

Heifer Project begins program in Tanzania

Arkansas Methodist editor to make trip to African nation

Under the auspices of Heifer Project International, 140 dairy cows will leave Arkansas this Friday en route to the United Republic of Tanzania. The shipment is one of several in a Dairy Production Assistance Project in which HPI — the Arkansas-based non-profit organization which provides livestock and poultry, and training for its care, to persons in developing areas around the world — is cooperating with the Tanzanian Livestock Development Authority. The plan provides for an eventual 1000 Holstein heifers, aged between nine and 12 months, to be sent to the east African nation. The Rev. John S. Workman, editor of *Arkansas Methodist*, will accompany the shipment as a reporter on the project (see related items on page three).

The animals will constitute a founda-

tion herd from which the developing nation can expand its dairy industry. The aim of the project is to improve the nutritional and economic status of the rural population and aid in providing dairy products to urban areas. A major goal of the program is the reduction of dependence on imported dairy foods, for which the nation expended approximately \$10 million last year. The primary emphasis of the project will be on increasing milk production by better feeding, breeding and management practices.

The HPI project will complement existing development programs in which the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank and the United States Agency for Inter-

(Continued on page ten)

A message from Bishop Frank

Dear Friends:

One of your greatest evangelistic and missionary enterprises in Arkansas is in desperate need of your financial help. I use the word "desperate" without any exaggeration.

ALDERSGATE CAMP is an approved Advance Special for every Church in Arkansas. The *Arkansas Methodist* recently carried a wonderful story of the mission of this Camp. I know of no place or program where the benevolence dollar is so fruitfully used and carefully expended.

What I am urging you to do is to seriously present this Advance Special to your congregation and to the Finance Committee as you form budgets for next year. A goal of ONE DOLLAR per member is not an unreasonable goal.

National Division support through the Board of Global Ministries is steadily declining for ALDERSGATE CAMP. The opportunities for evangelism and mission here are too great to ignore or reject. Bring a bus load of your people here to see this mission first-hand. To see it is to experience a new insight into human need and the response of our United Methodists to that need. I prayerfully hope I can count on you to make a dedicated presentation of ALDERSGATE CAMP to your people.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene M. Frank

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, September 18, 1975

94th Year, No. 37

Is the Church losing its influence ?

Think again, say minister and business leader

an interview by the editor

The following is from an interview Sept. 10 with Dr. Thomas R. Bennett II and Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin, both principal participants in the Arkansas School for Pastors and Laity held last week at Hendrix College, Conway.

Dr. Bennett is Research Professor of Administration at George Williams College, Downers Grove, Ill., and a wide-known behavioral scientist and consultant to private and governmental agencies. Dr. Shamblin is senior minister of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, Tex. He is a native of Ozark, Ark., and has served pastoral appointments in Arkansas.

Arkansas Methodist: We are here to talk about the church, its present, mainly, but also about its future and past. But first — just to get it out of the way — let me drop on you that question which every interviewer is going to be asking this season: "What would you do if you were to learn that your daughter was having an affair?"

(Pause. Laughter. Pause.)



Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin

A.M.: I suspect that Mrs. Betty Ford had about as much warning on that one as you did! But I'm serious. I think that readers of a church publication ought to have the chance for some insights on that issue from such as yourselves.

Dr. Thomas R. Bennett II: I'll take the Betty Ford question on because I think the lady was grossly misinterpreted and misunderstood.

I think I'd respond in terms of what I know I would not do.

The first thing I know I would not do would be to somehow read that child out of the family and say that I find what you've done is reprehensible and unconscionable and "be gone from my doors!"

I think the second thing I would not do would be to really get moralistic with her, start telling her where she was wrong and why that was an awful thing and so forth. Because I know full well that all that would do would be to close off any really possible, intelligent and rational consideration of what in the world is going on.

A third thing I would not do: I would not broadcast it within the family and among the friends and wring my hands over "this terrible thing my child has done unto me." I know too many parents would do that (and would) go around seeking counsel from everybody save the one person who would do them the most good.

And then I'd try to find out what all of that behaviour means to her, what are going to be the outcomes for her. Because if that happened to me it would be very obvious that I would be very much out of touch with a lot of what's going on with that child of mine.

And I'd have to make it very clear that I can't come out there — that what I do not approve of I do not approve of. But (I would say) that does not mean that you have to accept my disapproval as "the gospel." It does mean, however, that it is there. I have to insist that I also have some boundaries and some limits. They don't have to be yours, and they do not have to be accepted as yours. But there's no use to relate to me as if I am going to say "It's all right." Because I'm not. But I'm also not going to say that you're wrong.

A.M.: Where do you get your orientation for such a response as that?

T.R.B.: Oh, I think it's probably a combination of both the gospel and clinical training. I remember a young Teacher who drew a circle in the dust and invited a group of very convinced, moralistic, self-righteous people to pick up a stone —

A.M.: I recognize that Teacher!

Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin: I think one of the first things I'd want to do would be to assure my daughter she was included in my love and concern, and that any discussion would not be in the nature of breaking the relationship and involvement we have with each other as persons and as father and daughter. I would assure her that she is a part of my love in this and in all other relationships.

I do think that another thing is extremely important. I'd like for both her and myself to think through why

(Continued on page ten)



Dr. Thomas R. Bennett II

Pastors' and Laity School



Considering The Future

Dr. Thomas R. Bennett II, Research Professor of Administration at George Williams College, Downers Grove, Ill., leads workshop session on The Church, the Minister, and the Future at the four-day Arkansas School for Pastors and Laity. The event was held on the campus of Hendrix College.



Just Visiting

Guest Minister at the Pastors and Laity School Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblyn (second from left), senior minister of St. Luke's Church, Houston, Tex., is seen visiting with (from left) the Rev. John B. Hays and the Rev. Verlin E. Mikesell, ministers of Trinity Church, Little Rock, and Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District.



Comparing Notes

Talking it over after a workshop session are Larry Spears, senior student at ASU and pastor of the Stanford Charge, Dana Thomason of Forrest City, senior at Hendrix, Randy Linderman of Paragould, recent high school graduate and Dennis Spence, second year student at Emory University School of Theology.



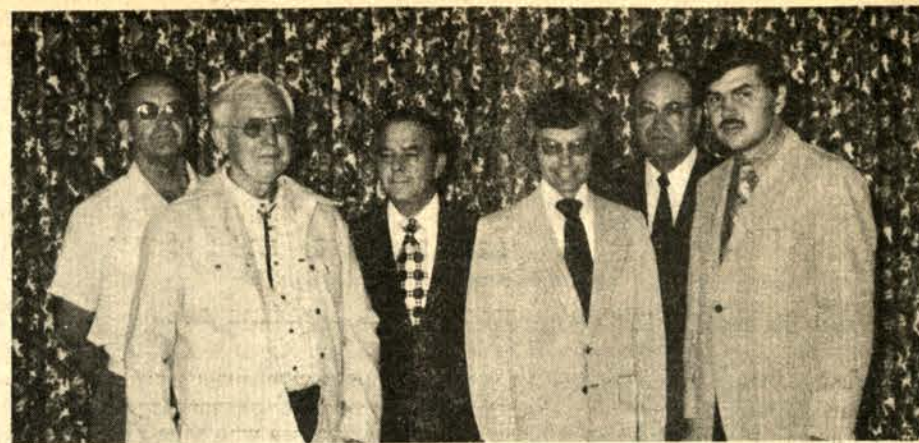
Talking It Over

Pastors and laypersons visit together before attending one of the evening worship services at the recent Pastors' and Laity School.



Arkansas Area's Two Delegations

The Little Rock and North Arkansas Conference delegations to General and Jurisdictional Conference met at the conclusion of the School for Pastors and Laity. The groups discussed plans for attending the spring and summer of 1976 meetings.



Leaders at the Camden District kick-off meeting included, left to right, Emmett Whitley, Dr. Clarence Mannasmith, Dr. Charles W. Richards, Jerry Bedford, the Rev. Howard L. Williams, and the Rev. John F. Walker Jr.

Victory Rally to climax Camden District Heifer Project

In an effort to help combat the "world hunger" problem, the Camden District Council on Ministries recently sponsored a district kick-off meeting at First United Methodist Church in Camden, for the purpose of initiating a district-wide "Heifer Project."

To add impetus to the start of the project, the council featured presentations by Mr. Jerry Bedford and Dr. Clarence Mannasmith, two directors of Heifer Project International, which has had its headquarters in Arkansas since 1971.

Mr. Bedford, HPI's director of development, gave a pictorial presentation on the dimensions of world hunger and the ethical stance of the Christian in dealing with this mammoth problem.

Dr. Clarence Mannasmith, a nationally known veterinarian and United Methodist, is the manager of HPI's Fourche

River Ranch in Perry County. Dr. Mannasmith used film slides to illustrate the opportunities the program presents both in America and over the world in alleviating the hunger problem.

