



School for Pastors and Laity in Session

Dr. and Mrs. J. Kenneth Shamblin (left) and Dr. Thomas R. Bennett II (second from right) visit with Hendrix President Dr. Roy B. Shilling Jr. following Monday evening's preaching hour at the Arkansas School for Pastors and Laity. Dr. Shamblin, senior minister of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, Tex., is delivering four sermons on the theme, Christ and Our Discipleship. Dr. Bennett, research professor of Administration at George Williams College, Downers Grove, Ill., is presenting four lectures and leading a workshop on the subject, The Church, the Minister, and the Future. The four-day session is being held on the Hendrix campus, Conway. Some 170 persons participated in the first evening's worship service.

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Arkansan named general secretary designate of World Methodist Council

The Rev. Joe Hale of Nashville, Tenn., a native of Camden, Ark., who for the last 15 years has been a staff executive with the present Board of Discipleship and the former Board of Evangelism, has been elected general secretary-designate of the World Methodist Council. The announcement was made at the Aug. 26-28 meeting of the Council's Executive Committee at Accra, Ghana.

Mr. Hale will assume the new position following his presentation to the 13th World Methodist Conference meeting in late August, 1976 at Dublin, Ireland. He succeeds Dr. Lee F. Tuttle, general secretary for 15 years, who will retire.

The World Methodist Council is composed of 61 member-churches of the Methodist tradition in 87 countries around the world. One of its major functions is to relate the member groups to their common heritage. They represent an aggregate membership estimated at 20 million and a total "Methodist community" estimated at more than 45 million. The Council has a membership of 475, the Executive Committee of about 125.

Coming to the Board of Evangelism staff in 1960, Mr. Hale served as



Rev. Joe Hale

associate director and later as director of its department of ecumenical evangelism. He presently is director of cooperative ministries and ecumenical evangelism in the Board of Discipleship.

Contacted by the **Arkansas Methodist** last week in Nashville, Mr. Hale said he

(Continued on page two)

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, September 11, 1975



94th Year, No. 36

A message from the Bishop

The General Conference of 1972 laid a mandate upon the Council of Bishops to lead The United Methodist Church in an emphasis on the doctrines of Christian Experience and the Holy Spirit.

Across our Church there are countless responses to this mandate and to the leadership of bishops, pastors and laity. Thousands of persons have participated in conferences on Christian Experience, conferences on the Work of the Holy Spirit, and Biblical-theological discussions on the meaning of Pentecost to the Church.

In the Little Rock Conference, a Conference on the Holy Spirit will be held in the Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, November 6-8, 1975.

Far beyond the mandate of the General Conference, I am convinced that the Church of Jesus Christ needs to celebrate Pentecost. I hope many persons in the Little Rock Conference will want to share in such a celebration which will include inspirational sermons, small group sharing, thorough Biblical studies and careful theological study in the Wesleyan tradition.

A Conference on the Holy Spirit must be what we would do if we celebrated Pentecost in our homes, and our Churches. I have thought so often how Pentecost has become a stepchild among the great religious festivals. Christmas and Easter have been given strong cultural and secular sanction. We give gifts and have pageants at Christmas. We buy new clothes and give flowers at Easter. These both have secular sanction. But, how do you celebrate Pentecost? It shouldn't be any harder than the Incarnation or the Resurrection. Yet, somehow it is. You ought to read sometime about the way Leonardo da Vinci wrote and tried to produce a great pageant about Pentecost in Florence. It was sheer tragedy. One wonders if Pentecost has become an embarrassment to the Church.

I think one reason we avoid it if we can is the fear that we can't control it. We can control Christmas. Jesus can't be born again. We can control Easter. Jesus can't rise again from the dead. But, we surely can't control Pentecost. When God gives the gift of the Spirit one can never predict the outcome. A wealthy man sells his possessions and gives them to the poor. A young, handsome, talented law student decides to enter the ministry. A beautiful, well-educated girl turns away from a sophisticated society to bury herself in an Appalachian settlement house.

This is what I see in a Conference on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the way God chooses to get inside our lives. He created us, revealed Himself in the messages of the prophets, became a man in Jesus Christ. But, He is still outside. When Jesus went away in the flesh, the Holy Spirit or the Living Christ was able to enter completely into the lives of the meek and poor in spirit.

Eugene M. Frank



Marked Tree Children's Home Extension to open Sunday

A Service of Dedication for "Willow Oaks," the newest of four Extension Homes operated by the Methodist Children's Home of Arkansas, Inc., will be held this Sunday, Sept. 14, at 4 p.m. at the Marked Tree facility. Participating will be Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, Jonesboro District Superintendent, the Rev. Edwin Keith, Children's Home Superintendent, and Mr. Homer H. Fulbright, chairperson of the Home's Board of Trustees. Purchased by members of the Marked Tree Church and other friends in the Jonesboro District, the facility will provide a home for eight girls. Houseparents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Qualls.



Learning About Philander Smith's "Sunday College"

The Philander Smith "Sunday College" plan was introduced at an ecumenical convocation Aug. 30. Co-sponsored by the college and an ecumenical advisory committee composed of representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and eight Protestant denominations, the plan offers courses to regular Philander Smith students and interested persons in the community. Dr. Charles Casteel (standing), pastor of Gardner Church, North Little Rock, shares with convocation participants on "The Biblical Basis and Christian Objectives of Teaching." Philander Smith College President Dr. Walter R. Hazzard is at right.



Dr. Alvin C. Murray, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, speaks to convocation on the theme "Christian Education — Basis of Unity and Strength." Others (from left) are Philander Smith President Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, the Rev. Msgr. James E. O'Connell, director of seminarians, St. John's Catholic Center, and Dr. Crawford J. Mims, Philander Smith vice president for academic affairs. The convocation was held on the college's campus in Little Rock.

Little Rock Conference Council on Youth Ministries sponsoring tour

The Little Rock Conference Council on Youth Ministries is sponsoring a nine-day United Methodist Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. and New York. To be held Nov. 22-30, the tour is open to youth of the Conference who are in the ninth through 12th grades.

The tour will include two days in Washington, with visits to the Capitol building, the White House, Washington Cathedral, Smithsonian Institute, Mt. Vernon and numerous other points of interest. Three days in New York City will include a tour of the United Nations buildings, viewing of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, attendance at a Broadway play, visits to Radio City

Music Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral and many other major places of interest.

The tour cost of \$200 includes travel by Continental Trailways bus, hotel accommodations and eight meals. The remaining meals are to be paid by the individual tour member. All details relating to daily schedule and itinerary may be secured by writing to the Rev. Carr Dee Racop Jr., 715 Center St., Little Rock, Ark. 72201 or to the Rev. David M. Hankins Jr., 2401 Fair Park Blvd., Little Rock, Ark. 72204.

The form below may be used for registration. Registration forms are to be submitted before Oct. 1.

REGISTRATION FORM Return before October 1

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____
Street or box City State Zip

PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____

Registration Fee (\$25) enclosed _____ (Remainder — \$175 — due Nov. 1.)
Make check payable to "United Methodist Youth Tour"

Parent's signature _____ Your signature _____

Fill out and send with \$25 to:
The Rev. David M. Hankins Jr.
2401 Fair Park Blvd.
Little Rock, Ark. 72204

World Methodist Council

(Continued from page one)

saw one of the chief functions of the Council as "giving cohesion to Wesleyan churches which would otherwise be isolated from each other." He said the Council sought a "larger expression of the Christian faith . . . in recognition of the ecumenical spirit alive today . . . ; a spirit that sees in Orthodox, Latin, Protestant, Reformed, Evangelical and Free traditions a part of the universal church."

The new general secretary-designate said "Since our modern world, once conceived as a village, is now more closely resembling one room, it is imperative that all Christians be committed to the necessity and desirability of a global fellowship that transcends all geographical boundaries."

Mr. Hale is the son of Mrs. Bess Hale of Camden, a member of Fairview United Methodist Church, and the late Mr. Alfred C. Hale, one-time national president of Vocational Agriculture Teachers of America and an associate with the diplomatic service for a number of years before his death four years ago.

Born in 1935, Mr. Hale received the bachelor of arts degree from Asbury College and the bachelor of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology, SMU. A ministerial member of the North Texas Conference, he served as a pastor there before joining the then Board of Evangelism staff.

Mr. Hale has three brothers, the Rev. Ralph Hale, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Hope, Mr. David Hale, a forester with the International Paper Company in Rison, and the Rev. Clay Hale, a Baptist minister in El

Dorado. He is married to the former Mary Richey of Paris, Tex. They have a son, Jeff, age seven. The Hales will make their home at Lake Junaluska, N.C., site of the Council's offices.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The North Arkansas Conference Nominating Committee will meet Thursday, Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. in Room 304, Mills Center, at Hendrix College.

Appointment Announcement

Bishop Frank announces the following appointments, effective September 1, 1975.

Larry Stoops — St. Marks-Louann, Camden.

Martin Nicholas — Leola Charge.

J. W. Lofton — Duncan Church in Little Rock.

William A. Scott — Lockesburg Enlarged Charge.

Gerald W. Dewlin — Mountain View Circuit, Mena.

Doyne E. Graham — Bayou Meto-Lodges Corner.

Jerry Yarbrough — Assistant Dean of Students, Hendrix College.

Fred Hunter has taken an appointment near SMU.

Coleman Akin will return to school.

