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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

10-4-1984

October 4, 1984

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Preparing for 1984
annual meeting:
Preview begins on page 7



October 4, 1984
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

On the cover



ABN photo/Mike Gill

Several thousand Arkansas Baptists will soon be travelling to Fort Smith for the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Before they pack up and go they need to exercise their Christian responsibility to vote, since the meeting opens on Nov. 6, election day.

In this issue

7 convention preview

Business and inspiration at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and auxiliary meetings is listed in a special section this week. Times, places and people are included, and business to be presented is explained.

17 Vatican link contested

Fifteen church bodies have joined in a suit over the establishment of U.S. relations with the Vatican. Southern Baptists, however, are not among them. Despite a 1984 annual meeting motion urging legal action, a subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee recommended delay.

1985 church insurances rates to decrease

Insurances rates for Arkansas Baptist ministers and church employees will decrease next year.

Effective Jan. 1, 1985, life and disability insurance premiums will be reduced for persons in the Annuity Board's Church Insurance Program. Annuity Secretary James Walker said the term life rates will decrease 13 percent and the disability plan rates will be reduced by five percent.

There will be no increase in medical rates, and premiums for persons eligible for Medicare will decrease 10 percent. Walker noted "initial out-of-pocket expense" for a family will drop from \$600 to \$400 per year, while the individual deductible will not change.

He said that, even though medical inflation rates continue to rise, church rates are stabilizing due to "sound administrative practices and cost containment measures taken by the board in the last two years." Walker said that one of the most successful measures of controlling rate hikes was the replacement of "first-dollar coverage" with a deductible feature.

He also noted that "Arkansas Baptist ministers and church employees have been instrumental in helping us contain medical costs." He said that persons in the program were more selective in seeking medical care which has been a significant factor in the 1985 reductions.

October designated Peace month in state

October has been designated Peace Month in Arkansas, and an Arkansas group, named Peace Links has issued a call to state churches, synagogues, schools and clubs to hold activities calling attention to peace issues. Sunday, Oct. 7, has been designated

Peace Sunday.

The group has speakers, films, videotapes, children's workbooks and other resources available. Arrangements for these may be made by calling the Peace Links office in Little Rock at 372-0903.

To encourage attendance

Bivocational, terminated pastors offered housing

Arrangements are being made to encourage pastors without convention expense allowances to attend the Arkansas Baptist State Convention 1984 annual meeting.

Such pastors—bivocational, small church or terminated—may register for free housing with Baptist families in Fort Smith during the Nov. 5-7 meeting, which will be held at Grand Avenue Church.

The invitation, extended by the ABSC

Hospitality Committee, will provide room and breakfast for three days in order to allow them to attend the Pastors' Conference and all sessions of the annual meeting. It includes the pastors' wives, but not their children.

Registration and assignments will be handled through the ABSC Hospitality Committee, Ferrell Morgan, chairman, at 1321 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901. The form below may be used for registration.

Room request: 1984 ABSC annual meeting

Hospitality Committee
1321 Dodson Ave.
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Name: _____

(Include wife's name if she is coming with you)

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Age: _____

Church: _____

Association: _____

Director of Missions: _____

Arrival time: _____

Departure time: _____

Expecting an outstanding convention

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The 1984 session of the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will consider many important and far-reaching matters. At this time, we know of no item of controversy to come before the convention. The greatest benefit will be derived for our mission programs and evangelistic outreach, if unity, harmony and Christian love prevail.

Among the important items of business to be considered are the adoption of an \$11.48 million budget, a proposal on Planned Growth in Giving and a recommendation on the Church Annuity Plan. In each instance, we urge messengers to inform themselves prior to the convention. If the explanations found in this issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* are not adequate, one should seek additional information from the appropriate sources.

Jon Stubblefield and the Program Committee are to be commended for providing an outstanding inspirational program. Everyone will want to hear Joel Gregory, professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Baker James Cauthen, past president of the Foreign Mission Board. Arkansas speakers will include Executive Secretary Don Moore, President Jon Stubblefield, and the annual sermon by John Holston, pastor of First Church, Nashville.

The passage of the budget by the state convention is usually automatic. This year's budget should be no exception, since there are no new controversial proposals, and the present increase of only three percent is below the inflation rate. Yet, the budget of our convention is significant, in that it represents the continuation of the Lord's work in our state and around the world. It, also, continues the increase to world missions by three-fourths of one percent.

A second proposal to be considered at the 1984 convention is "Planned Growth in Giving." This program is designed to forward every facet of our work by maturing our church members in Christian stewardship. It is evident that the Bold Mission Thrust, our effort to carry the gospel to every person on the earth by the year 2000, is lagging far behind schedule. We are behind, primarily, because individuals and churches are not providing the necessary funds.

Stewardship starts with the church members. If the members don't give, the church can't do all that God expects in the community, the association and around the world through the Cooperative Program.

Most of the state conventions are running well behind in Cooperative Program receipts. Yet, most are continuing to increase their percentage of giving to the SBC Cooperative Program. Arkan-

sas is one of the leading states by increasing gifts by three-fourths of one percent to the SBC Cooperative Program each year. It is obvious that the state conventions cannot continue to increase their gifts to world missions, in the face of substantial deficits.

Planned Growth in Giving is a 15-year program, in which every church member is to be challenged to increase his percentage of giving to his church annually. For example, a number of Southern Baptist leaders have already pledged to increase their giving by one-half of one percent each year. Because these people are already tithing, they will be giving 17.5 percent by the year 2000. Those who are not tithing will be encouraged to increase their percentage of giving annually, so they, also, will be giving a worthy amount to the Lord's work. The percentage of increase is to be a family decision, after Bible study and prayer.

An individual only matures in the Lord, as he recognizes his stewardship responsibility and gives a worthy amount to his church. Churches are only mature in the Lord as they support local, state and world missions. Planned Growth in Giving provides opportunity to strengthen the individual Christian, the church, the association, the state and the SBC.

A final Executive Board proposal to the convention is designed to increase the annuity benefits for church annuity recipients. This plan will become effective on January 1, 1988, if adopted, and will double the contributions given by the State Convention in behalf of ministerial staff. The purpose of the change is to increase the retirement benefits so retirement income will meet the needs in today's economy.

This year's convention promises to be an outstanding event for several reasons. There is the excellent preparation that has been made by Convention President Jon Stubblefield, Executive Board President Jerry Wilson and the convention leaders.

We can expect a well-run convention, due to the capability of Dr. Stubblefield, who we believe, will preside fairly, smoothly and with a Christian spirit. Effective presiding can often set the tempo for the whole convention.

Finally, we anticipate a fine convention because of the excellent leadership provided by Executive Secretary Don Moore. His openness, honesty and keen insight into the needs of local churches are among the qualities that have enabled him to provide a sense of direction for Arkansas Baptists.

Our convention should set the stage for 1985 to be a great year of victory for the Master. As Arkansas Baptists maintain a spirit of Christian love and depend on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, our success is assured.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 83

NUMBER 38

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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Tommy Robinson, El Dorado, president; Mrs. J. W. L. Adams Jr., Texarkana; Charles Chesser, Carlisle; Lonnie Gibbons, North Little Rock; Lory French, Fort Smith; Mrs. Jimmie Garner, Truman; Merle Milligan, Harrison; Hon. Elaine Roy, Little Rock; and Lane Strother, Mountain Home.

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

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form, when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Woman's viewpoint

Janet Hamm Williams

More than just a card

Rows and rows of clever thank-you cards line the greeting card racks in many stores. Some shoppers are looking for a way to express a deep feeling of gratitude for a kind deed. Others may be looking for a quick and easy way to fulfill an obligation to acknowledge a courtesy. Regardless of the shopper's purpose, the design on the front of the card or the price tag may influence the purchase more than the words printed inside. At least, the cards stand in their display reminding us of "going back" to say "thank you."

Although I enjoy sending and receiving the lovely thank-you cards, I sometimes feel an emptiness from the manufactured message. Finding a way to personalize the "thank you" can be a challenge and a blessing to both the giver and the receiver. Taking time to write a brief comment before signing the purchased card adds an extra dimension to the message.

My favorite thank-you cards have been those created by children with crayon in-

scriptions such as "I love you". The personal touch makes the message a commemorative of a treasured moment.

"Thanks for caring!" inscribed on a paper bag containing a few homebaked cookies may be a more profound expression of gratitude than an impressive card. Each occasion calls upon us to take time for the individual, just as Jesus did as he related to persons.

Whether in a formal note, a telephone call or another creative expression of gratitude, let us take time to "go back" as the healed leper did. Jesus emphasized the effort of the man who came back: "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" (Luke 17:17 KJV).

Janet Hamm Williams, a native of Batesville, is a graduate of Baylor University and has graduate hours from Southwestern Seminary. A mother of three, she is director of childhood education at Calvary Church, Little Rock.

New lesson writers begin

Two new writers begin this week with the International and Life and Work series Sunday school lessons in "Lessons for living."

Dennis Smith, minister of education and administration for First Church, Camden, begins writing the International lesson commentaries this week. Smith, a native of Illinois, is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Illinois and Kentucky.

Billy White, pastor of Second Church, Little Rock, begins writing the Life and Work lesson commentaries. White, a Missouri native, is a graduate of William Jewell College and holds the doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has ministered in churches in Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.



Smith



White



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Do good fences make good neighbors?

"Good fences make good neighbors," or so Robert Frost said in his poem, "Mending Wall." I had a lot of time to think about that recently while attending some Baptist World Alliance meetings in West Berlin. It was my first trip to Germany and my first chance to see the infamous Berlin Wall. After 10 days of seeing and feeling the ugliness of that wall, both physically and emotionally, I still can't decide whether good fences make good neighbors.

The Berlin Wall is certainly a "good fence," if by "good" is meant strong and well-guarded. We heard rumors of one or two deaths during escape efforts from East to West before we arrived and heard of one other death just two days before we left the city. A museum across the street from "Checkpoint Charlie," one of the exchange points in the Berlin Wall, has an abundance of mementos and photographs of attempts to escape, some successful, some unsuccessful. In balance, the museum paints the

Berlin Wall as a horrible violation of human rights and as stark testimony to the continued presence of sin in the world.

According to Western statistics, 4,875 persons have escaped over the wall since it was built in 1961, but most of them were in the early years before it was so heavily fortified. An estimated 3,000 attempted escapes ended in failure and 72 were killed trying to escape. A small group of people were camping out in tents in a hunger strike at Checkpoint Charlie while we were there, protesting the inability of family members in East Germany to join them in the West.

It can be argued that the wall was and is the only practical way to keep the peace between the East and West — not so much between East Germany and West Germany, as between the Soviet Union and the United States. There was a time when both the Soviet Union and the United States were so fearful of a united Germany, particularly in the early years, that the division of Germany,

complete with a wall, was the only way to provide reasonable peace of mind and security for both the East and West. In that sense, it might be said that a good fence has kept neighbors from going to war.

