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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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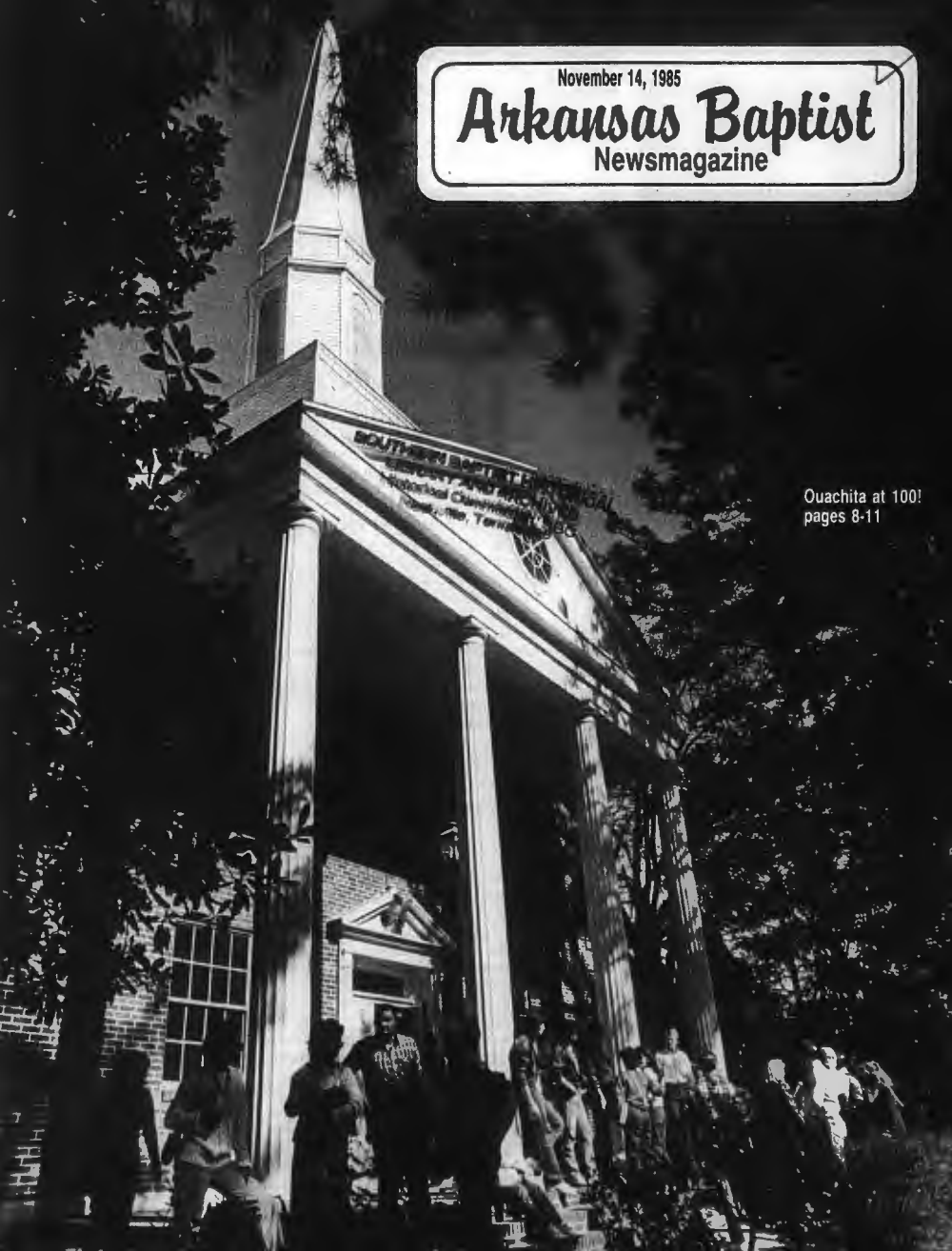
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November 14, 1985

Arkansas Baptist

Newsmagazine

Ouachita at 100!
pages 8-11





OBU photo

Ouachita Baptist University's commitment to Christian excellence is symbolized in Berry Chapel and Bible Building, a gift to the University in 1961 by Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Berry of El Dorado. The building is the focus of campus religious life through activities such as Noonday, a tradition continued as students gather each day in the chapel.

In this issue

4 revision proposed

A workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee has drafted a proposal for the revision of SBC Bylaw 16, which was the focus of a controversial parliamentary ruling during the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas.

8 Ouachita at 100!

A special section prepared by Ouachita Baptist University looks at Arkansas Baptists' oldest institution yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Correction

On page 7 of the Nov. 7 ABN, the pastor of First Church, Harrisburg, when that congregation constructed its present sanctuary was incorrectly identified. John Collier was pastor of the church at that time.

Meetings of the 1985 Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Monday, Nov. 18

- 1:30 p.m. Pastors' Conference, first session, Physical Education Center Arena
- 6:30 Pastors' Conference, second session, OPEC Arena
- 6:30 ABREA, first session, First, Arkadelphia
- 9:10 Church extension film, Missions Department, Room 401, OPEC

Tuesday, Nov. 19

- 8:30 a.m. ABREA, second session, First, Arkadelphia
- 9:00 Pastors' Conference, third session, OPEC Arena
- 10:15 Convention Wives luncheon meeting, Evans Student Center (Banquet Room A-B)
- 12 noon Conv Nominating Committee, Birkett Williams Cafeteria (Alumni Room)
- 12 noon Historical Commission luncheon meeting (Birkett Williams Purple Room)
- 12 noon Foundation Board Luncheon, Evans Student Center (Formal Lounge)
- 1:00 Foundation Board meeting, ESC Board Room
- 1:00 Operating Committee, Mabee Fine Arts Center, Room 104
- 1:30-5:00 Ouachita Centennial open house and campus tours
- 2:00 Executive Board, Mabee Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall
- 3:15 Dedication of Center for Christian Ministries (Berry Bible Building)
- 4:00 Credentials Committee, Physical Education Center, Room 304
- 4:30 Program personalities dinner, Evans Student Center, (Banquet Room A)
- 4:30 Church appreciation banquet, Missions Department (Birkett Williams Cafeteria, Alumni Room)
- 4:30 Director of Missions Dinner, ESC Banquet Room B
- 6:00 ABSC, first session, Physical Education Center, Arena
- 9:10 Ouachita fellowship for messengers (Cake and punch will be served at various locations in the Center. Resolutions Committee (meets during evening session of Convention following presentation of resolutions, Room 304, Physical Education Center)
- Tellers Committee (meets before the Convention begins, Room 401, Physical Education Center)

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- 7:30 Cooperative Program breakfast, Evans Student Center (Banquet Room A and B)
- 8:30 ABSC, second session, Physical Education Center, Arena
- 12 noon Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon (Evans Student Center, Banquet A and B)
- 12 noon Southern Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon (Evans Student Center Tiger Grill)
- 12 noon New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon (Birkett Williams Cafeteria, Alumni Room)
- 12 noon Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon, (Birkett Williams Cafeteria, Gold Room)
- 12 noon Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon, (Birkett Williams Cafeteria, Purple Room)
- 1:30 ABSC, third session, Physical Education Center, Arena
- Executive Board, immediately following afternoon session Mabee Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall
- 4:45 Southern Baptist College former students and friends dinner, Evans Student Center, Banquet Room A and B
- 5:00 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors meeting, Twin Rivers Medical Center
- 5:30 Stewardship dinner/retired ministers, First, Arkadelphia
- 6:15 ABSC, fourth session, Physical Education Center, Arena

When a church is pastorless

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



One of the most dramatic times in the life of any church is when it is without a pastor. As one deacon remarked recently, "I didn't know that my pastor did so many things." Consequently, many of the normal pastoral responsibilities are thrust on the church lay leadership or other full time staff members when the congregation is seeking a new pastor.