Monticello District to hold rally

The Monticello District will hold a district-wide rally Sept. 28 at First Church, Monticello. Theme of the event, sponsored by the District's Council on Ministries, is "Christ is the Head of the Church — You are the Hands and Feet." The rally is designed to stimulate local church leaders to greater involvement in the church's ministries. Emphasis will be given to how new church structures can aid in developing new programs and improving existing ones.

Scheduled for 6:30 to 9 p.m., the rally will feature a keynote address by the Rev. Thomas A. Abney, Wesley Foundation campus minister and pastor of the Wilmar Circuit, chairperson of the District Council.

The closing message will be given by the Rev. Gene Moore, pastor of Elmwood West United Methodist Church in Abilene, Tex., full-time evangelist for 13 years prior to his present appointment.

Five "How To" groups will relate to specific areas of programming. The groups and their leaders are: Education and Leadership Development, the Rev. Gladwin Connell; Evangelism, the Rev. Fred Arnold; Missions and Social Concerns, Dr. Myers B. Curtis; Stewardship and Finance, Dr. Roy I. Bagley; Music and Worship, the Rev. and Mrs. Gene Moore.

Speaking of the purpose of the event, a Council representative said "Although the new church structure has been in place for several years, it is apparent that many local churches have failed to

create new programs or to upgrade existing ones. What we want to do is to give the leadership . . . some ideas to take home that will involve people . . . Motivation to become involved sums up our objective."

Participation is open to all in the District with special efforts being made to attract all local church Administrative Board and Council on Ministries members, education leaders and Stewardship and Finance Committee members. Over 300 persons are expected to attend.

Superintendent of the Monticello District is the Rev. Everett M. Vinson.

PLEASE HELP US!

In an effort to cut operational costs it has become necessary for us to establish a new policy relating to the return mailing of pictures sent to us for publication.

There are two things we would like to request for submitting photos: (1) Please write on the back of each photo submitted the name and mailing address of the sender. (2) Please enclose sufficient postage to cover cost of returning photos; otherwise, we will not be able to return them by mail.

We will appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

Let's regain our global vision!

Some thoughts on World Methodism and a 'Congratulations!' upon an election

We've always been a bit disturbed — and, frankly, unpersuaded — by some common interpretations, or misinterpretations, regarding the subject of pride.

Our faith indicates that pride is a base sin; that among other things it "cometh before a fall." Concerning the pride that exalts humans above their Creator, we don't doubt that for a moment. But it does seem that there should be a way, one which isn't inconsistent with the spirit of the Book, in which we may be justifiably "proud of" and even "proud for" another.

We hope that there is, and we trust that it is in such a way that we are proud of Joe Hale, native Arkansan who has just been elected general secretary-designate of the World Methodist Council (see story on page one). And we're not sure either that it's all bad to boast a bit about how Arkansas Methodism has provided in the past, and continues to provide, leadership for the church at large.

But leadership is not an honor; it is a responsibility. And Joe's election comes at a time when the Council, which seeks to relate 61 world-wide Wesleyan Methodist bodies to their common heritage, is confronted with particularly timely and heavy responsibilities.

Wesleyan Methodism has a long heritage of being concerned with the "whole world" — both geographically and socially. And since its beginnings, Methodism in the USA has been characterized by a strong world consciousness, one evidence of which is a global mission program which was for so long the center of the church's attention.

But times change. And while United Methodism's world mission program remains a major element in our total concern, and while a global consciousness is even more vital today than ever, we can't fool ourselves by claiming that American Methodists are as world-conscious as they once were.

And that is bad. While such a shift of attention probably reflects the times more than it does the church's intentions, it remains true that recent years have seen us all but consumed with our own internal concerns and struggles.

All of this is to say that the World Methodist Council is in a unique position to render a vital service: to remind us of our heritage of the "world parish;" to help us get outside of ourselves; to direct our attention to larger horizons and inspire us with grander visions.

We share in expressions of appreciation to Dr. Lee F. Tuttle for his 15 years of devoted service as the Council's general secretary and wish him well upon his retirement next August. We congratulate the Council upon its election of his successor. And we lift our prayers for the new general secretary-designate as he continues present tasks and prepares for new ones.

†

Another tear for the USA

It is probably some sort of sad commentary upon our times that the nation's press did not feel it necessary to rush to editorializing upon the September 5th attempted assassination of President Gerald Ford. And with understandable reason: such things have become so "expected" a part of what life in the USA has come to, that almost all that can be said about them has already been said. It is news, yes. But the editorial agonizing and moralizing has, of tragic necessity, been so recently and frequently repeated that it is enough — for the time being, anyway.

The almost unbelievable coincidence of a gun not firing could tempt even the most agnostic to believe that "somebody" just might have felt that what we didn't need was to go through all of that again.

A sigh of relief — and another tear for America, that we must still live with such realities.

God protect our President and all who must live with such threats from a society so sorely in need of radical moral renewal.

†

Mediocrity: the deadly plague

It was reported last week that somewhere in one of our western states a child died of the plague, the ancient illness which took millions of lives in the Middle Ages.

What wasn't reported is that multitudes of others have already died, but don't know it, of an equally fatal disease: mediocrity. Overwhelmed by events which

seem totally beyond their control, they have opted out and are content with a nine-to-five, Thank-God-It's-Friday attitude about their work and their lives.

They are the fainthearted. The church is custodian of a good news which can give the only real antidote to such lethargy. Many within its fellowship need to hear it, too. It is the only word, finally, which can turn the fainthearted into the stouthearted.

• •

The Fainthearted

Safe in a haven
by sailing calm seas,
they always seek
the gentlest breeze.

They never venture
beyond the reef,
forever fearing
an unnamed grief.

Risking only the trails
that are clearly marked
they avoid the night,
afraid of the dark.

Leading such lives
in their heart and head,
they will awake one morning
to find they are dead.

• • •

The Stouthearted

Pursuing their Vision
through storm-tossed waves,
they pay no heed
to watery graves.

They search for the Star
to guide them on,
knowing it signals
the True Way home.

They challenge mountains
which have never been dared,
believing it matters
that someone cared.

Living such lives
in their head and heart,
they awake each morning
to a fresh, New start.

†

Off the Top of the Head

That's it!, that's it!

Whether it's Channel 4 or 7 or 11 or Somebody Else that is responsible for the weather, we'd like to compliment them or Him or Her on last Sunday. Just right.

†

I'm listening

My black gum tree just across the street (I suppose the neighbors think it's theirs since it's on their property) has been sending subtle and sensuous signals to me for the last couple of weeks. She (she couldn't be an "it" or a "he") is getting all ready to do something beautiful, and while she might like to hide it for a more sudden, surprise effect, she can't.

And that's good, for it's delightful to watch the slow changes in her mood and personality as the summer days fly toward fall. One can't help but feel there is some grand theology in what she is trying to say.

I'm waiting and watching and listening.

†

John

Arkansas Methodist

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Council Directors to Local Churches

Three familiar words, "Back to school," describe an activity in which young people and children across the country are participating. For many, "Back to Sunday School," is a reality because vacations have kept them away from the Church, much of the time, during the Summer season.

And, "Back to Sunday School," this year means new experiences for the children. New curriculum is now being used. And, with it, the children find exciting and challenging study opportunities.

In 1964 The Methodist Church prepared a set of study materials for children called, "Christian Studies For Children." During the past eleven years, that material continued to be printed with the same format. It was considered by most teachers of children to be, not only adequate, but exceptionally fine literature, based on the Bible and yet teaching the basic principles of life so necessary in the growth of the children.

The curriculum series, "Christian Studies For Children," is being continued but is now in revised form. Some terminology is changed. The art work is different, especially on the front cover of

'Back to Sunday School' and new Bible-based curriculum

the magazines, and leaders need to familiarize themselves with the changes. Yet, the basic material is about the same. It is biblically based and teaches the same Christian truths.

Leaders will, when referring to class groupings, need to learn to say: Nursery II, Nursery I, Kindergarten, Lower Elementary, Middle Elementary, and Upper Elementary. The Elementary section divided by grades, is Lower Elementary, grades one and two; Middle Elementary, grades three and four; and Upper Elementary, grades five and six.

'Exploring The Bible' Series For Ages 2 to 12

A second set of material for study by children is, "Exploring The Bible" series. This is new and is now available for the first time. It is also based on the Bible. It also seeks to prepare the children for real life situations of Christian living.

The groupings of the "Exploring The Bible" series is as follows: Ages 2-5; Ages 5-8; and Ages 8-12. Because of this broad age grouping problems can arise in the formation of classes unless proper administration of the program is done. Most teachers of children do not recom-

mend that the "Exploring The Bible" series be used to replace the series, "Christian Studies For Children." Instead, the "Exploring The Bible" series may be used in extended or additional sessions. Some may use it as supplementary material.

The two series should not be mixed in the same church school in the same period. And, a wise choice seems to be to select a series and remain with it from year to year to provide for the children a continuity in their training for Christian growth.

Training For Teachers Essential

Teachers and other workers in the children's program of the Church need to take time for training on a regular basis regardless of the material used for study. With the Christian Studies For Children being revised and the Exploring The Bible series new, training for leaders is imperative. And, the trend seems to be to hold shorter training sessions which mean a smaller amount of training for leaders.

The end result is that many good teachers go to their classes without having had sufficient training to enable

them to give guidance to the children in their Christian growth as desired.

Two possibilities remain: 1) Plan longer and better training sessions; 2) Provide material for home study.