There is another sense in which it is a good wall. It has dramatized to the entire world, probably more than any other single thing since World War II, that communism cannot survive the competition from free enterprise when the two coexist openly side by side. The freedom and prosperity of the West Germans, in full view of the more restricted and austerity-minded East Germans, are clearly embarrassing to the communists.

Robert Frost also said, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall." This particular wall stands in mute and ugly testimony against the system that ignores God and individual freedom.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Brazil is calling.

"Come over and help us." We now have 70 requests for Arkansas people to come to the Amazon region to help with special mission projects. Numbered in these are nearly 40 locations where we are being asked to help start new churches. Can you imagine how exciting and rewarding it will be to be involved in something like this? It isn't simple, but it is possible!

May God give us grace to follow him in answering the call and providing the resources to help our brethren in this great land. Requests will be listed from time to time in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Please respond as you feel led of God by contacting Glendon Grober at 376-4791. Brochures are now available that will give basic information on such a venture.

... Fall is calling. "Come out into my beauty." These cooler days and balmy nights draw me like a magnet. The air, the streams, the trees and wildlife activity all seem more appealing. I love it! Best of all, I like what happens in our churches as we sort of "get it all together" again. Summer fragments us, fall unites us. I love it! To hear of great attendance, conversions and renewed spirit in our leadership is most encouraging.

Fall is harvest time, too. You know, we have harvested all we will harvest of souls in the church year just closing. As you review and study what you have done, I hope you find the results gratifying. If not, I pray God will give you a concern to plan immediately to do things differently and better next year that he may use you to reach more people for him.

Fall is a time we can start over again. I love it! There are a number of ways we, your helpers, might assist you in outreach. Let us know of your desire to be more effective in reaching the lost. We will help every way we can.

... Duty is calling. "Be faithful." Whatever shortage of talents, gifts or abilities you feel you have, faithfulness in what you can do will offset them. You can't be everything, but you can be faithful.

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



Extending churches: first in a series Missions at our door

by Floyd Tidsworth

He was from Michigan and had been retired in Arkansas for seven years. He likes Arkansas. No, he is not active in any church.

This man with whom I spoke in a service station is a part of the 362,191 increase in the Arkansas population between 1970 and 1980 (19 percent). More than 14 percent of the total population of Arkansas is over 65 years of age. Thirty percent or 674,573 of our total population was born outside of Arkansas.

Many people from another state are almost literally standing on the doorsteps of Southern Baptist churches. What an opportunity to minister to unchurched people who need a loving fellowship.

How are we doing as Southern Baptists in Arkansas? Our problem is that, while the population was growing by 362,191 people, Southern Baptist churches grew by 62,128 members. The number of unchurched went from 864,262 to 1,001,413 people. In 1980 155,176 more people were unchurched in Arkansas than 10 years earlier.

The out-of-staters who came to Arkansas are certainly not "heathen" in the sense of having never heard the gospel. But one of our dual Bold Mission Thrust goals is to "Give every person the opportunity to share in the ministry and fellowship of a New Testament body of believers.

If we are to reach that goal in Arkansas

we must drastically accelerate the rate at which we are reaching people in our churches. What portion of those people should Southern Baptists expect themselves to be responsible to reach?

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist convention has discovered that, although percentages vary with local conditions, the Southern Baptist church can reach 20 percent of the unchurched population of its field. That is the general figure the Loans Division uses in projecting the potential of a new church.

It is interesting that Southern Baptists' total membership in Arkansas is about 20 percent of the population.

It would seem reasonable then, that Southern Baptists should be responsible for at least 20 percent of the unchurched. That amounts to 200,283 people. To reach that many people, 589 new churches would be needed. That would leave the other 80 percent of the unchurched for present churches to reach.

The 200,283 people are the reachable unchurched for Southern Baptists. We can reach that many unchurched by starting new churches.

Floyd Tidsworth is director of church extension for the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

missionary notes

Annie Hoover, missionary to Japan, has arrived in the States for furlough (address c/o T. J. Cox, Box 433, Angleton, TX 77515). A native of North Little Rock, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Lee, missionaries to Indonesia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1915 N. Market St., Shawnee, OK 74801). He was born and grew up in Texas and New Mexico. The former Twila Turner, she was born in Texarkana. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Orr, missionaries to Colombia, have a change of furlough address (Rt. 1, Box 147, Midland, TX 79701). He is a native of Hot Springs. The former Violet Rogers, she was born in Helena, Okla. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1951.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron M. Remington, missionaries to Portugal, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Box 427, Cabool, MO 65689). He was born in Prairie Grove. She is the former Mary Unger of Elk

Creek, Mo. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1977.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy W. Sutton, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 94, Davao City, Philippines 9501). He was born in McGehee. She is the former Judith Blackburn of Baton Rouge, La. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Bryant, missionaries to Bangladesh, have a change of address (Baptist Mission, Box 7, Comilla, Bangladesh). Born in Harrison he also lived in Kansas and Illinois while growing up. The former Virginia Estes, she grew up in Omaha. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett A. Barnes, Baptist representatives to Lebanon, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 11-2026, Beirut, Lebanon). He is a native of Missouri. She is the former LaNell Taylor of Monette. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1966.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Jeffrey Looney has joined the staff of the Elliott Church at Camden as part-time music director and **Bobby Russell Jr.** has joined the staff as part-time youth director. Looney is a student in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Science in Little Rock. Russell is a student at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia.

Gilbert Nichols is serving as director of missions for Ouachita Association with offices in Mena. He and his wife, Deane, have served for 26 years as missionaries to Paraguay. They are parents of four children: Becky, a missionary in Austria; Amy of Arkadelphia; Jon, a Little Rock school teacher; and Susan, student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Nichols has served as a hospital administrator, executive secretary of the Paraguayan Baptist Convention and teacher and director of the Paraguayan Baptist Theological Institute. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

J. C. Myers has resigned as pastor of the First Church of North Little Rock.

Sharon Mangrum has joined the staff of Glenwood First Church as minister of music. Both she and her husband, Keith, are graduates of Ouachita Baptist University. She is a native of Hot Springs and is a music teacher in the Kirby School System. **John Howeth** has joined the staff as associate pastor. A native of Helena, Mont., he is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University. He will work with the youth and children's ministry. He and his wife, Rhonda, are living in Glenwood.

Sonny McBay has joined the staff of the Shiloh Church at Texarkana as music and youth director.

Bob Buice was honored Sept. 25 by the Arkansas 4-H Foundation with an appreciation day. A luncheon and the dedication of a swimming pool named in his honor at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale were included in the day's activities. Buice, a deacon, choir member and Sunday school worker in Little Rock Second Church, has served as a member of the 4-H Foundation board of directors since 1976.

J. Randall O'Brien has an article entitled "Suffering and Faith" in the fall issue of the *Theological Educator*. He is assistant

professor of religion at Ouachita Baptist University.

Maurice Hurley is serving as interim pastor of the North Little Rock First Church.

briefly

Pocahontas First Church dedicated an annex Sept. 9. Don Moore, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and John Colbert, director of missions for Current-Gains Association, were speakers. Mark Tolbert is pastor.

Meadowview Church at Sheridan dedicated a building program in a 2 p.m. service Sept. 30.

Rocky Mound Church at Fouke observed its 60th anniversary Sept. 23 by honoring Johnny Scoggins, one of the church's first clerks and deacons.

West Memphis Second Church will observe its 30th anniversary Oct. 7 with homecoming. Aubrey Halsell, a former pastor, will be speaker.

Elmdale Church at Springdale conducted "operation outreach" Sept. 16 with surveys and the distribution of 400 Bibles.

New Hope Church at Hardy has completed payment on a loan made for church improvements, including insulation and the installation of central heat and air conditioning.

South Side Church in Fort Smith held a commissioning service Sept. 23 for Jim and Mary Tielff who have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board for service in Finland. The Men's Fellowship met that morning for a breakfast at which Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, was speaker.

Paragould First Church held deacon ordination services Sept. 23 for Bill Pulliam and John Dickey.

El Dorado First Church held services Sept. 23 to ordain Don Echols, Rodney Landes Jr. and Donnie Williams as deacons.

Fouke First Church has enlarged its staff to include Deryl and Cathy Jones as youth directors and Lyndra Wakeland and Larry Romack as music directors.

Greenlee Memorial Church at Pine Bluff held services Sept. 30 to ordain Steve R. Cook to the ministry and Dwayne Monk and Robert Williams as deacons.



Photo by Charles Bowen

A carnival atmosphere prevailed when 50 children of Temple Church at Crossett registered for the 1984-85 choir year Sept. 11. Parents of the children planned the carnival that included popcorn, peanuts, balloons, a clown, games and a two-year-old baby elephant, provided by Larry Johnson. Charles Bowen, minister of music, will direct and coordinate choir activities.



A preview
Arkansas Baptist State Convention 1984
November 6-8
Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith

plus pre-convention and auxiliary meetings, housing information

Pre-convention meetings

Pastors' Conference

Grand Ave. Church, Ft. Smith

Monday afternoon

Nov. 5, 1984

1:45	Music	Ed Suddeth Jim Burlison
1:55	Praise, welcome, Scripture & prayer	James Bryant
2:05	Special music	
2:10	A Word from God	Zig Ziglar
2:35	Prayer and praise	William F. Howard
2:40	Special music	
2:45	A Word from God	Manley Beasley
2:50	Testimony	Ron Young
3:25	Prayer and praise	Rudy Davis
3:30	Special music	Richard Smith
3:35	A Word from God	Bill Stafford
4:00	Benediction	Oscar Golden

Monday evening

Nov. 5

6:30	Music	Adult Ensemble, Olivet
6:45	Praise, Scripture and prayer	Mike Huckabee
6:50	Special music	Adult Ensemble, Olivet
6:55	A Word from God	Mike Gilchrist
7:15	Through it all	Paul Jackson
7:20	Testimony	Ron Condren
7:45	Prayer and praise	Bill Lewis
7:50	Special music	Adult Ensemble, Olivet
7:55	A Word from God	Manley Beasley
8:20	Prayer, praise and offering	Ben Powell
8:25	Special music	Adult Ensemble, Olivet
8:35	Message from God	William L. Bennett
9:05	Benediction	Milton Wilson

Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association

First Church, Ft. Smith

Monday evening

Nov. 5, 1984

6:30	Dinner	
7:00	Entertainment	John Dresbach
	Speaker	Dick Covey, Professor of Exercise and Physiology, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Tuesday morning