The initial step for any congregation is to form a pulpit committee. The method of selection may vary greatly. In some fellowships the committee is selected by ballot or nominations during a business session, and in some others members are appointed from the membership by the deacons. Whatever method, the procedure should be understood by the entire body, and the committee members should be representative of the solid church leadership.

The number of committee members also will vary. Ordinarily, larger churches will require a larger pulpit committee than a smaller church. In general, three to seven persons will comprise this group. It would be the part of wisdom for the committee to have some members who have previously served on a pulpit committee, if possible. Furthermore, some women, young people, and older people will give balance to this group.

Once the committee is formed, there are several practical steps they will need to take. First, the committee will need names of men who might be interested in the church. There are several sources. Many churches will begin immediately to receive names of prospective pastors. The associational director of missions will be invaluable in supplying names and giving counsel. State denominational workers may, upon request, be able to offer assistance. Other preachers and dedicated Christian laymen will suggest other possibilities.

It is important for the committee prior to hearing a preacher to know as much as possible about him. Such things as his leadership qualities, doctrinal soundness, ability to relate to other people, and his personal life are extremely important. Any mature man of God would expect a committee to obtain this information. It is absolutely essential that a pulpit committee examine a prospective pastor's credit record. In the event that unfavorable information is discovered, it should be kept strictly within the committee.

The selection of a pastor should involve both the human and the Divine elements. Since the congregation is searching for a spiritual leader, it is essential that both the congregation and the pulpit committee spend much time in prayer.

In the past, many churches would hear two or three prospective preachers and vote on them at the same time. Such a practice often divided a congregation badly. Sometimes a conflict over the pastor would leave problems for years. Most of our congregations today have seen the folly of this approach and have abandoned it.

By the same token, preachers should deal with only one church at a time. Some preachers will allow several churches to vote on them at the same time. It is obvious when a preacher does this he is not dealing ethically, fairly and prayerfully with the churches.

The use of an interim pastor can be exceedingly beneficial in many instances to a pastorless church. The best sources for an interim pastor are retired preachers, or denominational workers. The use of an interim pastor who might like to be considered as a prospective pastor often brings great harm to a church. When the interim makes an all-out effort to get the church, it becomes impossible for the pulpit committee to function. The time to consider him as pastor is before he is called as interim, not afterwards.

When a pulpit committee has sought the leadership of the Holy Spirit and has obtained accurate and complete facts about a prospective pastor, it is then the committee's responsibility to present the prospective pastor to the congregation. Every effort should be made to provide adequate facts and to allow the prospective pastor to become acquainted with the prospective congregation. Often, a prospective pastor may come on Saturday and the church has Open House on Saturday evening for members to come and get acquainted with him and his family. He will then preach both on Sunday morning and Sunday evening and utilize Sunday afternoon to meet other members.

Normally, the congregation will vote on the following Sunday. This may be done by secret ballot or by standing vote. Again, the process should be clearly understood by the congregation long before the prospective pastor is presented.

Once the congregation has secured a new pastor the pulpit committee will be disbanded and will return to the congregation to support the new pastor and to function in their places of service as they had previously.

During the process of searching for a pastor, every member of a church should ardently seek God's will in determining who the new pastor should be. When the new pastor arrives, everyone should then seek to work with him so that the church can accomplish its purpose under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

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meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

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The Southern accent

Bob G. Magee

Let the Lord build the house

Jacobo, a young man from one of the outlying areas of Bogota, Colombia, was one of our most diligent, promising students. He recently had been called to pastor a newly-organized church in his barrio and had recognized the need to develop his pastoral skills so he could serve his congregation more effectively. In addition to the theology courses he took every semester, he always enrolled in as many music courses as his time would permit.

I remember one evening about 9, just before we were to dismiss class, Jacobo had finished taking an exam in music theory. At this particular time, I was about as discouraged as I had ever been during my missionary career. That evening, I happened to look over Jacobo's shoulder at something he

was writing. He was unaware I was behind him. What I read surprised me; more than that, it shamed me.

He had written a prayer which began like this: "I thank God for this class and for Bro. Magee, for his dedication, and that I am able to learn how to be a better pastor." I don't have to tell you, I picked up my shoulders, lifted my head and thanked God for men like Jacobo, for using him to get me back on track spiritually.

The Lord used Jacobo to remind me I needed to be faithful to him. If I were to be completely honest, I would have to admit there have been other times in my life I found myself not really enjoying what I was doing, even though I was "working for the Lord." And without exception, I realized I

had gotten so busy working for the Lord, I had utterly pushed him to one side.

I have come to the conclusion we should not strive to develop a ministry, but rather should be obedient to the Lord and faithful to that which he gives us to do. If we make obedience to him our priority as believers, then, whether we are ministers or educators, our ministries will evolve and the glory will be his.

I am reminded of a Scripture which says, "... unless the Lord build the house, they that labor do so in vain..." (Ps. 127:1).

Bob G. Magee was professor of music at Seminario Teologico Bautista in Bogota, Colombia, prior to joining the music faculty at Southern Baptist College.

Revision of controversial bylaw to be proposed

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A proposal to revise a controversial Southern Baptist Convention bylaw will be recommended to the SBC Executive Committee in February.

Bylaw 16 concerns nominations of persons to serve on the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees. The convention president appoints the Committee on Committees, which in turn nominates the Committee on Boards. That committee in turn nominates persons persons to serve as trustees of the 20 SBC national agencies.

During the 1985 annual meeting, Parliamentarian Wayne Allen ruled the bylaw says nominations to the Committee on Boards can come only from the Committee on Committees, thus stopping an effort from the floor to nominate an alternate slate for the Committee on Boards.

Bylaw 16, section 1, says only that the "Committee on Boards... shall be nominated to the convention by the Committee on Committees," and does not speak to nominations from the floor.

Following Allen's recommendation, SBC President Charles F. Stanley ruled out of order attempts to amend the Committee on Committees' report, setting off near pandemonium at the convention.

In the aftermath of the convention, a Birmingham, Ala., layman and his wife retained an attorney and announced the possibility they will file suit in civil court because they claim their rights as messengers were violated by the ruling.

The Crowder's attorney, Emmit J. Bonardant of Atlanta, asked the SBC Executive

Committee in September to "take prompt and effective action... to remedy the violations... and to assure similar violations of the bylaws are not repeated in the future."

