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April 19, 1973

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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April 19, 1973

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

One layman's opinion

Second thoughts on public prayer in restaurants



Dr. Grant

The question of public prayer in restaurants has long been debated pro and con. Sincere Christians disagree on whether we should or shouldn't. I have heard it argued that public prayer before a meal in a restaurant is too much like putting on a show of one's religious faith — almost like "praying to be seen of men," as in the case of the publican on the street corner.

I have also heard it argued that public prayer in a restaurant is an effective way of Christian witnessing, and that to fail to do so seems to be saying one is ashamed to acknowledge publicly his Christian faith. It is argued that we should not hesitate to do in a public restaurant what has become a natural and meaningful part of our life before meal-time in our home.

Somewhere in between these two positions, there are arguments about praying aloud versus praying silently, imposing your prayer on others who do not share your belief or tradition, and whether a spirit of prayer (neither audible nor visible) while eating is really what is needed.

I had occasion to take a second look at all of these arguments recently after an incident in a public restaurant near Paron. Jamie Jones (B.S.U. Director at the University of Arkansas), Theo Patnaik (Associate Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance), and I had breakfast together and, without really discussing it, simply bowed our heads for a silent prayer of thanks for the food. As we were finishing our meal, a man who had been eating at another table came to us and asked, "Do you happen to be Baptists?" It would have been difficult to deny it with two other Baptists as witnesses, so I said, "Yes, why do you ask?"

The man then shared with the three of us an unusual and tragic story of a broken home that he wanted very badly to pull back together. He was separated from his wife, who was living with another man, and there were children who were being hurt by the separation. He admitted his own share of the blame for the breakup with his wife, and said that he came to our table simply to ask us to pray that he and his wife and children could get back together and have a Christian home. We assured him that we would, and that we would begin immediately.

Later, as we drove away from the restaurant, we decided that the only reason for his coming to our table was that he had seen us bow our heads for the silent prayer before our meal. We breathed a prayer of thanksgiving that we had remembered to breathe a prayer of thanksgiving in a public restaurant. — Daniel R. Grant, President, Ouachita Baptist University.

In this issue

Pioneer convention says thanks 6

The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention has expressed thanks for a cash gift made out of Arkansas' 1972 overage.

Easter/the cover 8

Featured on the cover is the tomb of Jesus. The cover story is a poem by Iris O'Neal Bowen.

Where to live in retirement 10

The series on retirement by C. W. Caldwell continues with a discussion on where to live during retirement years.

WMU program personalities 24

Speakers for the annual SBC Women's Missionary Union meeting this June in Portland are announced.

Staff Changes 7

A new feature 7

A new feature will soon begin in the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine. All churches should be familiar with the details so that news of their church activities can be included.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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APRIL 19, 1973

NO. 16

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The importance of the resurrection



Editor Sneed

It would be difficult, indeed, to overemphasize the significance of the resurrection of Christ. Not only is it essential to the saving efficacy of the gospel, but it is the greatest apologetic (proof) of the validity of Christianity.

Paul, in discussing the resurrection, emphasizes "For if Christ be not risen, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Cor. 15:16-19.)

Other world religions have shrines for their founders or they have idols made of wood, gold, copper or brass; but Christianity alone is unique in that we have a risen Master.

Skeptics recognizing the historical importance of the resurrection have labored hard to discredit the empty tomb. Even in New Testament times a rumor was set forth "His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we (the guards) slept." (Matt. 28:13.)

If one accepts the theft theory he must assume the apostles and others to be totally insane. For all the eleven, except John, died for their faith. John was exiled to Patmos.

The fact is that Jesus made at least ten appearances after the resurrection to various groups. The witnesses included believers, unbelievers, large groups as well as small numbers of the inner-circle. As Paul and other New Testament writers lived there were many who had seen the resurrected Jesus. First Corinthians 15:6 states "After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once: of whom the greater part remain unto this present, (the time of the writing) but some are fallen asleep."

Others, in an effort to disprove the historical resurrection have assumed that Jesus was drugged or fainted on the cross. Christ then revived in the cool tomb after three days. Those adhering to the Swoon theory are confronted with several insurmountable problems. Those who crucified our Saviour were no novice, for they likely participated in such events very frequently. Further, it would require a great imagination to conceive of a mere man who, after hanging on a cross and having a spear driven into his side, had the capacity to roll a giant stone away from the sepulcher entrance. There still remains the problem of the Roman guard soldiers.

Still others have supposed that wild beasts took and destroyed the body of Christ. A few have imagined that the ignorant peasant women were so stupid that they lost the burial site of Jesus and were unable to locate it again. They then spread the rumor of his resurrection to excuse themselves. These foolish statements require no answer.

The Scriptures are clear on this event. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and

became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." (Phil. 2:8-9.)

Again, John says "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth." (Rev. 1:5.)

The resurrection seals our salvation, proves our faith, and provides a glimpse of what we will be after our resurrection. When we long to know what we will be after soul and body are reunited we can determine much of this answer by observing the resurrected Christ. He walked, he talked, he ate, he was known of others (he was the same person), but he knew no more pain, sorrow or death.

The greatest truth in the Christian faith is the resurrection. It establishes the validity of all of Christian doctrine and most important it declares that we, too, will live in eternity.

As we view resurrection Sunday, let us shout with the song writer "He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever with the saints to reign, he arose! he arose! hallelujah! Christ arose!"

State youth convention

Undoubtedly, the more than 4,000 youth from over the state who will attend the annual state youth convention in Little Rock, look forward to the excitement and fellowship. The benefits which are derived from such an endeavor are great.

The drills and tournaments provide our young people opportunity to develop their Bible skills, as well as the privilege of sharing their Christian testimony. As Church Training Secretary Ralph Davis has often emphasized, participation in such activities makes every youth a winner. Those who have attended the youth convention have marvelled at the skill and depth of understanding portrayed.

This year's youth convention will be different from others in that youth with their sponsors from the ninth grade up will meet in Robinson Auditorium while eighth grade and below will with their sponsors meet at Second Church, Little Rock. The same program will be provided for each group.

The main difference in the program of the two conventions will be that the state youth Bible drill will be held at Second Church, while the state youth speaker's tournament will be conducted at Robinson Auditorium.

The theme of the convention will be "Who, me?" The main speaker, Dr. Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., will speak twice at each convention. Dr. Jackson is an extremely popular youth speaker. He will challenge those in attendance.

Other features of the convention will be Jim Standifer of the Sunday School Board who will present a multi-media presentation at each session. Two choirs

(Continued on next page)

will be featured — Southern Baptist College Choir and the youth choirs of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Every young person will want to hear Russ and Helen Cline, recording artists of Kansas City, Mo.

I must say it!

That impossible problem



Dr. Ashcraft

People have been having problems ever since Satan invaded the garden of Eden. However there is no problem as is the one for which there seems to be no solution. The real issue is not in the problem but in the ones who have the problem. There are no problems apart from people as people are the media of God.

For some problems a routine procedure will offer a solution.

Other problems interlace human relations to the extent no earthly counsellor can unravel, sort them out, and reassemble them. This represents the highest frustration of man but the finest challenge to God.

The enormity of some problems seems to be the dread emotion that everybody gets hurt and nobody wins. If consultants were employed to create the ultimate, impossible problem they would be at a loss to do it up in fashion as some problems which seem so spontaneously to arise.

What are some of the general principles, concepts, and behavioural patterns for these impossible dilemmas? Do the right thing. Arrange ample space for forgiveness. Never panic or disqualify yourself as a part of the solution. Breathe deep, there is always a tomorrow. Hope for the best in exact proportion as the problem suggests the worst.

Never place blame unless you begin with yourself. Look upon any distress as a challenge for greatness even if it has no promise for you. Consider the

The wide diversity of the convention is evident in that participation, information, and inspiration are provided. A report on a mission action trip that a group made to Baltimore, Md., will portray future opportunities for mission involvement.

side effects and after results as it sifts down to those who are not in the front ranks academically, socially or spiritually.

Demonstrate how big people shoulder their problems and deal with tragedies. Be as ready to extend forgiveness as one might hope forgiveness would be extended to him. Assume that the depths to which one may fall by human error can never exceed the heights to which he can rise by God's favor.

Remember everything this side of hell is still mercy. Those who flee their problems today will stumble onto greater ones tomorrow. Those who refuse today to contribute to the solution of the problems of others may be inviting cold winds upon themselves another day.

Shame is only for those who will accept it and tolerate it. All suffering here lessens suffering elsewhere. Confession, repentance, faith and restitution will solve most problems. Self righteousness is the only thing which will turn God's stomach.

For the innocent to defend his innocence is as noble as is confession for the guilty.

Lastly, "Above everything love one another earnestly for love covers a multitude of sins" I Peter 4:8. The absence of love is earth's darkest immorality, society's deepest void, and God's sharpest definition of total depravity. Sin is not so much our problem as is the absence of love. Love is that quality of life which always seeks the highest good of all others both here and hereafter, John 3:16.

I must say it! — Charles H. Ashcraft, Executive Secretary.

Make a banner — cross a barrier

The 1973 theme for Home Missions Conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest is THE WORD — CROSSING BARRIERS. The worship services each evening will highlight a barrier to be crossed for Christ.

To support the speaker in his verbal message and to create added visual interest, colorful religious banners will be used to dramatize the presentation of the theme each evening.

M. Wendell Belew, director, Division of Missions, Home Mission Board, is chairman of the worship committee for Home Missions Conferences. Dr. Belew has written to all superintendents of

missions asking them to encourage the churches in their resources and talents and create a banner with religious words and designs for the association.

The banners will be displayed in the worship center at Glorieta, August 2-8, and Ridgecrest, August 15-21, during Home Missions Conference weeks. The banners may convey any spiritual message the makers wish to express.

Information has been furnished the superintendents of missions on where they may purchase Make-it-Yourself Banner Kits, the size of the banners, words and designs and the date deadline and place to mail them.

Home missions weeks is a great event at Glorieta and Ridgecrest. This year each church in the convention, throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Panama, working through their association, can have an important part and be represented in the Board's effort to encourage and inspire our people to "cross barriers with the Gospel for Christ."

If there are members in your church who would like to participate in this project, get in touch with your associational superintendent of missions and volunteer your assistance.

OBU commencement plans are announced

ARKADELPHIA, ARK. — Two hundred and nine students will receive bachelors degrees and seven more will receive masters degrees at Ouachita University's spring commencement May 12 in Arkadelphia.

The event will be held at 5 p.m. at A. U. Williams Field unless bad weather forces the ceremony into Rockefeller Field House.

Honorary doctor of laws degrees will be given to Mrs. J. R. Grant of Little Rock and Alvin "Bo" Huffman Jr. of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Distinguished alumni awards will be awarded to Mrs. J. E. Berry of El Dorado, Paul Henry of Batesville and the late Robert Moor of Arkansas City.

Baccalaureate is scheduled for 10 a.m. in Mitchell Hall on the OBU campus.

The former Students Association (FSA) will sponsor a commencement luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in Birkett Williams Dining Hall for former students, members of the class of '73 and friends.

Reunions will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. for the classes of '03, '08, '13, '18, '23, '28, '33, '38, '43, '48, '53, '58, '63 and '68.

At 3 p.m. in Verser Drama Center, the Reserve Officers Training Corps will conduct a pinning ceremony.

An FSA tea at 3:30 in Flenniken Student Center will precede a band concert at 4:30 at A. U. Williams Field and commencement will cap the day's activities.