Nov. 6

8:30	Coffee and donuts	
9:00	Conferences	
	(1) Stress management	Jimmie Sheffield, administrator, Park Hill Church, NLR
	(2) Time management	Berta Seltz, Industrial Labor Relations, Fayetteville
11:30	Adjourn	

Tuesday morning

Nov. 6

9:00	Music	Ed Suddeth
9:10	Praise, Scripture and prayer	J. Edward North
9:15	Special music	Richard Smith
9:20	A Word from God	Mike Gilchrist
9:45	Prayer and praise	Ray Brown
9:50	Special music	Brent Powell
9:55	Planned Growth in Giving	Cecil Ray
10:15	Prayer and offering	Nick Garland
10:20	Election of Officers	
10:30	Message from God	Clyde Jones
11:00	Special music	Brent Powell
11:05	A Word from God	Bill Stafford
11:35	Benediction	Gene Ellis

Tuesday afternoon

Nov. 6

1:20	Music	Youth Ensemble, Olivet
1:30	Praise, Scripture and prayer	Clyde Glazener
1:35	Special music	Youth Ensemble, Olivet
1:40	A Word from God	Mike Gilchrist
2:00	Special Music	Youth Ensemble, Olivet
2:05	A Word from God	Manley Beasley
2:25	Prayer and praise	Bryan Bullington
2:30	A Word from God	Bill Stafford
3:00	Benediction	New president

Ministers' Wives' Conference

Choir Room

Grand Ave. Church, Ft. Smith

Tuesday morning

Nov. 6, 1984

"We are a fragrance of Christ." (2 Cor. 2:15 NASV)

9:30	Tastes and treasures of Christmas	Ruby Bryant
10:00	Invocation	Jackie Stubblefield
	Welcome	Barbara Hassell
10:15	Pleasures of Christmas	Hope Overton Kay Kincl, Kay Sanders, Roma Zeitner
10:40	Special music	Rhonda Stege
10:50	Speaker	Betty Dilday
11:30	Business session	
11:45	Benediction	Carolyn Byrum

Preschool child care provided

Convention committees

Parliamentarian

Carl M. Overton
928 West South Street
Benton 72042

Credentials Committee:

Ron Ford, 5200 Fairway Avenue, North Little Rock 72116, chairman
Clyde Glazener, Little Rock
Dillard S. Miller, Mona
Dennis Dodson, Monticello
Jere D. Mitchell, Fayetteville

Tellers Committee:

Johnny J. Baker, Route 4 Box 331,
Crossett 71635, chairman
Bruce Tippit, Lewisville
Marshall Boggs, Mayflower
Oscar Golden, Benton
David Crouch, Searcy
Stephen Davis, Russellville
Don A. Nall, Batesville

Resolutions Committee:

Carroll Caldwell, 4201 Sanderson
Lane, Texarkana 75504, chairman
Marlin Thielen, Augusta
Francis S. Chesson, Camden

Richard Stiltner, Hope
Aaron Thompson, Little Rock

Order of Business:

Jere Hassell, P.O. Box 747,
Stuttgart 72160, chairman
Bert Thomas, Scott

Local Arrangements:

Ferrell D. Morgan, 1321 Dodson Ave.,
Ft. Smith 72901, chairman
James W. Bryant, Ft. Smith
William L. Bennett, Ft. Smith
Cleona Lane, Ft. Smith
Allen D. Thrasher, Booneville

Resolutions Committee explains process

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Jon Stubblefield, in consultation with the vice-presidents and the state executive secretary, has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting in Fort Smith, Nov. 6-7, 1984. The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the com-

mittee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Thursday, Oct. 18, 1984. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business. Proposed resolutions should be mailed

to the Baptist Building, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, addressed to the attention to the committee.

Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention. Thank you for your cooperation in this important regard. — Carroll D. Caldwell, chairman, Resolutions Committee

Suggestions from the Credentials Committee

Membership and messengers to the 1984 Convention is determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership", Sections 1, 2 and 3, which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each co-operating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided,

however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their findings and recommendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states:

"Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, or any other organization similar to or growing out of such."

The Credentials Committee appointed by the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is as follows: Ron Ford, Clyde Glazener, Dillard Miller, Dennis Dodson and Jere Mitchell.

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. — Ronald M. Ford, chairman, Credentials Committee

Convention voting limited to messengers

Only registered messengers from cooperating Arkansas Baptist churches as stated in the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be privileged to vote. Each church should keep in mind that an alternate will serve only if the elected messenger is unable to attend and register as a messenger.

This year, voting will be from a book of numbered ballots. Vote by show of hands will be taken by the display of the colored book of ballots. We ask each messenger to put his or her name and address on his or her book so that in case of loss it can be returned. — Johnny J. Baker, chairman, Tellers Committee

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church of Home: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Secretary: _____

Chairman: _____

Members of the Credentials Committee: _____

Members of the Telling Committee: _____

Members of the Resolutions Committee: _____

Members of the Order of Business Committee: _____

Members of the Local Arrangements Committee: _____

Members of the Parliamentarian: _____

Members of the Membership Committee: _____

Members of the Executive Committee: _____

Members of the Finance Committee: _____

Members of the Publicity Committee: _____

Members of the Hospitality Committee: _____

Members of the Entertainment Committee: _____

Members of the Transportation Committee: _____

Members of the Lodging Committee: _____

Members of the Food and Beverage Committee: _____

Members of the Music and Entertainment Committee: _____

Members of the Recreation Committee: _____

Members of the Health and Safety Committee: _____

Members of the Security Committee: _____

Members of the Communications Committee: _____

Members of the Information Committee: _____

Members of the Planning Committee: _____

Members of the Evaluation Committee: _____

Members of the Follow-up Committee: _____

Members of the Post-convention Committee: _____

Members of the Pre-convention Committee: _____

Members of the Convention Committee: _____

Members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention: _____

Tentative program Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Strengthening families

Tuesday evening

Nov. 6, 1984

Grand Avenue Church, Ft. Smith

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Ps. 127:1)

Bold indicates priority items

6:00 p.m.	Instrumental prelude	Symphonic Orchestra Glynn Stewart
6:15	Congregational singing	Ervin Keathley
6:20	Scripture and prayer	R. D. Harrington
6:30	Call to order	Jon Stubblefield
	Welcome	James Bryant
	Appointment of committees	
	Enrollment of messengers	Ron Ford
	Adoption of order of business	Jere Hassell
	Resolutions	Carroll Caldwell
	Constitutional amendments	Johnny Jackson
	Congregational singing	Ervin Keathley
	Announcements	Jon Stubblefield
	Fraternel greetings, acknowledgements	
	Recognition of former presidents	
	Welcome to new Arkansans	Don Moore
	Recognition of missionaries	John McClanahan
	Tribute to senior ministers	Jesse Reed
7:25	Congregational singing	Ervin Keathley
7:30	Special music	"Blessed is the Nation", Area choirs
7:45	Executive Board programs emphasis	
8:30	Message	Don Moore
9:00	Benediction	L.L. Collins

2:20	Election of officers (continued)	
2:30	Baptist Medical Center	Russell Harrington Jr.
2:40	Resolutions Committee	Carroll Caldwell
2:50	Congregational singing	Lou King
2:55	Memorial moments	Lloyd Hunnicutt
3:05	Nominating Committee	Jimmy Wallace
3:15	Miscellaneous business	
3:30	Congregational singing	Lou King
3:35	Special music	Larry and Renee Meadows Grand Avenue Combined Ensembles
3:45	Convention sermon	John Holston
4:15	Benediction	Lynn Worthan

Wednesday evening

Nov. 7, 1984

"And he made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth..." (Acts 17:26)

6:15 p.m.	Instrumental prelude	Ouachita Brass Ensemble
6:30	Congregational singing	Ervin Keathley
6:35	Bible Study	Joel Gregory
7:05	Southern Baptist College	Jack Nicholas
7:20	Ouachita Baptist University	Daniel Grant
7:35	Congregation singing	Ervin Keathley
7:40	Special music	Vietnamese Choir and Laotian Choir
7:50	Presentation of flags of the nations	
8:05	Missionary testimonies	
8:15	Special music	Ouachita Choir
8:30	Message	Bakar James Cauthen
9:00	Benediction	Julia Ketner

Wednesday morning

Nov. 7, 1984

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Pr. 22:6)

8:30 a.m.	Congregational singing	R.C. Meadows
8:35	Special music	Ladies Ensemble, East Side David Hays, Ft. Smith, soloist
8:45	Bible Study	Joel Gregory
9:15	Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	Johnny Biggs
9:25	Arkansas Baptist Foundation	Harry Trulove
9:35	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	Everett Sneed
9:45	Christian Civic Foundation	John Finn
9:55	Congregational singing	R.C. Meadows
10:00	Election of Officers	
10:10	Executive Board report	Jerry Wilson
11:10	Congregational singing	R.C. Meadows
11:15	Special music	Don Fellers
11:25	President's message	Jon Stubblefield
11:55	Benediction	Jamie Jones

Wednesday afternoon

Nov. 7, 1984

"... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15)

1:45 p.m.	Congregational singing	Lou King
1:50	Bible Study	Joel Gregory

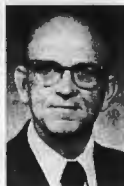
Program personalities



Cauthen



Gregory



Holston



Moore



Stubblefield



Wilson

Auxiliary meetings

Ouachita Baptist University Former Students Association will hold a Ouachita Fellowship Tuesday, Nov. 6, at 9:30 p.m., following the evening session. The meeting will take place in Room 115 of the Activities Building of Grand Avenue Church.

Southern Baptist College will hold an "After-Convention Fellowship" for SBC alumni and friends on Tuesday evening following the evening session. The meeting will be held in Room 118 of the "Old Education Building" at Grand Avenue Church.

Directors of Missions Fellowship will

meet Tuesday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m. at the Trade Winds Restaurant, 101 N. 11th St. Tickets for the buffet will be \$6.55 each. Glendon Grober, associate in the ABSC Evangelism Department, will address the group.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host a noon luncheon for alumni and friends Wednesday, Nov. 7, at First Church, Fort Smith, 14th and Grand. Tickets—\$3 in advance and \$4 at the door—are available from Martin Thielen, 310 Pearl St., Augusta, AR 72006.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association will meet

for a noon luncheon Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Tradewinds Motel. Convention speaker Joel Gregory will address the luncheon.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will host an alumni luncheon at noon Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Trade Winds Motel. Ray Kesner, director of alumni affairs for Midwestern, will speak to the group.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will host a noon luncheon for alumni Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Trade Winds Motel.

A message from the president

Dear Fellow Baptists:

The time is drawing near for the annual convention. Our meeting place is Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith. Every church should elect messengers to the convention. Each messenger is urged to obtain the proper credentials, to register and then to exercise the privilege of voting.