The Camden District Council is spearheading a three-months promotion of Heifer Project, in cooperation with local church Councils on Ministries, which are encouraged to use whatever methods they find appealing and effective in implementing the drive for funds.

Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 23rd has been designated as the time for a Victory Rally which will be held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in El Dorado at 2 p.m., according to Dr. Charles W. Richards, Camden District superintendent. At that time reports from each congregation will be received.

†

CORRECTION

The report of legislative committee assignments of General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates of the North Arkansas Conference, appearing in the Aug. 7 edition, should have listed the Rev. Ben F. Jordan, and not Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, as assigned to the Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Petitions on Resolutions.

†

APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Bishop Eugene M. Frank announces the following appointments:

The Rev. V. Sanford Hankins to the St. Paul Charge, Malvern, effective Sept. 1, 1975.

The Dierks Charge to be supplied by Herbert K. Pekar, effective Sept. 8, 1975.

†

Methodist Hospital Foundation names new officers

James M. Crews Jr., senior vice president and trust officer of the First National Bank of Memphis, has been elected president of the Methodist Hospital Foundation. Announcement was made following the quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Hospital's Board of Managers. Mr. Crews, whose father, the late J. M. Crews, was administrator of Methodist Hospital for 25 years, succeeds Leslie M. Stratton III.

Elected vice president was Earl H. Triplett, president and chairman of the board of Memphis Bank and Trust; as secretary, L. Palmer Brown III, Memphis businessman and member of the Executive Committee of the Hospital's Board of Managers, and as treasurer, J. C. Portis of Lepanto, Ark. Mr. Portis also serves as treasurer of the Hospital's Board of Trustees and Board of Managers.

The Methodist Hospital Foundation was established in August, 1973. The

Board of Directors has responsibility for the management and disbursement of the philanthropic and charitable gifts to the Foundation.

Sources of Foundation funds include the continuing projects or campaigns conducted by the three Hospital-owning Conferences of The United Methodist Church (Memphis, North Arkansas, North Mississippi), the Foundation's Patron Program and the Planned Giving Program. Another source, and one of the more popular of the Foundation programs is the Friendship and Memorial Fund. Individuals may send as little or as much as they like to the Foundation in honor of a friend or loved one; the contribution may be made as a memorial or in appreciation for a friendship.

Gifts to the Friendship and Memorial Fund, as well as all gifts to Methodist Hospital Foundation, are used to supplement costs of medical education and research, capital expansion and charitable health services care.

Arkansas Methodist

From the Bottom of the Heart

If there is to be a future

The Church as a steward of a saving hope

Just for the record, the Church is going to be around for a while. Pardon that presumption, but every so often we need to acknowledge this fact. Not as any kind of personal defensive response to those who have already announced the Church's demise and who give gloomy reviews of its performance as though the institution were in some sort of perennial state of intensive care. We need, rather, to acknowledge the Church's permanence because that fact is a vital element — and we would say the vital element — in nurturing a sustaining hope; the kind of hope that is vital if there is to be a future.

Lest we be accused of blowing our own horn we will be quick to add that the Church is going to live on for a long time in spite of our own best efforts to assure that it does. Like Mt. Everest, the Church needs no defense — and it could get by with a third-rate public relations department. It is just as well that its future is out of our hands. The Church is going to be here. That is certain.

What is not so certain is whether we, as individual congregations and church members, are going to be around to be a part of the Church. For the true Church of Jesus Christ is going on before, in front of, the times. And too often we who would be a part of it are caught playing catch-up.

It is a bold claim to say that the Church is "the most significant element for hope" in any time. But inasmuch as it embodies the message with which it is entrusted, it is most certainly that.

As the trustee of an ancient wisdom, the Church is a reminder to society that knowledge alone is sounding brass and tinkling symbol. As keeper of the lamp of faith it calls us to know that unless we walk by that light we are strangers and sojourners, lost in darkness. As the student of the Book, the Church makes known the moral imperative which the gospel lays upon us, and by which we are judged. And as the beneficiary of and witness to the grace of God, the Church opens the way to redemption.

"The Church is of God and will be preserved to the end of time . . ."

†

Heifer Project's Tanzania program

A personal word

Attention is called to the story on page one concerning Heifer Project International's plan for placing a dairy foundation herd in Tanzania.

Heifer Project has invited me to make the trip to Africa as a reporter on the project. I will be travelling by their courtesy in cooperation with several HPI-supported denominations, including offices of the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church and the Bishop's Advance Special of our own Arkansas Area. While in Tanzania — possibly up to 14 days — and after returning, I will be writing stories for use by newspapers and other journals of these denominations. As overseas mail permits, I will, on this page, bring reports of experiences while in Africa.

Because of its nature and scope, HPI's project in Tanzania is one of a pioneering nature in an area where agricultural development is such a crucial priority. We congratulate the organization on its role in this enterprise and are honored by the invitation to share firsthand in what is a truly significant project — and in what promises to be an exciting personal experience. We will want to share that experience with as many persons as possible.

†

Arkansas Methodist

Established 1882

Official newspaper of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

Editor and Business

Manager John S. Workman
Associate Editor Doris Woolard
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Bookkeeper Karen Compton
Office Secretary Kathleen Storey
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Poetry Editor Barbara L. Mulkey
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Officers — Board of Managers

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PUBLISHED every Thursday except weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25 at United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., Little Rock, Ark. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark. When asking for change of address please include key number, new and old address and pastor's name.

POSTMASTER: Mail form 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

EDITORIAL and business offices located in United Methodist Headquarters Building, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark.

NEWS SERVICES: United Methodist Communications (UMC), United Methodist boards and agencies: Religious News Service (RNS), National Council of Churches, and others.

ADVERTISING RATES on request. Represented nationally by Jacob's List, Inc., Clinton, S.C. 29325. Products or services advertised are not necessarily endorsed by this newspaper or by The United Methodist Church.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$4.00 per year.

MEMBER:

Associated Church Press,
United Methodist Press Association

Good news: the New Life Mission

One of the brightest hopes for genuine renewal — in evangelism and in all aspects of the church's life and mission — is the New Life Mission, now an official program of both annual conferences of the Arkansas Area.

From what we know about this program, it holds great promise for the local churches of our conferences. It deserves careful study and consideration by every pastoral charge in our Area.

†

Off the Top of the Head

Born Free

The Chisholm Trail was never like this

One of the things I always try to do whenever I fly to Africa with 140 head of Heifer Project International Holstein yearling heifers — which, by the way, is how I'm planning to spend my weekend — is to do a little planning ahead.

Like, for instance, about whether or not to go.

But since I've gone and talked my way into this, it appears that about the only thing left for me to do is to smile and go ahead on with it.

There are, however, problems that we always encounter before such trips. Such as deciding what to take along, what to leave at home, etc., etc. And a lot of my deciding has, of necessity, had to be done after I turn in at night. And about the time I start to make mental lists of all the things I've got to make lists of, another category of concerns keeps pushing its way into my sleepy head.

Concerns like, for example:

"Do cattle ever stampede on an airplane?"

And "What happens five seconds after that big jet cargo-liner full of cows and me takes off? (I've watched them do all that on the TV movies, and those big planes, believe you me, jump right off the ground at a pretty steep angle!) My question, specifically: "The 140 cows — do they all slide to the tail end of the airplane?" And if not, why? And if so, what are you supposed to do then?"

But I suppose I shouldn't lose any sleep over this; they probably solved that problem the second time they ever tried to fly 140 cows in one airplane. And besides, if I've got any chores to do in regard to all that, they'll probably have it mimeographed off for me.

And another couple of things — small matters, really — have bothered me. What do all the cows do when the little light goes on to "Fasten Seat Belts"? To say nothing of the problem the stewardess is going to have in demonstrating how to put that little oxygen mask on in case of need.

Oh well, I'll let the other hands on our cattle drive worry about these things. Right now I'm going to start counting all my cows again and maybe I can fall off to sleep.

†

Toes, too

Another thing that always bothers us when we get ready to fly 140 head of cows to Africa is that we never know when some last-minute hitch might change our plans. This is pretty chancy business, you know, and you've got to be prepared for most anything to develop at the last moment.

Now I know this, and the cows know this, but I'm not so sure that you realize it. And my point in telling you is so I won't have to be too embarrassed if something happens and I don't get to go.

Don't ask me what could happen to delay us — most anything could, I suspect. For one thing, I understand that those passport and visa people do a pretty thorough job of checking up on your background, etc. And if they should somehow discover that I flunked 9th grade algebra, I just might have to sit this trip out until I can remedy that — which would probably mean that I'd never see any place north, south, east or west of Vilonia, Arkansas.