A set of four cassette tapes, with workbooks, on the topic: "Communicating The Faith With Children" is available from the Methodist Film Library for home study. The same material can be used for group study. Leaders can be assured that materials are available for study that will enrich their teaching.

Your Methodist Film Library also has two new filmstrips for use in the class with children. One is, "Decisions, Decisions . . ."; for use with Older Elementary and Junior High groups. Its value is in helping persons learn the difference between "living" Christian love and "talking about it." The second filmstrip is "Glumps And Glumplings," for use primarily with Kindergarten and Lower Elementary children. It helps in dealing with feelings of envy, resentment, embarrassment, dislike and fear. Request either filmstrip as you do any audio-visual.

†



Curriculum Workshop at Conway

Providing leadership for a recent Curriculum Workshop at First Church, Conway were (standing, left to right): Mrs. Virginia Lindley, Mrs. Vicki Allen, dean of the workshop, Verna Maxwell, and Mrs. Bonda Sue Deere; (seated): the Rev. Wayne Jarvis, the Rev. Robert Armstrong, intern pastor at host church, Dr. Harold Eggenberger, host pastor, and the Rev. Earl Carter. The Sunday event included instruction for all age groups — Pre-school, Elementary, Youth, and adults.

†



Coaching Conference at Batesville

Leading the Aug. 28-29 conference on The Prophets: Message to the Nations, was Dr. Brady Whitehead (left) of Lambuth College, Jackson, Tenn. The event was held at Arkansas College in Batesville.

CONTACT training sessions underway

CONTACT/Little Rock, a 24-hour telephone crisis intervention service, began its annual training program on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The second of the Sept. 9 through Nov. 6 Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be held this Thursday, Sept. 11. All of the

sessions, scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m., will be held at Pulaski Heights, located at Woodlawn and North Monroe.

Professionals in the areas of crisis intervention and mental health will lead the sessions.

For more information, call CONTACT at 666-0234.

Batesville District Men's Assembly

A weekend United Methodist Men's Assembly at Kamp Kaetzell on Sept. 20-21 will feature Dr. Noe Gonzales, president of Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso, Tex., as speaker for the Saturday afternoon opening session. Dr. Clarence Mannasmith, manager of Heifer Ranch at Perryville, will be the speaker for the evening session of the Batesville District event.

The theme for the assembly will be "Come Follow Me — Feed My Sheep," according to Mr. Marvin L. Gaither, district lay leader. Registration is scheduled for Saturday, 2:30-4 p.m., and this period will provide time for fellowship, horseshoe pitching and touch football.

The opening session, at 4 p.m., will be presided over by J. L. Mullens Jr. of Heber Springs, and Raymond Hill, Mountain Home lay leader, will have charge of the devotional period, which will be followed by Dr. Gonzales' presentation.

Dr. Mannasmith's presentation on Heifer Project International will follow the supper hour. Mr. Sam Britton of Batesville will preside over the evening

session.

A Communion Service at 7 a.m. on Sunday morning, with District Superintendent Floyd G. Villines officiating, will set the tone for the morning period of spiritual enrichment. Bob Crouch of Clinton will preside over the 9:30 a.m. Sunday School hour to be led by Homer Fulbright of Searcy.

Bob Cheyne of Bentonville will present the sermon for the 11 a.m. worship service, over which District Lay Leader Gaither will preside. Directing the music for the weekend assembly will be song leaders Nelson Barnett of Batesville and Palmer Foley of Mountain Home, assisted by accompanists Wilbur Dobbins of Searcy and Dwight Lewis of Mountain Home.

A special offering will be received during Sunday morning worship which will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and designated for Heifer Project, Inc.

Men of Batesville District are urged to send in their registrations at once. A registration blank for that purpose is printed below.

†

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Mail to: Marvin L. Gaither
1795 Arch Street
Batesville, AR 72501
Telephone 793-2751

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, has purchased 215,000 volumes from the library of Hartford Seminary Foundation in Connecticut for the sum of \$1.7 million. In 1973, Hartford dropped its traditional seminary curriculum in favor of a program of continuing education. The 141-year-old institution found that it no longer needed most of its library. Dr. Jesse Ziegler, head of the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada, said the Hartford library, combined with Candler's, will "constitute an incomparable resource for theological scholarship in the southeastern section of the U.S."

Ireland's Catholic bishops found in a recent survey on religious practice that over 90 per cent of Irish Catholics attend Mass at least once a week, and nearly a quarter of this percentage go to Mass more than once a week. The survey showed that members of the "higher" socio-economic groups, as well as farmers and their wives, were likely to be regular Mass attenders; that married persons went more often than single persons, and that women were more faithful to regular attendance than men.

Endorsing recommendations of the 1974 World Food Conference the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has called for a "reordering of values and priorities" and "development of a political will" to see that the hungry are fed.

Communist Hungary has given permission to a group of over 300 Roman Catholic pilgrims to leave the country on a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome between Sept. 8 and 16.

Responding to a request by the wife of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, a group of Irish medical missionary sisters and lay workers left Dublin to take charge of a new hospital in Cairo. The nine nuns and nine lay missionaries will also train local staff for the hospital.

The Synagogue Council of America, coordinating body for rabbinical and synagogue organizations of the three branches of American Judaism, has appointed a committee to plan for commemoration of the Bicentennial and for the Council's 50th anniversary, which will also occur in 1976. The committee includes such widely known persons as Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve System; Arthur J. Goldberg, former associate justice of the Supreme Court, and scientists, Dr. Albert Sabin and Dr. Jonas Salk.

Some 10,000 Italian Jehovah's Witnesses, assembled in Rome's Flaminio stadium for their annual August Convention. During four days of prayer, music, sermons, and discussions, 418 adults were baptized by immersion in a swimming pool near the stadium. The number of Italian Witnesses is estimated to have increased since 1965 from 10,000 to more than 50,000.

The constitutionality of a "released time" program in Harrisonburg, Va., has been upheld by a federal appeals court. The program, conducted by the Rockingham Council of Week-Day Religious Education, permits public school students to attend private religious education classes during school hours. The appeals court cited a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that had upheld the constitutionality of a similar program in New York.



Wycliffe Trains Translators

TOKYO — Takashi Fukuda conducts a class during the Wycliffe Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) at Tokyo Christian College, the first such course held in Asia by the Wycliffe Bible Translators. The six-week course is a preparatory study designed to introduce Japanese to SIL methods and to encourage would-be Bible translators. (RNS Photo)

First Christian Church at Johnson City, Tex., was designated "Boyhood Church of the 36th President" in Aug. 24th ceremonies — three days before what would have been Lyndon B. Johnson's 67th birthday. Nearly 200 people, including members of the former President's family crowded into the small sanctuary for the event. They heard Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson read a poem by the President's mother which concluded with the line, "Faith is the guiding hand of God men steer their courses by."

A World Congress of Fundamentalists will convene in Edinburgh, Scotland June 15-22, 1976, according to an announcement by a sponsoring committee, which crosses denominational and organizational lines. "The Congress is being convened in response to a desire for fellowship and mutual strengthening expressed by many who believe the proclamation of the Gospel today requires its message to be set forth with clarity and without compromise," the announcement said.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, addressing nearly 2000 persons attending the annual Knights of Columbus convention at Miami Beach, advised top officials to cut off their support of the growing number of "Christless" Roman Catholic schools in the U.S. until "a real catechism" is revived in these schools. The archbishop said, "The name of Christ is not even mentioned in some Catholic catechisms."

The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting in a special session, approved the establishment of two new homes for the elderly. Presently the conference operates the Methodist Home for the Aging, Inc., and the Wesley Nursing Center, both in Charlotte.

Thanks to a group of 130 United Methodists from the Elkhart District in Indiana who paid their own expenses and gave two weeks of their time to St. James United Methodist Church, a black congregation in Amory, Miss., has a new parsonage.

Dr. James H. Zumberge, chancellor of the University of Nebraska since 1971 — and a specialist in earth science research, has been recommended to the trustees of Southern Methodist University to succeed Dr. Paul Hardin III as president of the Dallas institution.

Kimberly Ann Jenson of Caldwell, Idaho, recently crowned Miss National Teenager in Atlanta, said she hopes to use her travel opportunities to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Miss Jenson, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), will travel some 100,000 miles during her reign, making personal appearances in the U.S. and other countries. "I hope to be a really good missionary," she said.

A three-day seminar focusing on the theme, "Bio-Ethical Problems Which Daily Confront Physicians, Clergy and Patients," is meeting in Washington, D.C., this week under sponsorship of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

Twenty-four of the 53 candidates for ordination in the United Church of Canada this year are women, according to The Observer, the denomination's publication. In an editorial entitled, "Move Over, Reverend Sirs," the magazine estimated one-third of the students in United Church seminaries this fall will be women.

Floating Bookstore, Unique Approach to Evangelism

KOBE, Japan (RNS) — For the first time in her five-year ministry, the Logos ship of Educational Book Exhibits came into port in Japan this Summer.

In a unique approach to evangelism as a floating bookstore, the Logos carries a 250-ton cargo of books from leading publishers around the world. Though most of the 5,000 titles are in English, many are in Japanese. A large supply of Bibles is included.

A part of Operation Mobilization, the evangelistic ship has anchored in almost 100 ports around the world, with over a million visitors coming on board. Staffed by 144 Christians from 21 different countries, the Logos has travelled mostly to developing countries, where the staff says evangelism seems easier than ports such as Kobe.