The theme of the convention is "Strengthening Families," our denominational emphasis for 1984-85. Three Bible studies led by Joel Gregory, professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will focus on the Christian family.

The highlight on Tuesday evening will be

an informational and inspirational presentation of the work of our Executive Board Programs and a message by Don Moore. The Wednesday night session will center on higher education and missions. We will view an impressive display of flags of the nations, hear missionary testimonies and respond to the keynote sermon by Baker James Cauthen.

This year's convention will conclude on Wednesday night. Those responsible for planning the program discovered that it will be possible for us to transact business, enjoy fellowship and receive inspiration without having a Thursday morning session. The abbreviated convention will make

travel easier for messengers who live at great distances from Fort Smith.

A local arrangements committee has been appointed and lodging is being provided in homes in the Fort Smith area. Contact your director of missions or Ferrell Morgan for more information.

Since the opening day of the convention is also election day, most messengers will need to vote by absentee ballot. Please vote before you come to Fort Smith! Let's all work together to defeat the amendment to legalize casino gambling in Hot Springs.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention. We have a great work to do for our Lord. — Jon M. Stubblefield, president

Baker James Cauthen is retired as head of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and is currently teaching missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth. He will deliver the closing message on Wednesday evening.

Joel C. Gregory, assistant professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary since 1982, will lead the Bible study at Wednesday sessions. He led theme interpretation Bible studies for the 1983 SBC meeting.

John Holston, pastor at Nashville (Ark.) First Church, will preach the convention sermon on Wednesday afternoon.

Don Moore, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will bring the message at the opening session on Tuesday evening and welcome new Arkansans in that session.

Jon Stubblefield, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will preside at the sessions and deliver the president's address Wednesday morning. He is pastor of Central Church at Magnolia.

Jerry Wilson, pastor at Second Church at El Dorado and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, will bring the board's report Wednesday morning.

Organist: Tim Hess

Pianist: Sherry Riggin

1984 BOOK OF REPORTS



Arkansas Baptist State Convention

NOVEMBER 6-7, 1984 GRAND AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, FORT SMITH

Conducting Baptists' business of missions and Christian education has always been one of the primary reasons for the annual meeting. This year, also, messengers will hear reports on cooperative work. Most are printed in this Book of Reports.

Baptists never cease to amaze me. It is remarkable how independent, autonomous churches cooperate so beautifully and effectively. And your Executive Board reflects the same spirit of responsible cooperation.

This past year has been one of relative quiet as far as issues of controversy. We do, however, have some important and far-reaching matters to consider and vote on at our convention.

The first is a budget of nearly \$11.5 million. This budget has been carefully worked out according to the budget formula which includes a three-fourths percent increase for world-wide causes. The more you learn about our budget development process, the more you will appreciate the responsible stewardship involved. The specific budget is printed elsewhere. Study it carefully and feel free to ask any questions that will help you understand it.

The budget is challenging, and it is important that our Arkansas churches increase their gifts by one-half to one percent in order for it to be met. At present, we are falling short of this year's budget, which causes many ministries to suffer cutbacks. Hopefully we will catch up before year's end. Let me assure you, these monies are being used responsibly.

A second matter for our consideration is Arkansas participation in "Planned Growth In Giving." This is a "call to commitment" on the part of individuals, families, churches, associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention toward achieving Bold Mission Thrust goals. This is explained in greater detail in a subsequent article. Personally, I am excited about this challenge to commitment. It will enable us to support the work God has laid upon our hearts for the rest of this century.

The other action your Executive Board recommends for your approval is Arkansas' participation in the new Church Annuity Plan. Adoption of this resolution means that ministerial staff will be eligible for additional state contributions in 1988 and supportive staff members (secretaries, custodians, etc.) will be eligible in 1993.

Thank you for allowing me to serve on the Executive Board and for your support of the Executive Board. — Jerry Wilson, El Dorado, Executive Board president.

Nursery services provided

Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith, will provide nursery facilities beginning Monday afternoon, Nov. 5, through Wednesday evening, Nov. 7, during our annual state convention and auxiliary meetings.

The nursery will be closed during the noon and evening meals and children will have to be picked up by parents at these times.

1985 Budget

I. State causes

	1985 Requests
1. Administration	\$108,098
(1) Executive Secretary Programs	11,100
2. Business Services	263,502
3. Departments	
(1) Annuity - Operating	8,722
(2) Arkansas Baptist Assembly	164,034
(3) Baptist Student Union - Operating	517,268
- Buildings	112,950
(4) Brotherhood	95,160
(5) Camp Paron - Operating	57,119
- Improvements	30,500
(6) Christian Life Council	77,880
(7) Church Music	127,508
(8) Church Training	182,040
(9) Communications	37,301
(10) Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	111,530
(11) Evangelism	186,288
(12) Ministry of Crisis Support	92,366
(13) Missions	345,241
(14) Stewardship	88,417
(15) Sunday School	236,945
4. Other Causes	
(1) Baptist Building Debt	72,000
(2) Baptist Building Improvements	35,000
(3) Reserve for Employee Benefits	60,800
(4) Convention	74,713
(5) Historical Commission	8,987
(6) Annuity Dues	186,920
(7) Christian Civic Foundation	30,000
(8) New Mission Sites	45,000
(9) Key Leadership Conference	2,000
(10) Planned Growth in Giving	65,000
(11) ACTS Field Service	2,350
(12) Brazil Mission Project	15,000

5. Woman's Missionary Union	240,558
6. Capital Needs	47,327

Total Executive Board Programs 3,739,625

7. Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	350,953
8. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	208,953
9. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	181,281
10. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	1,852,102
(2) Southern Baptist College	463,025
(3) Ministerial Scholarship Loan Fund	99,974

Total State Programs 6,895,914

II. Southern Baptist Convention 4,580,062

Total Budget \$11,475,976

2 Planned Growth In Giving

Planned Growth in Giving grew out of a Cooperative Program Study Committee report. The Committee proposed definite actions to encourage Southern Baptists in achieving their Bold Mission Thrust goals. The Southern Baptist Convention adopted Planned Growth in Giving during sessions of the annual convention meeting in Pittsburgh, Penn., in June of 1983.

An Arkansas Planned Growth in Giving Task Force, composed of laypersons, pastors, directors of missions, church staff members and Arkansas Baptist State Convention staff members, has prayerfully studied Planned Growth in Giving. The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention recommends the following goals.

1. That all of our churches be encouraged to participate in Planned Growth in Giving activities to strengthen and mature believers in Christian Stewardship and to adopt goals for increasing their budget gifts annually during 1985-2000.

That we encourage our people in the churches to grow in Christian Stewardship and that families and individuals be encouraged to set 15-year vision goals for annual growth in giving.

That we encourage our churches to conduct Christian money management seminars or similar studies to assist their members in their growth as Christian Stewards.

2. That our churches be encouraged to adopt a 15-year vision goal of increasing annually the percentage of church gifts ministering through associational missions according to suggestions developed by the association.

3. That we encourage our churches to adopt a 15-year vision goal of increasing annually the percentage of church gifts ministering through the Cooperative Program.

4. That we, as the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, continue to move toward a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program gifts with 50 percent going to world mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention by A.D. 2000.

We further recommend that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention fund in the 1985 budget twelve regional Planned Growth in Giving seminars and that the pastor and a key leader from each church be encouraged to participate in one of the twelve regional seminars. The estimated cost for Planned Growth in Giving during 1985 is \$62,883.

3 Church Annuity Plan

RESOLVED:

This Convention hereby adopts the proposed Southern Baptist Protection Program Church Annuity Plan as amended and restated effective as of Jan. 1, 1988. Adoption of this resolution means that ministerial staff will be eligible for additional state contributions, if the church and member meet requirements, in 1988. Supportive staff members (secretaries, custodians, etc.) will be eligible in 1993 unless the state convention votes to make them ineligible.



Constitution and By-Law changes

The following changes were approved in the 1983 convention. According to constitutional procedure, changes must be approved in two consecutive conventions.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee recommends that the title of the Executive Secretary of the Executive Board be changed to Executive Director of the Executive Board. We further recommend that the wording of our Constitution and By-Laws be changed in the following manner to reflect this new title:

Constitution

Article V - Officers - Section 1:

The officers of this Convention shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected annually. The Executive Director of the Executive Board shall also serve as the Recording Secretary and Treasurer of the Convention, and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified.

Article V - Officers - Section 3:

The word "Secretary" shall be changed to "Executive Director."

By-Laws

By-Law 2 - Officers:

The next to last paragraph, "the Treasurer of the Executive Board shall be also Treasurer of the Convention," shall be deleted as this matter is covered in Article V of the Constitution.

By-Law 4 - Trusteeships:

The words "Executive Secretary" in paragraph one shall be changed to read "Executive Director". — Johnny Jackson, chairman

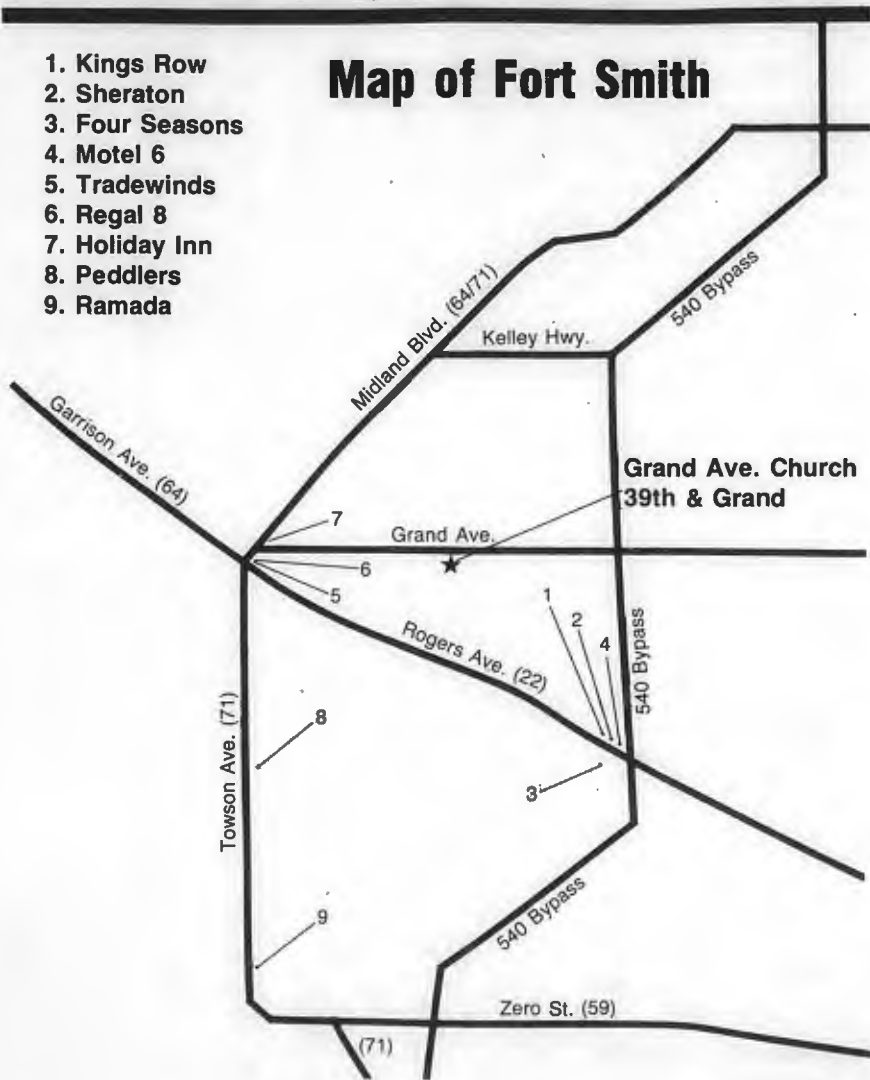
From your host . . .