The Executive Committee, after a closed door meeting, voted to "affirm" the actions of the convention. The committee, however, left open the possibility of review and revision of the bylaws, particularly Bylaw 16, "for clarity..."

The six-member bylaws workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee conducted two telephone conference calls on the bylaw—Oct. 30 and Nov. 4—during which a revision was adopted. The proposal will be made to the full Executive Committee when it meets in February.

John Sullivan, chairman of the bylaws workgroup, said the workgroup will recommend the revision—"unless we feel we should make some other change"—to the Executive Committee for action in February, and, if adopted, to the 1986 meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

The revision, unless it is changed before presentation to the Executive Committee, will retain the provision the Committee on Committees will nominate a layperson and a denominationally-related person from each of the conventions qualifying for representation. It will add two sentences which will allow nominations from the floor, but will prevent the presentation of alternate slates of nominees.

The additional two sentences say: "Further nominations may be made from the floor. No messenger shall be allowed to nominate

more than one person for election to the Committee on Boards..."

Sullivan said the workgroup was "unanimous" in supporting the revision. He said those participating in the conference calls included David Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., Executive Committee chairman; Darrell Robinson of Mobile, Ala., chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee of the Executive Committee, both of whom are ex-officio members of the bylaws workgroup.

Others were James P. Guenther, convention attorney, and workgroup members Francis L. Wilson of Alamogordo, N.M.; Frank Lady of Jonesboro, Ark.; Paul Pressler of Houston and James Yates of Yazoo City, Miss.

Guenther told Baptist Press he "hopes that the bylaw amendment will be introduced to the convention early so that the convention can react to it before this year's Committee on Committees makes its report. That would give the chair the opportunity of having the benefit of the convention's will on whether to allow nominations from the floor."

Guenther added a bylaw amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote for adoption.

Sullivan said he supported the recommendation to prohibit nomination of entire slates of alternative candidates: "I just do not think somebody from Virginia knows who ought to be nominated from Louisiana, and that is what happens when slates are allowed."

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...We can make a difference when we work together! In 1976, we made a commitment to try to get the gospel to everyone before the end of the century. The daring strategy anticipated all

Southern Baptists would join in the effort called "Bold Mission Thrust." How else could such a goal be allowed?

After eight years, I am happy to report our collective efforts have resulted in a



Moore

29.19 percent increase in foreign missionaries and a 49.40 percent increase in home missionaries. We are in 25 percent more countries than we were in 1976. The number of church missions has increased by 170.44 percent. God has truly blessed the effort. Our churches' support has made it possible.

Two questions emerge. Could these figures have been greatly multiplied? Can this rate of expansion be sustained? The answer is a strong yes! To have done more and to sustain or accelerate our rate, people and finances would be required. Let's see our potential during those eight years. Total gifts to churches increased 122 percent. Yet, the churches increased their gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program by only 58.6 percent.

Our churches are receiving more money and keeping more for themselves. Last year, our churches (SBC) averaged giving 8.4 percent of their total receipts to world missions through the Cooperative Program. A poor example by the church in giving discourages generosity on the part of its members. We could have done much, much better!

To do this, people in every church must get a burden about this. Logically, the pastor should have the spiritual burden of this world heaviest on his heart. By his position, he can do most to lead the church in mission concern. To do so, he must stay informed. His best bet, if he cannot keep up on our mission activity, is to enlist and encourage someone in the church to assist him and lead others.

A good place to begin would be with a church-wide foreign mission study. This year's book and planning kit are available through the Baptist Book Store. Get the best teacher in church to teach it. If we can do better, we must. We will not likely do more until we know more.

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



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Time for Lottie Moon

November is the time to start emphasizing the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Collected in December, this offering represents 45 percent of the Foreign Mission Board's budget. The 1985 goal is \$70 million. Gifts to the Lottie Moon offering give those of us at home a chance to help directly with overseas missions.

The Woman's Missionary Union at First Church, Batesville, again is sponsoring a foreign dish pot-luck supper to remind us of the opportunity to give to the offering. From time to time, the WMU has sponsored this supper, it is becoming an annual occasion.

The supper will be on a Wednesday night in November before prayer meeting. The long tables will be beautifully decorated with colorful dolls and items from different countries. In the service after the meal, special emphasis will be given to the history and goals of the Lottie Moon Offering.

Those bringing food are asked to prepare one of their favorite recipes for a foreign dish. Most cooks nowadays have several good recipes of this type. For example, there are Mexican foods such as tacos, chili and tamale pie. Then there is Italian spaghetti and lasagna. Swedish meat balls, English trifle, Scottish shortbread and German potato salad are familiar favorites. Some cooks will prepare more unusual dishes, drawing from cultures all over the world. The dinner will be a culinary delight and an opportunity to share new recipes.

The recipe we are giving has several options. It is an excellent way to use leftover beef, pork, chicken or turkey. It may seem a little involved, but actually is very simple. We think you will like it, not only for pot-lucks, but for a main dish at home.

Chinese style casserole

2 or 3 cups meat, cut in bite size pieces (use leftover pork or beef roast, chicken or turkey)	1½ tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup celery, sliced thin	3 cups chicken broth
1 cup onion, chopped	1 can bean sprouts, drained
1 cup bell pepper, chopped (opt.)	3 tablespoons soy sauce
3 tablespoons oil	3 cups cooked rice
	1 can chow mein noodles

Saute celery, onions and pepper in heated oil for about 3 minutes. Push vegetables aside and add cornstarch. Mix well and stir in chicken broth (The broth can be made from bouillon cubes). Cook while stirring until mixture forms a thin sauce. Add meat, bean sprouts and soy sauce. Heat thoroughly. Spread hot rice in casserole dish. Layer meat mixture on top. Cover with chow mein noodles. It is ready to serve, but can be reheated later in a hot oven.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

missionary notes

Dr. and Mrs. Harold E. Mitchell, missionaries to Tanzania, are in the States (address: c/o Ouachita Baptist University, Box 3720, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923). They are natives of Pine Bluff. She is the former Rene Boschetti. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Alvin Hatton, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Sítio Do Sossego, 28860 Rio Dourado, RJ, Brazil). The former Catherine Jordan, she has lived in Dermott, Helena and Hot Springs. They were appointed in 1947.

Mrs. Virginia W. Oliver, missionary to Brazil, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 5, Box 19, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909). The former Virginia Winters, she was born in Leslie. She and her late husband were appointed in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron M. Remington, missionaries to Portugal since 1977, resigned from missionary service Oct. 31. They served in Portugal, where he was an English-language pastor. He was born in Prairie Grove and lived near Little Rock. They may be addressed c/o Windermere Baptist Assembly, State Road AA, Roach, Mo. 65787.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Carel Norman is serving as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Van Buren. He moved there from Gravel Ridge where he served for more than eight years as pastor of First Church.

Fredie Cook of Black Oak died Oct. 29 at age 69. He was a deacon at Black Oak Church where he been a member for 33 years.