But should something like that happen, it hasn't been an entirely wasted ten days. What with all the shots I've had I'll at least be the only one in Methodist Headquarters Building guaranteed not to catch Yellow Fever or Cholera and who could step on a nail without worrying about it. To say nothing of the fact that I'll have an up-to-date photo of myself, something I haven't had since neckties were an inch-and-a-half wide.

So sit tight. While we're deep into the countdown, I've got my fingers crossed.

†

John



Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin

Preaching Mission Speaker

Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin, pastor of St. Luke's Church in Houston, Tex., will present the messages for a Preaching Mission to be held at Lakewood Church in North Little Rock, Sunday, Sept. 21 through Wednesday, Sept. 24. The services will begin at 7:30 p.m. and a nursery will be provided throughout the mission. Dr. Shamblin, who for 13 years was pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, was the Preacher of the Week for the recent Arkansas School for Pastors and Laity at Hendrix College. A nightly fellowship period will follow the services.

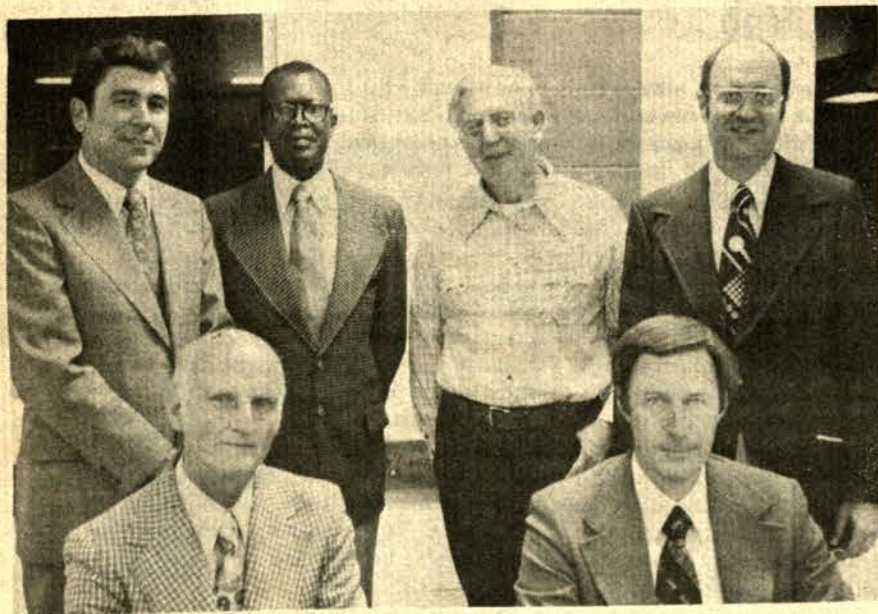
†

Series of meetings in Camden District

Two Camden District CURRIC-U Workshops were held earlier this week to acquaint church school workers with the new curriculum materials for children in elementary classes. The first workshop was hosted by First Church, Smackover, Sunday evening, Sept. 15, and Asbury Church, Magnolia, was the site for the second workshop on Monday evening, Sept. 16.

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 17th, the District Board of Stewards met at Fairview Church, Camden, to consider the district budget and apportionments for 1976. Dr. Charles W. Richards is Camden District superintendent.

†



Conway District Conference, Set-up Meeting Leaders

Giving leadership to the Sept. 4th meeting of the Conway District Conference and Set-up Meeting at Conway's First Church were (seated) District Superintendent Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden (left) and the Rev. James M. McKay Jr., UCA campus minister and Salem pastor, Conference secretary, and (standing, from left) the Rev. Samuel B. Teague, Bentonville First Church, who spoke on the New Life Mission; the Rev. Milton Nelson, New Zion-Union Chapel, who gave the devotional; Dr. Clarence Mannasmith, D.V.M., Heifer Project International's ranch manager, who spoke on HPI's work, and Mr. Jim Lane of North Little Rock, District lay leader, who spoke in the interest of the laity program.



Arkansans In London

Shown are the 29 members of the Arkansas delegation to the recent London Study Tour sponsored by an ad hoc committee of the Council of Bishops. Headquartered at the Royal Holloway College in London, the participants heard internationally known theologians, educators and statesmen on the theme, The Ancient Gospel in a World of Revolution. The group had opportunity to visit in London, the English countryside and in Wales. Some 200 persons from the South Central Jurisdiction participated in the two-week program. The Rev. Jim Beal of First Church, Newport, was coordinator for the Arkansas group.

†

Sexuality Training Seminar offered

The North Arkansas Conference has scheduled a Seminar on Sexuality Training for October 22-27, at Hendricks Hills United Methodist Church, Fort Smith. A weekend course for Junior High young people and their parents will be held on Oct. 24-26 in conjunction with the program.

Mr. Dale Wood, staff member of the Village United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City, will be the primary leader in both the seminar and the weekend course. The Rev. David Moose of Paragould will serve as the secondary leader.

The program provides for a limited number of persons who are interested in receiving training in this type of youth ministry to participate in the seminar, and also serve as leaders of small groups during the weekend course. Applicants

should write or call the North Arkansas Conference Council On Ministries Office, 715 Center, Little Rock, Ark. 72201. (Telephone, 374-1634)

†

Volunteer literacy tutors needed

The Literacy Council of Pulaski County emphasizes the continuing need for more tutors to help train some of the 24,059 adults in the county who cannot read. A Basic Workshop to train tutors, who will teach others to read, will be conducted Sept. 23, 24 and 25 at Park Hill Baptist Church, 200 East D Street, in North Little Rock. The sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with time out for a sack lunch, which volunteers are requested to bring. The cost of books and supplies for this voluntary program is approximately \$10.

A second workshop for Teaching



Monticello District Rally To Feature Husband-Wife Duo

The Rev. and Mrs. Gene Moore, pastor and wife, of West United Methodist Church in Abilene, Tex., will lead a Music and Worship section at the Monticello District Rally to be held at First Church, Monticello on Sunday, Sept. 28. Mr. Moore will present the closing message at the rally, scheduled for 6:30 to 9 p.m. The Moores have had wide experience in providing music for United Christian Ashrams, annual conferences, camp meetings, retreats, and civic clubs, and have sung before thousands of persons in India and Indonesia. The district-wide event, following the theme, "Christ is the Head of the Church — You are the Hands and Feet," will in addition feature other leaders in Arkansas' United Methodism.

†

English as a Second Language (TESL) is planned for October. The Basic Workshop to be held Sept. 23-25 is a prerequisite.

The "Each One Teach One" program is a simple and speedy teaching method devised by the late Dr. Frank Laubach, and has been successfully used in many parts of the world. For more information, interested persons are invited to call Mrs. Dale Booth, 664-5419 or Mrs. John Harp, 753-3413. To pre-register volunteers should call 666-0234.

†



Batesville District Leaders Meet

Program participants in a Sept. 3rd meeting of Batesville District stewards, pastors and other leaders were (from left) the Rev. Loye Vern Mason, associate pastor of the Melbourne Larger Parish, who was joined by his wife in a vocal duet; Mr. Eugene Carter of Batesville, Board of Trustees member; Mr. Nels Barnett of Batesville, Board secretary; Mr. Jim Wiseman of Searcy, Board chairperson; the Rev. Allan Hilliard of Cabot, director of camping, and Dr. Ralph Clayton, Searcy, principal speaker. Approximately 90 persons were the District's guests at the dinner meeting which dealt with matters preliminary to the District Conference and Set-up Meeting held Sept. 16.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



A statement has been issued by 186 scientists expressing concern about the increased acceptance of astrology and challenging the "pretentious claims of astrological charlatans." "We the undersigned — astronomers, astrophysicists, and scientists of other fields — wish to caution the public against the unquestioning acceptance of the predictions and advice given privately and publicly by astrologers," said the scientists, which included 18 Nobel prize winners.

†

Top clergy and lay people in England have reacted with anger over a government-backed report which recommended that communism, fascism and "alternative cultures" could form part of religious education in Britain's schools in the 1980s. Roman Catholic Archbishop John A. Murphy of Cardiff declared, "I am not in favor of these things being taught in religious education classes. There's a terrible danger . . . if you teach a little bit of this and a little bit of that . . . you will end up with a sort of cocktail religion. In the end the children get nothing. They are not mature enough to choose."

†

Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, head of the British National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, a moral watchdog agency, said of the British government's recommendation, "If Christians don't come out and say what they think about this monstrous suggestion, then shame on them." She said this was "without doubt a strategy to raise a generation which does not understand its Christian heritage, with all that will mean for our democratic way of life."

†

Mrs. Herman Stanley, president of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, told the organization's Executive Board in a pre-convention session at Glorieta, N.M., that the rising consumption of alcoholic beverages evidences a "serious imbalance within the economy." She declared that "something is definitely wrong when the unemployment and welfare rolls have reached new highs, when the economy is an unstable and inflationary one, that Americans have sufficient funds to purchase 327 million more gallons of liquor, wine and beer than it did in 1973."

