



OFFICERS FOR THE DEAF

Newly elected officers for the Alabama Baptist Conference for the Deaf are (left to right): Jimmy Bishop, Decatur, vice-president; Mrs. Carmi Clower, Birmingham, secretary; and John T. Wheeler, Huntsville, president. They were elected during the annual meeting at Shocco Springs June 11-13. (Photo by Mary Wimberly).



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Thousands packed Birmingham's Legion Field 25 years ago during a Billy Graham crusade. Promise Keepers officials hope this weekend's conference will be the largest religious program at the stadium since the Graham gathering.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1997 1972

PLAQUE PRESENTED FOR T. V. SERIES



LORETTA BACON

DAVID RICHARDSON

Mrs. Loretta Bacon, representative from WSFA-TV, Channel 12, Montgomery, Alabama, is receiving a plaque from David Richardson state worker with the deaf. The plaque was presented to Channel 12 in appreciation for televising the series "LIGHT UNTO MY PATH." This program is televised every Sunday morning on Channel 12 at ten o'clock.

Other stations on the weekly network are the following:
WJRT-TV, Flint, Michigan; WMAL-TV, Washington, D. C.; WWBT-TV, Roanoke, Virginia; WCYB-TV, Bristol, Virginia; WBIR-TV, Knoxville, Tenn.; WTVC-TV, Chattanooga, Tennessee; WLOS-TV, Asheville, N. C.; WBT, Charlotte, N. C.; WRAL-TV, Raleigh,

N. C.; WNCT-TV, Greenville, N. C.; WIS-TV, Columbia, S. C.; WMSL-TV, Huntsville, Ala.; WBRC-TV, Birmingham, Ala.; WSFA-TV, Montgomery, Ala.; WALA-TV, Mobile, Ala.; WSB-TV, Atlanta, Ga.; WESH-TV, Orlando, Fla.; KMID-TV, Midland, Texas; and other stations in the process of joining the network.

Make Reservations Now For A.B.C.D.

Baptist State Conference For
The Deaf

APRIL 6-8, 1973

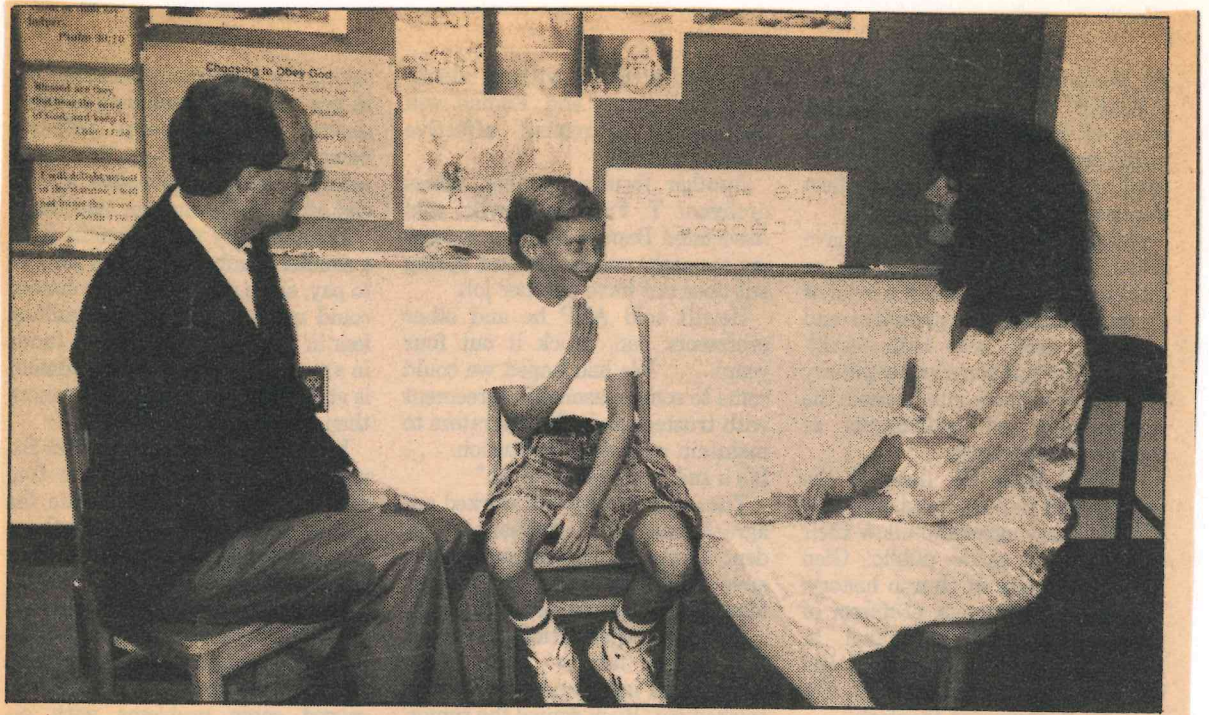
Registration Fee: \$3.00 per person
ages 9 and over