Letters to the editor

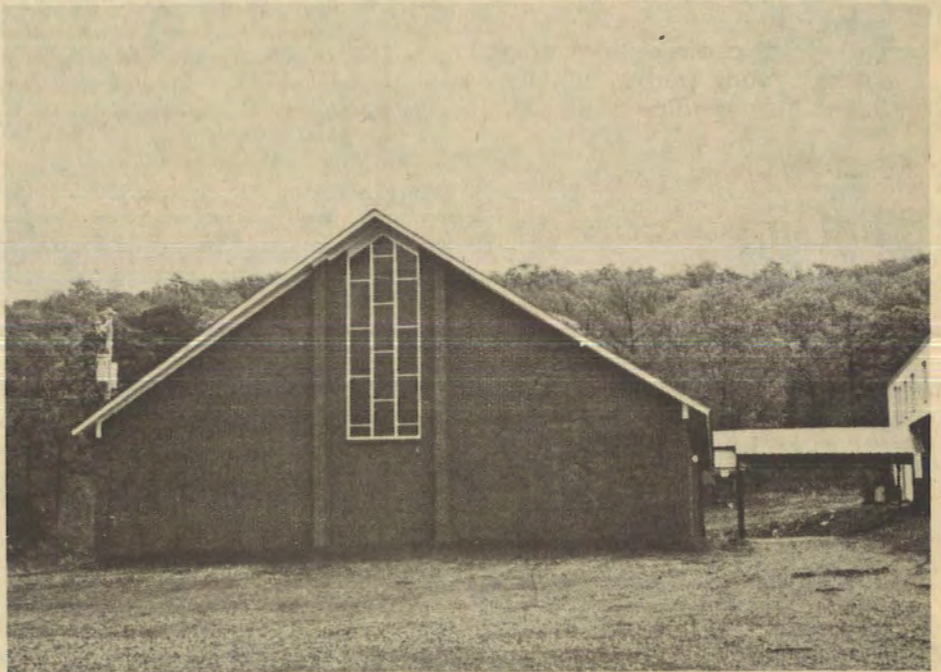
Portland invitation

Mill Park Baptist Church, located at S.E. 117th Ave. and Market Street in Portland, invites all pastors and messengers (to the Southern Baptist Convention) to attend a special service with us on Sunday morning, June 10. You will see Northwest missions in action. Bus transportation will be provided if there is sufficient need. Audye M. Wiley, pastor. —J. O. Anderson Publicity Chairman

Likes article

Thank you so much for your article "Innocent Blood."

I feel keenly the need of some of us to take a stand in this area. —Dr. John H. Miller, Camden



The new building represents the "faith and unity" of the members.

Graves Memorial holds dedication

Graves Memorial Church, North Little Rock, held a dedication of their new building Feb. 11. During the morning service R. H. Dorris, secretary of missions for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, brought the message.

Dorris' message was based on Ephesians 4:4-14. In speaking on the church, he emphasized the work of the ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. "The member of a church," Dorris declared, "is only a true member when he is responding to the will of God."

In the afternoon service, former Pastor H. W. Ryan brought the dedicatory address. Pastor Curtis Bryant commenting on the church's achievement said "This building is

representative of the faith and unity of our people. A faith, at times, seemed adventurous, yet with complete dependence upon God to see us through. This building will stand as a memorial to those of our friends and loved ones who have gone on before. It will stand as a monument to perpetrate the faith of our Baptist ancestors."

Future plans of the church are to remove the old auditorium, replacing it with a two-story educational unit.

The church has experienced an overall increase of about 20 percent and their goal is to have an increase of 50 percent. It is anticipated that the church will have 250 in Sunday School in the near future.

From the churches

First Church, Gentry, held a Youth Leadership Week March 11-18. The young people had charge of Sunday School, Church Training, and the church services during the week. They had as guest speaker for the Sunday evening service Dan Hammers, a student at Southern College. The church honored the youth with a banquet on Friday night. Sixty-five attended.

First Church, Little Rock, has set May 8 as the date for the corner stone laying for their new building in the Pleasant Valley subdivision.

Calvary, Little Rock, is planning a

second "Spiritual Spectacular" May 3, with emphasis on the deacon. Owen Cooper, president of the SBC will be the featured speaker.

First Church, Clarendon, has ordained as deacons Wilton Grady and Richard Hodge.

First Church, Cabot, recorded an all-time high attendance in Sunday School March 18. Goal for the high attendance day was 535, but 582 were present. A highlight of the day was the first of the special children's church services. Harold O'Bryan is pastor.

Millikin to seminary



Dr. Millikin

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Jimmy A. Millikin, 36, Professor of Religion at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, and a featured columnist in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, has been named as a faculty member at Mid-America Seminary.

B. Gray Allison, president of the Seminary, said that Dr. Millikin will begin duties with the beginning of classes in the fall. Registration for the fall quarter will be Aug. 20, with classes beginning on Aug. 23.

Dr. Millikin, a native of Knobel, Ark., is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, East Texas Baptist College, and has B. D. and Th. D. degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

He has served as Professor of Religion at Southern since 1965, and in 1967 received that college's Distinguished Alumnus award. He is listed in *Outstanding Young Men of America*, *Personalities of the South*, and *Outstanding Educators of America*.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Millikin served as pastor in several churches in Arkansas and Texas. He has preached in an average of 12 revival meetings and Bible conferences each year and has spoken in state and associational meetings of Southern Baptists in a number of states.

"We feel that Mid-America is extremely fortunate to add a faculty member of the stature and spiritual depth of Jimmy Millikin," Dr. Allison said. "This further strengthens us to do the job for which Mid-America was founded."

Mid-America Seminary, which emphasizes practical missions and evangelism, is meeting in the facilities of Olivet Church, West Markham and Hughes, pending the construction of a permanent campus in Maumelle New Town.

Registration cards for SBC available

Registration cards, which will be necessary for all messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Portland, are now available. Send requests to Dr. Charles Ashcraft, Room 202, Baptist Building, 525 West Capitol, Little Rock 72203.

Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention grateful for Arkansas' gift

The Utah-Idaho Convention, under the direction of Darwin Welsh, Executive Secretary, expresses gratitude for the \$30,044.32 gift from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention from its 1972 overage. Pioneer conventions rarely have any reserve or emergency funds at all as pressing mission needs absorb all funds as quickly as they are received. The Home Mission Board participates heavily with the budget of Pioneer conventions but many needs arise which regular budget cannot meet.

Another great need of pioneer convention is a fund from which short term financing can be secured to get church sites for the planned points of extension. Land is very expensive and even with the Home Mission Board support in the building programs in pioneer conventions, there must be some way to get land when it becomes available. A church may not be constructed there right away but the site must be secured and held until all other factors can be arranged.

Another need of pioneer areas is that of a suitable, adequate Baptist Building or offices where the staff can carry on their work. This is not an easy matter as all space suitable for such offices is quite

expensive. Many of these conventions have used private dwellings, or a church plant until an office building could be secured.

In the light of inflation and runaway prices the ever increasing need for greater salary adjustments is mandatory. In some pioneer conventions each staff member has five departments assigned to him. The Utah-Idaho Convention has four full time staffers with a total of four departments each. Salary adjustments and travel allowances must be raised to stay in step with inflation. A two-state convention may be as big as 500 miles across and 1,500 miles from top to bottom. This is a vast area to patrol and the faithful staffers of the convention do as well as funds and time permit.

Darwin Welsh says, "That which you, your Operating Committee, and your board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention have done for the UISBC is outstanding. The \$30,044.32 is appreciated. I am moved with much emotion concerning this wonderful gift which the good Lord has provided for us through you. May your good leadership continue to prevail and may we here again thank you for your concern for this 'foreign mission field on home mission soil.'"

Between parson and pew

This matter of criticism

By Velma Merritt



Mrs. Merritt

We're almost all guilty. It seems everyone likes to criticize. The pastor criticizes the deacons and church leaders. The lay membership criticizes the pastor. One church organization picks on another one. The staff gripes about the pastor — "If only the members could see him as we do, they'd sure have a different attitude." "The staff simply isn't doing their job," the pastor complains.

I could go on and on with what we find to criticize. Anything or anybody who does anything is apt to be attacked verbally.

Fortunately, our church has a sweet fellowship and a lot of the criticism prevalent in other fellowships is avoided in ours, but I've seen constant criticism in other churches tear it or an individual to pieces.

Look squarely at what we criticize. Often it is actually a person who doesn't do things as we ideally think they should be done. Most criticism is about petty matters which we prefer to talk about rather than do anything about. Real problems usually are tackled eventually.

Plain criticism usually does no one any good and does harm to the one who criticizes. Many a charming personality has been marred because that person constantly criticized another.

A young man was being ordained to the gospel ministry. His pastor father was preaching the charge. "Deacons," he said, "if your young pastor — my son — gets a bad impression of deacons, remember he not once heard his father criticize any deacon in a church he pastored."

What a statement! In 20 years not one time did that father give in to the desire to criticize in front of his child.

There is an old saying, "If you can't say anything good, don't say anything at all." Maybe we all need to practice it.

Doctrines of the faith

Evidences for the resurrection of Christ

By Jimmy A. Millikin
Southern Baptist College



Dr. Millikin

The resurrection of Christ is one of the most attested events of ancient history. It rests upon solid historical evidence, Luke, who was a careful historian, states that Jesus showed Himself alive after His death by "many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3.) The word translated "infallible proofs" is used to denote the strongest proof possible to verify a point. In other words, Jesus showed Himself alive in such indisputable ways that His followers were convinced beyond any doubt that He was no longer dead.

The proofs of Jesus' resurrection consists of "many" facts, and not just one isolated evidence. We may summarize the evidence around the following statements.

The empty tomb

At the forefront stands the empty tomb. The invitation of the angel who announced the resurrection was: "Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matt. 28:6.) The tomb was empty. The body of Jesus was gone. Some explanation must be given to this fact.

The early opponents of Christianity recognized immediately the weight of this evidence. They even made up a story to explain it away (Matt. 28:12-14.) It would have been very easy to stop the Christian movement before it ever got started. All the Roman government and the Jewish officials would have needed to do would have been to produce the body of Jesus. This they could not do. The tomb was empty and there was no other satisfactory explanation for the statement: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen." (Luke 24:5b-6a.)

The resurrection appearances

A second line of proofs consists of the resurrection appearances which Jesus made to certain chosen witnesses (Acts 10:41.) There are certain features about these appearances which make them very difficult to explain away. In the first place there were several of them. The New Testament records at least 10 separate appearances. It is said Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9,) to the women at the tomb (Matt. 28:9,) Peter (Luke 24:34; I Cor. 15:5,) to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13,) to ten of the disciples in the upper room (Luke 24:36-42; John 20:19-23,) to the 11 including this time Thomas (John 20:24-29; Mark 16:14,) to 500 at one time (I Cor. 15:6; cf. Matt. 28:16-20,) to James (I Cor. 15:7,) to the apostles on another occasion (John 21:1-23,) to several on the Mount of Olives at the time of the ascension (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-12,) and finally to Paul (I Cor. 15:8.)

It may also be pointed out that these appearances took place at different times and at different places. Added to this is the fact that they were confirmed by every means possible, by sight, by hearing, and by touch (cf. John 20:20-27.) This variety in the circumstances of people, places, and manner makes the appearances hard and unexplainable facts, except to admit their reality.