†

Dr. Hans Dieter Betz, of German background and professor of New Testament at the School of Theology at Claremont, Calif., has studied U.S. higher education for 10 years, and has concluded there is too much church "sponsorship" at colleges and universities and too little church challenge to what passes for "knowledge." Dr. Betz says, "Even the connections between university religion departments and the Churches are incidental and marginal . . . Secular departments have no connections with the business of the Churches."

†

"Pedal for People," a project of the American Lutheran Church, led four young men of the denomination on an 8,334-mile bicycle trip to La Paz, Bolivia. The project, undertaken in support of the church's United Mission Appeal brought in pledges totaling \$36 million to extend Christian mission and service. The men left Detroit on 10-speed bicycles on Oct. 13, 1974 and reached their destination some 10 months later on Aug. 5. The last 30 miles of the ride were traveled via bus because of a bicycle breakdown, and the distance between Panama City and Cali, Columbia, was flown because there were no roads. As they bicycled the young men distributed Spanish-language folders prepared by the American Bible Society.

Dallin H. Oaks, Brigham Young University president, told a Dallas audience the "mindless control of governmental agencies" threatens the future of private education in the United States. Governmental intervention, Mr. Oaks said, "makes it very difficult for private educational institutions to steer a different course than that established by government."

†

Father Val McInnes, O.P., chaplain to Catholic students at Tulane University in New Orleans, says the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America will have to stop "playing things safely" and take a stand on political, economic and social issues or its inactivity will lead to a full Communist takeover. The priest, who has just returned from a justice and peace conference in Peru, said each country in Latin America has its own problems, but one general factor is that the Communists are interested in the overthrow of governments there, and the "theology of liberation is applicable to all countries."

†

According to an annual report on "Voluntary Foreign Aid Programs," voluntary agencies, including religious-affiliated units, received a total of \$949 million from private and government sources for their overseas relief and development programs during 1974 — an increase of \$269 million over that received the previous year.

†

Some 70 Southern Baptist and Roman Catholic representatives will participate next month at Menlo Park, Calif., in the fourth of a series of regional conferences. The focus will be on "Conversion to Christ and Life-long Growth in the Spirit."

†

The 1975 fund-raising drive of German Bread for the World, a campaign sponsored by the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Free Churches of West Germany, has topped a record of \$18.6 million, an increase of 11 per cent over the previous year. Proceeds support a wide variety of humanitarian and relief efforts around the world.

†

Bicentennial Note

Women were prime movers in organizing early American Sunday Schools despite the resistance of some men.

In 1817 the Congregational women of Medway, Massachusetts wore down the opposition of a young minister and the deacons in winning approval for their school on Sunday.

"These women will be in the pulpit next," the skeptical men of Medway complained.

†

Retired Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael A. Ramsey, predicts that the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church will be united before the end of the century. The "toughest nut to crack," in reaching union, said Dr. Ramsey, is the Catholic teaching on papal infallibility. He cited mixed marriage as another stumbling block.

†

A rash of recent arrests and detentions under the Terrorism Act has been strongly condemned by the Executive Committee of the South African Council of Churches. The ecumenical organization issued a statement declaring that "the powers contained in this act are cruel, frightening, and have demonic potential," that "potential for evil results in their increasing use for purely political ends, and for perpetrating blatant injustices." "We have seen this happening before our very eyes," the statement continued.

†

Conservative Ontario Premier William Davis, of Ottawa, campaigning for re-election, has promised that retail shopping on Sundays and statutory holidays would be restricted if his government wins. In a law-and-order speech to 600 delegates at the United Church Men's Clubs biennial convention luncheon, he said he wants to make sure that Sunday is kept as "a common pause day," with small convenience stores selling such items as bread and milk, open, and the large supermarket chain stores closed.

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Texas Church Prepares For Quints

Quintuplets born to Jerry and Debbie Davis will soon be joining the parish of First United Methodist Church at Lewisville, Tex., and the church is remodeling its nursery which is not equipped to serve such a large number of babies at once. Said Mrs. Davis, "Church is one of the few places we'll be able to go as a family." She added that "Jerry and I were both raised in the church and we just don't feel complete when we don't go. We want our children to have the same experience." First Church has been serving as a coordinator of volunteer help to the family, providing nurses, babysitters, supplies, and other services. Lewisville realtors are spearheading a campaign to build a new home for the Davises. (United Methodist News Photo)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 28, 1975

Something good is happening in the Church School

A seventh grade boy was helped to develop a more positive self-image which resulted in better relationships with other members of his family. A baby experienced the warmth of a loving adult as she was received into a brightly colored nursery. An adult woman came to some new understandings about the Bible and Christian faith as a result of helping her pastor with the confirmation class. Another adult was startled by a new insight as he participated in a meaningful discussion group. A teacher of four-year-olds in the church school felt a sense of community support as she went about her work this Sunday.

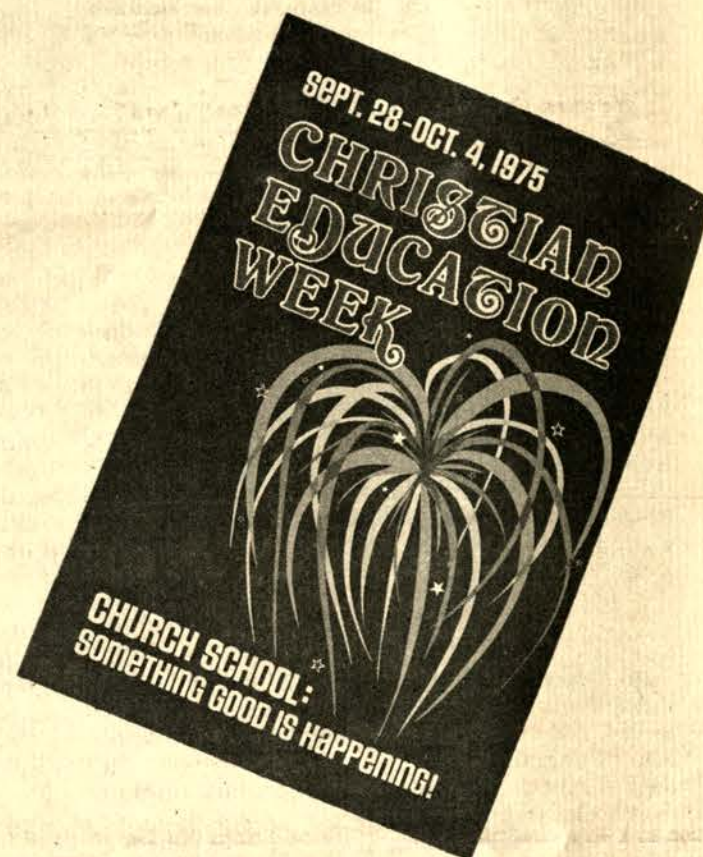
All these things, and many more, are happening every week in church schools throughout The United Methodist Church. Approximately 500,000 leaders and teachers were involved in leading and teaching children, youth and adults today. More than four million (4,000,000) "learners" participated in church school classes in approximately 36,000 United Methodist churches this week.

Persons are seeking to become aware of God's seeking and accepting love as made known to us especially in Jesus Christ and to become whole persons who live as responsible disciples of Jesus Christ in the world. These persons are finding help and support in the church schools of The United Methodist church and other churches. The lives of persons are being changed and enriched by the study, the Christian fellowship and the opportunities for service provided through the varied educational ministries of the church.

Thousands of persons are involved in planning at the national, conference, district and local church level to see that Christian education happens. Dedicated Christian scholars and writers prepare resources to help the biblical message come alive in the lives of persons at different stages of life development.

All this and more is happening in the church schools of The United Methodist Church. You can help it happen in your church through your active concern, participation and support of the church school.

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CHRIST

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE

Conference Council Board of Education

1975-1976

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SOME IDEAS TO HELP MORE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN IN YOUR CHURCH SCHOOL

Christian Education Week,
28 September - 4 October, 1975

The purpose of Christian Education Week is at least threefold:
(1) to call attention to the importance of Christian education in every church;

(2) to recognize those in every church who teach and provide leadership for Christian education; and
(3) to provide financial support for conference-sponsored Christian education programs and services.

Get Started:

Who will be responsible for the success of Christian Education Week in your church. The pastor and the chairperson of the work area on education will be the primary responsibility in most churches. If there is a functioning Commission on Christian Education, most of the detailed planning should be done in that Commission. If you do not have a functioning Commission on Christian Education, you may want to designate a team which would include the chairperson of the work area on education, the superintendent of the church school, and others who are involved in the church school.

The plans are complete you may want to involve the chairpersons of the work area on Worship and the Commission on Finance. In all cases, be sure to

report all plans to the Council on Ministries and the Administrative Board for approval and support.