Springview Motel; Shocco Inn;
Crestview or Mt. Moriah

Send registration fee to:

Reservation Clerk
Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly
Box 886
Talladega, Alabama 35160

Anyone who would like to attend
this meeting is welcome



Telling What He Learned

Richie Crew, (center), uses sign language to tell his parents, Sherry and Roger Crew, what he learned in Sunday School at First Baptist Church

of Trussville. Signers go with Richie to his activities, leaving his parents free to work in other areas of the church. (Photos by Dianne Casolaro)

Richie Crew, whose father, Roger Crew is family Minister at First Baptist, Trussville. Richie had a interpreter in his classes. Richie's father, Roger Crew, said it makes all the difference in the world. It makes Richie feel more accepted.

June 27, 1995

Joyce Wesley
Historian - ABCD
1995

Since 1995, there has been many improvements and changes in Sunday school church so the Deaf feel more accepted. For example, today we use Power Point presentations for Sunday School. The Deaf become more excited, learning about God's Word now. They enjoy learning and are more comfortable with visual teaching aids. This makes it easier to communicate and

to share God's Word.

Birmingham.

A special class for deaf/blind group was on Saturday and Sunday led by Mrs. Faye Rushing, Talladega, Al.

Interpreter's workshop was held on Saturday morning, June 7th at 8:45.

ABCD officers-1986-87:

**President-Richard Jones-Birmingham
Vice President-Jimmy Smith-Mobile
Secretary/Treasurer-Judy Enzor-Frisco City
Song Leader-Peggy Estes-Eufaula**

Jr. ABCD Officers:

**President-Don Donald-Montgomery
Vice President-Susan Wilson-Chelsea
Secretary/Treasurer-Brenda Robertson-Birmingham**



Below: Officers for 1986-87

Alabama Baptist Conference for the Deaf officers for 1986-87, were elected recently at Shocco Church, Frisco City, secretary-treasurer; Jimmy Smith of Spring Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, vice-president; Richard B. Jones, Sr., of McElwain Baptist Church, Birmingham, president; and Peggy Estes of First Baptist Church, Eufaula, song leader.



Junior Officers for Deaf

Junior Alabama Baptist Conference for the Deaf recently elected officers for 1986-87. Don Donald (center) of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, is the new president. Susan Wilson (left) of Chelsea, vice-president; and Brenda Robertson (right) of Pell City, secretary-treasurer, are from McElwain Baptist Church, Birmingham.

ALABAMA BAPTIST DEAF SET 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 50th celebration of Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf will be at Shocco Springs March 6-8, 2009. The speaker will be Carter Bearden retired from North American Mission Board. He has done mission work among deaf people all over the U.S. He is referred to as the "Billy Graham" of the deaf world. He influenced Richardson to learn sign language while both were attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf (ABCD) first meeting was at Shocco Springs Assembly, Talladega, Alabama the fourth Sunday, June, 1959. The purpose of the meeting was to invite deaf people from all over the state to learn how to become better servants of the Lord. About 35 deaf people attended the first meeting at Shocco Springs for fellowship and to encourage them in their local churches.

1959, deaf people from across the state have attended these annual meetings, becoming better teachers and leaders in their local churches.

The ABCD was started by David and Patsy Richardson, first missionaries appointed by the North American Mission Board, (NAMB) Southern Baptist Convention in 1956 to work with deaf people in Alabama, David is from Gadsden, Alabama, Patsy from Orlando, Florida. They worked with deaf people in Alabama for 35 years establishing deaf ministries in local churches. In retirement they still work with deaf ministries at First Baptist, Montgomery which they started in 1957.