Change in disciples

A third line of evidence is the change which the resurrection of Jesus brought about in the disciples. A comparison of the followers of Jesus in the Gospel immediately after His death with the disciples in the Acts after His resurrection reveals a remarkable change. After the death of Christ they were despondent, disillusioned, defeated, and ready to give up. In Acts they appear as fearless zealots who are willing to hazard their lives for the sake of the gospel.

What caused this change? However contemporary historians might try to explain it, the only adequate explanation is that these disciples were convinced that Jesus did not stay dead. He had risen and was alive for evermore.

Staff changes



Fowler

Carrol Fowler is now serving as pastor of the Horseshoe Bend Mission of First Church, Melbourne. He comes to the post from Kansas City, Kansas, where he served as pastor of Welborn Church. He has pastored the Spring River Church

at Hardy.

Fowler has attended Southern Baptist College and holds the B.A. degree from Arkansas State University. He has completed work for the master of divinity degree from Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He and his wife, the former Wilma Chapman, are the parents of one son.

Cannon Lamont has begun his work as youth director for First Church, Crossett. He is a senior at Ouachita University, and will be serving the church on weekends until the close of school. He is a native of Pine Bluff, and a member of the Ouachita Singers and the Singing Men. He has served churches at Pine Bluff, Warren, and Waldron.

New page planned for Newsmagazine

A page of news briefs from our churches will begin in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* in the issue of May 17. The purpose of this new feature will be to give wider coverage to the events in our churches.

The material carried on this page will be one or two sentence statements of items of interest taking place in our churches across the state. The information should be brief, concise, and yet complete.

To provide this additional feature we will need the help of all our churches. Church bulletins and news letters should be mailed to the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Superintendents of Missions are being asked to assist in this endeavor by sending materials weekly.

This page will not use pictures, the organization of Sunday School classes, or installation of officers. The purpose of this page is not to change any news coverage already carried in this publication, but to give additional news to our readers.



one Lord
one mission
one people

Book reviews

By E. A. Pipkins

Satan is Alive and Well

Author: Lindsey, Hal.

Publisher: Zandervan, 1972

Price: \$2.25 (244 pages)

On the heels of a wide response to "Late Great Planet Earth," the author surveys popular ideas of occultism (some examples of which never cease to make one shudder), and explains them as Satan at work in the world.

Without involving his reader in "deep theology" the author tackles such ideas as the origin and purpose of Satan, evil, (whichever came first) and man. Some will find an affinity with what he says. His theology becomes somewhat suspect with a statement like: "Before the law was given, if a man had a weakness for sleeping with other men's wives and his conscience didn't bother him, then it wasn't sin."

In a last section the Christian is admonished to put on the full armor of God as his only defense against the "prince of darkness," having the confidence that he will surely overcome.

In a rush to print many would be successful writers give heavy religious significance to current, popular ideas, thereby appealing to a built-in audience. It sells books. This is the same principal used early in the century by extremely liberal German authors, to foster new ideas and to make a professor popular.

Because such books seem to say what we think they should be no excuse for an intellectual laziness that not only swallows the bait, but also the hook, line and sinker.

* * *

To Enrich Each Day

Author: Swor, Chester and Jerry Merriman

Publisher: Revell, 1969

Price: \$1.95, paper (351 pages)

Devotional reading for each day of the year, written in a style light enough to merit a youthful audience and adult enough for everyone else. The authors have made their names well known among college groups, and always speak well and make a strong appeal to them.

With these devotional essays they purpose to bring inspiration and challenge to the reader, to consistent Christian living. The program is suggested only as a supplement to other Bible study.

A series of devotionals called a "workshop on purity" is especially interesting.

The cover



Woman's viewpoint

As Christ lay sleeping, angels . . .

By Iris O'Neal Bowen

The angels must have ministered to Christ
As he lay in the borrowed tomb, asleep,
And bathed his swollen feet and pressed their hands
Against his wounded side to slow the seep
Of blood that trickled yet, where yesterday
The spear had pierced his flesh . . . Perhaps they wept,
If angels weep, as burial clothes were taken
And fresh ones wrapped about him as he slept.

Small prisms from their halos formed a light
As they moved silently about the room
And rainbow hues reflected from the walls
To send away the threatening pall of gloom.

Then when the third day dawned, an angel stood
And raised his trumpet to proclaim the word:
"The stone is rolled away — The Christ is risen!
Oh, come ye, men, pay homage to our Lord!"



Mrs. Bowen



Members of the Association are Bob McGraw, Harold McGraw, Rick Proctor, Green, Jerry Schaeffer, Vernon Thompson, Virgil Merrell, and Bill Maker.

Evangelist forms association

Johnny Green, pastor of the Goodwin (Ark.) Baptist Church, is answering God's call into full-time evangelism.

He and nine other Christian men from central and eastern Arkansas are forming an organization known as the Johnny Green Evangelistic Association.

"I believe God is in this thing, and I believe He has shown it through the support He has given with these nine Christian backers," said Green.

"God is the authority and this Association seems to be His way of making it work for His will."

Green, who has been engaged in part-time evangelistic work during the last three years, said he began feeling God's call toward full-time evangelism late last year.

"It's just remarkable how God can make things fall into place when you submit to his will," Green said.

The nine other members of the Association, who will officially be called its Board of Directors, are Rick Proctor and Bill Baker of Wynne, Kenny Gates of Augusta, Virgil Merrell of Forrest City, Harold McGraw of Palestine, Jerry Schaeffer of Little Rock, Vernon Thompson of Austin, Currey Coker of Harrisburg, and Bob McGraw of Hughes.

This group had two organizational meetings in February — one in North Little Rock and the other in Goodwin — and the legal procedures for incorporation have already begun. The final incorporation meeting will be held in a few weeks at Goodwin (which is about five miles east of Brinkley.)

The 39-year-old Green, who has also pastored churches at North Little Rock, Jonesboro, Ft. Smith, Newport, and Muskogee, Okla., is currently serving as

president of the Arkansas Evangelist Association.

He preached 32 revivals in six states (Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois) in 1972 and already has that many scheduled for 1973.



ALUMNI OFFICERS WORKSHOP — Dr. Robert Stagg (left), religion professor at Ouachita College and president of the Arkansas New Orleans Alumni Association, is welcomed to the annual Alumni Officers Workshop of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary by Dr. J. Hardee Kennedy, Dean of Academic Affairs for the school. The workshop centered around plans for the June meeting of the National Alumni Association workshop in Portland, Ore.

Revivals

Center Hill, Paragould, March 25-31; Garland Morrison, evangelist, Herbert (Red) Johnson, song leader, 34 professions of faith; six by letter, one surrender to preach. Bill Holcomb is pastor.

Second, Camden, March 18-25; Jesse Reed, evangelist, Red Johnson, song leader; six professions of faith, four by letter, 12 rededications. A. Dale Floyd is pastor.

First, Des Arc, Feb. 18-25; Herb Shreve, evangelist, Red Johnson, song leader; 28 professions of faith, 23 for baptism, one by letter, 29 rededications. Billy G. West is pastor.

First, Cherry Valley, March 19-25; A. C. Uth, evangelist, Fred Helms, music; two professions of faith, four by letter. James L. Tallant is pastor.

First, Osceola, March 18-25; Jack Hazlewood, evangelist; 118 professions of faith, 178 rededications. S. Ray Crews is pastor.

Forrest Park, Pine Bluff, March 25-April 1; Ray Speakman, evangelist, Charles Forman, song leader; 14 professions of faith. Doyle B. Bledsoe is pastor.

East Point, Russellville, April 29-May 6; J. C. Wade will be evangelist. E. W. Jack Davis is pastor.

Deciding where to live

By C. W. Caldwell

When planning to retire, very serious consideration should be given to the place of permanent residence. Each person, or couple, must make that decision in the light of their own desires, for no set of rules could be given to guide all retired people.

The business or professional man who has spent most of his life in one place will, most likely, prefer to stay right there among his friends after retirement. The laboring man in some industry may desire to "go back home" among kinfolks and acquaintances of former years. A city dweller may want to get out of the noise and traffic and head for the country where he can have some acreage of his own and a quieter life. Some may become captivated with the idea of living in one of the modern-day "Pre-planned Retirement Cities" where all the residents will be retired people.

Wherever the place may be, some practical things should be considered. We should keep in mind that the span of life beyond retirement is more uncertain. Also, some of the mechanism of a sixty-five-year-old body may begin to wear out sooner than anticipated. If physical breakdown or breakup comes, will family relations and friends be near? Will medical and hospital needs be available? If death claims one, will the

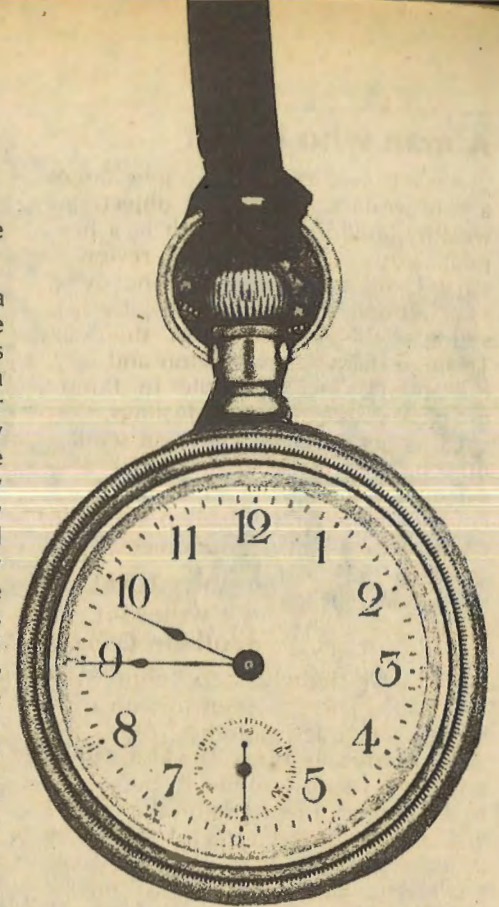
other mate be able to continue on at the same residence?

Several years ago I visited a community in a rugged area of the Ozark mountains where a few Baptists were trying to begin a mission. I met a very lovely old couple whose former residence had been in West Texas. They told me that while vacationing in the Ozarks, they fell in love with the country and chose it as their place to retire. They bought some of the mountain land and built their humble home in a strictly rural area. They cooperated with the missionary in beginning Baptist services at the community center near the Post Office. A year or so later, I returned to the community to preach at the dedication service of their new church building. That lovely couple was not present. In answer to my inquiry about them I was told that they had moved back to Texas. The man had suffered several heart attacks. His wife was afflicted with arthritis. Their children had moved them back to where they could care for them.

It seems unwise to me for a retired couple to move many miles from relatives and close friends into a strange community and attempt to become pioneers. Retire where you are known.



First Church, Cherry Valley, broke ground March 11 for a new educational building and fellowship hall. The building is expected to be ready June 1. Members of the building committee are (l. to r.) Barry Carwell, Chairman Jay Reddman, Archie Stephens, T. Bailey, and Pastor James Tallant.



A preacher friend of mine retired about the same time I did. He and his wife chose to retire in a state and town where he was not known by the pastors and church people. He received no invitations for supply or interim pastorates. While traveling in their state, I dropped by for a visit. His wife asked how I liked retirement. When I said that I was enjoying it to the fullest, she said, "You should talk to my husband. He's miserable." What preacher wouldn't be if he never got a chance to preach? It was just a few weeks later that we received a message from his wife that he had died instantly of heart failure. Inactivity and a restless spirit are dangerous.