Some Things To Do:

There are a number of different ways in which the week will be observed in the different United Methodist churches. Here are three things which every church can do:

1. Identify and tell others about at least three good things which have happened in your church school this past year.
2. Plan ways to give appropriate recognition to every church school teacher and leader.
3. Inform the members of your congregation about the conference Christian education programs and services and receive an offering for their support.

Now, here are other ideas you may want to consider:

1. Start a Good-Thing-of-the-Month Plan. This could include —
Teacher of the Month
Family of the Month
Class of the Month
Student of the Month
Church School Officer of the Month, etc.
2. Sermon

The pastor may want to consider preaching a sermon related to Christian education on Sept. 28.

3. Class Activities

Invite one or more classes to make posters, prepare tributes to teachers, or develop other plans to inform the congregation about some of the good things which are happening in the church school.

4. Church Newsletter

If you have a church newsletter, invite someone to write a guest editorial or prepare a news feature on good things about your church school.

5. Postcards

Send out postcards to announce the Christian Education Week activities and invite persons to participate in them.

6. Church School Open House

Arrange for an open house in your church school, complete with tour guides to help all members of your congregation to become acquainted with the educational opportunities which are provided through your church school.

7. Curric-U-Phone

Explain purpose and demonstrate the use of this toll-free long distance telephone service for information about and interpretation of our

church school curriculum resources. Workshops and group conversation by telephone available on a limited basis. Call for details: 800-251-8591.

8. United Methodist Curriculum

Resources: An Overview

Show this new filmstrip to update teachers and students, planners and administrators in regard to current United Methodist curriculum resources.

9. Curriculum Resources Fair

Set up a display of United Methodist curriculum resources to illustrate the wide range and variety available.

10. Cooperative Event

Join with nearby churches in a church school conference, Confrontation: Sunday School, Christian Education Workshop, or other similar event which will emphasize the good things which are happening in the church schools.

11. Goals for 1976

Set and announce some realistic but challenging goals for your church school in 1976. These may include the establishment of new classes, recruitment and training of new church school teachers and leaders, attendance goals, a greater variety of courses and others.

AN EDUCATION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 28 -- OCTOBER 4

An Agent of God's Grace

By JOEL COOPER

Pastor, Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Ark.



Lesson for September 28

LESSON ORIENTATION: For this fourth and final lesson in the unit, "God's Creation," we shall be trying again to find an answer to the human cry, "Who am I?" We have already explored three answers:

(1) Man is a creature of God made in God's own image;

(2) Man is a free and thus accountable creature;

(3) Man **IS** his brother's brother.

Today we shall look at the implications in the answer, Man is an agent of God's grace. We do not really know "who we are," until we come to see that by nature we are meant to be "agents" of God. It is true, as Dr. Earnest Colwell once said, "God has his mighty arms thrust into history up to his elbows." But his mighty hands are touching human lives and using them as agents of His grace.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 6:1 through 9:17.

CONCLUSIONS HOPED FOR: (1) That you might come to a better understanding of the Biblical beginnings of God's grace; (2) That more light might be shed on your question, "Who am I?"; (3) That you see and accept the responsibility that **YOU** are an agent of God's grace; (4) that you begin now to search for better ways to serve as his agent.

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"... I am sorry ... I made them ..."

In our first lessons of this unit we learned that God made man in his own image with the power to choose right and wrong. We said that this free man was the only kind of creature God could call into being that would be a fit companion for God. The possibility of the man choosing evil was inherent in his nature. And that is what happened, that is, man chose to do evil. This broke God's heart. He could have created a puppet-man who would have danced to God's tune without question. But that would not have been the crowning act of God's creation.

So God created a free man and that free man forgot his Creator and turned to all kinds of evil. The New English Bible says, "... his thoughts and inclinations were always evil." The Bible does not say that God was angry, although his actions sound like the wrath of God had descended. His mood was one of grief, disappointment, and sorrow. God said, "I am sorry I made them."

We can understand why God felt as he did. He had been slapped in the face by the product of his own hands; his dearly beloved had turned his back upon him. What sorrow! Some parents today, sorely disappointed in the behavior of their children, have thought, "We are sorry that we ever brought them into the world. We had such great hopes and expectations and have received nothing but rebellion."

God had such great hopes for men, but he received nothing but rebellion and indifference. In this Genesis story God looks over the ramparts of Heaven and sees men doing every conceivable evil, and what they were not doing they were thinking about. Wringing his hands in despair at the outcome of his creation, he says, (NEB) "The race of men whom I have created, I will wipe them off the face of the earth ... I am sorry that I ever made them."

Does God ever feel that way today about his human creation? When he sees the way we kill each other in our wars, when he sees how we

who are well-fed fail to feed the hungry, when he sees how we are no longer conscious of our dependence upon him — does he ever think again, "I am sorry that I ever made them?"

"... Noah found favor ..."

But God was not giving up on man. He was sorry he had made man, but he did not abort the whole project. This means that God still had hope that man would become what he had dreamed he would become when he breathed into him the breath of life. So the story of Noah is the story of God's first attempt to redeem man.

God's creation had run amuck; something drastic had to be done. So God picked out the one man and family whom he thought might be the acceptable nucleus for a new and more holy society; he provided for their escape; and he let the rest of his human creation die in the flood. It was drastic action, more drastic than God himself could countenance, as we shall see. But it let God start all over again with his human experiment.

The flood was God's first redemptive action. He had created; man had sinned; God must now redeem. His first act of grace was terrifying. And God himself did not enjoy it, but he must have felt that it had to be done. The flood was more like life-saving surgery — cutting away the unhealthy tissue and leaving the healthy tissue with which life could resume. It was radical surgery, drastic, but it was not the last drastic action God was to take on behalf of his human creation.

When redemption by the flood and all other redemptive efforts by God had failed, "in the fullness of time," God sent his Son into the world to be its Redeemer. John said that God loved the world so much that he did this. Paul Sherer said, "God walked down the steps of heaven with a baby in his arms." And that was the redemptive action which finally accomplished what God was attempting in the flood.

"... he did all that God commanded him ..."

This scripture refers to Noah's actions after God had said, "Make yourself an ark." Noah had already won God's favor because "he was a righteous man, the one blameless man of his time; he walked with God." (NEB) God had chosen Noah to be the remnant from which he would rebuild human society. So God had chosen Noah to be the agent of his redemptive action.

Now, Noah was not a perfect man, as we shall learn later in the story, but comparatively speaking, he was a righteous man. The lesson says, "He walked with God." If we were studying the New Testament, we would say, "Noah had the righteousness of faith." Therefore, God decided that Noah would be the instrument of his redemption, the agent of his grace.

But Noah still might have muffed his chance, if he had not been scrupulously faithful to God. The Bible does not say this, but there surely was the possibility that Noah might have been a bit reluctant when God first spoke to him. God said, "Noah, I'm sick to my heart at the sinfulness of men. The whole world is corrupt and full of violence. I have decided to destroy them. Start building an ark."

Noah might have said, "Lord, you are taking me kinda fast. Why do you want me to build an ark?" But, apparently, Noah did not question God, except perhaps to ask, "An Ark?" And God said, "Yes, an ark. Build the ribs of

cypress, cover it with reeds, coat it inside and out with pitch, make it 300 cubits long, and 50 cubits wide ... " Noah said, "Excuse me a minute, Lord, let me get a pencil ... " And then the scripture says, "He did all that God commanded him."

Now, doing "all that God commanded him" is the reason Noah was successful as an agent of God's grace. I do not know of another story in the Bible where God's instructions are more specific or more detailed. God told Noah every step to take, and he took it.

Noah did not ask God, "why?" He did not ask about the outcome of the venture. He did not question God's methods; he just followed God's commandments. He allowed himself to be used by God, gave his consent to be God's agent of redemption. Therefore, God used him to save the remnant which he in turn would use for building the new society.

What is the preaching? **WE** can be agents of God's grace in the world, if we are surrendering to God's will. But if we go around doubting God, rebelling against God, showing indifference toward God, we will not be used of God to transmit his grace. However, if we are committed to his will, he will make us a special agent.

It is not quite true to say that "God has no hands but our hands." It **IS** true, however, that God uses our hands to carry his grace to men. But we must be surrendered to his will as Noah was surrendered.

The Adult Leader says, "Each of us is capable of being part of the historical channel through which God sends the rivers of his dreams into a thirsty, messed up, world." And that is who we are — agents of God's grace. And life will not be full for us until we let God act through us.

"... never again ..."

I have said in essence that the flood was a drastic action by God meant to redeem the human race which had gone amuck — a kind of elemental grace in operation. But it was really too drastic for God. The story goes that when Noah and his passengers were safely on solid ground once again, they built an altar to the Lord and placed offerings of beasts and birds on the altar.