Welcome to ABCD, God's dwelling place, where we come with an ambition to have a heart like God's. It is an opportunity to share God's love.

In 1954-55 Mrs. Mary Lou Bingham wrote a letter to Carter Bearden at the Home Missionary Board of our need for missionary to the Deaf in Alabama. The Lord answered ^{her} prayer and David Richardson of Montgomery came to Alabama in 1957 to be our first Deaf missionary to the Deaf. He started 45 churches with a Deaf ministry and with the help of Mrs. Bingham 3 interpreters workshops. Wilkes Baptist Church helped her with financial as she traveled in God's work.

(40 years ago) In 1959 David Richardson established the Alabama Conference for the Deaf at Shocco Springs. The purpose was fellowship, learning about Leadership and evangelism. The Bylaws were copied from the Coosa River Baptist Association that David Richardson used for ABCD to follow. Then it was adopted in 1985 under the leadership of Jimmy Smith.

There were
new officers
conference
Clower was
name of the
the Deaf wa
Conference

Highlights
need
to look up
on 1971

Lawyers Court trial

check Bingham
+ 40th year.

This be good for another poster.

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the
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BCD. The
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Baptist

One of the most exciting highlights of ABCD

was in June 1971. A mock

Deaf people and Interprete

the Talladega Court House

Deaf people taking parts as

the Defendant tried before

help of interpreters. Mr. ar

were real lawyers and the

Judge William Powers. The

court procedures. Meaning how the court

the Court house.

1978 - 1979

The purpose
was to educate
the DEAF. in
court procedures.

MEANING —

How the court
worked in real
life. What happen
in side the court house

The largest number to attend ABCD State
Conference in 19 years was a total of 240
people.

Then in 1979 - the highest to attend the ABCD
Conference in history was broken with 270 people
in 20 years since 1959.

1980

Something new added to the ABCD Conference was CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (children's conference). Mr. and Mrs. Joslin, native of Missouri, led the children's program at the workshop.

One of the highlights of 1983 was when something new was added to the ABCD Conference program. Jr. ABCD was established by Anne Clower. New Jr. ABCD officers were elected for the year of 1982-83. Rev. Robert Moore was the first conference leader for the Jr. ABCD. NEW ADDED WAS A NURSERY TO THE ABCD. A NURSERY WAS PROVIDED.Anne Clower was the first President to preside at ABCD Conference Shocco Springs when David Richardson stepped back. She was ABCD President six times.

In 1985, Mrs. Mary Lou Bingham announced her retirement with Deaf/Blind fellowship of 20 years services which meets every year during ABCD. She was in charge of activities for the Deaf/Blind since 1959.

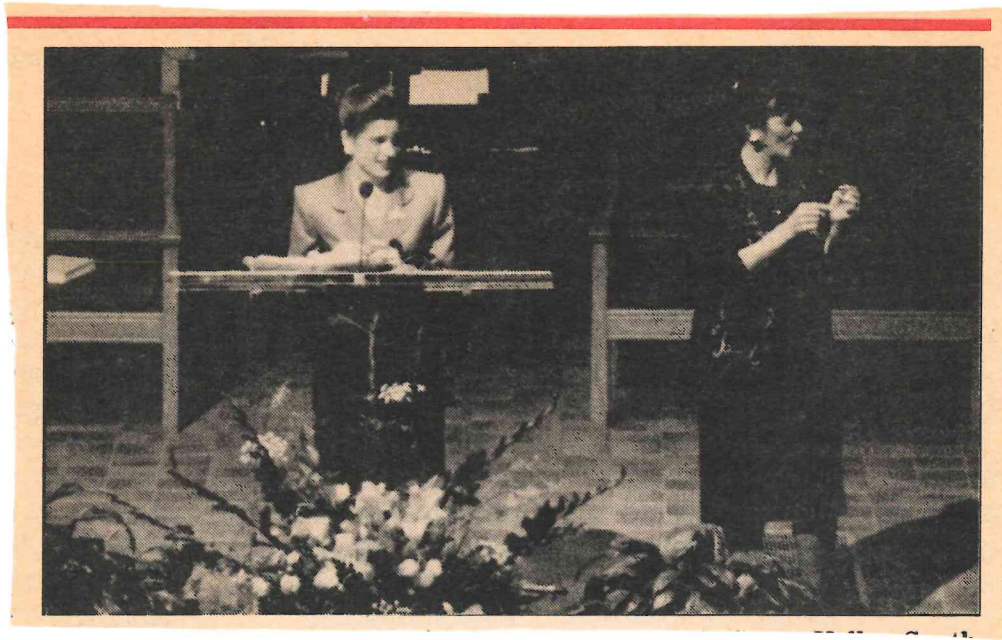
In 1990 Richard Alford came to Alabama as Language Missionary. He meets regularly with the ABCD Executive officers, therefore he encourages all the Deaf officers to perform their own role independently during their business meetings, under God's leadership.