Charles Rose Brummett of Benton has been named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. He is a Ph.D. student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, currently serving as director of Continuing Education. He is a graduate of both the seminary and Ouachita Baptist University.

Lawrence Wovan has resigned as pastor of Beryl Church at Vilonia.

Ken and Rosie Heim have joined the music staff of Springdale First Church. He will serve as director of instrumental music and she will serve as church pianist. They moved to Springdale from Fort Worth where both recently completed their master of music degrees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They have a one-month-old son, Steven Nicholas.

G. Bryan Oliver of Viola died Oct. 17 at age 89. He was a retired farmer and member of Viola First Church. He had actively served as a deacon for more than 50 years, serving at both the Viola Church and the Gum Springs Church. He had also served as a director for music and Church Training and as a Sunday School teacher. Survivors include his daughter, Cora Sanders, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Frank Stewart is serving as pastor of Batesville Northside Church, moving there from the Norfolk area.

Chester Miller is serving as pastor of Rosie Church, moving there from Horseshoe Bend.

briefly

Park Place Church in Hot Springs held a three-day Bible conference Oct. 27-28. W.O. Vaught, pastor emeritus of Little Rock Immanuel Church, was leader.

Friendship Church at Springdale is constructing a new sanctuary that will also house a nursery. Pastor Jack Anglin reported the current sanctuary will be used for educational space.

Stamps First Church has expanded its missions education program with the organization of a Baptist Young Women's group.

East Side Church in Fort Smith will ordain Jack Brown to the deacon ministry Nov. 17.

North Side Church at Eudora observed homecoming Nov. 3. Tom Darter, director of missions for Delta Association, was speaker. Special music was provided by the Martin and Sivils families.

Crossett First Church sponsored a single adult seminar Nov. 8-9. Glen D. McGriff, director of Ministry of Crisis Support for Arkansas Baptist State Convention, led sessions of coping with stress and understanding emotions.

Batesville First Church is continuing an enlargement building program with improvements to the educational building and renovation of office space.

Brinkley First Church deacons and yokefellows and their wives recently hosted a banquet to honor church members who are either a widow or widower.

Bentonville First Church held an ordination service Nov. 3 to ordain Mike Graue and Jerry Howard to the deacon ministry.

Springdale First Church held a groundbreaking service Oct. 27 for a new auditorium, administration building and chapel.

Oak Grove Church at Pochontas has painted its sanctuary and installed new carpeting.

Marion First Church will ordain Gaylon Taylor to the preaching ministry Nov. 24.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock sponsored youth/parent days Nov. 10-11. Bob R. Taylor of Nashville, Tenn., was speaker.

Pulaski County Association sponsored a pastor and staff prayer retreat Nov. 14 at Camp Paron. Bob Eklund from the Evangelism Department, Baptist General Convention of Texas was speaker.



Students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary participated when Faulkner Association sponsored Seminary Weekend Nov. 2-3 in an effort to assist seminary students in learning the programs of a local Southern Baptist Church and the role of its pastor. A Saturday evening banquet at Cold Springs Retreat featured Conway Sawyers, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department director, as speaker. Students supplied participating church pulpits on Sunday. Sharing at the banquet were (left to right) student David Williams, pastor Lawrence Wovan, pastor Jim Acklin, Bill Kreis, associational director of missions and weekend coordinator, Sawyers, Gary Wise and Tim Vining.

Your state convention at work

Christian Life Council Even in Arkansas

The following are comments from interviews conducted by the Arkansas Hunger Project: "I use my food stamps plus my retirement to eat, but I have no savings" (72-year-old disabled male in Faulkner County).



Parker

"I hate that I work and still have to get food stamps to feed my family. I'm ashamed. I should be able to do it myself. But my job's not good enough. So I'm willing to go with my wife to see about stamps because I don't want to see my children go without" (27-year-old father of three in Ouachita County).

"Oh no, we don't eat three meals a day. We eat one good meal at night. Maybe crackers and peanut butter for lunch. Not three meals. We can't" (wife and mother of five children in St. Francis County).

"I get food stamps. I buy no-name breads. I shop carefully. But I always run out of food at the end of the month" (35-year-old single mother).

If you want to help overcome hunger in our own state, attend the workshop to be held in conjunction with the annual Arkansas Interfaith Hunger Ingathering, Saturday, Nov. 23, 1985, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Philander Smith College, 812 West 13th Street in Little Rock. — **Bob Parker, director**

Evangelism Continuing cultivation

It is now February in our witness cultivation process. February is a very cold month, and some will have a tendency to



Shell

believe it is too cold for God's Spirit to work. Our Lord is just as active in February as any other month in the year, and so should our visitors be to the prospects.

Every prospect who is not enrolled in Sunday School should be given a quarterly during this visit. Each visitor should seek to enroll the entire family in Sunday School. Be very much aware the person may be ready to make a personal commitment to Christ. Every visit should be made remembering "today is the day of salvation" and "now is the acceptable time."

A visit should be made just preceding the revival to all those who have not made a commitment of their life to Christ and become a part of the church fellowship. The

gospel should be shared lovingly with the prospect so that the seed of the Word may be planted and given life by the Holy Spirit. The visitor may use the CWT Model Presentation, the Full and Meaningful Life booklet or a marked New Testament. For the visitor who may not be aware of any of these plans of salvation, they can always give a good personal testimony. A warm welcome should be extended to them to the revival services. Pray for them daily that they might experience a glorious salvation. — **Clarence Shell, director**

Missions Churches in transition

Is your church in a changing community, going nowhere fast? You are not alone. A recent study by the Home Mission Board



Washington

revealed that 56 percent of the churches in metropolitan areas are encountering significant racial, ethnic, social-economic, lifestyle or population density change. Churches experiencing some kind of community transition are a phenomenon present in all Arkansas associations. The issue at hand is not whether Baptists like the change, but how churches will adjust programs for the shifts in the population.

PACT (Project: Assistance for Churches in Transitional Communities) is a Home Mission Board/Arkansas Baptist State Convention response to the needs of churches in transitional communities. It attempts to help these churches redeem their reasons for being, discover needs in their church communities and discover ways to intentionally be on mission. PACT is an umbrella term for several projects offered to churches in transitional communities, including conferences, research, newsletters, material, helps in initiating pastoral support groups and PACT consultants who are available to conduct individualized church consultations.

Instead of being a victim of the changing community, determine your destiny in a changing community. PACT has helped churches around the nation become better churches. — **Jack Washington, church and community missions director**

Stewardship services

Stewardship is more than annual budget preparation and promotion. It is a way of life. Christian stewardship isn't confined to a few weeks in the fall. The Stewardship Department can assist the churches in their

perennial efforts to grow Christian stewards.

The department provides literature without cost to churches. Tracts on tithing, giving, mission support and money management are available. Upon request, churches can receive budget guidebooks and budget promotion packets.

Video tapes, filmstrips and films are stocked and available without rental fees. Subjects covered by these visuals include giving, money management, Cooperative Program and stewardship committee organization.