A hearty welcome to all Arkansas Baptists who will be attending the 1984 convention at Grand Avenue Church! We look forward to having you as our guests. We believe in the work of Arkansas Baptists with all our hearts. It pleases us to host the convention and the Pastor's Conference this year.

Fort Smith is our Jerusalem in our Acts 1:8 assignment from Jesus. Your positive witness in our community will help all of our Baptist churches make a continuing impact on our city for Christ. God bless you and give you safety on your trip. — James W. Bryant, pastor

Map of Fort Smith

1. Kings Row
2. Sheraton
3. Four Seasons
4. Motel 6
5. Tradewinds
6. Regal 8
7. Holiday Inn
8. Peddlers
9. Ramada



Motels in Fort Smith area

Kings Row
5801 Rogers
452-4200

1 room, 1 person, \$32
1 room, 1 bed, 2 persons, \$34
2 double beds, 2 persons \$38
2 double beds, 3 persons \$38

Sheraton
5711 Rogers
452-4110

1 to 4 persons per room \$38 (Single, Double or King size beds)

Four Seasons
2219 Waldron Rd.
452-4880

\$72 - suites
\$48 - Atrium room (King or Double)
\$45 - B-section (King or Double)
\$10 - for each additional person in a room.

(Other features are complete complimentary breakfast each morning, newspaper and coffee delivered to the room, turn-down service, in-door swimming pool, hot tub and sauna. Limo-service to and from the airport.)

Trade Winds
101 N. 11th
785-4121

1 person (Queen size) \$29
Up to 4 persons, 2 beds, \$35
Up to 6 persons, 2 beds, and hide-a-bed, \$40

Regal 8
1021 Garrison
800/851-8888
785-2611

1 person, 1 bed, \$21.72
2 persons, 1 bed, \$26.92
2 to 4 persons, 2 double beds, \$32.12

Holiday Inn
301 N. 11th
783-0271

Standard (2DD), \$40, 1 person; \$45, 2 persons
King Leisure, \$44, 1 person; \$48, 2 persons
1 Double bed, \$37, 1 person; \$43, 2 persons
1 King, \$42, 1 person; \$48, 1 person
Rates consisting of 20 rooms or more:
Standard (2DD), \$31 (1) \$37 (2) \$41 (3) \$45 (3)

Ramada
5101 Towson
646-2831

1 - 2 persons, King size, \$33
1 room, 2 double beds, \$33

Peddlers
2301 Towson
785-1401

1 bed, 2 persons, \$33
1 room, 2 double beds, \$37
\$4 for each additional person
(Complimentary breakfast)

Motel 6
6001 Rogers Ave.
452-1924

1 person, \$16.95
2 persons, \$20.95
3 - 4 persons, 2 double beds, \$25.95
TV extra

Places to eat

Cafeterias and Buffets: Lewis, Wyatts, Furrs, Trade Winds, Holiday Inn, Peddlers, Ramada

Steaks: Bonanza (2), Western Sizzlin (2), Rib Eye

Sea food: Tommy's, Trotline, Catfish Cove, Red Lobster, Long Johns

Mexican: El Chiclo, Juana

Fast food includes: Wendys, Hardees, tacos, pizzas, McDonalds, Shoneys, Dairy Queens and many others.

Stanley promises increased involvement with SBC

by Karen Benson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—An emotional intervention by God convinced Charles Stanley to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now, "eye-opening" encounters with the evangelistic thrust at the heart of Southern Baptist agencies and programs is deepening his involvement with SBC causes.

Stanley, elected president of the 14.1-million member denomination last June, spent an hour and a half talking with members of the Southern Baptist Press Association Sept. 17 while attending his first meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

He told the group of editors of state Baptist newspaper and Baptist Press editors he understood the concern of many people over the percentage his church gives to the SBC unified national budget (the Cooperative Program) of 2.1 percent and its support of non-Southern Baptist missionaries.

"I have challenged my budget committee to move our Cooperative Program giving to at least five percent next year and even higher if we can, and we are re-thinking how our world missions conference involvement can be channeled."

He also promised the editors he would consult with the presidents and executive directors of the state conventions prior to making his committee appointments. Such appointments have become points of dispute in recent years in light of an announced attempt by inerrantists to take control of the boards of trustees of the conventions agencies and seminaries.

Stanley stressed he has no desire to "control anything or to run anything," claiming his election to head the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination was the will of God.

Stanley said it was only after God brought him to his knees and caused him to weep that he finally submitted to God's will to be nominated for president.

Stanley said the only reason he is president is "not out of choice, not by a coalition, but because I could not live with myself if I had not said, 'God, if you would like to publicly humiliate me to do something else in my life, that's fine. If you want me to be the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, you'll have to arrange it because I've never lifted a finger in my life to be nominated for anything, go to any church or do anything.'"

Stanley believes "God has placed me here for a very specific reason." His one desire as president, "is to be obedient to God whatever his reason is for me. If he puts me here for one year, that will tickle me pink. If it's for two years, I will probably struggle with that—but if he requires it, and if he arranges that, then I'll have to be obedient!"

Stanley said he is convinced there has been a lot of "misunderstanding of motivation" and "misunderstanding of methods" on both sides. If leaders of both theological groups would "talk soberly" about the prin-

ciples involved and eliminate personalities totally, much could be done to smooth out trouble spots within the denomination, Stanley said. "I believe there is enough godly wisdom in the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention we can find God's solution to the problems."

"I must believe that God is great enough, that he has not invested all his energy, time, money, know-how, organization into the Southern Baptist life to watch us go by the wayside when we have the greatest opportunity of any denomination that has ever existed in human history to impact this nation and the world," Stanley said. "I've got to believe God has brought us all to this point in a time of strife and cloudiness and storm, not to disintegrate, not to divide, but to act like godly men and women to discover God's solution to the problem and get on with doing what God called us to do."

Stanley has been "deeply encouraged" by visits he has made to SBC agencies and institutions in recent months, particularly a visit several weeks ago with SBC Foreign Mission Board personnel. "This emphasis on evangelism is a vital point of view that needs to be conveyed to most Southern Baptists," he said. He challenged more pastors to consider leaving the pastorate to go to the mission field and urged the Press Association to distribute a report to pastors that would provide testimonies and statistics about Southern Baptist missionary work.

Stanley also answered charges his church has not adequately supported the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist fund which supports SBC agencies and institutions. "I've realized our Cooperative Program giving has been low. But churches have different roles. Most Southern Baptist churches have their only mission outlet, really, through the Cooperative Program. In a large, downtown church like ours, we have many avenues of missions. Likewise, God has called us to have a nationwide television ministry all across this land, now into foreign countries. That has cost us millions of dollars. But it's beginning to pay off in the thousands of people being saved every month."

"I would say many of these people are joining Southern Baptist churches because they know I'm a Southern Baptist. So God has given our church a different role. That doesn't make us better or less than anyone else. I'm simply saying we have a different role than other churches. So that's the reason, or one of the primary reasons, we are giving 2.1 percent."

First Baptist Church of Atlanta has done "what we believe God would have us to do, up to this point," Stanley said. "Now, as I said to our folks, I want to be very, very careful that I examine very honestly my motivation, because I do not want to raise our Cooperative Program giving but for one basic reason, that is a conviction on my part

and a conviction on the part of our people that we need to do it because we need to be more involved in that aspect of our missionary giving."

Stanley was quizzed about his lack of involvement in SBC life prior to his election as president.

"We have to allow that all of us are not going to feel the same about this," Stanley answered. "I can understand why you would perceive of me being a disloyal Southern Baptist, if that's what you're saying. But I can tell you that I'm not. I wouldn't be anything else today but a Southern Baptist. I made a choice to be a Southern Baptist. I was not born one. None of my family was one. I was the first one out of my family to become a Southern Baptist. And so, while there is diversity in opinion concerning doctrine, then I think we have to allow for God to use different men in different ways in the roles he has called them for, and that means he may not call all of us to be as intricately involved all the time."

Stanley was also asked if he will be a "tool for the inerrancy camp to stack the boards" when making appointments to the Committee on Committees. That committee nominates the Committee on Boards, which, in turn, nominates the board members and trustees for all SBC agencies and boards.

Said Stanley, "I'm sure a lot of inerrantists voted for me, but they're not the only ones who voted for me. I'm not committed to anybody, as best I know, but God. I want to be obedient to him, and I'm going to be as honest and as open as I know to be. When the time comes, I'm going to seek godly counsel, and I want to make wise judgments so they'll not be made quickly."

Stanley also explained his involvement in the American Coalition for Traditional Values, a new political organization organized by conservative author Tim LaHaye which claims to be non-partisan. Stanley said he originally was unaware that his name was included in a list of religious leaders named to the board of directors of the ACTV.

After talking with LaHaye about the matter, Stanley said he agreed to leave his name on the list because of his interest in getting people involved in the political process. He said he agrees with at least nine of the 10 goals of the organization but has yet to firmly make up his mind on the issue of government funding for religious schools.

The ACTV has adopted a position supporting government aid to parochial schools, a stand contrary to the traditional stance of Southern Baptists. "That's the one area that I probably have a little problem with," Stanley said. "The rest of them (goals) I don't have a problem with, and so I just sort of have to overlook it."

Karen Benson is assistant public relations director for Baylor University.

Americans United, others file suit in Vatican case

WASHINGTON (BP)—Calling U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican "unfair, imprudent and illegal," more than 15 religious bodies, headed by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, filed suit in federal district court challenging President Reagan's appointment of William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See.

Besides the organizations, which range from the National Council of Churches to the National Association of Evangelicals, 77 individuals joined in filing the suit. Several listed in the lawsuit are Southern Baptists.