What is it about ABCD that prompts us to want to make contact with people we care about??? LOVE!!!!!!!!!!

ABCD motives members and friends to support Deaf missionaries, Deaf camp and missions through praying and giving, which makes it possible for missionaries and leaders to share JESUS with a lost world.

Without ABCD the DEAF would never have experience salvation.

For 40 years ABCD has a good leadership dedicated to religious work. ABCD has a responsibility to present the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST to all people...



Miss America presents her testimony to an overflow crowd of 1,200 at Green Valley Baptist Church in Birmingham, October 16, 1994.

Whitestone is a member of the Green Valley South congregation. Introducing Whitestone to a Sunday morning crowd of 1,200, Green Valley South's pastor, Chuck Carter said, Whitestone captured the attention of a nation by performing ballet to Sandi Patti's song of "Via Dolorosa".

Whitestone said, "I can't sleep without reading God's Word every night." I have to read, and when I don't read God's Word, I get worried. He calmed me down. He taught me how to forgive people and how to love others.

She said, "I have God's wisdom, so I can live a positive attitude and I can't is a negative thought." God has a different purpose in our life. God sent his son, Jesus. He is an amazing gift. I can't imagine how Jesus had to die for us.

Heather has a heart for ministry and she loves people. In Birmingham people who have known her for years, and as a student of Jacksonville State says her christian faith motivates all she does.

Danny Bair, Associate pastor and worship leader at Green Valley South, believes Whitestone has a gift for ministry as part of the youth group at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham. Whitestone made a profession of faith in the 11th grade.

She has grown up in the Episcopal church then she attended a Baptist church in St. Louis when she attended a nationally known school for the deaf there. She learned about God through closed-caption worship services on television. Her faith grew and became inextricably linked to her talent in dance. Responding to the traces of music she counts out in her dancing in the basement of Sparkman Hall during her freshman year on the Jacksonville State campus turning on the music practicing every night her dance.

Danny Blair working with Whitestone and his wife, Angela, who is also profoundly deaf, she knew Heather at Jacksonville State. Blair and the church have started the Deaf Christian Fellowship (DCF) and provided an interpreter for 15 - 20 deaf worshippers, the first part of the services with the larger congregation and then separates for the sermon. Heather has built relationships with those in the ministry and has been an encourager.

Faith Baptist Deaf Mission in Talladega, Alabama a mission of First Baptist church is essentially a church within a church, a separate congregation of fifty-eight (58). Pastor Buddy Burgess and his lovely wife, Anne, joined with us to hear Heather's tremendous testimony. "Hearing her testimony she has proved that deaf people can be missionaries, not just mission fields," said Joyce Wesley, a member of Faith Baptist Mission in Talladega.

Heather was on the staff, a counselor for Jr. A.B.C.D., at Shocco Springs in Talladega, Alabama in June 1992 for the Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf. She came back to visit ABCD in March 1994. She was an inspiration with the deaf youth at ABCD.

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY SMITH

Jimmy Smith was born in Mobile, Alabama. His parents are James Oliver and Bertha Smith. He grew up like many boys, getting into trouble often. With loving patience his parents raised him to walk in God's way. His cousin, Jackie Scott (hearing), played together and got into trouble together. One time during a flash flood she fell into the water and Jimmy saved her life, pulling her out by the hair of her head.