"Considered Worthy," a salary and benefits survey of Arkansas Baptist churches, offers suggestions to personnel committee members as they consider compensation for church employees.

The department director conducts conferences on budget promotion, building fund campaigns, personal money management, staff salaries, mission support and retirement planning.

A missionary-in-residence works through the Stewardship Department and responds to church requests. Challenge to Build consultants work with churches in building fund campaigns. Contact your Stewardship Department for materials or services. — **James A. Walker, director**

Family and Child Care Thanksgiving offering

Arkansas Baptists have responded to the special needs of children through participation in the annual Thanksgiving Offering down through the years. It is nearing that time of the year again when we reflect on the past year's activities and offer a special thanks to God for his blessings to us. It is a time when out of hearts of love and thankfulness we want to share with others and remember those less fortunate than we.

We invite you to join with us again this year in the promotion of the Thanksgiving Offering ("They count on us"). It seems like everyone has their hand out these days! They are asking that you give to this fund, that drive or their favorite charity... and now for the next several weeks you will be reading our articles concerning this annual offering. But we are not asking for a hand-out... we are asking that you share an investment in the future of the boys and girls in our care. We believe the dividends will be great!

Arkansas Baptists' Thanksgiving Offering is all about caring. The purpose of our child care ministry is redemptive in that we attempt to restore the child's faith in himself, others and God. We work toward providing appropriate care for children and rehabilitation of the family unit when possible.

Can they count on us? We believe they can. Thank you for caring. — **Johnny G. Biggs, executive director**

Ouachita--the school's success in hiring outstanding faculty and staff members from the very first day of classes. Mrs. Estelle McMillan Blake, for example, was one of the six original teachers hired in 1886. Her teaching career at Ouachita spanned a record 51 years. Other outstanding teachers, such as Dr. O.W. Yates, Dr. R.C. Pettigrew, R.C. Daily, Fay Holiman, John G. Lile and so many others remain as faculty landmarks during Ouachita's first century.

Building program begins

Several major buildings were constructed during his administration, including Berry Chapel and Bible Building, Verser Drama Center, Rockefeller Gymnasium and several dormitories. The name and status of the college were officially changed in 1965 to Ouachita Baptist University.

Another notable accomplishment during the Phelps era was the enrollment of the school's first black students, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Makosholo of Rhodesia, The African couple had been recommended for admission by Dr. Marion "Bud" Fray, who was serving as a missionary in Africa at the time and who is now chairman of Ouachita's Department of Religion. Four years later, Mr. Makosholo returned to Rhodesia to serve as headmaster of the Baptist High School in the Sangati-Gokwe district.

The acceptance of the Makosholos in the Arkadelphia community and local church was not without tension and strife, but few would deny that valuable growth and learning came through it all. Integration of Ouachita proceeded smoothly throughout the 1960s as Carolyn Green in 1964 became the first black American student admitted to the school.

As Ouachita grew steadily stronger in every aspect of its program, Dr. Bob Riley, who for 20 years was one of the school's most colorful and best known faculty members, observed recently, "We can have great pride in our achievements. We have done well for our generation and we have reason to feel proud about that."

Among the many persons who have helped to shape Ouachita, a few have been as effective as Dr. Ralph Phelps Jr., who at the age of 33 became president of the school in 1953. During his administration, the curriculum was revised and expanded, a graduate program was added, the endowment was doubled and enrollment increased steadily.

Indeed, with the continued guidance of Dr. Daniel R. Grant, the son of Dr. J.R. Grant, Ouachita does have plenty to feel proud about today.

Soon after his arrival in 1970, the



Ouachita-Southern Advancement Campaign and several subsequent campaigns, directed by Dr. Ben Elrod, led to a vigorous new building program resulting in Evans Student Center, Lile Hall, Mabee Fine Arts Center, McClellan Hall and most recently, the Physical Education Center.

OUACHITA TODAY

By every measure, therefore, Ouachita today is surely all that its founders would have wanted it to be--a dynamic, highly regarded, Christian liberal arts University that is far stronger than any other time in its history.

Academic excellence

In terms of academic strength, Ouachita is among the top three schools in Arkansas in the number of students who have received the coveted Governor's Scholarship Award. The school ranks equally high in the number of students who are National Merit finalists. In 1985, the state winner and the first runner-up in the

prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship competition were both students at Ouachita.

The University's pre-med program continues to produce outstanding graduates who are accepted into medical schools and who succeed so well in their professions. It is a proud tradition, established many years ago by Dr. E.A. Provine, for who the Moses-Provine Science Center was renamed in 1975.

The Carl Goodson Honors Program provides special academic challenges for outstanding students. A further indication of Ouachita's growing academic strength is the fact that the number of faculty members having earned doctorates has moved well beyond the 50 percent mark.

In addition to the traditional academic disciplines, important new major fields of study have been established, including a strong multi-disciplinary major in communications, church recreation and family life ministries, and computer science.

A significant portion of Ouachita's academic program, incidentally, takes



OUACHITA AT 100!

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists!

Because you have stayed with us every step of the way as a steadfast friend, as a spiritual counselor and as an ever-generous source of financial strength, Ouachita Baptist University Baptist University is celebrating its centennial anniversary.

But in addition to being a time for celebration it is also a time for reflection, for taking inventory, for rededicating ourselves and looking ahead to challenging new goals and plans for Christian higher education.

LOOKING BACK

The selection of Arkadelphia in 1886 as the site of the first Baptist college in the southern half of Arkansas wasn't without its problems. In fact, it took the trustees of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention 72 ballots before they finally chose Arkadelphia over seven other competing cities, including Austin, Buckner College in Witcher-ville, Clarksville, Fordyce, Little Rock, Morrilton and Ozark.

Arkadelphia eventually was chosen because of a strong local church, train service that had come to town just seven years earlier, a rural setting and plenty of distance—at least for those days—from such big cities as Hot Springs and Little Rock with "all their worldly temptations."

Dr. John William Conger, only 29 years old at the time, was chosen as the first president of Ouachita, named for the river that flows along the eastern edge of the campus. Classes began in the fall of 1886 with six professors and 166 students. The school's first building, donated to Ouachita by the people of Arkadelphia, had previously served as the State Blind School and later as the Red River Baptist Academy.

Tuition for that first semester was \$5 a month. In the winter, the young ladies were required to wear black dresses trimmed in black, with black coats and black hats trimmed in black ribbon with a white plume.



Dr. Daniel R. Grant with students

If the dress code was severe, so were the rules of behavior.

"Our government is mild yet firm," the students were told in the school's first catalog. "No gentleman pupil will be allowed to visit young ladies. No lady pupil will be allowed to receive attention from young gentlemen. A faithful, earnest pupil has no time for such diversion."

Ouachita's tough-minded approach to Christian higher education caught on quickly and the school began to grow. As enrollment increased, buildings began to appear that later were to become campus landmarks: Old Main in 1889, the Young Ladies Home—later named Old North Dorm—in 1891, and the Music Conservatory in 1898.