Conspicuously absent, however, is the Southern Baptist Convention itself, which is still studying the matter before deciding whether to participate.

Named as defendants in the suit are Reagan, Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury Donald T. Regan and Wilson.

At a Washington news conference announcing the suit had been filed minutes earlier on Sept. 19 in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania, Americans United Executive Director Robert L. Maddox said the legal avenue was taken because parties objecting to diplomatic relations with the Vatican had "encountered deaf ears and closed minds on this issue in the White House and in the United States Senate."

A 117-year ban on formal recognition of the Vatican was lifted last fall by the Senate on a voice vote after practically no debate,

action Maddox described as "robbing the nation of sufficient time to consider the merits" of an exchange of ambassadors.

Then, on Jan. 10, 1984, President Reagan announced formal recognition of the Vatican and sent the name of William A. Wilson, a long-time personal friend and advisor, to the Senate for confirmation as the first ambassador under the new arrangement. The Senate confirmed the appointment March 7 by a vote of 81-13.

Among 13 Southern Baptist plaintiffs are Robert A. Parker, director of the Christian Life Council of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Charles H. Ashcraft, retired ABSC executive secretary.

SBC Executive Committee delays decision to join suit

WASHINGTON (BP)—Despite a strongly worded resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., and a separate motion urging legal action, the SBC Executive Committee has voted to delay joining a lawsuit challenging U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

In a routine action taken Sept. 18, the Executive Committee accepted without debate a recommendation from its administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee that a decision on joining a lawsuit filed Sept. 19 by Americans United for Separation of Church and State and other religious groups be deferred until the February Executive Committee meeting.

Although plaintiffs in lawsuits are under no obligation to join at the time of filing, the five-month delay between Executive Committee meetings could mean the case will have been argued in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania before the Executive Committee acts.

The recommendation to take no action at present came to the administrative subcommittee from the by-laws workgroup. According to observers present at the workgroup meeting, discussion over deferring action in the matter centered on avoiding the appearance of opposing President Reagan during his reelection campaign.

Members of the workgroup are John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; Frank Lady, an attorney from Jonesboro, Ark.; David C. Maddox, a layman from Fullerton, Calif.; Paul Pressler, an appeals court judge from Houston, and John T. Tippett Jr., a retired pastor from Savannah, Ga. Ex-officio members of the workgroup are Frank Ingraham, a Nashville, Tenn., attorney who is chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee, and W. Dewey Presley, chairman of the Executive Committee.

Southern Baptist participation in the suit

against President Reagan, Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury Donald T. Regan and U.S. ambassador to the Vatican William A. Wilson had been sought by Americans United because the SBC, the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination, is seen as important to the suit's success.

The Kansas City motion requested the Executive Committee "to see that this Convention's position against a U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See . . . comes properly before any court adjudicating a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality thereof, in whatever manner legal counsel recommends most effective to serve Southern Baptists' interest, it being understood that the Executive Committee may work in concert with other interested parties."

In addition, messengers to the Kansas City convention adopted a resolution protesting U.S. - Vatican relations and pledging "support of actions which challenge diplomatic relations with the Holy See."

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary church history professor G. Hugh Wamble, author of both the motion and the resolution, told Baptist Press he was "disappointed that the Executive Committee decided to do

nothing about opposing the embassy in the Vatican in the only forum now open to us, the federal judiciary."

Wamble, a former president of the Missouri Baptist Convention and long-time advocate of strict separation of church and state, also said, "I can conceive of only one basis on which anyone could object to Southern Baptist participation in the suit and that is that the suit names Ronald W. Reagan, president of the United States of America, as party-plaintiff."

Noting that under the Constitution, the president "has authority to conduct foreign policy," Wamble declared: "I cannot conceive of filing any suit that would not name the president as a party-plaintiff, regardless of who he is."

"Ronald Reagan is the one who initiated the embassy to the Holy See. He nominated the ambassador. I can conceive that some Southern Baptists would have a partisan political interest in avoiding naming President Reagan in a suit. However, I hope that Southern Baptists are unwilling to sacrifice our principles respecting the First Amendment on any political alters, regardless of whose alters these may be."

Maddox installed as head of Americans United

WASHINGTON (BP)—Declaring advocates of church-state separation are the "true traditionalists" who "stand with the founding fathers," Southern Baptist minister Robert L. Maddox Jr. was installed as the fourth executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State in ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol.

Maddox, 46, formerly a speechwriter and liaison to the religious community in the Jimmy Carter White House, told an audience at the installation banquet the first task of Americans United is to "re-educate" the American people about the value of the First Amendment by promoting religious liberty and separation of church and state.

Noting some in the religious community disregard the writings of the founders and downplay the historical significance of the drive for separation, Maddox said, "We . . . are the true traditionalists. . . . We stand with the founding fathers." The United States, he added, has "a unique tradition of religious liberty, the envy of the world."

The former Georgia and Texas pastor said Americans United, founded in 1947 as a "watchdog" organization to challenge violations of religious liberty, must both react to church-state problems and anticipate them. He pledged to anticipate problems in Congress and state legislatures "before they get out of hand."

Shortfall delays 1985-86 Cooperative Program planning

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The 1985-86 goal for the national unified SBC budget will not be set until February 1985—five months later than usual.

The SBC Executive Committee voted the delay at its meeting Sept. 17-19 because projected income for the 1983-84 budget year—while largest ever—is expected to be between five and six million dollars short of projections (\$114.5 million for basic operating expenses of a \$125 million total which includes capital needs and the challenge portion of the budget).

That means the national mission and education agencies of the 14.1-million member denomination not only face a shortfall in their allocations from the operating budget but no money will be available for capital needs expenditures.

Messengers at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention last June approved a Cooperative Program budget for 1984-85 of \$130 million, including \$118 million for the operating budget. The Executive Committee has the authority to adjust the budget but felt it was wiser to adjust

the budget process in the capital needs area and in 1985-86 rather than tamper with what had been approved by messengers from across the country.

"We need to stress the fact the national Cooperative Program is receiving more money than ever before and the growth in terms of real dollars has been outstanding," John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and a member of the program and budget subcommittee of the SBC executive committee said.

Income is below projections, at least in part, because the budget assumed an inflation rate of eight percent when it is now around two percent, according to Reginald McDonough, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the Executive Committee. Also, he said, the Cooperative Program budget tends to run 18 months behind the national economy so the upturn has not found its way to CP receipts.

"The ship is not about to sink," McDonough said. "The Cooperative Program receipts are continuing to increase. We have had four straight years of significant in-

creases in real dollars (excluding inflation)."

The six seminaries, the two mission boards and the eleven other agencies which receive Cooperative Program funds have adjusted for the 1983-84 shortfall and many indicated their requests for 1985-86 will be tempered by knowledge of "budget realities".

Jimmy Allen, president of the SBC Radio-Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas, and head of the Inter-Agency Council (a planning group from all the agencies) stressed the importance of "letting the people know the Cooperative Program budgets will always give priority to the programs of missions, education and evangelism—we will not sacrifice our basic programs for people for any piece of brick and mortar—ever."

The subcommittee will meet again Jan. 23-25. Agencies will make their final budget requests for 1985-86 then, and committee members will make the tough decisions matching realities with needs.

The budget will be presented to the full Executive Committee in February and to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas the following June.

Interfaith report shows rise in U.S. poverty rate

WASHINGTON (BP)—The number of Americans living below the poverty line climbed 35 percent between 1979-1983 and the income gap between the nation's poorest and richest citizens has reached record levels according to a report released Sept. 12 by an interfaith organization.

In a 41-page report on the impact of federal policies since 1980 on low-income Americans, the Interfaith Action for Economic Justice—a coalition of Protestant, Jewish, Catholic and hunger organizations—cited extensive data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Congressional Budget Office, the Internal Revenue Service, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation and other respected sources to underscore its contention that federal policies have adversely affected low-income Americans.

The report, prepared for the organization by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington-based non-profit research and analysis group, declared: "The proportion of Americans living in poverty is now higher than at any time since 1965."

The document was made public at a Capitol Hill press conference where former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Chairman Arthur Flemming told reporters, "I have long felt that the federal government not only has an obligation to remember the poor, but to act in their behalf."

Flemming, who now heads the Citizen's Commission on Civil Rights, described the report on the impact of federal policies on low-income Americans as the best he has seen.

Focused primarily on federal policy impact

since 1980, the report does document that poverty levels and gaps in the "safety net" were increasing prior to that date.

Federal budget policies "were resulting in hardship even before the current Administration took office," the report states. "The federal budget actions taken since 1980, however, have substantially aggravated this situation."

The report cites Census Bureau data showing that one in four American children under age six lives below the poverty line, now set at \$10,200 a year for a family of four. For black children, the figure is one out of two.

The report criticized a broad range of budget cuts in programs designed to provide food, housing, education, job training and health care for the nation's poor. "The budget reductions of the 1980s have been concentrated heavily on programs for poor people," the report states.

Citing a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study, the report said programs targeted primarily at the poor were cut \$57 billion over a four-year period from fiscal 1982 through fiscal 1985. The CBO study showed low-income programs were cut "more than twice as deeply" as social programs not concentrated on the poor.

"Overall," the report stated, "the low-income programs bore nearly one-third of all cuts made anywhere in the federal government, even though they constitute less than one-tenth of the budget. No other part of the federal budget was cut so sharply."

The report also criticized the 1981 tax cuts which left families at the poverty level paying more taxes than such families at that level six years ago.

Using another CBO study, the report showed the combined effect of the 1981-1985 tax and budget policies would mean an average gain of \$8,000 per year for taxpayers with incomes over \$80,000. In contrast, those with incomes below \$10,000 suffer an average loss of \$1,100 each from 1983-1985.

Calling 1985 a "pivotal year" in U.S. budget and tax policy making, the report called for solutions to the massive federal budget deficits which would not slash programs to aid the needy.

Flemming praised the report at this point, saying the document makes clear it is possible for the nation to reduce the deficits and reduce poverty at the same time.

Rep. Bob Edgar, D-Penn., charged that government had been flunking the test which judges a society's moral fiber by the way it treats people who are less fortunate.

"The message of this report is both simple and disturbing," declared Edgar, a United Methodist minister. "Poverty is on a sharp increase in America, and the current economic recovery is leaving many people behind."

Edgar said he was "outraged when I read this report—as I have been outraged by the policies of this Administration over the last three and one-half years. The results are in, and the gaps in the safety net seem to resemble the Grand Canyon."

Edgar said the results noted in the report were "inevitable, given the Administration's philosophy of seeking to correct the national economy by providing incentives for the wealthy while abandoning traditional commitments to the poor."