Jimmy attended Alabama School for the Deaf in Talladega. He began to learn more about God. He joined Christian Endeavor and grew in his Christian life. He came home for Easter and told his mother not to dye Easter eggs because Easter means that Jesus was raised from the dead. Easter is not about rabbits and eggs. One summer he attended Bill Rice Ranch in Tennessee and learned more about the Christian Life. Jimmy gave 100% of his heart to God. He was supervisor at Taylor Hall, ASD for several years. He influenced many boys during this time.

David Richardson first met Jimmy at monthly preaching meetings for deaf at First Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Jimmy joined the group and continued serving the Lord. Every day he studied the Bible. He was Sunday School teacher for deaf people for more than 40 years. He led many deaf people to be a Christian. I am sure many of you are Christians today because of Jimmy Smith.

Jimmy supported Alabama Baptist Conference for the Deaf faithfully. His influence will continue to touch lives now and in the future.

Rev. Clifford Bruffey

Biographical Note

Rev. Clifford was a Deaf missionary working for the Home Mission Board. Bruffey often told this story. In 1977 more than 160 Deaf young people went to the Texas Baptist Deaf Youth Camp. Many of the kids accepted Jesus that week. At the camp there was a large lake. A thick cable stretched across the lake. The cable stretched from a very tall tower to the far side of the lake hundreds of feet away. A trolley on wheels was on the cable. If someone was brave, he or she could jump off the tower and slide down the cable on the trolley to the water. The tower was about thirty feet high.

Bruffey was the pastor at the camp. All the kids tried to get Bruffey to jump off the tower and slide down the cable. He climbed the tower and looked down. It was a long way. He was a little afraid. Finally, he built up his courage and jumped off the tower. It took a lot of faith to make the jump. Bruffey uses this story to explain about faith. Faith is not true faith until it does something. Faith must work.

Rev. Bruffey was born in Buckhannon, West Virginia on January 29, 1930. In 1936 he was stricken with spinal meningitis and he became deaf. He enrolled at Gallaudet College (Deaf College in Washington, DC, the only Deaf College in the world) in the fall of 1948. A year later he and a Christian friend organized the "Ambassador Bible Club" which was well received. He was licensed by the Elk Valley Baptist Association in West Virginia May 1952 and ordained in August. He graduated from Gallaudet College May 1953 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He became president of the North Carolina Sunday School Association of the Deaf for the year of 1958-1959. In 1962 he graduated from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.

He was appointed as student missionary to the Deaf in Jackson, Mississippi by the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention on December 17, 1959.

His first wife was killed in an automobile accident on July 1, 1960. He later married the former Ruth Ann Melton, a product of the Mississippi School for the Deaf on July 11, 1964.

Clifford and his wife, Ruth, live near Nashville, Tennessee. Clifford is a retired Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) missionary to the Deaf. He served as a chaplain at Gallaudet University for many years. Clifford and Ruth have three grown children. They all live in Nashville. All of their children are involved in Deaf work.

After a long battle with ALS (known as Lou Gehring's disease), Clifford Paul Bruffey triumphed on February 28, 2001. Although he left behind his loving family, friends, and his Christian brothers and sisters, we know he is with God and Christ, doing as Jesus did -- preparing the way until we meet again.

Funeral services were held on March 3, 2001 at Brentwood Baptist Church. Dr. Jerry Potter (NC), Rev. Robert Moore (NC), Rev. Jerry St. John (SC) officiated and Bruffey's son-in-law Rev. Brian Sims (TN) sang "Come Worship with Me." A special Homecoming Celebration in his honor was held by the Gallaudet University Community and DC Baptist Convention on May 5th, 2001

There are many kind and loving Christians in America. Many Deaf have to learn about certain Deaf leaders who have been kind to them. Hearing people can learn how patient these Deaf leaders were with them, too. We can show others the love of Christ is by showing that we

By: Joyce Wesley

Ministering to The Deaf

Ministering to the Deaf people used to be having them sit on the front row as someone translated the worship service into their language.