So, brother preacher, if you want to continue your preaching ministry, establish your retirement home where you are known, loved, and where your services are desired.

Dr. Caldwell is a retired secretary of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. This is the third in a series of articles written from experience.



Dr. Caldwell

A man who didn't

A friend had asked me to join him in a soul-winning effort. The object: his wealthy landlord near death in a hospital. We went. Enroute, I reviewed what came to mind about the dying man. Rough, coarse, profane, he had squeezed a fortune from the soil. Through many years religion and faith had played second fiddle to family quarrels, astute financial dealings, personal appetites. Neighborhood scuttlebutt had it that a brain tumor now threatened him. No one really knew what or whether he had to do with Christ. To win him was our object.

The people at the door of his room were so numerous one would have thought a convention was in session. The son tried to stop us, a lawyer suggested another time, the wife narcotically questioned our presence. My friend was not to be stayed. In a moment of recognition the patient welcomed us. He did not ask the others to leave. He ordered them to go. While I talked to him in his time of lucidity our friend stood sentinel against intruders. In fumbling tones the weary man confessed his sins and sought God's forgiveness in Christ's name. We prayed and peace was his.

Before leaving, we asked about the group of people. He told us no will had been made. There were cotton gins to be disposed of, thousands of acres of land to be dispensed with, an empire to be dissolved at his command. In those last few hours before eternity's claim became valid, they were trying to undo the years of indecision and vascillation. But death came first. In the years from then until now the struggle to gain what he might have given has gone on. One would have thought — wouldn't one?

Thank God for men and women of Christian faith who have caught a vision of stewardship's other dimension. In their debt Christian institutions like Southern Baptist College stand. They are great bulwarks against tides which could so easily destroy. May their tribe increase: these men and women who believe and do — in time!

For a free booklet called "Some Things You Should Know About Making a Will" write me. I'll send it gladly. — Lawrence A. Tucker, Box 32 — SBC, Walnut Ridge, Ark. 72476

CORRECTION

Lang Gibson is pastor of Emmanuel Church, Hot Springs. An error appeared in a story on page 6 of the April 12 issue.



Magar



Keathley



Littleton

Music leaders for Assembly told

Come alive! That is just what Siloam Springs does each week with some of the best and most exciting music possible. The music directors during the four weeks at Siloam are very talented, dedicated men. Besides directing the congregational singing, each director will produce the folk musical "Real" for the Firday evening worship service.

The director for the first week, June 18-23, is Paul Magar, minister of music at First Church, Siloam Springs. Magar is a graduate of Northeast State College in Oklahoma. He has served several churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas and has done solo work on numerous occasions for state conferences and conventions.

Don Edmonson, minister of music at First Church, Arkadelphia will direct the music during the second camp week, June 25-30.

The State Music Secretary, Ervin Keathley, will serve the third week, July

2-7. Keathley has been in his present position since January. Prior to this he served 12 years as Minister of Music at First Church, Popular Bluff, Mo. Keathley served as music leader for the South Missouri Baptist Assembly for 10 years.

The fourth week, July 9-14, Bill Littleton, minister of music at Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla., will serve as music director. Littleton conducted the Singing Churchman of Oklahoma during their 1970 tour of the Orient singing for the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo. Besides conducting, he has sung solos in most of the states, singing oratorio and concert work as well as assisting in summer encampments such as Ridgecrest and Glorieta. Littleton is a composer of many numbers, and is now serving as President of Fine Arts Music Press, Inc., Oklahoma's largest music publisher. —Freddie Pike, Sunday School Dept.

Children's colony chaplaincy

Visiting units of the Children's Colony of Arkansas has been an interesting and inspiring experience. Depression is experienced by some who visit these, and we can easily understand. However, if negatives are magnified, depression can always result. But when we see the things our fine state is doing in these areas, we cannot help but be inspired.

Associated with the unit at Booneville is our servant of many years, W. H. Heard. Brother Heard was the last of a good line of Baptist chaplains serving at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium there. The Sanatorium has been in operation 62 years. For the most of these years, Arkansas Baptists provided its best men in those whose names were Joe Luck, Charles Finch, Boyd Baker and W. H. Heard.

The facilities at Booneville are now

being used for a Children's Colony. The last patient was dismissed from the hospital there Feb. 16, 1973, and it is now used to train advanced adult retarded in independent living. Chaplain Heard has successfully made the transition from the hospital chaplaincy to that of the colony. He and Mrs. Heard have entered into the orientation for the new staff and employees, and now their service is given to the residents, the staff, and families and visitors of the institution.

We congratulate Chaplain and Mrs. Heard for the dedication manifested during the trying days of transition. Their radiance and joy in their new work bespeaks personal victory. It also indicates victory for Arkansas Baptists who support them in the name of Christ the Saviour. —Wilson C. Deese, Director of Chaplaincy Ministries

CELEBRATION

for

JUNIOR HIGH ACTEENS

at

Pulaski Heights Baptist Church

2200 Kavanaugh, Little Rock

May 5 — 10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

MISSIONS



Mrs. C. T. Braughton, Malaysia

ALSO MK's

Connie Hampton, Tanzania

Amy Nichols, Paraguay

STUDIAC T RECOGNITION



Mrs. Paige Patterson, Fayetteville

Sing & Celebrate

with

GREGG GREENWAY

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THE REGENERATION

Acteens Celebration Preregistration

Please register _____ Acteens
(grades 7-9) and leaders at \$2 per
person for the 1973 CELEBRATION.

Enclosed is \$ _____
(Make checks payable to Ark. WMU.)

Please send further information to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Send to:
WMU, Box 550, Little Rock, Ark. 72203
Deadline, April 27

Child Care

Camp sponsors needed

Summer-time is camp time for Arkansas Baptists — R. A. Camp, G. A. Camp, Siloam Springs Assembly, Music Camp, and others. Weeks of relaxation, inspiration, and good fellowship are ahead! These camp activities provide rich Christian experiences for those who participate and are carefully planned by our able leadership.

Each year many W.M.U. groups and other church groups offer to sponsor a child from the Children's Home for summer camp. I have known many young people who have made meaningful discoveries about themselves during their camp experience. Some have discovered Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; others have made commitments to a closer relationship with our Lord; others have responded to special areas of Christian service; while others have absorbed the total camp experience to become stronger Christians. These are significant experiences and have life-long implications.

This year we have tentative plans for a number of our children to attend one of our assemblies. Some of the children are being sponsored by an individual or group, while others do not have camp sponsors at this time. If you would like to sponsor a child from the Children's Home for a rich camp experience, please let your wish be made known by writing Mrs. Vivian Peacock, P.O. Box 180, Monticello 71655.

This article was written in response to a question that I am asked often, "Is there any specific way we can help?" We appreciate the thoughtfulness and Christian concern that prompts a question like this. For at the heart of it all are people who have experienced the love of Christ in their own lives and want to express this love by sharing with others. —Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

Evening with Ouachita set in Little Rock

The Ouachita University Club of Greater Little Rock is sponsoring a spring "pops" concert on April 27 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. This concert is called "An Evening with Ouachita." and is being planned by the Ouachita School of Music under the direction of Dr. William Trantham and Mrs. Jake Shambarger. The "Ouachitones," a girls' singing group will be featured but other groups and novelty acts will also be presented.

At RA Congress

Missionary to Brazil to speak



Grober

Glendon Grober, Southern Baptist Missionary to Brazil, is a professor at Equatorial Baptist Theological Seminary, a pastor, and an evangelistic worker in Belem. He considers teaching archeology and Old and New Testament at the seminary and developing courses for lay leaders in rural areas his primary responsibilities.

Grober will be one of the speakers at the state-wide Royal Ambassador Congress. The Congress is scheduled for Friday and Saturday May 4-5, 1973. This is the twentieth annual session. It will be held at Olivet Church, Little Rock, at West Markham and Hughes Streets.

Grober was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1955, studied language in Campinas for a year and then was an evangelistic worker for the western part of the state of Para, with headquarters

in Santarem, for about two years. He went to the seminary in Belem in 1958.

In addition to his teaching and evangelistic responsibilities, he has served as pastor of three churches and eight missions. He supervised construction of seminary housing which he planned for married students and directed construction of a new church building in the area.

A native of Vicksburg, Miss., Grober was graduated from Ouachita University with the bachelor of arts degree. From Southern Seminary, he received the bachelor of divinity and master of religious education degrees. He is an inspiring speaker and will present a challenging message for all who attend the Congress.

Every boy will be blessed by attending the Congress. In turn they will be a blessing to their church, and the mission cause of Christ.

Plan for boys in your church to attend. Informative materials has been mailed to all Royal Ambassador workers and pastors.

See you in Congress! — C. H. Seaton, Director

The prison ex-inmate goes home

By Dewie E. Williams

A young woman sat in her pastor's office. She said, "My husband is coming home soon, and I don't know what to do. I don't know how we'll get along; I'm afraid..."

Another woman read a letter from her husband. While her mind was filled with thoughts of his being gone three years she called her children together and said, "Daddy is coming home."

The youngest, age three, said, "What's a daddy?"

The ex-inmate faces these and many other problems when he enters the free world. Family adjustments are to be made. Will the community accept

The public is cordially invited to attend this family entertainment hour, which begins at 8 p.m. in Vaught Fellowship Hall. Admission price is \$1 for any age. Tickets may be bought at the



Williams

him? How will his old friends and neighbors react? As he walks along the street he knows that he will feel the eyes of his neighbors on him. He has paid the penalty for his crime that society decreed. Still...

Will he be encouraged to go to church? How will he be received? Here is the opportunity for the church to express the love and grace of God. The pastor, the deacons, the Sunday School teacher can visit and make friends. A friend can point him to the Friend. Such a relationship must be cultivated.

The chaplain at a prison will gladly cooperate with a church in giving assistance to an ex-inmate. Pastors desiring information regarding the release of inmates may write to: Chaplain Dewie E. Williams, ADC Box 500, Grady, Ark. 71644.

If churches would like to bring their Youth in groups it is suggested that reservations be made in advance by calling Immanuel Church office 376-3071.

Creative Bible Teaching Workshop

April 24

First Baptist Church

12th & Louisiana

Little Rock

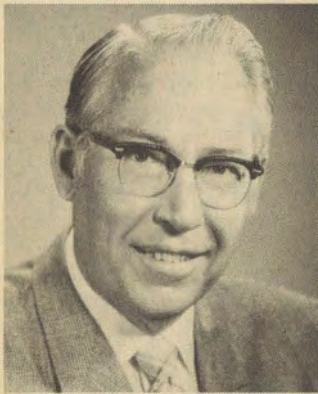
Creative approaches to Bible teaching
and
demonstrations of teaching skills

Three Sessions

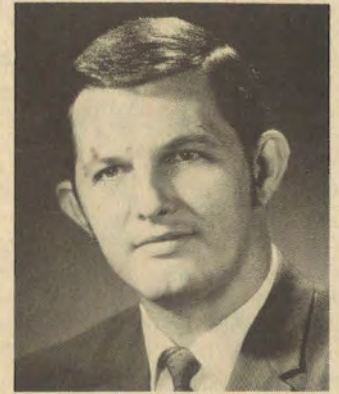
10:00 A.M. — 12:00 Noon

2:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.