The Logos is owned and operated by a non-profit charity trust registered in Great Britain, but the ship itself carries Singapore registration.

Originally a Danish vessel, the Umanak, it was renamed Logos in 1970. The Greek term for "word,"

Logos is considered an appropriate name for a ship full of books. Logos is also a term applied to Christ in John 1:1.

The project for a floating bookstore was initiated in 1964 when a group of students and young professional people met in England to consider how they could do their part in spreading love among the peoples of the world. Gathered around a world map, they noted that most countries are bordered by water, and the idea of a ship came to mind.

In her five years at sea, the Logos has hosted dinners for ambassadors and Presidents while visiting Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The staff includes a doctor and nurse, with hospital facilities for the staff as well as a school for the children of staffers.

"We are praying now for a larger ship," a director said. "The Lord gave us this ship along with staff and crew, and now he's given a staff and crew large enough to handle a ship that will really do a bigger job."

News from the churches

THE CHRISTIAN STORYTELLERS of Amboy Church, North Little Rock, whose organization is a branch of that church's United Methodist Women, will present a program entitled, "Vista Visions," for the Tuesday, Sept. 16 meeting of United Methodist Women at First Church, Russellville. Participants in the 7:30 p.m. meeting will include Arverla Bradford, Othella Peters, Sue Anderson and Grace Postlewait. Rowena Turnbow is chairperson for the storytelling group.

MRS. HAZEL DABNEY, president of the Pine Bluff District organization of United Methodist Women, was the featured speaker for the annual celebration of Women's Day, Sunday afternoon, Aug. 24th at New Haven United Methodist Church at Hensley. Also present was Mrs. Janice Darling, district UMW secretary. The event, coordinated by Mrs. C. G. Tillmon, followed the theme, "Faith." Other program participants included the Galilean Baptist Choir, singers from Centennial Baptist Church, and young adults of the host church, Mrs. Mattie Staggers, pianist, Mrs. Sadie Hammock, president, and other leaders in the women's organization.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH, Camden, announces the appointment of Mrs. Karen Brown as organist and choirmaster. Mrs. Brown, wife of the Rev. James Brown, associate pastor of First Church, Camden, did her undergraduate study in organ at Whittenburg University in Ohio, and earned the M.A. degree in organ and choir directing at Perkins School of Theology. She studied one year under Martin Dehrmann in Berlin, Germany. She has served as organist choirmaster at Sunset Presbyterian Church in Dallas and Oak Forest Church in Little Rock.

JAY LAWHON of McCrory spoke recently to two groups of lay men of the Conway District. Appearing at the meeting of Northside United Methodist Men at the Levy Church on Aug. 21 and before the Arkansas Valley United Methodist Men at the Atkins Church, Mr. Lawhon spoke on a recent trip to Bangladesh in the interest of helping meet hunger needs. In cooperation with several laypersons of various church groups, Mr. Lawhon has been instrumental in establishing World Christian Relief Fund, Inc., in an effort to assist with relief efforts in Bangladesh.

THE YOUTH of Griffin Memorial Church, Paragould, visited The Upper Room, Opry Land, the Hermitage, the Country Hall of Fame, and the Wax Museum on a recent trip to Nashville, Tenn. An ice cream supper and a rock-a-thon provided funds for the adventure.

Daily Bible Readings

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Readings, which the Board of Discipleship invites you to use as a regular guide in your homes.

Sept. 14—Sunday Matt. 18:15-17
Sept. 15 Romans 13:2-5
Sept. 16 Gen. 50:15-21
Sept. 17 Ezek. 33:7-9
Sept. 18 Prov. 9:7-9
Sept. 19 I Thes. 4:9-12
Sept. 20 Luke 12:57-59
Sept. 21—Sunday Matt. 18:21-22

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DR. W. J. A. POWER, Perkins School of Theology professor, will lead a three-session course on the Old Testament at First Church, Camden, Sept. 12-13. The three sessions will be conducted on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. Dr. Power will remain to present the messages for both Sunday morning worship services.



Gospel Music Concertists

Wanda and Ed Sipe, formerly in the employ of the U.S. Department of Defense, have recently relinquished their positions with that agency to devote their talents to the gospel music ministry. They will appear at morning worship in the Sheridan United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 21, and at Oak Forest Church, Little Rock for the evening service. They will be at Jonesboro First Church on Sept. 28. They have recently conducted services at St. Andrew's Church, Little Rock, and at Watson and McGehee United Methodist Churches. The Sipes reside at 6716 Chateau Dr., Little Rock, and are available for concert or special music. (Telephone 565-8573)

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PRAIRIE GROVE and Farmington United Methodist Churches have had several pulpit guests while their pastor, the Rev. Ray Edwards recovers from a fall which resulted in three broken ribs. Preaching during his absence were Fayetteville District Superintendent Harold Spence, the Rev. Dwight Bonham, retired and living in Farmington, the Rev. Lee Cate, superintendent of Mt. Sequoyah Methodist Assembly, and the Rev. Harvey Hazelwood, retired and living in Lincoln.

WINGFIELD United Methodist Church, northwest of Emerson, was vandalized recently, according to the pastor, the Rev. W. R. Bursleson. Vandals overturned heaters and the pulpit and damaged a piano and an altar railing.

PERSONALIA

THE REV. FERRIS W. NORTON JR., formerly a member of the Little Rock Conference and now of the Missouri Conference, and Mrs. Norton, have notified the Arkansas Methodist that they would like to invite friends to the marriage, Sept. 13, of their son, Ferris Wendel Norton III, to Sara Elizabeth Ragsdale of El Dorado. The ceremony will be at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado. The senior Mr. Norton is on leave from his pastorate in St. Louis and is working on a doctorate at Perkins School of Theology, SMU.



Bicentennial Homecoming and Fishry

Campshed Church at Tichnor, recently held a Bicentennial Homecoming and Fishry. Shown are, left to right, the Rev. Dale Diffie, pastor from December of 1971 to June of 1975, who presented the invocation; Administrative Board Chairperson Keneth Smith, who presented a Bicentennial Flag in behalf of Mrs. John L. Peterson of DeWitt, and the Rev. Therral Wilson, who accepted the flag to be used in the sanctuary for the remainder of the year. Among honored guests were Monticello District Superintendent Everett Vinson and Mrs. Vinson, the Rev. and Mrs. George Bailey of Cabot, and the Rev. and Mrs. Claude Clark of Stuttgart. Rev. Clark not only preached his first sermon at Campshed, but he and Mrs. Clark were the first couple to be married in the present building. Decor for the bicentennial observance featured red, white and blue colors.

†

THE YOUTH of Washington Avenue Church, North Little Rock, recently returned from a trip to Dallas and SMU campus. Other features of their trip were visits to Six Flags and Highland Park Church, where the Rev. Frank Warden Jr., associate pastor, conducted a tour.



Church School Superintendent Honored For 25 Years' Service

The congregation at Lonoke United Methodist Church, on Promotion Day, honored Mr. E. T. "Jab" Ketchum (right) for 25 years of service as Church School superintendent, with a plaque of appreciation. In addition, he was designated "Official Bell Ringer." The church bell, installed in 1865, has been in continuous use since that time, and for many years, Mr. Ketchum has accepted the responsibility of bellringer. Shown with the honoree is the Rev. Mike Clayton, pastor.

DR. KENNETH SHAMBLIN, pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, Tex., since 1961, will be the speaker for a Preaching Mission to be held at Lakewood Church in North Little Rock, Sept. 21-24. The Sunday through Wednesday services will be held at 7:30 o'clock nightly. Prior to his present pastorate, Dr. Shamblin was for 13 years pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

NINE stained glass windows and the new sanctuary entrance doors at Prescott United Methodist Church were dedicated on Sunday, Aug. 17th as memorials to the late Leo Cox Davis and John A. Davis. Participants in the special ceremony included the Rev. Charles O. Walthall, pastor, Mrs. B. A. DeLamar, Memorials Committee chairperson and Foy Box, Administrative Board chairperson. The memorial gifts to the church were made possible by gifts from family members and friends.

THE DELUCE Prairie Union Church honored their pastor and wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Gene Ratekin, with a fellowship dinner and old fashioned pounding recently.

CORRECTION: In the Sept. 4th issue of Arkansas Methodist we erred in stating that the Elementary classes of Levy Church, North Little Rock cleared \$80.25 at a recent Bake Sale for Heifer Project International. We should have credited the Indian Hills United Methodist Church with this project. We're sorry.



Gift Appreciated

The Rev. John Wesley Hogan, pastor of Hall Memorial Church in Texarkana, seated at new L-shaped desk, provided by the Ash-down Church which sponsored a Sunday "Mission Project" dinner to raise funds to equip the pastor's study in the new Hall Memorial Church.



Smackover Church Sponsoring Cousins

Nguyen Nghi and Nguyen Nghiem, cousins from Saigon, were captains in the Vietnamese Army before coming to America along with other Vietnamese refugees. Now they are being sponsored by First United Methodist Church at Smackover, and are in the employ of Mr. Frank Humphreys, treasurer of that church, who has also provided living accommodations for them. The young men have families in Vietnam whom they hope to bring to America.

†



Miss Gene E. Maxwell

N. A. women to hear Division staff person

North Arkansas Conference women who attend the Spiritual Retreat scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20-21, at Aldersgate Camp, will be led by Miss Gene E. Maxwell, a veteran teacher and leader in regional and conference schools of mission, and a member of the Women's Division Staff serving the Denver, Colorado region.