When God smelled the soothing odor of the offering, he said, "Never again will I do what I have done, no matter how evil men get, even if they begin their evil as young boys." And then comes the marvelous passage of promise: (Gen. 8:22) "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

The most significant part of God's covenant never to try again to redeem society by destroying most of it — is the unilateral nature of it. God makes the promise, sets a bow in the cloud as a symbol of the promise, but requires nothing of man in return. Here, finally, we see "unmerited grace" revealed in all its fullness. We see this clearly because we stand on the A.D. side of Christ.

Obviously Noah and those who followed did not see it from our vantage point. If they could have, it would not have been necessary for God to have sent his Son to be the Redeemer of men. What it means is this: God is gracious by nature. He gives his grace. We can never earn it; we can only receive it. But we can refuse it — and do. We can "harden" our hearts, refusing to accept God's grace so freely given.

But if we will open our lives, his grace will flow in to cleanse, comfort, inspire, lead — indeed, to save. It is truly, "Amazing Grace."



Little Rock Conference Women Plan Annual Meet

Mrs. Beryl Anthony Jr. (right), president of Camden District United Methodist Women, and conference officers met recently at First Church, El Dorado to plan for the second Annual Meeting of the Conference UMW which will be held in that church on Saturday, Oct. 11th. Conference officers, left to right, are Mrs. Hubert Blakley, Mrs. Zenobia Waters, Mrs. Louis Fish, and Mrs. James Nix, president.



Theme: "Our Oneness in Mission"

The Program Committee for the Little Rock Conference UMW as they met recently for detailed planning of the Oct. 11th annual meeting of the Little Rock Conference women. (Standing, left to right) Mrs. W. C. Patton, Mrs. Marie Watkins, Mrs. J. Robert Prator, Mrs. Ida Bell Mitchell; (seated) Mrs. Blakley, Mrs. Waters, chairperson, Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Nix, and Mrs. Charles McNamara. (More detailed information relating to the meeting will be announced in a future issue of ARKANSAS METHODIST.)

Highland Church Sponsoring Brothers

Arriving at Highland United Methodist Church in Little Rock on Sept. 3, after some three months at Fort Chaffee, were the two brothers at right. Dan Ngoc Tran (right), 27 years of age, is a Class A electrician who for five years served in the Vietnam Navy. Dan Kim Tran (left), 22 years of age, hopes to pursue the study of law a bit later. For the time being the two will attend night school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and will be employed in the area.



Alcoholism among sixth graders called 'Lion outside the door'

DENVER, Colo. (RNS) — Society is ignoring many "lions outside the door," a school teacher and coordinator of family living and drug education warned here, and one of them is alcoholism among elementary students.

Donald E. Shaw addressed a three-hour workshop on youthful alcoholism for school counselors. The Jefferson county teacher and counselor told his listeners that in each case of juvenile alcoholism the pattern was the same. Both parents worked and left for work before the child left for school. In each case, the child decided to drink his breakfast.

"When a lion walks through your door," Mr. Shaw said, "you adjust by

running, because that's more important than anything else you're thinking about at the moment."

But however complex the problem, it must be faced before it overwhelms the schools, he said.

Two years ago, he noted, a fifth grader came to school drunk. That was the first such case, but it set off a pattern involving other fifth graders, followed by an investigation of the problem. Mr. Shaw asked for groups of 100 as a basis for his surveys. Some results: Never did fewer than 84 say that they hadn't tried alcohol at least once. Never did fewer than 50 say they hadn't tried it 10 times.

In a survey of sixth graders, six to nine per cent had experienced sex, and

ALDERSGATE BOARD EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

To the Editor:

The Board and Staff of Aldersgate, Inc., wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to Bishop Frank for sharing his concern with many United Methodists in Arkansas, and we hope that we may soon hear from our churches.

Also we wish to express our gratitude to the **Arkansas Methodist** for the feature story printed in the August 21 issue — "Aldersgate and Kiwanis Club in unique venture." We have heard favorable comments from many friends concerning this fine two-page story.

C. Ray Tribble,
Executive Director,
Aldersgate, Inc.

"WE HAVE A 'PEOPLE PROBLEM'"

To the Editor:

... Thoreau said "There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the roots." He could have added that millions more are not at all concerned about little else outside their own narrow spheres of action.

They consist of people of untrained minds (untrained in the ways of life) and uncontrolled emotions, one of the principal concerns of religious teaching. They are unreasonable, temperamental and excitable. They are easily influenced and quickly take up any new fad.

These are the silent masses. Quarreling, sex and trivia occupy their time. They become emotional about ball games, fist fights, card games, gambling of all kinds and even fake wrestling. Seekers of more and more thrills, they become even more indulgent, looking for that which does not exist, and they finally despair of life. The masses are ordered to war by the few and they have never come to realize the absurdity of it.

The nature of most people is to choose that which is not good. They are irresistibly drawn to harmful drugs, alcohol, tobacco and dangerous living. Any church member who smokes does not know the meaning of discipline; and most of them smoke . . .

The tendency is to blame things for

our trouble (hacking at the branches). We don't have an alcohol problem, a dope problem, a crime problem, etc. We have a people problem — and this is the area of the church. Only by changing the minds and hearts of people can we make civilized progress.

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Church people do not dwell on the depth of those words, some of the most important ever spoken.

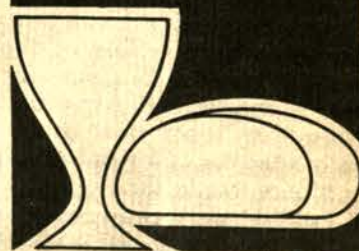
To believe that an alcoholic is merely a sick person or that a hardened criminal is merely misguided or the victim of circumstances is to be ignorant of the dangers involved. A criminal is vicious by nature. Only by the application of his own will can any person be cured of these evils.

Greed and dishonesty are the motivating forces in our own lives, our government and our economy. Do preachers preach against these things?

When is profit reasonable and when is it robbery? Nobody — no prophet, I should say — nowadays comes out of the wilderness and shakes his finger in the face of kings. Maybe he won't have his head cut off, but security mustn't be endangered and those able to contribute large sums can't be chastised.

William E. Speed
Foreman, Ark.

World Communion Sunday



Observed the world over.

Inclusive in outreach, encircling nations and races. This event is a unifying experience of spiritual fellowship — a public affirmation of our Christian commitment.

United Methodists give a special offering on this day to support:

- Crusade Scholars
- Minority Scholars
- Civilian and Military Chaplains



For more information about any of these programs, write:

United Methodist Communications
1200 Davis Street
Evanston, Ill. 60201

national Development are participating. The government of Tanzania has given the livestock industry the highest priority in its development plans, regarding it as vital to the nation's health and nutrition and as its most likely industry to improve its balance of payments situation.

HPI is a non-sectarian organization which receives support from church groups and farm and civic organizations. Of the 11 major HPI-supporting denominations The United Methodist Church is one of the two leading contributors. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has on

numerous occasions utilized the services of HPI in channeling its relief efforts around the world.

The 140 yearling heifers will be taken by truck from HPI's International Livestock Center at Fourche River Ranch near Perryville to New Iberia, La., from where they will be flown this next Sunday to Dar es Salaam, capital city of Tanzania. From there they will be trucked inland some 400 miles to a dairy farm on the Kitulo Plateau. The offspring of the foundation herd will be distributed to 50 Ujamaa (cooperative) villages.

As a part of the program HPI is pro-

viding two veterinarians who will remain with the herd for the two-year period. One, Dr. Charles Arnston of Menomonie, Wisc., is presently in Tanzania and the other, Dr. E. R. Henning of Breda, Ia., will accompany the animals on the flight from New Iberia. HPI will also provide dairy farm technicians to help staff some 17 new large-scale farms to be developed in cooperation with the program. In addition HPI will host, in the U.S.A., some 25 Tanzanian dairymen for six-month training programs in practical dairy farm management.

The current shipment is the second stage in the project, a pilot phase of

which was initiated in 1973. In that phase HPI provided 70 pregnant heifers to the Tanzanian Livestock Development Authority.

Since its origin in 1944 HPI has placed over 50,000 animals and over 1 1/2 million chickens with needy persons in over 90 countries and 20 states in the U.S.A. The livestock is placed with the understanding that the first female offspring of the gift animal will be given to another needy family, and that family in turn will do the same. The organization moved its world headquarters from St. Louis to Little Rock in 1972.

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Is the Church losing its influence ?

(Continued from page one)

this is happening. What caused her to feel the need for such a relationship? What are her goals and purposes for her life and for herself as a person? And how does she see herself coming out of this total relationship? How does she evaluate it?

I also think that it would be extremely important for her to recognize that this wouldn't represent my thought or my experience. I would say that I would probably come out at the same place that Dr. Bennett indicated was Jesus' teaching.