Alvis Strickland
Adult



Dennis Conniff III
Youth



Pat Ratton
Younger Preschoolers



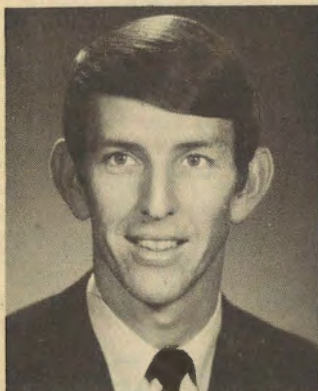
Marsue Keathley
Older Preschoolers

It's for you:

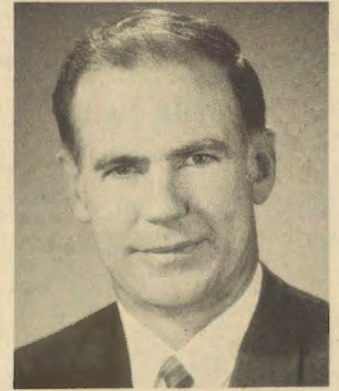
Pastor — General officer — Department director
Teacher

Provisions for preschoolers

Sponsored by
Sunday School Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Mancel Ezell
Young Adult



Dan Padgett
Children

**Church Training
Regional library clinic**



Miss Anderson

Miss Jacquelyn Anderson, General Materials Technical Processes Consultant, Church Library Department, Sunday School Board, will be one of three church library workers from the Sunday School Board to direct the Regional Library Clinic to be

held at Immanuel Church, Little Rock, May 4-5. Other library workers to assist are James Rose and John Hack, Consultants in the Library Department.

The workshop will begin with a banquet at Immanuel Church on May 4 at 6 p.m. It will adjourn Saturday, May 5, at noon. Registration fee is \$4 which should be sent to the Church Library Department of the Sunday School Board. If you cannot make a pre-registration, you will be permitted to pay the \$4 when you arrive for the banquet *provided you notify* the Church Library Department or the Arkansas Church Training Department that you plan to attend. The Immanuel Church must know the exact number who will be present for the banquet.

Four conferences will be provided

Texas BSU group leads outreach in Los Angeles

NACOGDOCHES, Tex. (BP) — A contingent of 212 Baptist Student Union members from Stephen F. Austin College here have returned from a one week trip to Los Angeles which may result in information of Baptist Student Union organizations on a dozen California campuses.

The students visited 22 Los Angeles area campuses at the invitation of California State BSU Director Wendell Foss. They reportedly witnessed individually to some 10,000 students.

The trip was part of an emphasis by BSU directors of state Baptist conventions and the national student ministries at the Baptist Sunday School Board to provide evangelistic outreach to campuses in new convention territories.

Eleven other Texas BSUs have traveled outside Texas to assist campuses but "the Stephen F. Austin trip is the largest single evangelistic effort launched by one college campus to other college campuses we know anything about

at the workshop, including one conference for beginning library workers. Much help will be given to experienced library workers. — Ralph W. Davis

anywhere," said Charles Baker, Texas Baptist Student Division associate who helped train the students for the trip and accompanied them.

Foss invited the Stephen F. Austin group to return next year for a similar emphasis in San Francisco which would mean, he said, they could cover 70 percent of the colleges in California during the two visits.

The Stephen F. Austin BSU choir, the New Dimension, performed the Christian musical "Celebrate Life," in two churches and divided into five musical groups to perform and give testimonies in some 30 Los Angeles area Baptist churches.

"We got a tremendous response from the California pastors," said George Louterback, Stephen F. Austin's BSU director.

"Many of the Baptist church people there didn't know much about the BSU program," he said. "They don't have many college students in their churches and only two BSU directors serve some 90 campuses in the Los Angeles area."

Some 25 known professions of faith resulted from the personal encounters on the campuses, including a member of the nationally ranked Long Beach State basketball team, according to Baker.

A SPRING CAMP - IN

Friday and Saturday, May 4-5

at Petit Jean State Park, Morrilton, Ark.

For	Cost	Including
All Christian families interested in camping and Campers on Mission	\$0.00	Brief, informal worship service Two hours of Bible study Much fellowship

Interested? Request details and descriptive brochure from:

Tommy Bridges
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525 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Baptists of North America desperately need to learn to work together. The most likely area for successful cooperation will be evangelism. While the different Baptist groups vary in size, organization, and method of operation, they are all evangelical in theology and evangelistic in practice.

"Key 73" represents the most immediate call to evangelism. Two Baptists, Carl F. H. Henry and Billy Graham, were instrumental in stimulating an interest in the idea of evangelicals of all denominations joining together for some great evangelistic effort. As a result, more than one hundred and fifty denominations, groups, and organizations have joined hands for the year of 1973 under the theme, "Calling Our Continent To Christ." In this emphasis most of the standard objections to

in many countries of the world. Of all the areas, North America has the greatest potential and opportunity; but it is also having the most difficulty in getting meaningful participation.

Before Baptists of North America can have the involvement they need, they must face realistically some of the barriers. First, there is the barrier of size and diversity. Almost ninety percent of the Baptists of the world live in North America. Of the 31 million in the Baptist World Alliance more than 27 million of them are in North America. These groups vary in size from 5308 in the Seventh Day Baptist Conference to 11,498,613 in the Southern Baptist Convention. Some of these have sophisticated boards and agencies. Size and diversity make the sharing of information, the generation of enthusiasm, or the organization of

nature of the North American Baptist Fellowship and their commitment to it, very little will be done by it.

The World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ will mean something when the Baptists of North America, individually and corporately begin to issue some calls themselves.

1. Let the elected presidents of the various Baptist conventions call themselves together for a day of prayer and discussion. These are great men of God, of proven leadership ability, who could issue a call to this continent which would be heard.

2. Let the counterparts in the different groups, many of whom already know each other, seek each other out to think and to pray and to share. There are executive secretaries, publishing houses, men's and women's groups, workers with students, college and seminary professors, and a host of other areas that could begin working together.

3. Let the church leadership in every community begin to seek each other out. In the great cities the two racial groups which are dominant are Negro and Anglo, but the denomination which ties them together is Baptist. Baptists working together can win the cities for Christ.

4. Let the Baptists from the other areas of the world call upon Baptists of North America to participate with them in common projects throughout the world. There are great resources in funds and people which could be used in enlarging the witness around the world. The sharing will be a two-way street to the benefit of all.

5. Let every Baptist everywhere call upon God to move among us, to draw us closer together, and to send us out in love to share the good news about Jesus Christ with the whole world.

(Editor's note) At the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo, Japan, in July of 1970, the following proposal was adopted:

"The Twelveth Baptist World Congress, convened in Tokyo, Japan, hereby issues a call and invitation to the churches of the various Baptist conventions and unions to participate in a World Mission Reconciliation through Jesus Christ expressed through such cooperative enterprises and evangelism, with the clear understanding that each national or regional Baptist body will be completely free to determine the nature and expression of the Mission of Reconciliation expressed through this cooperative endeavor, adopting and adapting such materials, methods, schedules, etc., as may be determined and dictated by their own needs denominational programs and calendars, or political and social circumstances.

A call to North American Baptists

By Kenneth L. Chafin

interdenominational participation have been eliminated. First, the purpose is unashamedly evangelistic. Second, there is no permanent structure. Third, each group is free to decide what it will do on its own and what it will do in cooperation with others. Baptists who have been joining with other groups on legislative issues must welcome the opportunity to work with these same groups on the number one task of the church: evangelism.

The Baptist World Alliance call to the World Mission of Reconciliation Through Christ represents an even stronger stimulus for the Baptists of North America. It is a call to world evangelism. The report came out of a subcommittee of the Commission on Missions and Evangelism. The original wording was "A Call to World Evangelism." The wording was changed but the intent was not. It represents the very best opportunity the Baptists of North America have had to work and pray together for a common cause.

Under the leadership of Joseph Underwood and several area coordinators, the World Mission of Reconciliation Through Christ is causing great excitement. In a meeting with representatives from various areas in the Summer of 1972 an entire session was devoted to hearing reports. The concensus was that God was using the call from the Baptist World Alliance to precipitate new interest and excitement

programs very difficult.

Second, there is the barrier of race. Each of the Baptist conventions in North America has a predominate racial group. Three of the great conventions having more than ten million members are mainly Negro. Two of the smaller groups have strong Northern European and Scandinavian ties. The other groups are mainly Anglo. Great strides have been made in race relations, but there is still some reservation among leaders and laity in every group to forming alliances which are deeper and larger than race. But more and more, the reasons for our togetherness outweigh the reasons for our separateness.

Third, there is the barrier of organization. The North American Baptist Fellowship was formed as the North American branch of the Baptist World Alliance to give a tool for a regional expression. After more than a decade every indication is that this has not yet been taken seriously. First, not all of the conventions which were in the Baptist World Alliance joined the North American Baptist Fellowship. Second, the budget of \$8,600 for the year does not suggest anything but tokenism in our effort to mobilize the Baptists of North America. Third, the meetings which are held as essentially fellowship and sharing in nature and not geared to the planning or implementing of an emphasis. Unless the Baptists of North America will take a serious look at the

Cooper challenges small churches during first national conference

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Owen Cooper challenged more than 400 small church pastors and laymen to remember they are prophets of God and pace setters in their communities.

"The pace of witness is going to be no faster than you walk; the interest in missions no more than your interest; and the degree of missions and outreach no more than you make it," Cooper said in the keynote address at the first Southern Baptist Convention Small Church Conference here last week.

"Some churches may grow, some stabilize and some may have to disorganize," he said. "I've had an idea of churches, not merging but marrying. They could go together, keep both pastors on the payroll, but send one off as a missionary and then switch six months later. The people will probably get so excited about supporting a full-time missionary that they will want to support him permanently."

Cooper was among convention leaders from the Baptist Home Mission

Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, the Sunday school and church training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, who met with pastors and laymen in the special four-day conference devoted to examining the future of churches of less than 300 members.

Larry Bryson, who directs rural-urban missions for the Home Mission Board's Division of Associational Services, said the conference was not designed just to discuss the small church, but to air problems as seen to by the churchmen and convention leaders and gear solutions to the problems.

"In these conferences we dealt with the problems and have given the help they need. These pastors and their wives will return and deal with these problems, because they have dealt here with themselves. They also have found that others have some of the same problems, Bryson said.

Conferences which provided practical help were the ABC's of church administration, personal ministries of

the pastor and the pastor's wife and WMU.

R. T. Blackstock, director of Christian social ministries from the Jacksonville Baptist Association in Florida, told a group of conferees that ministry is reaching outside the church into the community.

"The personal needs of human beings become the unique opportunity for Christians," Blackstock said. "However, sometimes it is difficult for ministry in the small church because of several things: short terms of the pastors, rapid turnover of people, part-time pastors, or just a simply smallness syndrome."

But there are advantages for ministry in the small church, Blackstock said. "There can be a genuine fellowship among small groups that can't be developed in the larger church, and the church was first of all a fellowship before it was an institution."

Most churches perform two types of ministry, he said — a "reaction" ministry, which takes place in a crisis situation and the "planned-seeking-out" opportunities. Most reaction ministries are short-term projects like taking Christmas baskets, or helping when a house burns.

"However the more effective kind of ministry is the planned, or long-on-going program, such as a jail ministry with drug abuse," Blackstock said. "They get long and tiresome, but they are the most effective for our day."

For too long Southern Baptists' whole approach to ministry has been a numbers program, said Dewey Hodge, pastor of First Church, Marion, N.C.