Miss Maxwell, a native of Williamsport, Pa., served the Women's Division Evanston Office for six years before moving to her present location in Denver. Prior to that time she had served with the Board of Global Ministries in Medford-Phillips Parishes in Wisconsin as a Church and Community Worker, and later as director of Christian Education at First Church in Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Miss Maxwell received the Master's degree in Christian Education from Scarritt College in Nashville. She is a deaconess of The United Methodist Church and a member of the Christian Educators Fellowship.

Registration for the weekend event will begin at 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, Sept. 20th. The retreat is open to all United Methodist women of the North Arkansas Conference on a "first-come, first-served" basis, according to Mrs. Harold Womack, conference UMW president.

Arkansas delegation attends annual WCTU meet

Mrs. Richard Nelson of Little Rock, president of the Arkansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union, was leader of the state's delegation to the 101st Annual Convention of the National WCTU, meeting Sept. 2-8 at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M. Under the theme "Widening Horizons," the convention dealt with programming for the organization's second century of existence.

Mrs. Herman Stanley of Evanston, Ill., president of the national organization, said that its "first and major concern" was the increasing use of alcoholic beverages "and other narcotic drugs which are destroying the economy and creating welfare and health problems never before experienced in our country." She said that the organization would place "special emphasis on protection of the home as the basic element of national stability."

More than 800 delegates and visitors from across the nation attended the week-long session.

†

MRS. EDITH HARBER

Mrs. Edith Harber of Salem (Fulton County) died Aug. 19 at Little Rock. She was a member of the Salem United Methodist Church and had been a long-time worker in the church's unit of United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her husband, Ernest Harber, and by her daughter, Jean.

The funeral service was held Aug. 21 with the Rev. DuBois Pettit officiating.

†



Licensed to Preach

Following the Aug. 31 Sunday morning worship service at St. James Church in Fayetteville, Ralph Whiteway (left) was presented a License to Preach by District Superintendent Harold H. Spence (right). Having supplied the pulpit at St. James for some time, Mr. Whiteway, with his wife, Debbie (center), has now moved into the parsonage at 7 North Willow Street.

†



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCOTT SR.

Benjamin Franklin Scott Sr., aged 80, died Aug. 6 at Memphis. A hardware and furniture dealer for 53 years at Junction City and El Dorado, he had recently moved to Memphis after a long residence in El Dorado.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, where he had served as a member of the Administrative Board, as a Church School teacher, and as charge lay leader, among other offices.

He was the son of a Methodist minister, the late Rev. G. F. Scott, and the grandson of a deceased pioneer Methodist circuit rider, the Rev. Patrick Scott.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanie Leake Scott; one son, Dr. Benjamin F. Scott Jr. of Memphis; a grandson and granddaughter; three sisters, Mrs. R. W. Griswold of Malvern, Mrs. A. M. Cupp and Miss Ethel Scott of Camden.

The funeral was held Aug. 8 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Memphis.

†

MRS. BERTIE RIGGIN HUGHES

Mrs. Bertie Riffin Hughes of Wilmot died Aug. 3. A member of the Wilmot United Methodist Church, she was a past president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and a charter member of United Methodist Women. She was for many years a teacher in the children's division of the church school.

She is survived by her husband, M. D. Hughes of Wilmot; two sons, Bobby Hughes of El Paso, Tex., and Charles Hughes of Shreveport, La.; two grandchildren, and a brother, the Rev. Robert L. Riffin, pastor of the Wilmot United Methodist Church.

The funeral service was held at the Wilmot Church with the Rev. Fred Schwendemann, a former Sunday School pupil of the deceased, and the Rev. Robert L. Riffin, officiating.

†

New Parsonage At Bull Shoals

The Rev. Charles E. Watt, his wife Martha, and family — David, Debbie and Robert, are the first occupants of the new parsonage at Bull Shoals. Mr. Watt, who recently completed his studies at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, becomes the first full-time pastor for the Bull Shoals church which previously shared their pastor with the church at Cotter.

Craft Items

"All things bright and beautiful,
All things great and small,"
For ALDERSGATE and CONTACT
the Crafts Group made them all.

Sale

Monday, Oct. 6, 1:00 p.m.
Activities Room,
First United Methodist Church,
Little Rock

Forrest City District Council on Youth Ministry reports

The Forrest City District United Methodist Youth had a tremendous summer of activities. It began with a youth rally with the Brinkley UMY as host church on May 2-3. The purpose of this rally was centered around the election of new officers.

Anne Roskopf of Helena will serve as chairperson of the Forrest City District youth for the 1975-76 term. Serving with Anne on the council are: Regina Cook, vice-chairperson; Jeff Spotts, secretary-treasurer; Patti Freemyer, reporter.

Representatives to the council are: Delta sub-district, Richard Dunlap and Joanna Boyles; Helena sub-district, Bill Conner and Patti Freemyer; Brinkley sub-district, Regina Cook; White River sub-district, Jeff Danjeau and Jeannie Wilder;

Members at large, Patty McDowell, Leslie Humphries, Tim Taylor, Jeff Spotts, and Jane Powell. Also elected were the district representation to the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, Iris Strickland and Anne Roskopf.

This fun rally also included the presentation of a play, "Rock and Roll Review" by the Brinkley High School and afterwards a skating party. Many words of special appreciation to Marc Tate, West Memphis, for his leadership as president of the district council.

July brought about a weekend retreat at Fairfield Bay for past and present council members. This was a fun weekend for all. Many, many thanks to the Jim Daughterys of Augusta. Jim serves as the District Youth Coordinator.

The Forrest City District was well represented at the North Arkansas Conference Youth Assembly at Hendrix College during the week of July 28th. On the second evening of the assembly, the musical "Celebrate Life!" was presented by the West Memphis UMY of the Forrest City District. It proved to be a real fun-filled and meaningful experience for everyone.

—Patti Freemyer

My brother's brother

By JOEL COOPER

Pastor, Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Ark.



Lesson for September 21

ORIENTATION: Remember that we are still dealing with the question of identity, "Who am I?" We began the unit by saying that man is a creature made by God in God's own image. Last Sunday we said that man is a free, yet accountable creature. Today it is our purpose to say that man is his brother's brother.

We cannot claim that we know who we are until we have discovered this truth about ourselves. We are made to be concerned about our fellows. Our love for God's work can be shown only through our love for God's children. Cain killed Abel and denied to God that he had any responsibility for Abel. Here is the Genesis way of saying, "This is an example of what **not** to do."

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4

CONCLUSIONS HOPED FOR: (1) That you might see that the Bible clearly teaches that our responsibility for our neighbor is one answer to the question, "Who am I?" (2) That you might accept this answer with your viscera as well as with your mind. (3) And that you might begin to search for more effective ways to be your brother's brother.

.....

"... to call upon the name of the Lord ..."

The last verse of the 4th chapter of Genesis may seem to be a strange place to begin, but it is really the beginning. The Interpreter's Bible makes the point that this verse has been shifted from its original position in the story, that it should appear immediately following Genesis 3:23 which tells how God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. Moreover, the worship of God was surely being practiced by Cain and Abel when they brought their sacrifices to God.

Cain, the first-born of twin boys, brought some grain or fruit as a sacrifice to God. It would have been the first fruit and presumably the best. Abel brought the first-born of his flocks. And he brought along some "fat portions," the choice pieces.

The practice of bringing the first fruits and the firstlings was thought to accomplish several things: (1) It brought to God what was his anyway. First things were holy, were God's. (2) The sacrifice of first things purified the rest of the fruit and flock for human consumption. (3) Also, the sacrifice of first things assured future reproduction in the fields and flocks.

Now, we are not told why God accepted the flesh sacrifice and rejected the fruit sacrifice. We know that in a later period of Hebrew history, flesh sacrifice was considered more appropriate than fruit sacrifice. Perhaps the writer was reflecting this prejudice.

In any event, Cain was disappointed by the worship experience. He may have seen Abel's sacrifice and have realized that it **was** superior in some fashion. Perhaps Cain could see that his twin had put more into the sacrifice than he had put into it. Being ashamed of his **own** efforts, it is almost understandable that he lashed out at his brother — first in his thoughts and then in the deed of murder. Assuming that God knew the heart of Cain, it is easy to understand how God would reject Cain's sacrifice, or to put it another way — why Cain was not satisfied with the worship experience. Cain's heart was not right toward his brother.

What about that? Is this a relevant observation — that our hearts must be right toward our fellows before we can worship God as we ought? Was it not Jesus who gave us instructions at this point? Yes, Jesus said that people who come to worship should be on good terms with their fellows.

The implication is clear: there is something about broken human relationships which interferes with divine-human relationships. Remember the invitation you hear before receiving Holy Communion: "Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and **are in love and charity with your neighbors** . . ."

"There is something about broken human relationships which interferes with divine-human relationships."

Jesus said, "Go and make things right with your brother and then come back to the altar and say your prayers." If Cain had worked it out with Abel and **then** presented his sacrifice, God would surely have been pleased, that is, Cain would have been blessed in his worship.

"... Cain rose up . . . and killed him . . ."

But Cain made no effort to be reconciled to his brother. His anger festered. God asked Cain, "Why is your face so red with anger?" Cain just looked the other way refusing to hear God, refusing to entertain any notion of reconciliation. Time did not heal everything! The bad matter got worse. One day Cain was "eying" his brother and hating him in his heart. He said, "Abel, let's go for a walk in the fields; I want to show you my crops. (Understand, I am using my imagination here.)"