Arkansans appointed missionaries to Finland

RICHMOND, Va.—The Rev. and Mrs. James W. Tiefel were among 43 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Sept. 11 at Bon Air Church, Richmond, Va.

The Tiefels will work in Finland, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is associate pastor of South Side Church, Fort Smith, and she is minister of education there.

Born in Tampa, Fla., Tiefel is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Tiefel Jr. of Oklahoma City, Okla. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He formerly served as associate pastor at East Side Church, Fort Smith.

Born and reared in Oklahoma City, Mrs. Tiefel, the former Mary Wieneke, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Wieneke of that city.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She also served as minister of education at East Side Church.



Jim and Mary Tiefel

The Tiefels have two children: Mary Karel, born in 1979; and Jimmie Kay, 1981. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in October for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Bible conference—The annual Paul Jackson Bible Conference was held Sept. 6-8 at First Church, Little Rock, Friday evening, in a session directed toward the lost, Jackson (above) gave an invitation to which more than 80 persons responded, seven making professions of faith and the others committing themselves as soul-winners.



Missions trip—Eighteen persons from First Church, Brinkley, spent 10 days in August in Belize, a Central American country bordering the Caribbean Ocean. The group began construction on an educational building for a Baptist congregation in Belmopan, the capital of the former British colony. They also assisted with vacation Bible schools in the capital and two other communities, enrolling 150 children and recording 13 professions of faith. A

physician, Dr. Aubrey Worrell, a member of Pine Bluff Immanuel Church, accompanied the group to work with a local hospital. Brinkley pastor Jim McDaniel said the trip helped expand the group's vision for world missions and deepened their appreciation for the challenges faced by career missionaries like Cliff and Betty Scarbrough, the Southern Baptist representatives with whom the group ministered while in Belize.

Your state convention at work

Missions

New work & Dixie Jackson

How thankful I am for people's giving to the Dixie Jackson offering. As new missions begin, there is a greater need to help these



Tidsworth

young congregations have a pastor. These "baby churches" will take their places in giving to missions. But right now they need support. Much of the money to assist comes from the state missions offering.

This special offering will also help in the future to provide funds to lend to new churches for the first unit of a building. Many sponsoring churches are not able to provide the full support needed in their mission for building. A low-interest loan may help the new congregation have a building in which to grow. All of this offering goes directly to support state missions in Arkansas. More churches here means more people and support for home and foreign missions. — Floyd Tidsworth, church extension director

Evangelism

What the New Life brings

The New Life brings a new direction. Before one is converted, the pull of life is away from God. It is very easy and natural



Shell

to sin. The Bible says that one is by nature a child of wrath. After a person is converted to new life, he moves in the direction of God's will. One experiences new and different emotions flooding the heart. Old, sinful practices are unattractive and repulsive to the Christian. One can now think God's thoughts with a new mind of Christ. The Bible states it like this, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The new life brings a refreshing growth. Jesus said, "Consider the lilies how they grow" (Luke 12:27). How do the lilies grow? They grow organically and spontaneously without trying or struggling.

Every parent has a deep desire to see their child grow strong physically. We had a new experience in our family this past Nov. 20. Amber Shell was born as a three-pound baby girl. She lost weight down to two pounds, ten ounces. It was a great day of rejoicing when we were told by medical

authorities that she had gained one-half ounce. She was on her way up. The support systems that she had in the intensive care unit helped her survive. Every new Christian needs a support system found in the church. — Clarence Shell, director

Christian Life Council

The missing spittoon

In his book, *Humor of a Country Lawyer*, Senator Sam Ervin tells of a good friend, Tom Harkins, purchasing an ornate cuspidor for his study at home. One evening he discovered it missing. He called to his wife, "Dear, I'm missing my cuspidor."



Parker

With a smile she responded, "Yes, Tom, you've been missing it. That's why I gave it away today." Missing the mark of God's purpose is infinitely worse. Expediting the Great Commission is the main task of the Christian individual, family, local church, association or denomination. Petty jealousies, ego trips, power plays, dissensions, snide remarks, unforgiving spirits, evidences of self-righteousness and all other ridiculous interferences are like filthy stains surrounding an ornate cuspidor. Evidences of missing the mark relative to our high calling in Jesus Christ mean that really effective obedience to the Great Commission has been greatly lessened.

It's in order that repentance, forgiveness, forgetting and getting on with the task be deterrents for removing any unsightly stains from around the supreme purpose of God. "... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." — Bob Parker, director

Family and Child Care

Thanks and sharing

"Sharing... For A Brighter Tomorrow." That is the theme of our Thanksgiving Offering this year. I cannot think of a more appropriate time to receive an offering to provide Christian care to abused, neglected and homeless children than Thanksgiving, since Thanksgiving is a time to thank God for his blessings and a time to help those less fortunate. Thanks and sharing go hand in hand.

Many of the children to whom we minister through Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services have not experienced the

warmth of a Christian atmosphere before entering the care of our Arkansas Baptist Children's Home, the Group Home for Boys and the Emergency Receiving Homes. However, needs continue to multiply and the extent of our ministry to hurting children and their families will be determined by the amount of financial support we receive through the Thanksgiving Offering.

Last year, there were only 206 churches that did not give through an offering to this ministry of love. May I encourage all of the churches to participate in this great mission. We will receive several thousand dollars that will provide the kind of Christian care that homeless and neglected children require.

We have a goal of \$420,000 for direct gifts this year. Most of it comes from the Thanksgiving Offering. Hopefully, Arkansas Baptists will share that children will have a brighter tomorrow. — John A. Ross, director of development

Church Training

Baptist Doctrine Study

This is the last in a series of articles on the 1984-85 Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on Developing Believers.



Holley

Baptist Doctrine Study Week is one of the five major elements of the 1984-85 Developing Believers Emphasis. The Doctrine of Christ will be the subject of our doctrinal study for 1985. The suggested date is April 16-20. Bill Latham, in the June issue of the *Church Training* magazine, said, "Christian doctrine is the foundation of everything we do. The singleness of heart and the unity of purpose that mark Baptists so distinctly grow out of our deep commitment to a singular faith. Living out that singular faith has been the force that has united Baptists in purpose and in action. Baptist Doctrine Study is an essential part of the Developing Believers emphasis, because Christians cannot be expected to live out a faith that they do not understand and believe."

The 1985 Baptist Doctrine Study on the doctrine of Christ should deepen the faith of every believer who is a part of this study. The book for adults is entitled *The Doctrine of Christ*. The author, Frank Staggs, will lead a preview study of the book for pastors during the State Evangelism Conference on Jan. 28. Other books on the doctrine of Christ are suggested for other age groups. Look for additional information about the preview study by Dr. Staggs and plan now to conduct Baptist Doctrine Study in 1985. — Robert Holley, director

Woman's Missionary Union GA Missions Spectacular

GAs in grades 4-6 and their GA leaders, as well as other interested girls and adults, are invited to participate in the GA Missions Spectacular. The GA Missions Spectacular will be held at Camp Paron on Saturday, Oct. 20, 1984 from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 9 a.m.

The GA Missions Spectacular gives older GAs and their leaders an opportunity to hear first-hand missions information from foreign missionaries, home missionaries, and mission volunteers. Included is a missionary autograph party.

The state GA Committee, who are experienced GA leaders, will assist GA leaders in personal consultation concerning Missions Adventures. Also, ideas and suggestions for conducting a Missions Adventures Recognition service will be available. A Missions Adventures Fair will be offered to motivate and enable GAs to begin and complete a Missions Adventures category. There will be a choice of activities such as recreation, hikes, and sing-alongs. A share time for GA leaders will be one of the choices.

Registration information has been mailed to GA leaders. For additional informa-

tion contact the State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Make plans for a spectacular experience. — **Pat Glascock, GA/Missions Friends director**

Annuity/Stewardship Churches are employers

Churches call pastors and staff members. A unique relationship exists between a church and those who serve in "called" or supportive positions.

This unique relationship does not dissolve the employer-employee relationship. Churches are employers, and as such have certain expectations and obligations toward their employees.

Pastors, other staff members and supportive staff members sense their calling when ministering through local churches. Money is not the number one consideration. Churches, however, should consider the financial needs of all employees. All churches should do the best they can with available and potential resources to provide adequate salaries for all staff members.

Employees provide some type of retirement program for their employees. Churches should not fail to do this for their employees. The Annuity Board offers retirement and insurance programs for any

employee who works 20 or more hours per week.

Most employers provide fringe benefits for their employees. Medical insurance is usually included. The employee receives a tax advantage when the employer pays medical premiums. Disability and life insurance are often included as a fringe benefit.

When an employee has church expenses, such as car or convention, the church should reimburse for these expenses. More information and work forms are available from the Annuity/Stewardship Department.

— **James A. Walker, director**

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Executive Committee considers eight constitutional changes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Eight changes to the constitution and bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention were considered during the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

The committee, on the recommendation of its bylaws workgroup, approved three changes, declined to make three changes and will continue the study of two additional modifications to the basic document governing the operation of the 14.1 million member denomination. To become effective, any constitutional change must be adopted at two consecutive SBCs.

The Executive Committee approved a recommendation to define the length of service any trustee of any of the 20 national agencies may serve and will continue to study recommendations on the number of trustees on each of the agencies and the method of electing seminary boards.

Under SBC procedures, when a trustee resigns or otherwise becomes ineligible, a replacement is elected to the unexpired term. Under the process, trustees elected to fill an unexpired three-year term would be eligible for two full terms—a total of 11 years.

A change was recommended to the Executive Committee by the 1984 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, which suggested a "maximum limit of eight years be placed on trustees, with exception that seminary trustees would be limited to 10 years."

John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport, La., explained there was "ambiguity on what constitutes a full term" of service for a trustee elected to fill a partial term. "We found the answer in Roberts Rules of Order." Under the recom-

mendation, any trustee serving more than half a term—more than two years— would be considered to have served a full term, and would be eligible for only one more term.

Executive Committee members approved a recommendation to allow the bylaws workgroup to continue studying a proposal adopted at the 1983 annual meeting on the number of trustees serving on the various boards of the convention. Presently there are 930 trustees.

Sullivan said the executive officers of each board, commission or standing committee have been asked to recommend the number of trustees they would like to have.

Another matter referred to further study was a motion made at the 1984 annual meeting, requesting a study of whether any seminary trustees were elected by means other than by approval of messengers to an annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The committee declined to recommend a constitutional change and a bylaw modification concerning the giving records of the churches of potential leaders in the convention. One change would have specified the convention "recognize the principle that leaders of the convention should come from churches which support the Cooperative Program with a minimum of six percent of the church's total receipts." The other would have required that giving records of potential officers be published in the Convention Bulletin prior to a vote.

Two other changes adopted for recommendation to the 1985 annual meeting concern the titles of the chief executive officers of the national agencies. One change allows the agencies to name the CEO "president"

rather than executive director or executive secretary.