"How much time in your last deacons' meeting did you speak about peoples' hurts? We have let too many conservative people scare our pastors out of social ministry. But it's the only kind of ministry Jesus had," Hodge said.

Many of the pastors were young, 30 to 40, and most serve churches with about 125 members.

The youngest pastor attending the conference was Jimmy McKinney, 17-year-old pastor of Line Creek Church, Broadhead, Ky.

The church, situated in the middle of 1,000 acres of timberland and by two other Baptist churches, was without a pastor for five years before McKinney, who attends high school in Sommerset 16 miles away, became pastor.

For McKinney, like many of the pastors, only 30 to 40 prospects live within a six mile radius of the church.

"But I feel like the people really need a church at Line Creek," he said. "The potential is there. If the people will realize that they should witness to their neighbors the church will grow."

SBC president urges: send convention resolutions now!

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP) — The president of the Southern Baptist Convention has issued a plea for persons planning to introduce resolutions at the denomination's annual convention in Portland, June 12-14, to send in a copy in advance to the resolutions committee.

Owen Cooper, president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp. here and the first layman in 13 years to lead the convention as president, announced membership on the resolutions committee at the same time he requested that advance copies of resolutions be sent to the committee.

John Parrott, pastor of First Church in Roswell, N.M., will be chairman of the resolutions committee for the Portland convention, Cooper said.

Both Cooper and Parrott pointed out that sending advance copies of resolutions that might be submitted at the convention will help the committee immeasurably in its assignment.

Last year, Cooper noted, during the first day of the convention in Philadelphia, there were a total of 31 resolutions presented and referred to the resolutions committee. The task of making enough copies of each of these resolutions alone delayed the committee's consideration considerably.

To prevent such log-jams of words on paper, the convention two years ago in St. Louis adopted a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee, adding to the bylaws of the convention a request that "copies of proposed resolutions be submitted to the committee chairman 30 days before the convention in order to make possible more thorough consideration and to expedite the committee's work."

Both Cooper and Parrott were quick to point out that the bylaw does not prohibit any messenger from introducing a resolution from the convention floor that has not been sent in advance to the resolutions committee. In fact, the resolutions are not officially introduced and cannot be acted upon by the committee until presented to the full convention.

Under convention procedure, resolutions may be introduced by any messenger, but all such resolutions are referred automatically to the resolutions committee, which reports on recommended resolutions on the final two days of the convention.

Copies of proposed resolutions to be submitted to the convention should be mailed in advance to Parrott, the chairman, at the First Church, P.O. Box 1966, Roswell, N.M., 88201.

"Let a period of time, preferably beginning in 1973 and culminating at the time of the 1975 Congress, be set aside as a period of special effort in evangelism and missions as a means of reconciliation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

"The Executive Committee, utilizing the services of its Administrative Committee and the Commission on Evangelism and Missions, and seeking the full cooperation of the various mission boards and societies, Sunday School Boards, Commissions on Christian and other appropriate denominational agencies, is hereby charged with the responsibility of developing the necessary organization, procedures, scheduling and calendaring, finance, etc., to implement this call and the invitation on behalf of the Congress and the Baptist World Alliance." — From the Baptist Review

Dr. Chafin is pastor of the South Main Church, Houston, Texas and Chairman of Evangelism Committee for North American Baptist Fellowship; Member of Commission on Mission and Evangelism of the Baptist World Alliance; Served on the Executive Committee of "Key 73" until August 1972.

Larry Baker named to post at seminary

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Larry Curtis Baker, former assistant publisher for the Samford American in Samford, Tex., has been named public relations associate at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Baker, 27, will be responsible for new releases, publications production, media relations and photography at the seminary. He succeeds James Lee Young who resigned to begin full-time studies at the seminary with plans for graduation in June, 1974.

A 1970 graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., Baker is currently pastor of DeAnza Baptist Church in Cupertino, Calif. Baker served in the U.S. Air Force from 1963-67 and was stationed in Japan as a Russian linguist.

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TORNADO DEVASTATES CHURCH: Pastor Leon Piper surveys the ruins of Highland Park Church in Conyers, Ga., after a tornado destroyed the sanctuary and half of the education building. Although only partially covered by insurance, the church hopes to rebuild. (BP) Photo

Tornado hits Georgia church; congregation hopes to rebuild

ATLANTA (BP) — Within a one week period, tornadoes destroyed the buildings of two Georgia Baptist churches, one in Conyers, Ga., about 35 miles east of Atlanta, and the other near LaFayette, Ga., in the northwest section of the state.

The Sublingna Church near LaFayette, Ga., was damaged so extensively that it cannot be rebuilt, according to Willie Bearden, pastor of the church. The congregation plans to construct completely new buildings.

The Highland Park Church in Conyers, Ga., near Atlanta, lost its sanctuary and half of its two-story educational building. Leon Piper, pastor of the 265-member congregation, said they hoped to rebuild.

In both cases, insurance will cover only part of the damage. About one-third of the damage caused by the LaFayette tornado will be covered by insurance. Most of the insurance coverage at the Conyers church will go to pay off existing notes of indebtedness.

In LaFayette, the congregation began meeting in the basement of the pastorium, which seats about 100 persons. A room upstairs and a church bus were used as classrooms.

The tornado that struck the larger church in Conyers, Ga., left only a portion of the facade of the auditorium and the bottom half of the rear of the building standing.

Side walls and roof of the building were leveled. Some of the solid oak

pews were broken up like kindling; others left unscratched. The pulpit remained in place, but the electronic organ standing nearby was swept away and could not be found.

The roof of the education building at the Conyers church was tossed about 150 feet away from the main building. Ten rooms comprising the second story of the education building were sheared off, and the furniture and equipment were gone.

Because the second floor of the educational building is a poured concrete slab and was not uprooted by the tornado, most of the lower floor will be usable. The pastor said the church might hold services there.

First Church of Conyers has offered their chapel as a meeting place for Highland Park congregation.

Members of the Highland Park church did all the construction work on the educational building themselves. Some came with tears in their eyes to view the remains of their hard work and financial contributions.

Sunday would have been the first day for the congregation to use newly upholstered pulpit furniture that matched the new bapistry curtain. The chairs were not harmed. They sit in a building without walls or roof. But the matching curtain disappeared.

The tornadoes that hit Georgia during the one week period claimed two lives and left thousands homeless. Governor Jimmy Carter estimated damages at about \$114 million.



- **Good Law** — Starting this month garages in Sweden must guarantee all repair work for 3,125 miles or three months whichever comes first.

(From "Intelligence Report," Parade, April 1, 1973)

- **Washington** — Over 55 percent of your Federal tax dollars goes for current military and war-related appropriations, topping the 21.7 percent for human needs at home, according to an analysis by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). The Quaker group says in its March Washington Newsletter that its study of money voted by Congress last calendar year shows that the total military and war-related appropriations were \$120 billion, up nearly \$8 billion from the year before. Current military appropriations, including the Defense Department and other military funding, were up \$4.6 billion from calendar 1971. Total 1972 Congressional appropriations came to \$216.2 billion, up \$25.7 billion. The \$216.2 billion includes regular Fiscal 1973 appropriations bills and four supplemental bills for Fiscal 1972. The FCNL analysis shows that current military activities took up 38.4 percent of Congressional spending last calendar year, while Veterans and the National Debt (which is at least 75 percent war created) brought the total military and war-related spending to 55.5 percent. The 21.7 percent for human needs at home includes welfare, housing, education, health, environmental activities and disaster relief. (From Newsletter, March 27, 1973, of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C. 2002.)

Portland hotels filled; SBC seeks homes for messengers

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP) — With almost every available hotel and motel in Portland filled to capacity during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention slated here June 12-14, the local arrangements committee is organizing to place those without a place to stay in private homes.

Already, hotels and motels have confirmed reservations for 11,560 persons planning to attend the convention, according to Dan C. Stringer, executive secretary of the Northwest Baptist Convention and chairman of local arrangements for the convention.

Stringer estimated that an additional 1,000 hotel-motel reservations had been made direct without going through the convention housing bureau, and that an additional 200 to 300 rooms had been reserved in cities 50 to 60 miles away.

Stringer said that the committee hopes to make arrangements to handle as many as 500 to 1,000 persons in private homes.

Roland Hood, former executive secretary of the convention now serving as interim superintendent of missions for the Interstate Baptist Association in Portland, is chairman of the special committee coordinating housing of messengers in private homes.

As of April 1, Stringer estimated that about 1,000 to 1,500 persons with friends in the Portland area already had made

plans to stay in private homes rather than in hotels or motels.

Stringer said that there might be a few hotel or motel rooms available just before the convention begins when and if some who are planning to attend cancel their reservations, but as of April 1, virtually all of the 5,300 hotel-motel rooms available in Portland have been reserved.

He attributed the large number of reservations to the unusual number of families making plans to attend the convention this year, and to the fact that most of the hotels in Portland are small compared to some other major convention cities in the nation.

There also are a large number of charter flights, most of them with block reservations for rooms, scheduled during the Portland convention, he pointed out.

Stringer urged those who plan to attend the convention, but who do not yet have accommodations, write to either himself or to Hood, and indicate if they would be willing to stay in a private home. If a preference for a hotel or motel is indicated, that request will be honored if any rooms do become available through cancellation, Stringer said.

Stringer and Hood can be contacted at the Baptist Building, 811 N.W. 20th Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209.

Pennsylvania allowed to pay unconstitutional contracts

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-3 decision, refused to halt payment of \$24 million to Pennsylvania's parochial schools for secular services rendered before the practice was declared unconstitutional.

The court considered the problem arising from enforcement of a state statute during the period before it had been declared unconstitutional.

This new decision by the Supreme Court was an aftermath of its decision in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* handed down on June 28, 1971. At that time the court ruled unconstitutional a Pennsylvania law that provided state funds for parochial schools with purchase-of-service contracts to provide teachers, textbooks and instructional materials for mathematics, modern foreign language, physical science and physical education courses.

In the new *Lemon v. Kurtzman* case, the Supreme Court affirmed a Pennsylvania district court decision

which forbade the state from making payments to the parochial schools after the June 28, 1971, date but which permitted the state to reimburse the schools for services performed before that date.

Joining in the majority decision were Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justices Harry A. Blackmun, Lewis F. Powell, William H. Rehnquist and Byron R. White.

Dissenting were Associate Justices William O. Douglas, William J. Brennan, and Potter Stewart, Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall took no part in the case.

In making its new decision the Supreme Court made it clear that it was in no way backing down on its original decision concerning the unconstitutionality of the Pennsylvania law that allowed the state to enter into contracts with parochial schools for secular educational services.

Bible conference has record attendance

MEMPHIS (BP) — More than 4,000 persons from 22 states gathered recently in Memphis to attend the Mid-America Bible Conference at Bellevue Church.

It was one of the largest groups ever to attend a Bible conference sponsored by the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

A. V. Washburn, secretary of the board's Sunday school department said the conference "was in many respects the most successful of any held thus far. The enthusiastic response of the people is eloquent testimony to the widespread hunger for purposeful Bible study."

The program included four evening messages on "the spirit filled life" to adults and youth respectively by Jack R. Taylor, pastor of Castle Hills Church, San Antonio, and James B. Henry, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Taylor, author of the books *The Key to Triumphant Living* and *Much More*, told the crowd that anyone can be "filled with the Holy Spirit of God. This is not for an elite few. It will begin in your city, state and home only when it begins in you," he said.