By the time the 20th Century rolled around, Ouachita was well on its way, with leadership provided by a succession of strong presidents.

Social life in those early days was tightly restricted at Ouachita. Dating couples, for example, were allowed to stroll together only on the porch that extended around the Young Ladies Home, and the female students were not permitted to walk to town by themselves. Even as late as 1923, the

Dean of Women would carry a yardstick around with her to make certain that there was, at all times, at least three feet of separation between the girls and their dates.

Most of the social life, understandably, was confined to literary societies, religious organizations and the military units. But near the turn of the century, social clubs such as the "Kiddoos" and the "Six-Foot Club" began to appear and social life at Ouachita took on a new and more fun-oriented direction.

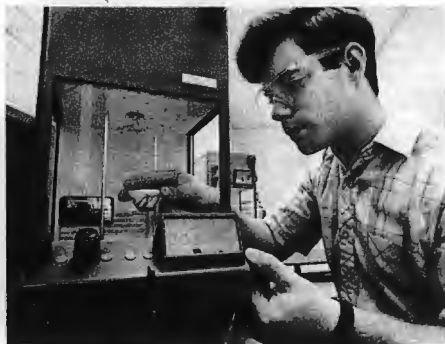
Another important development in student life was the emergence of varsity sports. The first football team at Ouachita was established in 1895, basketball in 1907, with women's basketball and other sports following close behind. Guided by Coach Morley Jennings, one of Ouachita's winningest coaches, the Tigers even won football victories in 1914 and 1924 over the Razorbacks of the University of Arkansas and the Rebels of Ole Miss. These were the teams, according to college yearbook, that "put Ouachita on the map."

The school's steady growth during the first three decades of the 20th Century came to an abrupt halt, however, as the Great Depression paralyzed the nation in 1929. By the time Dr. J. R. Grant became president in 1933, fund-raising programs were being cancelled despite a \$165,000 debt, enrollment was plummeting and the school had lost its accreditation. His sixteen years as the school's chief executive, encompassing the Depression and World War II, were without a doubt the most difficult times in the school's 100-year history.

Yet with his guidance and the leadership and support provided by the faculty, staff, trustees and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Ouachita regained accreditation, increased enrollment, paid off the \$165,000 debt and started a much-needed building program.

Dr. J. R. Grant was typical of another of the remarkable accomplishments at

continued on next page



place outside the classroom. A Washington, D.C., seminar offered each year through the Maddox Public Affairs Center takes students to the nation's capital for intensive studies of important social and political issues. Students may also participate in significant research pertaining to such pressing environmental concerns as acid rain and other projects in the Water Research Center directed by Dr. Joe Nix.

Student exchange programs have been established in Japan and Nigeria, and the Institute of Regional Studies is exploring the history of Old Washington and Arkansas' Red River Valley.

Academic strength is further evident in the seven endowed chairs of instruction established since 1975. Sixteen additional chairs have been placed in the wills of Ouachita's "Second Century Group." Support from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has increased to almost \$2 million annually, and the University's total endowment has increased from less than \$2 million in 1970 to more than \$10 million in 1985. In addition, the annual support

of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has an equivalent value of a \$25 million endowment.

Success of J.E.C.

A remarkable accomplishment in strengthening academic excellence in recent years has been the widely acclaimed cooperation between Ouachita and arch-rival Henderson State University. Such cooperation has led to the establishment of the Joint Educational Consortium, usually called the "J.E.C." The two administration, with a strong assist from Arkadelphia philanthropist Jane Ross, have achieved an almost miraculous feat of statesmanship that has brought about this unique cooperation between Ouachita, Henderson and the Ross Foundation.

The first executive director was Ray Thornton, one of Arkansas' leading citizens. Today, the J.E.C. is led by Dr. Dolphus Whitten, a distinguished Ouachita alumnus and former president of Oklahoma City University.

The J.E.C. has significantly strengthened the resources of both

universities through cooperative programs between the two libraries, cross-over privileges allowing students to take courses on both campuses and joint concerts and lectures. The success of the consortium is all the more remarkable in that the unique character and purposes of both universities are carefully safeguarded in every cooperative activity.

Nowhere is this independent spirit better demonstrated than when the "Rivals of the Ravine" meet during athletic events.

Ouachita is understandably proud of the fact that the Tigers have achieved a record-breaking string of five straight football victories over the Henderson Reddies during the 1980s. The Tigers have also won the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference All-Sports Trophy five times during a recent 10-year period. The Tiger Sharks swimming team won the AIC championship for the first time in 1985, ranked 8th in the nation in the NAIA meet and produced nine All-Americans.

So far as student life is concerned, Ouachita just may have more extra-
continued on next page

curricular student organizations--academic, professional and social--per square foot than any other college in the country. Further illustrating the involvement of students in virtually every aspect of university activities is the annual Tiger Traks weekend, sponsored by the Ouachita Student Foundation to produce scholarship money for fellow students. In 1985 alone, students raised almost \$20,000. Seven of the scholarships were for \$1,000 each.

Christian excellence

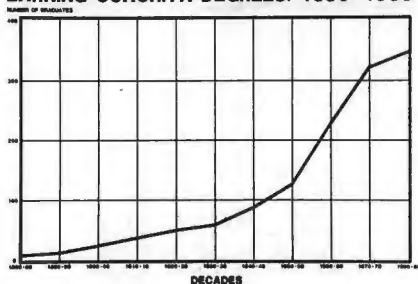
Ouachita's commitment to Christian excellence is symbolized in Berry Chapel and Bible Building, a gift to the University in 1961 by Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Berry of Eldorado.

The student religious activities program at Ouachita has become one of the best in the country. That is quite a statement, but the University has plenty of evidence to back it up. The success of the program, for example, can be seen in:

- The variety of opportunities for Christian growth and missions experiences;
- The increasing number of student groups who are engaged in Christian witnessing on and off the campus through music, drama, preaching and lay witnessing;
- The yearly Christian Focus Week that extends beyond the chapel and into classroom throughout the campus;
- The University's support for required chapel and for required courses in Old Testament and New Testament for all students at a time when such requirements have been ruled unconstitutional at state colleges and abandoned by many church-related colleges;
- On a strictly voluntary basis, the Noonday tradition continues to be strong as students gather each day in Berry Chapel to share their commitment to Christ;
- The Missionary-in-Residence Program, established in 1971, each year brings in a missionary family on furlough to live on campus;
- The University's missions emphasis is particularly evident in that Ouachita ranks consistently among the top three or four colleges and universities in the nation, both public and private, in producing new Southern Baptist Foreign Mission appointees;
- Between 250 and 300 Ouachita students are preparing each year for church-related vocations. About 100 of these students are preparing for the preaching and pastoral ministry. As Ouachita pauses, therefore, to take inventory, to evaluate the success of its program at the end of its first century, how well does the University seem to be doing? Evidence that it is



AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS EARNING OUCHITA DEGREES: 1886-1985



doing very well indeed is dramatically illustrated in a decade-by-decade report (see graph) of the average number of graduates. From a low of only eight graduates per year in the college's first decade, Ouachita's senior classes have increased steadily during each 10 year period to a high of 347 per year, on the average, in the 1980s.

