a newspaper, view television, or take a stroll down the streets of our communities, or visit the social service organizations in our society. The needs cover every aspect of life and enters every home. Among those in need are people who are suffering from neglect which causes us to face the issue of "How will I determine whether or not I'll share in meeting those needs?"

Jesus answers a lawyer who seeks to trap him. Yet, in the end, it is the lawyer who will leave pondering his relationship to his fellowmen. This was an issue that he had apparently refused to consider (v. 29), so Jesus speaks the parable that is called "The Good Samaritan."

Our Lord speaks of a man whose condition had not been of his own doing. He had been victimized by thieves and suffered the loss of his possessions and was left to die of his wounds. His need for help was easily determined by any who passed that way. The answer as to who was going to help lay in the heart of each one who passed him that day. There were those who said 'no' who were willing to talk about God and his teachings, but who allowed their legalism and prejudices interfere in showing God as a God of mercy. Their response reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew 23:23 which says: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! for you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

Yet there are those who care as shown by the Samaritan. He saw an opportunity to show God's kind of compassion. He allowed any obstacles in mind and heart towards others to be dismissed to see this man in need. He never considers if this man will respond to him or not; nor sees his generosity as a threat to his person or possessions. He is an example of how to respond to those in need.

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Bible Book

Joy and peace in tribulation

by Tim Reddin, Barcelona Road Church, Hot Springs Village

Basic passage: John 16:16-33

Focal passage: John 16:19-27,30-33

Central truth: Our faith in God enables us to experience his joy and peace even in life's most troubling times.

Nature itself illustrates the truth of today's lesson. When the destructive winds of a hurricane bring chaotic disorder, the "eye" is a place of stillness and calm.

Facing the stormiest days of their lives, the disciples desperately needed this lesson. They knew nothing about the tempest that lay ahead. But Jesus knew, and in our text he seeks to assure them that there is joy and peace in tribulation.

It is a paradox that the same event can bring both joy and sorrow, both peace and turmoil. The coming crisis in the lives of the disciples was the cross. On it their hopes were shattered. Their lives were turned inside-out and upside-down. Their dreams of the coming kingdom were crushed.

Yet it was that cross that soon was to give their lives meaning. It became their source of hope and the symbol of their faith. While the world was rejoicing, the disciples mourned and wept. Yet out of the dust of death came resurrection morning. Their grief turned to joy (v. 20), a joy which nothing and no one could take away (v. 22).

We cannot always be happy, but we can always have joy and peace. Happiness is circumstantial. Someone stated it like this: "If your happenings happen to happen happily, then you have happiness; but if your happenings happen to happen unhappily, then you have unhappiness."

Happiness depends upon what happens; joy depends upon Jesus and his life in you. Joy is deeper, richer, and fuller. Joy is "unspeakable and full of glory." Joy is that deep inner peace and satisfaction that is ours, even in life's stormy times.

Paul found such joy. Even in a prison cell his writings overflowed with God's joy and peace (Phil. 4:4-7). He and other disciples had a joy that suffering could not destroy (Rom 5:3; Acts 5:41).

Walter Cronkite used to sign off his newscasts, "And that's the way it is. . . ." The believing Christian replies, "No, Walter, that's just the way it looks!" The eye of faith enables us to view life from God's point of view, and that perspective gives us his joy and peace.

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Wilkinson to assume Southern Seminary post

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—David R. Wilkinson has been named vice president for seminary relations at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., effective Feb. 15.

Wilkinson, 32, has been director of news and information services for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, Tenn., since 1984.

Southern Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said creation of the vice presidency position "emphasizes our commitment to relating effectively to the seminary's numerous and diverse constituencies." Wilkinson will direct the seminary's communications program and will supervise placement and prospective student services and alumni relations.

"In considering several months ago the seminary's leadership needs in the broad area of public relations, David was the first person to emerge in my mind," Honeycutt

said. "He brings a unique blend of professional expertise, denominational experience, and Christian commitment that will enable us in new ways to fulfill our mission of equipping men and women for Christian ministry."

Wilkinson was Southern Seminary's director of communications for three years while pursuing a master of divinity degree before rejoining the staff of the Christian Life Commission in 1984. He previously had worked for the CLC from 1977 to 1979. He also has worked for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Brotherhood Commission.

Wilkinson has won numerous awards and twice has received the Baptist Public Relations Association's Frank Burkhalter Award for excellence in religious journalism.

The Oklahoma native is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Seminary. He and his wife, Melanie, have one son, Micah David.

Journalist Abrams dies in Mississippi

GREENWOOD, Miss. (BP)—Joe Abrams, a longtime Southern Baptist journalist, died Jan. 31 in Greenwood, Miss., of a heart attack.

Before his retirement in 1974, Abrams, 80, had been employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 25 years. He worked with the church training department, was director of the Mississippi Baptist News Service and was associate editor of the Baptist Record, newjournal of the state convention. In his capacity as associate editor and director of the news service, Abrams was public

relations director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Earlier in his career, he worked on the staffs of three secular newspapers and was pastor of three Mississippi Baptist churches.

Abrams was a charter member and first president of the Baptist Public Relations Association. He was acting editor of the Baptist Record on two occasions.

Abrams is survived by his wife, Lillian; and three children, Joe III of Moorhead, Miss.; Mary Lillian of Arlington, Texas; and Shirley Young of Kansas City, Mo.

Holiday Inn boycott okayed in California

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)—The executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California has approved a boycott of the Holiday Inn chain, following the lead of the National Federation for Decency, an anti-pornography organization.

The boycott was approved at the February meeting of the state executive board after the group's denominational relations committee recommended boycotting the chain "until such time as Holiday Corporation (the chain's parent company) discontinues its policy of promoting pornography by offering pornographic movies.

Drew Allen, pastor of Calvary Church in Santa Clara, Calif., who brought the action to the floor of the board meeting, said the action was prompted by a call for a nationwide boycott from the NFD, a Mississippi-based organization which says it is devoted to "the biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media."

The action presumably prohibits any SBGCC-sponsored or convention-related activity from using Holiday Inn as a lodging or meeting place.

John Onoda, director of external communications for the Holiday Corp., Memphis, Tenn., said: "We do not show pornography. We have never shown X-rated films."

He added Holiday Inns operate Hi-Net Communications network in joint partnership with COMSAT Corp., which provides satellite television as well as pay movies.

"We show only G, PG, PG-13 and R-rated movies. At one time, we were showing foreign movies, which had been edited to conform to R-rated standard. R has always been our ceiling," he said, adding the service is available to guests "who must make a conscious decision to turn it on."

Onoda said he was not yet aware of the California action, but added: "We pay careful attention to any complaint about our service or products. We do not dismiss anything; everything is considered."

Donald Wideman, NFD executive director, told Baptist Press that, although other motel chains show similar movies, Holiday Inn was selected "because they are the largest. They do more of it than anyone else. . . . If you get the largest, you send a message to all the others."