"The abundant life — that's what we call it," Henry told the 600 youth attending the conference. "The Holy Spirit brings out the potential and power for you to live victoriously in your kind of world," Henry said.

Selected choirs presented special music for worship services each night during the conference.

One highlight of the conference came when a 90-voice choir from First Church, Bossier City, La., brought the special music preceding Taylor's sermon.

After the message the choir was scheduled to give a 20-minute concert for anyone desiring to remain. Nearly 1,000 people stayed for the concert and would not allow the choir to stop singing until after 10 p.m., following a 45-minute performance.

"More About Jesus," one of the selections featuring Bob McConnell, director of the choir, as soloist, was sung three times upon demand of the audience.

Choir and congregation closed the service in unison after the concert by singing "Sweet, Sweet Spirit," and reciting the Lord's Prayer as the benediction.

Seventeen individual conferences were offered to participants, taught by pastors, seminary professors, church staff members and Sunday School Board personnel.

Response to the conference was excellent, according to Washburn. One pastor called it "the most

Evaluation, study, done by Mideast missionaries

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP) — Increasing financial pressures brought about by dollar devaluation and spiraling costs have forced institutionally-oriented missions in the Middle East to consider alternate projects, reported Baptist representatives meeting here.

Representatives from seven missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries) in the Middle East met for an intensive, critical analysis of Baptist work in the area.

Missionaries said the dollar squeeze has forced them to curtail local staffing to a dangerously low level and even to consider phasing out some institutions.

The group reported that their organizations, with the exception of those in India and Bangladesh, prefer an increase in finances for existing work over an increase in new missionaries if both are not available.

The missionaries also said they "strongly recommend that select missionaries be permitted to work in government institutions where broader segments of the host population can be contacted.

Other conclusions and observations reached were:

1. Baptist mission work would profit from both individual and unified strategy of mission, particularly to Islam.

2. While recognizing the value of missionary "presence," positive steps toward witness and service ought to be taken wherever possible.

3. The development and training of national leadership must be given top priority in the immediate future.

They also asked that a special study be done on effective evangelical confrontation with Islam, and that an improved orientation program be set up for new missionary personnel which would include language, culture,

rewarding venture of my life," and said he could not compare the experience to any previous one. "For more than 15 years I have attended conferences, seminars, and conventions, but this has been the greatest," the pastor told Washburn.

Clarence Heneisen, music director from Frazier Church spoke with excitement about the conference. "Already you can see the effect," he said, "you can feel the Holy Spirit working in the services."

"Bible conferences such as this one are a vital part of the Bible teaching program and will continue to be strongly promoted by the Sunday School

anthropology and religions — mainly Hindu and Islam.

"The conference provided the first opportunity for Middle East missions to conceive of themselves as a 'team-in-mission' rather than isolated groups at work in individual countries," said William W. Marshall, Southern Baptist missionary field representative for the Middle East who planned and led the conference.

The conference process was a 14-hour-per-day immersion with an interchange of critiques. Over 80 percent of the missionaries from the area had submitted for oral reading more than 120 individual missionary critiques as well as separate critiques of all projects and institutions.

Bombs rocked the city late one night, a reminder that the political instability of the entire Middle East touches even the non-semitic countries.

Though continuing and perhaps increasing hostility will prevail in many host countries, there was present a realistic optimism, Marshall said, that some kind of spiritual breakthrough in the Middle East is imminent.

Southern Baptists, relative newcomers to the area, represent the largest evangelical presence there, excluding India and Bangladesh. In Yemen and Gaza, Baptists are the only American evangelicals present.

John D. Hughey, SBC Foreign Mission Board secretary for Europe and the Middle East, commenting on the success of the strategy conference in Cyprus, said: "It was one of the best things that has happened in the Middle East. I agree that we have never had such good source materials for consideration of strategy or such practical, down-to-earth discussions of our work in the area."

department," Washburn concluded. "I am confident that this will help churches carry out their mission more fully."



Think Cooperative Program!
LIFELINE TO WORLD MISSIONS

Redemption through the resurrection

Billy G. Kimbrough

Pastor, First Church of Gravel Ridge, N.L.R.

Uniform Series

April 22, 1973

I Cor. 15:20-28, 51-57



Kimbrough

Christianity is a farce. It is a mockery and pretense, mixed with illusion. The Christian religion is all of this and much more, if Christ be not resurrected from the dead. The apostle Paul states as much in vv. 12-19.

It is evident from v. 12, that the im-

portant doctrine of the resurrection of the dead had been denied at Corinth. (Not necessarily the resurrection of Christ but those who died.)

This error had obtained a foothold in the church. On what grounds, or by what party it is unknown. It may have been the influence of some Sadducean teacher that led to the rejection of the doctrine; or it may have been the influence of philosophy.

It makes little difference where the error originated; the apostle Paul set about to correct it.

The affirmation of the resurrection (vv. 20-23)

Paul listed some of the consequences that would have happened if Christ had not been raised from the dead. But he quickly turned from the note of despair to the assuring fact that Christ had been raised from the grave.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead. . ." This is language bursting forth from a heart full of overpowering conviction. It would seem as if Paul were impatient of the slow process of argument. He was weary of meeting objections and of stating the consequences of a denial of the doctrine. Rather, he longed to give utterance to what he knew — that Christ was risen from the dead. He had no misgivings on that point. Certainty of a resurrected Lord filled his spirit, soul and body.

Christ's resurrection was only the beginning of much that was to follow. It was the earnest of the resurrection of all those who have fallen asleep in Christ. The figure used here is taken from the Old Testament (cf. Exodus 34:22.)

The "first-fruits" refers to the sheaf of ripe grain plucked by the Israelites at harvest time and taken to the priests to be offered to the Lord. Not only was this an act of gratitude to God on the part of each Israelite, but it was also recognized as a pledge that the harvest was soon to follow.

With this thought the apostle spoke of Christ as the sheaf of grain, "the first-fruits," His resurrection being the pledge that all of those who have died as believers in Christ would come forth from the graves. God has given us the assurance of the believer's resurrection in the person of Jesus Christ. Because He arose from the dead, all who have trusted in His redeeming grace will be raised from the dead.

It was a man (Adam) who put us in the grave, but it is also by a man (Christ Jesus) that we will be taken from the grave.

By Adam, or by means of his transgression (v. 22) all men are subjected to temporal death. Man would not have died had it not been for the crime of the first man, Adam.

As Adam was the representative man who provided death, God sent another, the God-Man, Christ Jesus, who provided life. Everyone born into this world is born into the family of Adam. Those who are born again become members of the family of God and heirs of eternal life. This is true because of the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

This resurrection will have order. (v. 23) The word "order" is a military expression. Christ would be first in time and rank. He was first in rank, in dignity, and in honor. He is the leader of all others and their resurrection depends on His.

The consummation of the resurrection (vv. 24-28)

The meaning of the phrase "Then cometh the end" has merited differences of opinion. The obvious meaning of the phrase is that this shall be the end or completion of the work of redemption. The believer shall be freely redeemed from sin, death, and the grave. Redemption will be completed for those who have believed on Christ.

At that time the mediatorial work of Christ will be completed and He will render back to God that office or authority which He has received. (v. 24) This is not to say that all the power and authority He holds will be surrendered. It will be that power which He possessed as Mediator. It would seem that whatever part He shared as Divine before the incarnation, He will still share, with the additional glory and honor of having redeemed a lost world through His death and resurrection. The mediatorial

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kingdom, as such shall no longer be continued, and power shall be exercised by God as God. (v. 28) (Compare Phil. 2:6)

The transformation of the resurrection (vv. 51-57)

We come to Paul's concluding thoughts on the resurrection as set forth in this chapter. He had treated quite well the subject of the saints who had died and their relationship to their resurrection. But what about those believers who are still living at the return of Christ? Paul answers the question.

In our present state we would not be prepared to live with our Lord and the resurrected saints. (v. 50) Therefore, all believers will be changed at the return of Christ, both the saints in the graves and those who are still alive. Both will be given bodies which will not be subject to the laws of this present life, but glorified bodies, like unto our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 3:2)

Sin, death and the grave will lose any victory they may now hold. They will be powerless. Their present marching demonstrations will be "swallowed up in victory." Morticians, grave diggers and cemeteries will need the following sign, "Gone out of business — forever."

Concluding thoughts

One of the traditions the English like to pass on to those who visit the old cathedral at Winchester, is how the news of the Battle of Waterloo was received. The news, they say, was carried by slow sailboat to the south coast of England and then caught up by signal flags and wigwagged across the country to London. When the message reached Winchester, the signal man on top of the cathedral began to spell out the message, 'Wellington — defeated' — and then the fogs closed in, hiding the signal from view. The message, incomplete, went to London and the whole country was bowed in mourning. Wellington defeated! But after a while the fogs lifted, and the messenger on the cathedral was continuing to give out his message, "Wellington defeated the enemy;" and there was rejoicing all over the country. They had made their decision too quickly. They had not waited for the complete message. The cross was like that story. The cross was sadness, darkness and failure for the followers of Christ Jesus. They left in despair. They didn't wait long enough to receive the whole

(Continued on page 22)

Lord over death

By James B. Johnson

Minister of Education, First Church, Pine Bluff



Johnson

Easter Sunday, 1973. What a glorious feeling the Christian should experience as he thinks of the full meaning of Easter! To consider the grave and what lies beyond it — these thoughts can only be joyous and triumphant — for "Christ is risen." And, because he lives, we shall live also.

The lesson study for today begins a new unit with the title "Living Under the Lordship of Christ." Because Christ conquered death, the Christian has eternal hope.

I Corinthians 15 is a great masterpiece of literature. Paul found it necessary to write of the doctrine of resurrection of Christ. There were those in Corinth who did not believe that ordinary men would be resurrected (v. 12.) Paul's writing was prompted by the ridicule and contempt which many at Corinth (and Athens) had for this important doctrine of resurrection.

Basic facts of the Christian gospel (I Cor. 15:1-5)

Notice that Paul begins our lesson today in chapter 15 by stating the facts which constitute the gospel. Some interesting ideas are embodied in his statement "Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures." Not only did our Lord suffer, he actually died — and for our sins. It was a vicarious death. Both the Old and the New Testaments foretold this kind of death.

Paul goes on to mention the other vital facts about the gospel: Christ was buried, he was raised to life on the third day, and when he was raised, he was visible to men.

Christ appeared unto men (I Cor. 15:5-7)

It is interesting to note that Paul names the people who actually saw Jesus after his resurrection. Christ appeared to Peter (see Luke 24:34; Mark 16:7; and John 21:1-23.) He appeared to the twelve disciples (see Matt. 28: 16-20.) Then, Paul states that Christ appeared to more than five hundred people at one time (v. 6.) He also appeared to his brother, James, who became a leader in the church at Jerusalem. Paul writes that the Lord appeared to him,

too. What a convincing array of witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Nothingness, if Christ be not risen (I Cor. 15:14-19)

Paul conveyed in a meaningful way the position that the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead is the very root and foundation of Christianity. Note the bleak, discouraging realities (which Paul lists) if there is no resurrection of the dead: (1) Christ is not risen, (2) all preaching is vain, (3) all faith in the preaching is vain, (4) all apostles are false witnesses, (5) all are still in their sins, (6) all who have died are perished, and (7) nothing but misery remains.

In verse 19, Paul emphasizes the pitiful state of the person who believes that man's hope is only good for this life, with everything ending at death. He conveys the idea that such a person deserves more pity than anyone.