What it amounts to is convincing evidence of the success of Christian higher education at Ouachita.

LOOKING AHEAD

But what about the future? Where does Ouachita go from here? Dr. Grant was recently asked precisely that question.

"It may seem strange coming from me," he said, "but a centennial celebration can be a hazardous--even a dangerous--thing if we spend all our time looking back and pointing with pride and celebrating. I think friends of Ouachita have a right to be proud and to celebrate. But we have been working very hard to make it more than just a year of thanksgiving and celebration. It should be primarily a time of rededication and second-century planning and looking ahead."

So far as the question of "Where does Ouachita go from here?" is concerned, Dr. Grant answered simply, "Wherever we want to go, wherever all of us want to go--alumni, students, churches, trustees, faculty, staff, special friends. It depends upon our commitment of personal resources and our dedication to God."

Without a doubt, he said, "Ouachita is going to grow steadily stronger in academic and Christian excellence, in preparing and motivating young people to serve our region and our world, strong enough to build a new information-age library and a new auditorium." Grant also predicted that the University will be strong enough to endow more professorships, scholarships and academic programs.

"It is my prayer and my confidence," he said, "that we will make Ouachita's second century even greater than the first."

Ouachita At 100, a second century of commitment to academic and Christian excellence. That is our tradition. It remains our vision.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for making it happen.

1,100 in Paraguay accept Christ in simultaneous crusades

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)—More than 1,100 people accepted Christ as personal Savior during two recent weeks of simultaneous evangelistic campaigns in Paraguay.

According to Southern Baptist missionary Thomas Law, a nationwide media blitz before and during the campaigns helped the 53 participating Baptist churches attract an average total of more than 4,300 people each night.

Some 40 Baptist preachers from neighboring Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay participated in the campaigns. Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner invited national Baptist leaders and several of the visiting preachers to meet with him, which drew considerable press attention.

The largest Baptist church in Paraguay holds no more than 300 people, so most of the churches overflowed with people dur-

ing the weeks of the campaign. The 53 churches averaged 10 nights of services. A cumulative total of 41,475 people attended nationwide. In addition to the 1,111 professions of faith in Christ, 240 people publicly made other spiritual decisions.

The campaigns climaxed the third year of a five-year evangelistic project. Next year will feature united evangelistic campaigns in four metropolitan areas.


CP records first \$9 million October

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program, recorded its first \$9 million October last month as voluntary contributions through the program reached \$9,039,034.

That reflects an increase of \$435,821 (5.07 percent) over October 1984 and compares with the previous best October (1983) mark of \$8,638,255.

October was the first month of the 1985-86 fiscal year for the convention. The basic operating budget for the period is \$120.6 million, more than \$3 million more than receipts during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

To reach the basic budget goal, gifts must increase 2.604 percent over last fiscal year. October's increase was 5.07 percent.



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Reagan signs bill marking national day of fasting

WASHINGTON (BP)—Following approval by Congress, President Reagan has signed a bill designating Nov. 24 as National Day of Fasting to Raise Funds to Combat Hunger.

The measure is designed to encourage Americans to fast one or more meals on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and contribute the unspent food money for hunger relief. Participants may send contributions to the

charity of their choice or to a specially established post office box in Washington.

Donations mailed to the post office box will be distributed through InterAction, an umbrella organization of more than 100 relief groups, including the Baptist World Alliance. Those donations should be mailed to: Fast to End Famine, P.O. Box 33219, Farragut Station, Washington, D.C. 20033.

"This is a chance for Americans to continue to voluntarily share their blessings with the not so fortunate," stated Rep. Ron Packard, R-Calif., one of the bill's sponsors. "By giving up a meal or two just a few days prior to our national day of thanks—and donating the money that would have been spent on food for those meals—even the less affluent Americans can afford to contribute.

"We... can come together to help the helpless. We have the resources. We have the will. And, through the National Day of Fasting... we have the way."

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Hotels for St. Louis convention listed

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Hotels which will be reserved for use by the housing bureau at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention have now been listed, said Tim A. Hedquist, SBC convention manager.

Hedquist said 20 hotels—involving an estimated 5,200 rooms—will be included in the housing bureau block, releasing other rooms for reservations by individuals or groups. He added release of the other hotels is "earlier than in the past, but we are ahead of schedule in convention preparation."

He said the list is being released "because some of the hotels already are being bombarded with requests for reservations" for the mid-June meeting in 1987.

The SBC retains about 4,500 to 5,200 rooms for use by the housing bureau. Those rooms are assigned by drawing from requests mailed Oct. 1 or 2 of the year preceding the convention, Hedquist said. The system was established to allow individuals an opportunity to obtain rooms for the annual meeting.

The hotels reserved for SBC use, he said, are: Adam's Mark/St. Louis, Bel Air Hilton, Best Western St. Louisian, Clarion, Embassy Suites, Holiday Inn Market Street, Holiday Inn Riverfront, Marriott's Pavilion, Mayfair, Omni International, Radisson St. Louis, Rodeway Inn Downtown, Sheraton St. Louis.

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International

Things worth remembering

by James McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: 2 Timothy

Focal passage: 2 Timothy 1:1-7; 3:10-17

Central truth: Activities that strengthen the spiritual life are worth remembering and being practiced by growing Christians.

In the first focal passage, we see the importance of teaching children the Word of God as Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother. In Deuteronomy 6:7, the Bible commands in regard to the Word of God that "thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou risest up." The word "teach" may be interpreted "sharpen." In other words, parents are to impress upon their children divine truth just as one would sharpen a weapon by friction repeated again and again.

Fathers bear the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a family altar. Each parent has the responsibility to continually share in love the words and ways of God with his or her children. They should see their children are in Sunday School to supplement their teaching, not to supplant it. Raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord is a day by day responsibility. One hour of Bible study on Sunday morning is not sufficient to lead a child to become mighty in spirit or to thwart the fiery darts of Satan.

The second focal passage assures us Scripture is profitable (1) for doctrine, to know what not to believe; (2) for reproof, to discern what not to believe; (3) for correction, to learn what not to do; and (4) for instruction in righteousness, to understand what should be done. In that Scripture has God as its author, it is authoritative; it is inspired, which literally means "God-breathed." In John 17:17, Jesus declared, "Thy word is truth," which leads us to say it is inerrant. It is infallible, the perfect rule for everything we believe and do.

In Psalm 1, God promises to prosper those who meditate upon Scripture day and night. As Christians, we are to hide it in our hearts. As Christian parents, we are to lead our children to hide it in their hearts.

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Life and Work

Affirming ultimate loyalties

by Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus, North Little Rock

Basic passage: 1 Samuel 12:1-25

Focal passage: 1 Samuel 12:7, 12-15, 19-20, 22

Central truth: Ultimate loyalty belongs to God and not to human leaders.