As they walked together Cain was pointing to this field and that, hoping to get a word of praise from Abel. But Abel just nodded and said, "You ought to see how fat my sheep are?" That did it! The festering anger burst forth in all its fury. Cain was beside himself. He picked up a stone and began beating Abel. After the third blow, Abel was on the ground, bleeding — dead.

If Cain could be tried in a modern court of law, what charge would be brought against him by the state? Would it be first degree murder? I doubt it, for it would be difficult to prove premeditation. Cain's invitation to Abel to go walking in the fields might be construed to be a part of a plot, but Genesis does not say this. The defense could make the point that Cain intended to "talk it out" with Abel but was provoked into attacking him.

So the charge might have been some lesser degree of murder. But uncontrolled anger was the immediate cause of the first murder in Biblical history.

What about today? I do not have at my finger tips statistics to warrant what I now say, but I believe that rampant anger is still the chief cause of murder. If there is any lesson to be learned at this point, it is this: you must learn to control your anger.

"... where is . . . your brother? ..."

God asks this question of Cain, not because he wants to know the answer but because he wanted Cain to face up to his actions, to face up to the grim reality that he had killed his brother and left him in the fields.

Does this say anything to you? It does to me. God is still asking the question of us, "Where is your brother?" God is not asking this of us to get information. He knows where our brothers are; he wants us to face up to the conditional location of our brothers. And where **are** they? They are in hospitals and nursing homes, in ghettos and prisons. They are in the ranks of the hungry, the ignorant, the bigoted, the sin burdened, and the oppressed. They are next

door and across the seas. And some of them lie dead in the fields, if not because we raised a hand against them, at least, because we did not raise a hand to aid them.

Jesus once told a story of a robber, a victim, two indifferent men, and a good Samaritan in order to illustrate that my neighbor is anyone who is in need of the help that I can give. Surely my brother is closer than a neighbor. Where is **YOUR** brother?

"... am I my brother's keeper? ..."

When God asked Cain, "Where is your brother?" Cain answered: (Living Bible) "How should I know? Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"

Now, Cain knew that God knew about the murder, that God was asking more than a simple question, so Cain did not answer a simple question by admitting the crime. He played the game with God. He treated God's question as a philosophical question, which indeed it was.

He answered God's question with a question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God was saying through his question: Man is responsible for his brother. Cain was saying through his question: "Man is **not** responsible for his brother." And therein lies the great ethical conflict of the ages.

There are those who are quick to say, "Self-preservation is the first law of nature." Businessmen say, "*Caveat emptor*" let the buyer beware." Others say, "I mind my own business." and there are literally millions of people whose life style is conditioned by Cain's answer, "I am **not** responsible for my brother."

But I am grateful that God's position has not been left without its advocates. There are persons who preach and practice the principle, "I **am** responsible for my brother." These persons believe that they are responsible, that is, ought to love, because God himself feels responsible and is love. They love their brethren, not because their brethren are lovely, loveable, or loving, but because **God** loves them.

Now, the practical man says, "It won't work. If a man doesn't look after himself, no one will. Besides, people do not really appreciate what you do for them." There is some truth to that, but the Christian does not require that his loving actions "work," or bring him the rewards that will keep him happy.

The Christian is motivated primarily by the conviction that he is involved in God's work. God can carry the responsibility for the ultimate results.

But this does not mean that Christian brotherhood is mostly impractical stuff. It may not "work" all the time, but it will work better than Cain's position.

Somewhere I read a description of hell and heaven. The inmates of hell were seated in a spacious dining hall before tables loaded with food. But the people were gaunt, emaciated, obviously starving. Here is the reason: to each man's arms there were strapped splints which kept them from bending their elbows. Not being able to feed themselves, they were starving in the presence of plenty. That was hell!

In heaven the people were seated in a spacious dining hall before tables loaded with food. But they were rosy-cheeked, healthy, obviously well-fed. And they, like the people in hell, were not able to bend their arms because of the splints, and could not feed themselves. What was the difference between hell and heaven? The people in heaven had learned to feed each other.

Church must alter 'marginal' influence in higher education, professor says

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — While churches have often had a leading part in founding colleges and universities, there has also been a long history of mutual distrust and hostility, observes a German theologian who has been studying the American higher education field since coming to this country 10 years ago.

Dr. Hans Dieter Betz, professor of New Testament at the School of Theology at Claremont (Calif.) says Christian churches play a confusing role in the enormously complex and diversified landscape of American higher education.

Writing in the first issue of *Occasional Papers*, published by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Dr. Betz said the involvement of churches in higher education today is institutionally limited to "administratively and financially 'sponsoring' largely secular colleges and universities, to providing 'spiritual' and 'social' services to their college students, and to maintaining theological seminaries for the 'training' of ministers."

The actual work of universities, he contends, is carried on with little or no involvement of the churches. "Even the connections between university religion departments and the churches are incidental and marginal," he writes. "Secular departments have no connections with the business of the churches. Research is carried out entirely outside of the churches. This is true not only of sensitive areas like nuclear physics, human biology, medicine and others, where ethical questions must be asked and answered, but also of fields immediately relevant for the self-understandings of the churches (e.g., history, Bible,

philosophy, psychology)."

As a result of this breach, Dr. Betz says the great intellectual achievements, controversies and failures of our time which shape individual lives and the future of mankind happen without significant involvement of the Christian churches."

The Role of Seminaries

The relationship of theological seminaries to universities is mostly parasitic, Dr. Betz believes. "Theological seminaries, whether they are attached to universities or not, are not expected to participate in the actual work of the university in such areas as basic research and intellectual creativity," he says. "Their role is primarily limited to turning out candidates for the ministry and, perhaps, for various educational and social-service professions."

Since World War II, however, Dr. Betz says the general university climate has become much more open to theological faculties.

The task of the church and the university are intimately intertwined, Dr. Betz declares. "Church and theology have an important, if not decisive, contribution to make in the ongoing struggle for knowledge."

Rather than sitting on the sidelines in university chapels, Dr. Betz urges the churches to confront the present crisis and uncover its roots. "In order to do this, the churches must stop merely exploiting the university and must become directly involved in the university."

The real task for the Christian churches is to challenge the concept of "knowledge" which is presently

advocated in the 'technology-oriented' university, by representing within and as part of the university another dimension of man's quest for knowledge."

How can churches carry out such a task? First, Dr. Betz suggests that theological departments be created in universities with faculty members who would have to establish their basis of scholarly credibility by making contributions to various fields of knowledge. "It would be their responsibility to represent the Christian message as an intellectual challenge to the university community, as a constant reminder that all activities the universities carry out are related to human beings, to human questions and problems, and that the university must face up to the 'responsibilities' coming from its activities."

For the seminaries, Dr. Betz says they must become more than training facilities for ministerial candidates. "They should be that instrument of the church which is continuously preoccupied with the examination, exploration, and ever new discovery of the theological foundations of the church," he writes. Religious institutions which have no living and creative relationship with their past, their history, and their literature, are doomed and cannot survive, he declares.

In closing, Dr. Betz says churches should never allow the public to become convinced that the Christian faith is obsolete, absurd, and exotic. "I have a feeling that to a large extent the public is still confident that the Gospel is worth believing in."

Persons who would like to receive *Occasional Papers* may write P.O. Box 871, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

Open Forum

Professor responds to criticism of seminaries

To the Editor:

Your editorial of Aug. 14, citing Dr. Edmund Robb's attack on "the seminaries," is commendable for its promptness and astuteness. It sounded a needed warning for the whole church. A number of other responses have decried his irresponsible statements, although as Dr. Outler noted, irreparable damage has already been done.

One significant dimension of Dr. Robb's speech has not, to my knowledge, received the response it deserves. That is, prayer. Some reports of his speech at Lake Junaluska quoted him as saying, "Courses are not offered in prayer and devotional life."

Over two weeks ago I wrote Dr. Robb for a full context of his speech. To date I have received no reply, so the following comments are based only on the news releases.

My own survey of recent catalogs of United Methodist Seminaries showed that in half of them, a course in prayer was listed. It is customary for some schools to list only the courses taught the year the catalog describes, so it is quite probable that even more seminaries offer such a course from time to time.

Not only are courses in prayer offered, but students do in fact enroll in them! Last spring 73 were enrolled for a course in prayer here at Wesley.

But more important than these mere statistics, prayer is not limited to a course. To make the statement attributed to Dr. Robb is to imply that a course on prayer is the only factor in determining whether or not prayer is taught. It overlooks, or else considers totally insignificant, the important place which prayer occupies in a wide range of other seminar courses — Old and New Testament literature, the Psalms, Jesus, Paul, Church History, Doctrine, and

Biography, including the Wesley's, Theology, both historical and systematic, Christian Education, Church Administration, Hymnody, Worship, Pastoral Care, and Counseling, to name only those that come quickly to mind.

Furthermore, most seminaries encourage students to do directed or independent study on subjects of their special interest. Two years ago, before my sabbatical, three students were in a program of directed study on prayer with me.

One final point on the place of prayer in the seminaries. At Wesley, and I am confident the same is true at the others, prayer is not something confined to a course. It is a real, genuine, and fundamental part of corporate and personal life — in worship services, faculty retreats and devotions, advisory groups, personal counseling, and many classroom situations.