And I'd say that out of 40 years of personal counseling, in wide aspects of this whole matter, that I'm deeply convinced that the sexual relationship of two persons, and their experience in their love relationship, has to have some permanence about it for it to be of very great value to their lives. I've seen it tried in every variety of relationship, and I have yet to see an arrangement of this nature that was satisfying or fulfilling or that ever accomplished the purposes which the individuals thought it would.

A.M.: Concerning the current "revolution" in morality, what relevant word does the church have to offer?

J.K.S.: I would say that over the years the church has had two or three sources of authority available to it: what is the finest word that can come from the scriptures; what does human experience tell us; and where does our best reason, our most rational thinking, lead us. I think that all these tests need to be brought to bear on our ethical relationships.

A.M.: We hear it said that the church is losing its influence these days. What is your response to that?

J.K.S.: I think there's no question that the role of the church in our society is changing. There are many other forces of community life influencing our values. All types of communication, our living together in such close proximity in the great cities — all these things naturally affect us. The church is not the dominant factor it once was in the city's life.

But I still think the church has a very great place in the role of developing the ideals that make up our culture. The church should be the creator of culture! That role is still available to us. But it's not an authoritative role. It's a role of discussion and evaluation, a role of relationships rather than one of an authoritative position.

T.R.B.: I think the thing that people frequently lose sight of is that they have no historical perspective. I would suspect that the quality of daily life and the ethical standards that obtain in daily interaction with other people in the state of Arkansas is vastly superior in 1975 than it was in 1905.

We tend to so romanticize history that we overlook the steady movement from brutality and the brutalization of human life. We tend to overlook the licentiousness and honest-to-god wickedness that belonged to the frontier. It was both without God and law. We have sort of "Hollywoodized" a lot of history.

And when that happens to people they fail to see the kind of enduring substructure to our values and our thinking about what life is about — and (that substructure comes from) the Christian tradition. It's there! The role of the church was very, very real. If you look at American history, the church was the bringer of education, the bringer of morality, the bringer of law, and the bringer of justice as we moved across the land.

A.M.: Many today seem to feel a sense of powerlessness over events which control their lives. What can be said to this?

J.K.S.: There have always been events that have been beyond our control. No man has ever been able to solve all his problems. We've always had to partialize life. We have to partialize history; we can't be responsible for all of history — there's no way!

But there are many things we can do. We need to find those things and do them! And we'll find ourselves not as frustrated and not in as much difficulty.

T.R.B.: I think it's imperative that we acknowledge the reality of what people feel. So many times I find people wanting to somehow deny that.

What we really cope with, with many folk, is not that they have to "internalize" that much social change. I doubt seriously that the majority of the good folk of Conway, Arkansas have to internalize much change — yet. But what we have to be aware of is that they are aware of a kind of acute sense of powerlessness; a sense of almost the magnitude of the powers that are organized as over against the puniness of those that are not.

Now what this often says to me is that the problem is that we cannot cope with change; (but it is rather) that we haven't clearly identified the points at which we want to make a difference and organized ourselves to do so.

... (When I think of such persons as) Caesar Chavez, regardless of what you might think of him, don't talk to me about powerlessness! I have the hunch that many times that feeling of powerlessness is there because we not only permit it to be there, we aid and abet it! We do not want the responsibility that would come if we did have the capacity to have impact on events.

A.M.: Another subject — What do you see as the greatest contribution the church is making today?

T.R.B.: That depends on what part of the world you're talking about. In Portugal the church has just made its great contribution in being the backbone of the streets. Had it not been for the churchmen of northern Portugal, that little country would have probably been plunged into chaos. And it was not simply as political leaders. It was the emergence of priests from almost exclusively priestly functions into a genuine prophetic one. And that is bound to have had profound impact upon the thinking of Europeans, all the way across the country!

As you look at us in America, there is the church in the midst of the terrible struggle of the cities. I know churches that are carrying out ministries that attract no publicity, they provide no great TV shows, but they are the source of sustenance and meaning for people in the absence of any other center of caring.

I think where we mistake the church is to somehow figure that if it isn't in political front and center that somehow it isn't doing anything... In other words, what I'm pointing to is that we now have to look to different quarters for the impact of the church. We got conditioned for some 20 years into thinking that unless the church was making headlines, that it somehow was not being prophetic in the gospel.

But what I'm pointing to is that the great prophetic ministry that I know of today, 1975, is where men and women are making profound impact upon their communities. They make no headlines, they attract no attention. Theirs is an almost silent revolution. But they are in the process of contributing to a whole new role for the church.

And I'm one who has finally come to a very dim view of proclamations and resolutions and great assemblies. That's not where I look for the impact of the church. Now, I must add a footnote. I think the time is

coming when we shall have to mobilize whatever capacity for political power and social influence we have. I do not think that time is far off. We came within a hairsbreadth of it in Watergate. We were as close to it as G. Bromley Oxnam was to the edge of the demise of democracy with Joe McCarthy. I do not think that time is over, not by a long shot.

And there will be a point at which we shall once again have to find some voice in concert that says "We may choose to go that way, because — like Lincoln Stephan said — 'The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time.' So we may choose to go that way, but we as churchmen must say, 'If we as a nation choose to go in any given direction, let us be aware of what we're doing.'"

Now I've seen no call for that in recent days. I've seen the ministries in other places.

A.M.: Do you see issues before us over which the church may have to make such a response?

T.R.B.: I see (such an) issue shaping up in the last decades of this century. It's going to be the issue between what one can really call the educationally and technically advantaged of the society and its educationally and technically disadvantaged. And that is going to be an issue that will become more and more critical!

I do not, for example, personally think we shall see for years to come an unemployment rate below eight per cent. I do not think we shall ever be able to play catch-up again for people who began educationally and economically disadvantaged. And in some way that gap, and what is involved in it, is the horrendous issue that is before us!

A.M.: Do I hear you saying we are facing a cultural and social confrontation?

T.R.B.: We are facing a cultural, social and economic confrontation! The voices that cry for a redistribution of our resources and our wealth are the voices that are speaking on behalf of the disadvantaged. And that message may not always be the correct one. I want to underscore that. But at the same time it's there, and the confrontation is there.

A.M.: Three quick questions. What do you see as the greatest weakness of the church?

T.R.B.: Its inability to organize and mobilize its own power base.

A.M.: How do you evaluate such movements as "Good News" and the Evangelical Missions Council?

T.R.B.: I always view such movements both in a historical perspective and with a sense of rejoicing. Wherever there is energy there is hope!

J.K.S.: I would agree. And I would add that my greatest hope is that this group would serve as a corrective. I would hope that it doesn't come to setting up different institutions. We have a pluralism within our own family; we should settle our differences within the family and not try to institutionalize them.

T.R.B.: I really think a lot of clergy and a lot of laity are unduly anxious about "twice-born" and "Good News" and all the rest. The issue we have to be aware of is really the issue of exclusiveness. If I understand anything about Christian history, I understand one thing: every time somebody has said "Now this is the message, this is the word," that was the beginning of another heresy.

A.M.: What can each of you tell me that you've never told another interviewer?

Both: (Pause) You'll have to get us the next time around on that one!

News from the churches

THE YOUTH of First Church, Piggot, held an activities week recently. Each morning the group met for devotions led by church lay persons and then went to members' homes for breakfast. On Wednesday they held a "Love Fast," at which they raised over \$117. On Saturday, the Rev. Reggie Moore, pastor of Emory Chapel Church in Newport led the youth in singing and fellowship. On Sunday morning the youth directed morning worship with Rev. Moore preaching.

THE YOUTH of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Little Rock, recently voted to purchase four new offering plates for Camp Tanako, as an expression of their appreciation for the camp.

THE CHRISTIAN EDITION, youth singing group from First Church, Jonesboro, traveled to Tucker Intermediate Reformatory recently to present a concert.

PERSONAL FAITH was the theme for a Youth Week held in August for the youth of First Church, Jacksonville. The Rev. David Deere, a student at Perkins School of Theology and brother of Bonda Sue Deere, youth director, led the evening sessions and preached for both morning worship services on Sunday. The youth who participated in the Youth Week traveled to Six Flags in Dallas over the weekend.

THE YOUTH of Roe United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff District have recently organized a United Methodist Youth Fellowship. Their sponsors are the Rev. William Dowell, pastor and wife.

YOUTH of First United Methodist Church, Malvern, have engaged in physical work projects during the year — earning approximately \$1,400. During July 21 youth and seven adult counselors participated in a 10-day mission work project at Sugar Creek Children's Center in Phillipi, W. Virginia.

THE UMY of First Church, Murfreesboro, recently traveled to Dallas for a visit to Highland Park United Methodist Church, for Sunday worship service, and to Six Flags, where they spent a day enjoying the rides.

THE YOUTH of Helena-West Helena United Methodist Churches and the Helena Catholic Youth Organization shared a weiner roast and softball game recently. On Aug. 24 the Helena UMY had a back to school party at the home of senior high counselors, Ed and Kay Calhoun. After a hamburger dinner they were entertained with a magic show performed by junior high counselors, Waymon and Candy Krugh.