This study is the third in a unit designed to show how God responded to his people as they faced the pressures of a new environment. God's people today need to find creative ways to live in a changing world. Hopefully, this study will help us clarify our loyalties to earthly leaders in the light of our supreme allegiance to God.

(1) God the faithful redeemer (1 Sam. 12:7)

Samuel gladly laid claim to having held on to his integrity throughout his long career as a servant of God. "The righteous acts of the Lord" (v. 7) are those acts in which God has appeared as the deliverer of his people. They vindicate the helpless.

(2) God allows freedom (1 Sam. 12:12-15)

1 Samuel 12:9-11, a survey of Israel's past history, is often referred to as "the Deuteronomian view of history." Following this, Samuel points to one of Israel's great sins, her insistence on having a king to put in place of the Lord. Israel wanted a king because other nations around her had kings (v. 12). Rejecting God's leadership for leadership patterns provided by the environment was one of Israel's most common sins. This reminds us of something we call "peer pressure" in our own times.

(3) God keeps his promises (1 Sam. 12:19-20)

When the people repented and turned back to God, Samuel assured them they were still God's chosen people and that, if they and their king followed the Lord, they would continue to have his blessings.

(4) God is faithful (1 Sam. 12:22)

The fact of God's faithfulness, even when his people fail him, is one of the great assurances for his people of all generations. Who of us does not feel the need to repent and start over again to follow the Lord with the beginning of every new day? Clabe Hankins' prayer for the beginning of a new day is something most of us can appreciate: "Lord, I messed up yesterday, and I may mess up tomorrow, but help me not to mess up today!"

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Bible Book

Evil shepherds

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes

Basic passage: Ezekiel 33:1 to 36:38

Focal passage: Ezekiel 34:2-6; 15-16; 22-25

Central truth: Ezekiel's prophecy concerning the true shepherd teaches that, under the new covenant, the basis for God's dealing with his people is a personal, caring relationship.

This lesson brings us to the turning point in Ezekiel's ministry. Jerusalem has fallen, and all of Ezekiel's dire predictions have been fulfilled. The city lies in ruin, and the people have been carried into exile. Ezekiel now finds he is able to speak again after a period of dumbness. This symbolizes the time of Yahweh's silence is past, and it is time for a new beginning. So, we have prophecies of restoration and renewal in chapters 33-34.

Chapter 34 focuses on the theme of the shepherd and his flock. The designation of rulers as shepherds is a familiar emphasis in all of the literature of the ancient near East. In a biting invective, Ezekiel brings some severe charges against the past rulers of Israel. He condemns Israel's former kings for exploiting their subjects to their own advantage, for neglecting their basic duties as rulers and for allowing their subjects to be scattered among the nations.

In contrast with what the evil rulers have done, the prophet now reveals what God is going to do. Yahweh himself will bring to an end the evil rule of the past, will rescue his people and will become their shepherd. In the new age, Yahweh will make a new covenant (vv. 25-31). He will cleanse them of their idols and put a new heart and spirit within them. No longer will they have stony, insensitive hearts which choose not to hear or understand, but will have hearts of flesh, sensitive and fully aware of their relationship with God.

As a shepherd, Yahweh will lead his people, feed them and protect them. In the place of the hirelings who profaned the flock to their charge, he will set a true shepherd whom he calls "David." This, of course, is the Messiah, his greater son, who bears his name.

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Ben Fisher dies after long illness

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)—Ben C. Fisher, a recognized leader among Southern Baptist educators, died Nov. 3 in a Raleigh hospital after a long bout with cancer.

Fisher, 70, was executive director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1970-78. Previously, he was executive secretary of the Council of Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina from 1962-70.

In addition to several pastorates in North Carolina, Fisher held faculty and administrative posts at Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

At the time of his death, Fisher was on leave from Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., where he was educational consultant to the president and adjunct professor of religion.

Fisher was widely recognized for his contributions to the field of Christian education. He received the Charles D. Johnson Award for significant contributions to Southern Baptist higher education from the SBC Education Commission in 1984.

He was honored with an Outstanding Service Award from the Council of Independent Colleges in 1981 and a Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in 1980.

First Southern, Del City, calls Tom Elliff as pastor

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)—Tom Elliff, chairman of the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, has been called as pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.

In accepting the call, Elliff, who has been pastor of Applewood Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo., automatically becomes ineligible to serve as a member or chairman of the important committee, which nominates trustees to serve on the boards of the national agencies and institutions of the SBC.

Elliff, 41, will succeed his brother-in-law, Bailey E. Smith, who resigned Sept. 15, to enter full-time evangelism. Smith, who was pastor of Oklahoma's largest congregation 12 years, was president of the SBC 1980-82.

Under SBC rules, replacements for persons who resign or otherwise become ineligible to serve on the Committee on Boards are named by the Executive Committee, acting for the convention ad interim. Thus, a new Colorado representative and a new chairman will be named when the committee meets in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 10-12, 1986.

Replacements cannot be named by the

Committee on Committees, since those bodies exist only during the duration of the annual meeting.

Elliff has been pastor of the suburban Denver church since 1983, when he, his wife Jeannie and their four children returned from Zimbabwe, where they had been foreign missionaries. They returned after serving only two years on the foreign mission field in order to seek medical treatment for their daughter, Beth, now 17, who had been injured in an automobile accident.

Prior to going to Africa, Elliff was pastor of Eastwood Church in Tulsa, Okla., from 1972-1981.

In Del City—where he was called by a vote of 2,113 to 156—Elliff assumes the pastorate of a church in the midst of a relocation project with a 7,000-seat auditorium under construction. First Southern has a listed membership of 18,400 members, with 7,900 enrolled in Sunday school.

During the first three-quarters of 1985, First Southern contributed \$18,069 through the Cooperative Program, compared to \$80,309 in the first three quarters of 1984.

Annuity trustees establish South Africa policy

DALLAS (BP)—Annuity Board trustees adopted a policy regarding investments in companies doing business in South Africa. The trustees unanimously moved to establish a three-tiered set of guidelines for board investments related to South Africa.

J.W. Shearin Jr., finance committee chairman from Winston-Salem, N.C., presented the guidelines which emphasize the board's first responsibility is to its constituents and the "... assets under the supervision of the board be invested solely in the interests of plan members and their beneficiaries."

The policy also reaffirms the board should make continuous efforts to keep its investment policy related to the overall purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a more specific statement regarding South Africa the trustees instructed the board to consider the extent to which companies are engaged in activities in South Africa and

"... committed in principle or as signatories to the Sullivan Principles," a set of voluntary guidelines committing employers to desegregation and equal employment practices.

The current holdings of companies falling to subscribe in concept to these principles should be sold within a reasonable time if demonstrated progress is not evident, according to the Annuity Board guidelines. The guidelines also prohibit future investments in companies which lack commitment to these principles.

Morrow noted the board holds no direct investments in South Africa and less than 25 percent—about \$66-70 million—of its equity holdings are related to companies doing business in South Africa. On Dec. 31, 1984, the market value of the equity securities held by the Annuity Board was \$266,714,000, according to financial data printed in the 1985 SBC Annual.

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