It was for argument and for emphasis that Paul wrote of conditions that surround us if there be no resurrection. In a convincing manner, he destroys the case of any who doubted the resurrection.

Victory in Christ's resurrection (I Cor. 15:20)

In verse 20, Paul's words are like the brilliant sunshine after the dark of gloom. He declares, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." Death is not the victor. Christ has been raised! Our faith is real, and happiness is shed abroad in the hearts of men.

It should be pointed out that the word "first fruits" referred to the first sheaf of grain which was brought to the Lord (Lev. 23:10.) It was proof of the harvest to come. Christ was the first to come forth permanently from the tomb. Some day the throngs will come forth also.

Christ removed the sting of death (I Cor. 15:55-57)

Where can Christians find more glorious and comforting words than those of Paul in this passage? They have brought surging hope, comfort, and peace to thousands of people. They are simple words encased in powerful

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Life and Work

April 22, 1973

I Cor. 15:1-7,
14-19, 55-57

beauty and marvelous truth. "Death is swallowed up in victory." Paul's song is one of real triumph. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" The believer in Christ is the winner. A brief separation from loved ones may cause some anxiety, but the knowledge that death is the door into a life eternal with Christ outweighs all fear and anxiety.

In verse 54, Paul quotes Isaiah 25:8, "Death is swallowed up in victory." In verse 55 he quotes Hosea 13:14. Death's defeat is made final and absolute in these two verses.

Paul establishes the certainty of resurrection. When Christ returns, he will allow individual identity. Christians, living and dead, will be given spiritual bodies that are suitable for the presence of God.

What talents or gifts will you use this week to encourage unsaved people to place their trust in the one who has overcome death and the grave?

Should we not carefully examine the meaning of the resurrection of Christ as it relates to our own salvation and hope for life after death?

The Christian can know that the thing which makes life so difficult and tragic is sin. For the believer, the fear and sting of death is forever removed. The power of God through Christ goes on giving us victory over sin each day, and will finally give victory over death (v. 57.)

Job asked, "If a man die, will he live again?" The answer is a resounding "yes!" Absolutely! Love's redeeming work has been accomplished. Christ has been raised. He lives today. And, because he lives, we shall continue to live also.

Hallelujah!

Uniform lesson

(From page 21)

message. Easter morning came and it was not Jesus Christ defeated! But Jesus Christ defeated the enemy. This is the good news we have to share with the world this Easter morning. He is not dead and buried but has arisen and is now alive.

That is the message of the resurrection and that is what Easter is all about!

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A smile or two

A frustrated English motorist had been trying to pass a truck for many miles. Every time he tried to go around, the truck driver increased his speed or swerved toward the middle of the road. Finally, at a stop sign, the motorist pulled alongside the truck driver's window. "Well?" growled the truck driver, glaring viciously. "Nothing important," was the motorist's reply. "I know what you are. I merely wanted to see what one looked like."

* * *

Jim Boyd, public relations man for the Indiana Dep't. of Transportation, has added this new motto to the dept.'s stationary: "The shortest distance between two points is under construction."

* * *

A tourist spending the night in a small northeastern town joined several natives sitting on the porch of a general store. After several futile attempts to start a conversation, he finally asked, "Is there a law against talking in this town?"

"No law against it," answered one of the men. "But there's an understanding no one's to speak unless he is sure he can improve on the silence."

* * *

A modern employer is one who is looking for men between the ages of 25 and 30, with 40 years' experience.

Attendance report

April 8, 1973

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Ch. Adms.
Alexander, First	69	45	1
Alicia	40	34	
Alma, First	396	104	
Alpena	83	30	
Banner, Mt. Zion	37	11	
Beirne, First	59	35	
Berryville, First	173	53	
Blytheville, Gosnell	232	103	
Booneville, First	277	249	3
Cabot, Mt. Carmel	220	75	2
Camden, First	534	61	3
Cherokee Village Mission	131	40	
Conway, Second	363	104	
Crossett			
First	573	143	3
Magnolia	223	172	1
Mt. Olive	346	203	2
Dermott, Temple	120	66	
Des Arc, First	196	92	1
El Dorado, Caledonia	39	20	
Forrest City			
First	821	187	11
Second	166	79	
Ft. Smith			
First	1239	283	11
Haven Heights	291	115	2
Trinity	201	61	
Gentry, First	160	54	
Grandview	85	55	1
Greenwood, First	289	91	1
Greers Ferry, Westside	89	41	
Hampton, First	125	33	
Harrisburg, Bethel	28	28	1
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	297	97	4
Woodland Heights	92	47	
Helena, First	285	84	3
Hope			
Calvary	178	104	1
First	518	139	3
Hot Springs			
Grand Avenue	227	124	3
Leonard Street	68	55	1
Park Place	406	146	4
Piney	230	89	
Vista Heights	105	66	1
Hughes, First	236	60	
Jacksonville			
First	400	49	2
Marshall Road	326	127	2
Jonesboro			
Central	846	167	2
Nettleton	278	132	
Lake Village, Parkway	67	24	
Lavaca, First	299	118	
Lincoln, First	219	84	
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	156	71	
Geyer Springs	730	234	
Life Line	665	101	
Martindale	115	56	
Woodlawn	121	48	
Mablevale, Shannon Hills	101	53	5
Magnolia, Central	619	214	
Melbourne, Belview	184	67	1
Monticello, Second	230	68	1
North Little Rock			
Baring Cross	580	157	6
Calvary	433	139	7
Grace	83	43	
Gravel Ridge	212	85	4
Levy	467	75	7
Park Hill	716	149	5
Paragould			
Center Hill	175	114	3
East Side	243	95	2
Paris, First	437	110	6
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	205	70	3
Dollarway	116	61	
East Side	108	218	4
First	682	215	
Green Meadows	51	26	
Second	174	58	
South Side	842	193	11
Prairie Grove, First	173	74	
Rogers, First	622	81	1
Roland, Natural Steps	82	60	2
Russellville			
Kelley Heights	46	20	
Second	214	91	3
Springdale			
Berry Street	107	59	1
Caudle Avenue	141	47	
First	958		5
Van Buren, First	536	208	
Mission	36		
Vandervoort, First	36	9	
Vimy Ridge, Immanuel	74	34	
Warren			
Immanuel	278	91	
West Side	70	39	
West Helena			
Second	214	93	
West Helena Church	268	56	
W. Memphis, Vanderbilt Ave.	121	61	
Wooster	99	79	



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Southern Baptist datelines

Brazilian pastor, Moyers, Chafin, Fletcher slated to address WMU

PORTLAND (BP) — A nationally-known commentator on the American scene and former White House press secretary, a flaming Brazilian evangelist-pastor, a missions executive and the anchor man of the new Baptist televangelism series will deliver major addresses at the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union annual meeting here June 10-11.

The WMU convention will meet here Sunday evening, June 10 through Monday evening, June 11, preceding the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14.

Major speakers for the women's meeting will be Bill Moyers, public affairs commentator for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS); Nilson do Amaral Fanini pastor of the First Church of Niteroi, Brazil; Jesse Fletcher, director of the Missions Support Division for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; and Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Church, Houston, and host for the television series, Spring Street USA.

Theme for the session will be "All Things Are Made New," according to Mrs. R. L. Mathis, of Waco, Tex., president of WMU. The theme points to the possibility for individuals to find new life, new attitudes, and fresh awareness in Christ, Mrs. Mathis said.

Moyers, former press secretary to President Lyndon B. Johnson and later publisher of *Newsday* in Garden City, N.Y., will address the convention on Monday evening, June 11, on the topic, "Listening to America 1973," a sequel to his best-selling book, *Listening to America*.

Chafin, former director of the Division of Evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board who currently is host on the television series sponsored by the mission agency, will be the keynote speaker for the opening session on Sunday night. Chafin's topic will be, "Making Things New Again."

The flaming Brazilian evangelist-pastor, Nilson Fanini, will be the lead speaker Monday morning. Fanini, pastor of the church in Niteroi across the bay from Rio de Janeiro, will tell Southern Baptists how their foreign mission efforts have taken root and are flourishing in Brazil.

In the major Monday afternoon address, Fletcher of the Foreign Mission Board will sketch the trends and challenges confronting foreign missions in an address on the topic, "As New as Tomorrow."

Immediately following the Sunday night service slated at the Memorial Coliseum, a reception will honor the Northwest Baptist Convention on its 25th anniversary. Portland area Southern Baptist churches will join the convention for their evening services.

The anniversary celebration, slated in the adjoining exhibit hall, will feature entertainment by the Spring Street Singers, a musical group starring in the television series *Spring Street USA*. Hosts for the celebration will be the WMU and SBC Home Mission Board, with June Whitlow, WMU Education Division Director, as coordinator.

In addition to Chafin's address during the Sunday evening program, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Goad, newly appointed missionaries en route to Vietnam, will speak, along with several home missionaries.

In the first of four presentations on language missions in the west, Oscar Romo, language missions secretary for the Home Mission Board, will present four home missions workers for testimonies.

They are Joe Vasques, now of San Francisco, Calif., who developed ministries among Spanish-speaking people in Portland; Fanny and Christine Toledo, young Indian singers from Gallup, N.M.; Willie Johnson, an Eskimo pastor in Anchorage, Alaska; and David Saludez, staff member of the Kalihi Church in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In addition, on Sunday evening, "Ministry 73," a group of singers from Southern Seminary, Louisville, will present a concert. The group is directed by Phillip Landgrave.

For three Monday sessions the WMU will move to Portland's Civic Auditorium. Session times will be 9:30, 2:00, and 7:30. Each session will begin with a theme meditation by Mrs. T. Marshall Collins, pastor's wife and WMU leader from Dothan, Ala.

A foreign missionary will speak each session with the topic, "There's a New World Coming." They are Marjorie Jones, Brazil, morning session; Mrs. Carlos Owens, Tanzania, afternoon; and Mrs. Charles Love, Guyana, evening.

The Home Mission Board will continue at each session to present representatives of its language missions work in today's west. Speakers and musicians will be backed up by multi-media introductions.

Home missions speakers in the morning session will be Irvin Dawson, of the board's language missions department; Harold Heiney, home missionary working with Indians at Wounded Knee, S.C.; Mrs. Irene Stark, leader in work with the deaf in Renton, Washington; Mrs. Huron Polnac, home missionary in Boise, Idaho; and Mrs. Fern Powers, who works with international seamen in Olympia, Wash.

Home missions representatives in the afternoon session will be Chinese Baptists from California. The evening home missions presentation will be totally electronic.

Alma Hunt of Birmingham, executive secretary of WMU, will speak Monday afternoon on "Lifting the Veil of Yemen." She will report on her recent travels among missionaries in the Middle East.

Mrs. Mathis, who serves as president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance as well as WMU president, will speak Monday evening. Her address will report on a tour among Baptist women in Asia, including Vietnam. Her topic will be "Rising from War Ashes."

A multi-media panel report Monday morning will announce plans for and progress on Giant Step, WMU's enlistment-enlargement campaign. Panel participants will be Mrs. I. W. Bowen, III, Forsyth, Ga., president of Georgia WMU; Mrs. Hughes Scherff, Clarksburg, Mo.; president of Missouri WMU; Mrs. Gilmer Cross, Lexington, N.C. president of North Carolina WMU and Mrs. Lee N. Allen, Birmingham, public relations director for the WMU.

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