All of this is not to say that Wesley is the kind of school Dr. Robb would take as his ideal. Rather, it is to point up the regrettable fact that his widely-publicized statement is an example of poor scholarship, because he did not use the facts so easily obtainable, and even worse, it is basically dishonest, because his unfounded generalizations imply that all seminary professors are only "debunkers" and "skeptics" (his words) for whom prayer is meaningless.

Dr. Robb insists he, and those who agree with him, "will be heard." United Methodism should allow a forum for responsible and well-informed dissidents. But if such criteria are not met, then the Church must not be swayed by demagoguery.

James T. Clemons,
Professor of New Testament,
Wesley Theological Seminary,
Washington, D.C.

From Our Readers

REFUGEE REPORT

To the Editor:

At the close of the three-day School of Christian Mission at Conway in July an Executive Meeting of the Conference United Methodist Women was held. A recommendation was made and passed by that committee that Methodist women of the Conference set as a priority the sponsorship of Vietnamese families from Fort Chaffee during the coming year and that as a result of study of Southeast Asia that clothing be sent to Dr. Charles McDonald. They would especially like to see more than one family sponsored in single communities.

Since the *Arkansas Methodist* in a recent issue asked what individual churches or communities were doing I am enclosing a clipping from the Siloam Springs paper relating what this community has undertaken.

Lynne Hughes (Mrs. Earle)
Conference Coordinator,
Christian Social Involvement
Rt. 2, 309 Prospect
Siloam Springs, Ark. 72761

ON LETTING THE CHIPS FALL

To the Editor:

Your news item concerning municipal authorities in Oberammergau, West Germany, who are going to rewrite a part of the Passion Play script left me both amused and dismayed. If this bowing to criticism spreads from this opening there is no way to stop those who may bar the entire Passion Play performance.

I know many, particularly the Jews, who have become very sensitive about the role the Jews played in the condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus. But doing violence to the New Testament record is not the answer. My opinion is that we should let the scriptural record stand and let the chips fall where they may. After all, we should not rewrite

the scriptures, or make a new interpretation now.

Roland E. Darrow (the Rev.)
5305 N. Sycamore
North Little Rock, Ark. 72118

THANKS

To the Editor:

Thanks for publishing the recent article concerning the Good News convocation. In my mind you have added to the integrity of the *Arkansas Methodist*.

I pray that you will continue to publish such articles so all Methodists can express their views, whether "official" or "unofficial." May God bless your ministry.

Gary S. Crain
8 Roane Circle
Little Rock, Ark. 72204

'BECAUSE OF BOOZE'

To the Editor:

I read articles in the *Arkansas Methodist* that tend to comfort the alcoholic (they were once known as "drunks") — that his is not a character defect, but a "disease."

Frankly, I don't understand why the facts are not faced. It is not a medical disease; there is no medical cure, BUT RESEARCH IS NOT REQUIRED TO FIND THE CAUSE.

Also, every person knows that he or she, himself or herself, can prevent having that "disease." The preventative is obvious — self discipline!

There are lots of "bacteria" stores — they circumvent county and city dry laws by putting up at vantage points an inch or two across the "dry" boundary.

Talk about gun control — I am afraid to venture out on the highways because of booze at the steering wheels of cars.

Mrs. Martha Bland Smith
4 Loch Lomond Circle
Hilton, Ark.

'Partnership for Peace' emphasis for Oct. 19 World Order Sunday

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — Can men and women, working together, make a difference for world peace? That basic, hopeful question is at the center of this year's observance of World Order Sunday.

The United Methodist observance, on Oct. 19, has the theme of "Building a Partnership for Peace." It calls for women to assume equal responsibility for building peace and for men to accept women as equal partners in that endeavor.

The theme ties in to 1975's International Women's Year, whose goals are equality, development and peace. It emphasizes the crises of population, food and justice.

The church's Division of World Peace points out that throughout history "men have played the dominant role in making and fighting wars," while "half the world's people have been largely excluded from the decision-making that creates peace or its absence." It urges that 1975 could be the time "when women join

actively with men to bring about the difficult, but achievable, changes that could initiate the conditions that make for peace."

The world's two billion women can make a difference, recalls Thelma Stevens, Nashville, long-time church social relations leader. She notes that they have made a difference, "even when they had no political rights and no channels of power," such as when many in the U.S. pleaded and worked to uproot slavery. To make the difference, she holds, they must "begin to exercise their numerical strength, pressuring governments to alter their militaristic policies, to re-order their priorities and to challenge existing male assumptions about power."

Carol Pendell, Riverside, Calif., reminds that "women have traditionally been the peacemakers in families" and need to "learn to transfer these qualities and skills into a larger area of tension."

†

Three women theologians to lead Women's Week at Perkins

October 13-17

Women's Week at Perkins School of Theology, SMU campus, Oct. 13-17 will bring together Perkins alumnae as well as women seminarians from Brite and interested women ministers and other persons in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Perkins faculty and students will participate. The week is sponsored by the Perkins women students, whose chairperson is Ms. Liz Spence.

The event will deal with issues that women's concerns and perspectives raise for the church. Included in the activities will be a reunion of alumnae and a consultation of the alumnae with the Perkins Curriculum Committee.

Three distinguished women theologians will serve as leaders for Women's Week at Perkins. Dr. Letty M. Russell, assistant professor of Theology and Women's Studies at Yale University Divinity School, will present two lectures and lead discussions on the topics "Theology and the Ferment of Free-

dom," and "Theological Perspectives on the Partnership of Women and Men in the Church."

Dr. Russell is author of **Christian Education in Mission and Human Liberation in a Feminist Perspective — A Theology**. From 1956 until 1966 she served as pastor of the Church of the Ascension of the East Harlem Protestant Parish, in New York City, during which time she wrote the quarterly **Bible Study Guide** for Inner City Churches.

The Rev. Peggy Way, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ will lead a work day with alumnae and students in the area of Pastoral Care and Counseling. Rev. Way is the coordinator of the Ministerial Program, Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago. She has taught at the University of Chicago, and

'Women and Addiction' theme for special Sunday

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — The increased extent of alcohol and drug abuse among women, and a "double standard" that lessens their chances of recovery, are the issues emphasized in this year's Drug and Alcohol Concerns Sunday, scheduled for observance Nov. 9 by United Methodists.

"Women and Addiction," the title of the main resource this year, reports that the proportion of women among the nation's alcoholics is about one-third and among abusers of illicit drugs 30 per cent. In addition 80 per cent of the amphetamines and 71 per cent of the anti-depressants, both legal, were prescribed for women in one year.

The pamphlet points out these elements of a "double standard" — a woman has to break through more social taboos to satisfy the need for drugs and thus is thought to be "sicker" than a male addict; her greater degree of concealment means her illness is usually more advanced when and if treatment is begun; her chances of recovery are lessened because "most treatment programs are male-oriented and male-directed;" she must often choose between her family and help for herself because of the lack of child-care facilities.

The Division of General Welfare in the church's Board of Church and Society, which sponsors the observance, held the first national conference on female

addiction in 1973. It urges that the church has a unique role to play in helping a drug dependent woman because it "recognizes each person as an individual created by God and therefore of infinite worth and significance," affirms her right to wholeness as a person and can provide her a "climate of acceptance and support."

The division also is making available a pamphlet on "John Wesley and Alcohol," part of a doctoral dissertation by the Rev. Ivan Burnett Jr., which appeared in **Methodist History** for July. Its conclusion is that the position of Methodism's founder was not simple but complex and needs to be "seen in the context of his general attitude of temperance toward all things."

Burnett found that Wesley's view "varied according to the strength of the alcohol content and the way the beverage was being used," with a moderation stance toward some and strong opposition to drunkenness and distillers.

†

Christian groups reported meeting in China

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — Christian groups are meeting, and not just in secret or underground, in the People's Republic of China, United Methodist executive Herman Will found on a three-weeks tour there this summer.

Despite the general break-up of institutional religions of all kinds, small groups meet in homes, schools and even in club rooms in factories, Dr. Will, head of the World Peace Division of the church's Board of Church and Society, said he was told by Ting Kuang-hsin, former Episcopal bishop who headed the old Nanking Theological Seminary.

Ting said no formal structure is developing or anticipated, although a non-denominational fellowship is functioning, and some persons are visiting these groups in order to facilitate communication among them. It was emphasized that there are no plans to train clergy, but to have a lay ministry.

†

is currently completing her Ph.D. in pastoral theology-psychology.

The Rev. Sharon Brown Christopher will serve as an alumnae leader for the event. Rev. Christopher is a member of the West Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church. She was elected the first woman clerical delegate to General Conference at the 1975 session of that conference. She was chosen to preach the ordination sermon at the 1974 session of West Wisconsin Conference.

Interested persons, church groups, and others wishing more information on Women's Week at Perkins should call 692-2321 (1-5 p.m.) or 692-3371.

†

Press picture of India not what bishop saw

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — The picture of India in the American press is nothing like the India he saw at first-hand this summer, according to United Methodist Bishop James K. Mathews of Washington.

He asserted the "uncharitable judgment" of India's national emergency "seems to be unjustified by the facts." It was not a "dictatorial and anti-democratic move, but in accordance with provisions of India's democratic constitution."

The bishop, who was a missionary to India for 14 years and visits frequently, was there when the emergency was proclaimed June 26 and for the ensuing three weeks. Despite the reports of massive arrests and oppression following the suspension of civil rights, Bishop Mathews said he detected hardly a "ripple on the surface" and found no hesitancy among his Indian friends to talk to him.