The other would allow the change of the designation of Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary treasurer of the Executive Committee to president and treasurer of the Executive Committee. The change is to bring the designation into conformity with Tennessee law.

The Executive Committee also "acknowledged the fact" the treasurer of the Executive Committee automatically is treasurer of the convention.

In other matters, the committee: —Heard a progress report on the new SBC Building, which is scheduled for move-in in mid-January, and declined a request to "reduce the budget for furnishings" on the basis the "already limited budget" had been as reduced as far as it would go.

—Declined to conduct an opinion poll on "vital issues" during the 1985 annual meeting. It was stated that, since less than one percent of the members of the SBC attend an annual meeting, such a percentage is too small to get an accurate poll.

—Elected Richard D. White, pastor of First Church of Franklin, Tenn., to the 1985 Committee on Boards, replacing Alvin Douglas Sager, who was elected at the 1984 annual meeting, but has since moved from Tennessee.

—Approved a continuing study of the site of the 1991 annual meeting, declined to rotate the meeting site between five cities in seven-year periods and declined to change present procedure for encouraging local arrangements committees to attempt to find housing in private homes for messengers who may wish to save on expenses.

Georgia support group formed for SBC causes

ATLANTA (BP)—Georgia Baptists have formed a state-wide network to encourage ministers and laypersons to involve themselves in support of Georgia and Southern Baptist Convention causes and procedures, especially religious liberty and mission support.

About 150 persons met at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta for the organizational meeting. They did not adopt a formal aim for the group but elected two state-wide coordinators, eight regional coordinators and eight state consultants.

James C. Strickland, pastor of First Church of Cartersville, and Norman Cavendar, a layman in First Church of Claxton, are state-wide coordinators.

Strickland told the *Christian Index*, the Georgia state Baptist newspaper: "Purpose of our organization is to keep a strong emphasis on two specific aspects of denominational life, religious liberty and cooperation in missions. We see both of these vital Baptist distinctives being threatened by current trends in Southern Baptist life. We want to maintain a positive and supportive spirit in all that we do."

Strickland said several laypersons, including some women, were included in the organizational meeting in Atlanta. Strickland said, "We have been meeting spasmodically for about five years. But SBC actions in Kansas City in June sparked widespread interest among our group and caused us to

organize."

Strickland said the group "is not organized over theological issues. We have conservatives and fundamentalists involved. The issues are religious liberty and cooperation." He said a major purpose of the organization is to enlist attendance of laypersons at annual meetings of the state convention and the SBC.

Three former Georgia Baptist convention presidents are included in the new network, William L. Self of Atlanta, W. Ches Smith III of Tifton, and J. Thornton Williams of LaGrange. Self is a former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Smith is a former chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.



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Focal passages: Romans 12:10-13; Galatians 6:2-5

Central truth: Life in the fellowship requires love.

These passages show us the difficult task of living in the fellowship of God's people. Being the "Body of Christ" is not easy. The task requires love, patience and a concern for our fellow disciples.

The passage in Romans communicates Paul's concern that the Christians in the Roman church show brotherly love for one another. The call for "philio" love is so strong that Christians must honor others over themselves. What would happen in our churches if everyone loved others so much that honor was being given to all? The world would surely stand up and take notice.

Paul, in Galatians, makes it clear that the burdens of each fellow Christian belong to all. The drawing in the *Good News Bible* comes to mind. In it, we find fellow travelers supporting each other's packages. The church is fulfilling the laws of Christ by doing this. The scripture also tells us that we are responsible for our own load and are not to compare or compete with others.

Love is something that we talk about but do not always practice. God's love should reflect from a Christian to the world. That means we are responsible to love like God loves. We are reminded that a man reaps what he sows. If that is so, love is to be the seed that the Christian sows in the world.

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Life and Work

We follow Christ

by Billy White, Second Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Luke 5:1-11

Central truth: Jesus' lordship demands our fellowship.

A telling tombstone in this great Land of Opportunity reads: "Remember friends as you walk by, As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you shall be, Prepare in life to follow me!"

Mark Twain happened onto this stone one day in his travels. Pulling out his chalk, he scrawled the following response: "To follow you I'd be content, if I only knew which way you went!"

The point is clear. The people we choose to follow in life are the ones we will follow in death, whichever way they go! Luke 5:1-11 is a lesson in Christian fellowship.

First, note the demonstration of Jesus' authority (vv. 1-7). During his earthly ministry, Jesus typically exhibited his personal authority in two realms. He was teacher. As he taught the Word of God, people thronged to listen.

He was miracle-worker. All creation was at his disposal as he fulfilled his redemptive mission. Through the mammoth catch of fish, Jesus revealed his lordship to those few frustrated fishermen. Simon's confessing of personal sinfulness is an appropriate response to such a demonstration of Jesus' righteous power of benevolent lordship.

Second, note Jesus' invitation to fellowship (v. 10b). It wasn't enough for the Master to merely make Simon and the "Sons of Thunder" aware of their need and sinfulness. It is never the Lord's design to demean us but to engage us in his redemptive work. Notice the way in which Jesus invited his disciples—through positive affirmation!

Finally, mark the men's response in consecration (v. 11). Jesus, having proved himself worthy of their trust through the demonstration of his authority, has now assured them of productive service for him. What's left for them to do but entrust themselves to him? By the way, who are you following?

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God's witness against his people

by Robert A. Parker, director, Christian Life Council, ABCS

Basic passage: Micah 3:1-12

Focal passage: Micah 1:1 to 3:12

Central truth: God continues to condemn sin, regardless of its source.

The prophet Micah plainly spoke out in his day against evil from two different sources. He pronounced a woe upon the irreligious who devised iniquity night and day. He also condemned sin from sources not generally considered. Some of the prophets were liars; others were guilty of powerless leadership.

Our own day is no different. Evil, irreligious people continue to devise ways of causing people to stumble and fall into sinful ways. Alcoholic beverage and gambling interests are constantly devising ways to increase interest in their products. Electronics makes gambling devices more fascinating and challenging to young and old alike. Modern-day pornographers also contribute to making current society even more laden with evil.

Lyng, powerless prophets are not limited to the distant past. Such "religious" leaders will be evident until Jesus returns. These prophets are too crafty to be caught in bold-face lying. Their untruths will be more subtle, masked with deceptive attitudes. True prophets of God will be marked by plain evidences of his power. Their personal lives will give clear evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, beginning with agape love. Such positive fruit, along with joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and kindness, will also be seen in the lives of those the true prophet has touched.

Micah surely prophesied with an aching heart. His message is fresh for our own day, and both teacher and pupil will profit from prayerful moments spent with this great man of God. Such prophets help lead us to more steadily to the Lord incarnate—Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. We all, prophet and people, should join Micah in declaring "But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of justice and might. . . ." (Micah 3:8a NKJV).

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Sunday School Department to pray for enrollment

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—When churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention begin Enrollment Commitment Sunday Oct. 7, they will be backed up by 29 hours of prayer by the 150 employees of the Sunday School Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School Department, has written pastors of the more than 36,000 Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation asking that they participate in Enrollment Commitment Sunday on Oct. 7.

He also has asked pastors to sign a personal commitment card challenging them to attempt to enroll at least five people in Sunday school during the 1984-85 church year.

Employees of Piland's department have signed a volunteer prayer chart to begin praying 24 hours prior to the 9:30 a.m. services in the Eastern time zone and ending

29 hours later at the time that 9:30 services would be beginning in Hawaii and Alaska. State convention Sunday school directors also are being asked to participate.

The 29 hours of prayer is a demonstration of commitment from the Sunday school department for reaching the goal of a 500,000 net increase in Sunday school enrollment during 1984-85, Piland explained. "As I talked to groups at the conference centers this summer, I began to ask myself, 'Have we done all we can do for 8.5 by '85?'" he said.

Piland said he concluded personal requests for commitment were needed as a climax to efforts to reach the SBC goal of 8.5 million Sunday school members by Sept. 30, 1985, because "We've made all the plans we can. Now all we can do is try harder to communicate the plans to church workers to get them committed to it."

Gambling expert traces organized crime ties

WASHINGTON (BP)—Regardless of its proponents' claims, legalized gambling is a "dirty business" that inevitably leads to expansion instead of retardation of organized crime, warned Austin McGuigan, a prosecutor with 10 years' experience in investigating gambling activities.

McGuigan, chief state's attorney for the state of Connecticut, traced the ties of organized crime to legal and illegal forms of gambling during the opening session of a special conference on legalized gambling sponsored by the SBC Christian Life Commission.

McGuigan said his experience in prosecuting gambling-related cases in Connecticut had convinced him that "legalized gambling is a dirty business. There is no way to keep the gambling business clean," despite claims that it can be regulated. Even if the original operation is "clean," he said, "you can guarantee it won't last long."

The prosecutor criticized the frequent claim that legalization of gambling will help

eliminate the problems associated with illegal gambling, including ties to organized crime. "Illegal gambling," he said, "has grown every year since Connecticut brought in so-called legalized gambling."

Crime control, he added, also is a "myth" in legalized gambling, pointing out that one factor is that many times former law enforcement officers are hired by the gambling industry to testify in its behalf. Another enticement to support legalized gambling, he said, is the promise of new jobs for law officers to help regulate the industry.

Even then, he stressed, true regulation seldom occurs. "There is not a state in the country where anybody is really checking on the (gambling) industry," he said.

The power of organized crime, McGuigan said, has created a "circle of fear" among law enforcement officers who are aware of the connections with gambling. "If you uncover a fixing operation that's making \$20 or \$30 million, you have to ask yourself, just how much is my life worth," he explained.

Ziglar nephew leads church to oppose resolution

WASHINGTON (BP)—Led by a nephew of Southern Baptist Convention first vice-president Zig Ziglar, the First Church of Washington has repudiated unanimously an SBC resolution opposing ordination of women as pastors and deacons.

In June James W. Ziglar, an investment banker with a Wall Street firm in New York, proposed to the 900-member congregation an eight-month "disassociation" from the SBC to protest the resolution on women. The matter was referred to the church executive council.

Ziglar's motion would have withheld Cooperative Program gifts to the SBC from Oct. 1, 1984 to June 1, 1985. By the latter date the church would have decided

whether to make the withdrawal permanent. The congregation is dually aligned with American Baptist Churches in the USA and the SBC.

But the church executive council, with Ziglar's approval, instead asked the church at its Sept. 19 business meeting to adopt a statement that "repudiates" the SBC resolution and "affirms the belief that we are one in Christ, and that this belief dictates that women should have equal access to pastoral functions and leadership roles entailing ordination."

The statement further expresses the view that Jesus' teachings "show women have equal responsibility and opportunity in servanthood and ministry in Christ's Church."