GALLOWAY MEMORIAL United Methodist Church, at Fourche Dam Pike and Griffin Drive in Little Rock, announces an open house to be held next Sunday, Sept. 21st. The open house, featuring a hot dog lunch served by the members, will follow the 9:50 a.m. church school and 10:55 a.m. worship. The congregation especially invites friends and neighbors in the Richland, Rosemeadow, Hermitage and Fourche Dam Pike areas to attend and meet the new pastor, the Rev. Paul Barrington.

THE YOUTH of Mabelvale Church recently spent several days in Panama City Beach, Fla. Activities included attendance at Woodlawn United Methodist Church, visits to two amusement parks, a Snake-a-torium, and catching crabs on the beach. Mr. and Mrs. Ron Tunnell are counselors.

DR. J. RALPH HILLIS, Jonesboro District superintendent, was the pulpit guest at First United Methodist Church, Trumann on a recent Sunday morning.

THE REV. STEVE BRIZZI, a student at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., was the guest speaker for morning worship services at Black Oak and Monette United Methodist Churches on Aug. 10. On Aug. 17 Mrs. Brizzi joined her husband in the pulpit at Black Oak to present a discussion on Christian marriage. Devane Baldrige, lay pastor in the Jonesboro District, led evening services for Black Oak and Monette Churches on Aug. 10 and 17. The Right Now Singers of Pullman Heights Church, Hot Springs, gave a program of music and Christian testimony in the Monette church on the morning of Aug. 17.

ST. PAUL CHURCH, Jonesboro, held an area leadership training workshop recently which was attended by 47 persons. Leaders for the workshop were: Virginia Lindley, Sophia Barton, the Rev. Jim Randle, ASU Wesley Foundation director, the Rev. Arvill Brannon, associate director of North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries and Charles Mabry. St. Paul Church began fall church activities with 182 attending morning worship.

A COMMUNITY SINGING SERVICE was held in the First Baptist Church of Monette on Sunday, Sept. 14, with First United Methodist, Monette Assembly of God and Black Oak United Methodist Churches participating. The Rev. David Bentley, pastor of the United Methodist churches, led the singing.

THE Rev. and Mrs. Michael Orr were honored recently by the congregation of Swifton United Methodist Church with a pounding. Among the gifts was a handmade quilt.

Open House At Earle

Greeting Forrest City District Superintendent, the Rev. Elmo Thomason and Mrs. Thomason is Mrs. Andrew M. Hall Jr. (pastor's wife), as the two arrived for an open house held at the parsonage at Earle, following its recent renovation both inside and out. Ladies of the church assisted with the celebration.



Educational Assistants Attend Seminar

Ms. Ann Williams (left), educational director at First Church, El Dorado, and Ms. Mary Turrentine (right), director at Trinity Church, Little Rock, were among 65 participants in a recent two-weeks graduate study seminar at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in Dallas. Shown with them is Dr. R. Harold Hipps of United Methodism's Division of Lay Ministries, one of several specialists who served as instructors. In addition to lectures, participants had opportunity for in-depth study including interpretive sessions, library work, and group Bible study — all related to the subject, "An Introduction to the Message of the Bible." Persons completing the requirements for the course received a credit toward the four units required by The United Methodist Church to become Associates in Christian Education.

Booneville youth have busy summer

United Methodist Youth of First Church, Booneville, report a "summer which has been fun, full of work activities and spiritual experience." The "fun" included ping-pong, basketball, chess, checkers, other games, and cook-outs.

The "work" performed by the youth was primarily yard work for the specific purpose of earning money to buy a new van to use in bus ministry. They earned \$500 toward that goal.

Spiritually-oriented activities included Bible studies, a youth-led morning worship service, a retreat and a Star-Va-Thon. The retreat, held at Shoal Creek, included a study on Christian Salvation,

the film entitled, "The Antkeeper," and a contemporary Communion Service administered by Dr. Raymond Franks, pastor at Morrilton. Musical numbers and skits on the parables of Jesus, were presented by the Booneville youth during the worship service.

The two-day Star-Va-Thon involved 12 youth who volunteered to go for 30 hours without food, and members of the congregation who paid them at an hourly rate, which collectively netted \$279.10 for the "World Hunger" program of the United Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief.

Personalia

DALE MARIE GUNN and David Weatherford were united in marriage recently by the bridegroom's father, the Rev. Frank Weatherford of Hickory Ridge. Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Gunn of Manila.

CHALLA KILYNN KENNEDY, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Joe Kennedy of Danville, was born Saturday, Aug. 30. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Scates of McKenzie, Tenn. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Forace Kennedy of Quitman.

KAREN DIFEE, daughter of the Rev. Dale L. Diffie, pastor of White Hall Church, Pine Bluff, and Mrs. Diffie and granddaughter of the Rev. R. L. Diffie, pastor of Parkview Church in Benton, and Mrs. Diffie, was married Sept. 6 to Davie Monroe of DeWitt at Whitehall United Methodist Church, with Miss Diffie's father and grandfather officiating.

MR. FLOYD G. (BUDDY) VILLINES III of Little Rock was among 132 candidates who recently passed the State Bar Examination. He is associated with the Arkansas State Department of Local Services where he is manager of the Office of Local and Regional Services. The son of the Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr., superintendent of the Batesville District, and Mrs. Villines, Mr. Villines is a member of Pulaski Heights Church. He is married to the former Polly Ann Milam of Conway.

THE GORDON BETENBAUGHS APPOINTED TO MUSIC POST IN NEBRASKA

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Betenbaugh, who for the past seven years have directed the Ministry of Music at First Church, El Dorado, have been appointed Ministers of Music and Fine Arts at the 3,000-member Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Neb. They join a staff which includes five ordained clergymen and a full-time business administrator. The Nebraska church has contracted for a 71-rank, 4-manual Casavant Freres organ.

During their music ministry at First Church, El Dorado, the Betenbaughs were instrumental in the building of an excellent handbell choir program, gave leadership to a \$35,000 building project which included renovation of choir facilities, the installation of a 59-rank Schantz Organ, and 12 tours with the high school age singers and ringers in 17 states, and in other countries.

The Betenbaughs will reside at 2620 Surrey Court, Lincoln, Neb.

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. 21—Sunday Matt. 18:21-22
Sept. 22 Romans 14:10-12
Sept. 23 Isa. 50:6-7
Sept. 24 John 13:14-17
Sept. 25 Matt. 18:23-27
Sept. 26 Matt. 18:28-33
Sept. 27 Luke 6:27-31
Sept. 28—Sunday Mark 8:31-33

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Former North Arkansas Conference Youth President Weds

United in marriage at First Church, Helena, recently were Miss Susan Gladin, who served during 1973 as president of the North Arkansas youth organization, and John Finley Christie, son of Dr. Francis Christie of Hendrix College, and Mrs. Christie. The new bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivey Stephen Gladin of Helena. The newlyweds are both students at Hendrix College.

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Youth In Charge

Following the theme, "Christ the light of the world," the youth of First Church, Hardy, led an impressive candlelighting service on a recent Sunday evening. Mrs. Clara Jo Carter served as organist, and Mrs. Clella Wiles as counselor-sponsor for the special event.

Fort Smith District Youth Council

Council members who will serve during 1975-'76 include: (Back row, left to right): Mike Jennings, Kim Cleavenger, Jim McDonald, chairperson, Clay Wakefield, David Rainwater, Eric Godfrey, vice chairperson, Jeff Rocker, Susan McLean; (front): Susan Brown, Pam Cruce, Patti Skinner, Elizabeth Whittington, treasurer, Jay Peer, Beth Linam, Sandra West, and Margaret Whittington, secretary.



'Noah's Ark' A Winner

Winning first place at the Labor Day Parade in Rector was this float, a creation of the United Methodist Youth of Rector's First Church. The float, with the slogan, "all aboard," was constructed under the guidance of Mrs. Sandra Russell, shown with the youth. (Photography by Pastor Wendell Dorman)



Martin's Chapel School

The Vacation Bible School at Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church in Monticello District involved both children and parents.



Dell Vacation Church School

Fifty-two boys and girls, directed by Mrs. LaMartha Griggs and other adult leaders, participated in the vacation church school at Dell, and presented a program on the closing night. (Photo by the Rev. Raymond A. Dorman, pastor)



Perfect Attendance Rewarded

Boys and girls at Elaine United Methodist Church who received perfect attendance awards on Promotion Day. Becky, Keith and Ray Cravens received pins for 9, 8 and 7 years (in that order) of perfect attendance. Four children received awards for one year of perfect attendance, and others for lesser periods of perfect attendance. Outstanding, was the 32-year record set by Mrs. J. M. Countiss, an adult member of the congregation.

Arkansas Methodist