Poetry Panorama

by BARBARA MULKEY

*"In trouble then and fear I sought the Man
who taught in Galilee; And peace unto my
soul was brought, and all my faith came back
to me." (Anonymous)*

The Stranger of Galilee

I walked alone on a lonely road,
My head was bowed with a heavy load;
The way was dark, I scarce could see,
And then I met a Stranger of Galilee.

He took me by the hand
And said, "Follow me,
I'll lead you
Through the pathway dark . . .
To where the way is bright and fair."

He led me through a garden of beauty rare.
And as we lingered there
He told me of the Father's love
And how He longed for those astray
To walk with Him each-step of the way.

No more I walk that lonely road alone.
He walks with me . . .
The Stranger of Galilee.

—by J. C. Flynn
Pine Bluff, Ark.

The Stranger

Called the Stranger of Galilee
Who walked near the sea
Was no stranger
To the angry waves
Or to the blind who could see.

He pierced every searching eye
With His tenderness —
He was a stranger
In his Matchless love;
A stranger
In His mighty power.
Yet a stranger, He was walking
In the Mastery of God.

Walking humbly
Near the sea.
A stranger —
A man with many names —
The Christ,
The Son of the Living God.

—by Rosemary Clements
Jonesboro, Ark.

†



'Clouds of Joy' Singers Present Worship Program

Shown are members of the "Clouds of Joy" singing group of Keith Memorial Church, Malvern, who presented a Bicentennial program at a recent Sunday morning worship service in their church. Directing and providing the piano accompaniment for the group was Mrs. Sandra Barringer, shown with them.

†



One Last Fling Before School

The UMYF of Elm Springs United Methodist Church experienced "the true meaning of 'God's Good Earth,'" during a recent weekend at Devil's Den State Park. In addition to fellowship with other campers and group devotional periods, the youth took full advantage of park facilities — tours of the various trails and the cave, lectures on snakes, swimming, paddleboating, horseback riding, and softball.

†

'Spiritual Retreat'

Youth and counselors of Kensett and McRae United Methodist Churches recently co-operated in a spiritual retreat weekend at Kamp Kaetzell.

†



Arkansas Methodist Children's Home

(Continued from last week)

MEMORIAL GIFTS

GRACIE PEARL NICHOLSON
by Karan Nicholson
MRS. PEARL ORMAND
by Mrs. Hattie Mouser
by Mrs. Olive Landes
MRS. MAREN PETERSON
by Mr. and Mrs. John Carpenter
MR. AND MRS. W. D. PENDLETON
by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Vandegrift
JAY PLANZMAN
by Mrs. Frank Burk Jr.
MRS. MABEL MOORE PEACOCK
by Mr. C. R. Prewitt
HARRY F. RECTOR
by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Riesenberg
by Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick Jameson
DAVID T. ROSWELL
by Mrs. R. B. Stone
by Joe and Margaret Ward
by Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Jones and Luellen
HOWARD ROPER
by Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Scurlock
MRS. CAROL KING REID
by Rev. and Mrs. Richard E. Connell
REUBEN G. ROGERSON
by the Jack H. Vestal Family
W. E. RUNYAN
by Mr. and Mrs. Murray Hambleton
EZRA ROBERTS
by Elizabeth Trice Circle
A. S. RAYBURN
by Ellis Chapel United Methodist Church
EARL ROSS
by Mrs. S. M. Wilbourn
by Dr. John R. Stallings
MRS. ALMA M. ROBERTS
by Mildred Folds
by Dorothy Cutrell
JOHN REVELS
by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Clay
ORLAND RAMEY
by Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Rooks
S. CECIL SMITH
by Mrs. Faye Thompson
REV. BRYAN STEPHENS
by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Baer
GUY SMITH SR.
by Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Singleton
C. E. SHAFER
by Mrs. Nina B. Smith
CHARLES H. SANDERS
by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wells Jr.
MRS. J. B. STORY

by Dr. and Mrs. Firmin E. Williams
CECIL E. SHAFER
by Mrs. C. E. Shafer
MRS. CATHERINE MERRILL TRENTAM
by Mr. and Mrs. John Carpenter
J. H. TISDALE
by Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Corkins
MRS. MARY TUGWELL
by Dr. and Mrs. Firmin E. Williams
MRS. LOTTIE TACKETT
by Libby, Leonard Cagbill and Family
by Mr. and Mrs. Burrell M. Smith
by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tankersley
MISS JOSEPHINE UPCHURCH
by Beulah and Isabella Smith
MRS. LUCILLE JONES URBANEK
by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Broyles
MISS JOSEPHINE UPCHURCH
by Mrs. R. M. Barr
A. L. WARING
by Simon and Irene Capp
JOLLY WILSON
by Dorothy Bridenthal
MRS. BERT L. WARE
by Mrs. R. M. Barr
MRS. VERLAN WILLIAMS
by Mrs. Clara Caruth
by Mrs. Earl Stiles
MRS. BESSIE WARE
by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Oswald
W. L. WINKLER
by Mrs. R. H. Holderby
MRS. ROBERT B. WYMAN
by Mr. C. R. Prewitt

IN HONOR

Reverend and Mrs. T. T. McNeal
50th Anniversary
by Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Higgins
†



Mansfield and Huntington Hold Joint School

With an average daily attendance of 35, children and workers of these two churches in Fort Smith District joined for a week of Christian training and activities, under the direction of Mrs. James Williams. On the following Sunday evening they presented a program at the Mansfield Church.

†



Hall Memorial Vacation Church School

Following the theme, "Our Concern Is Peace," 36 children took part in the week-long school at Hall Memorial United Methodist Church, Texarkana. They, and coordinators Mrs. Mamie Smith, Avis Keel, Mattie Glass, Cleo McClendon, and Jenneta Watson, were photographed by R. C. McClendon.

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Magnolia youth in mission at Sugar Creek:



TWENTY-FIVE YOUTH and seven adults of First Church, Magnolia, took part in a recent 10-day mission trip to Philippi, West Virginia, where they completed the interior construction of a new 7-room addition to the Sugar Creek Children's Center. Money for the trip was earned by various projects during the year, and materials were donated by First Church. Last year the youth served on a mission trip to Oklahoma Indian Mission Conference.



TWO of the trip sponsors, their son, and four children who live at Sugar Creek Center, a residence which provides a family-like atmosphere for needy children.

CAMPSITE by the Center, where workers lived during their mission.



THE CENTER, which is limited to nine children and their directors, amid a wooded setting near a stream which provides fishing and swimming. The exterior received a coat of paint at the hands of the Magnolia youth.



THIS YOUNG MAN cuts sheetrock, after careful measuring, and following the placement of insulation and framework for wall partitions.

Summer Youth Directors: What are they? What do they do?

by Susie Workman*

(This interview, prepared for use earlier this summer, has been withheld until now for lack of space. We now share it with our readers.)

Allen Dawson's summer job is often more like play than work. He is the summer youth director at Markham United Methodist Church in Little Rock. According to Allen, the job involves a lot of planning and organizing but "little actual work." The most important element is spending time with the youth, and he hardly considers this work.

For Allen, and other college students who are working as youth directors in churches across the state this summer, the job may be only temporary, but the rewards and memories of such employment will be permanent.

Twenty-year-old Allen Dawson is a Methodist from Camden. He will be starting his junior year at Hendrix College this fall. His major is Business and Economics and he hopes to become a Certified Public Accountant.

When asked what qualifications are required of a summer youth director, Allen laughed and replied, "Obviously not too many!" He went on to explain that it really depends upon the wants and needs of the individual church. However, any prospective youth director

must get along well with teenagers, have a genuine interest in people, and have a knowledge and a desire to work in the church.

Allen obtained his job at the Markham Church through the Rev. Jon Guthrie, chaplain and counselor to students at Hendrix College. With other summer youth directors-in-training, Allen attended a workshop one weekend last spring. There they learned what to expect and how to cope with problems that might arise. They were also given a description of ideas which might be used in planning the schedule for the summer.

Program, Congregation's Response, Are Important

Allen places the emphasis of his program on being together. It is hard to get teenagers involved in the church unless something more interesting than "a lesson" is offered. He tries to offer activities of interest to the youth, to get them to the church. Then other religious training opportunities will follow.

The congregation of the Markham Church has been very responsive to Allen's efforts in the youth program. They are quick to help, giving both their time and energy. The parents' involvement is a great boost to a summer youth director's morale. He feels that he can depend upon the congregation whenever

he needs volunteers, and this ability to place confidence in the church is important in the formation of a successful youth program.

For Allen, the biggest rewards have been reaching goals that he has set and getting the youth really interested. (An example is a recent trip to Six Flags, for which all the youth worked very hard to earn the money.) Allen feels that getting involved with the church and getting to know the people in the church have also been very meaningful elements of his summer job. His new acquaintances and friends will be remembered long after his job at Markham is over.

Perhaps the biggest drawback for a summer youth director is a group of youth that do not want to get involved. Even though this may concern only a small faction of the youth group, unfortunately these uninterested persons can influence the ones who would normally become more involved. Although Allen has had a few problems with this, he has, as a whole, been fairly successful in obtaining total involvement by the youth.

Discipline, too, is often a problem. But the youth director knows that is to be expected of youth that age. In Allen's opinion, if a youth director is basically respected, he has little trouble gaining