Mrs. Peggy Estes, Deaf taught Sunday School and interpreted the Sermon with the help of her mother-in-law. ^{Mrs. C. W. ESTES} The pastor of First Baptist church in Eufaula, Ala. He would typed the message for her ahead of time. Peggy would read it in signs as he preached. Peggy's mother-in-law can hear and she kept her up with the preacher's sermon. This is how it was, before the Deaf Ministries was ^{established} established. For years deaf people who have been attending Church as a child, with their hearing parents, were unable to understand the services. They did not attend for years as and Adult, before the Deaf found their way to a Deaf Mission Church. Today more Deaf people are having their own separate Congregation Church within a hearing Church. The First step in getting a Deaf Ministry started is to find out if there is^a hearing person who has sign language skills to be a Interpreter to the Deaf. That person would begin signing classes before actually beginning ministry.

If there is one Deaf person in a Community, there is a need for a Deaf Ministry. Ministries can grow into practically their own Churches, such as Mc Elwain Baptist Deaf mission where the Deaf meets across the street from the hearing Congregation. Deaf family members can attend a separate Services for the Deaf while hearing family members can attend a hearing services. It is the same way with Faith Baptist Deaf Mission only difference is they do ^{not} have to go across the street.

Before the deaf lack the richness of joy and understanding of the Gospel. Staying home on Sundays and trying to read the Bible or never caring for Church. Today an Interpreter is the fruit for the Deaf. They are so fruitful that it enriches their lives with complete knowledge of the gospel. The deaf are so happy and over joy with knowledge of the Pastor's Sermon. The Interpreters brings God closer to the Deaf in their hearts. With out Interpreters, the Deaf would not have a Deaf Ministry.

Joyce Wesley

Alabama Baptist Convention for the Deaf (ABCD) LOGO

Paul Bradford was elected chairperson of ABCD LOGO selection committee of 1992 at the ABCD convention in June, 1992 in the business meeting. There were eight (8) drawings of logo designs for ABCD. Paul Bradford gave five (5) logo designs to the membership so one design could be selected. Logo design five (5) was chosen by the membership with 37 votes. Logo design five (5) was created by a group of members from the McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission (MBDM). McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission (MBDM) became Birmingham Community Deaf Church (BCDC) and met in a building on Green springs Highway before moving to the campus at Brook Hills. Today, BCDC's name is the Deaf Church at Brook Hills (DCBH). DCBH meets on the campus of Brook Hills today.

By: Joyce Wesley
February 15, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS FOR A.B.C.D. HISTORY

For the second time in A.B.C.D. history a hearing person became an officer. Cherybe Thornton, from the Birmingham area, will serve as the assistant secretary to Joyce Wesley, secretary for A.B.C.D. This was done for the importance of preservation of our history.

By:

Joyce Wesley

From 2002 - 2004

Cherybe Thornton

became assistant
Secretary to Joyce Wesley

Deaf Learning

Since 1995 there have been many improvements and changes in Sunday School and Church so the Deaf feel more accepted. For example, today we use Power Point presentations for Sunday School. The Deaf become more excited learning about God's Word now. They enjoy learning and are more comfortable with visual teaching aids. This makes it easier to communicate and to share God's Word.

By: Joyce Wesley
February 16, 2003

McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission Newsletter

Volume 4

Issue 3

May - June 1995

From The Pastor's Desk:

It says in Psalm 46:10, God says, "Be quiet and know that I am God. I will be supreme over all the nations; I will be supreme in the earth."

This verse reminds me that we, as Christians, sometimes forget to allow Jesus Christ to control our lives. We sometimes want to manipulate and control. Only God's hands can do the job. Sometimes we let our hands get in the way because we manipulate, plot and scheme to get our way. It is obvious that God controls all.

True believers should put your faith in God without scheming and plotting. Are you facing a problem or challenge today? Are you wondering what you will do? Give them to the LORD! You need to remain yielded to God's will and give your burdens to Him.

Richard B. Jones

From The Editor's Desk:

A warm summery greeting to everyone! No more worrying about cold weather and snow for a while, right? ... only rains!

Say, how about all the Dogwood blooming, and the Forsythias, Tulips, Azaleas and all those other flowers. Didn't they do great this year? Everybody is talking about how beautifully they did! Ain't God wonderful to give us this pleasure?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you throughout the summer, especially those that ole' man winter kept inside so long. I'll be going to Pine Mountain, Georgia with my church group, Glorieta, New Mexico for S.B.C.D. and to Erie, Pa. to visit my family — So I'll be on the road this summer, as usual.

You all have a good summer!

In Christ's love,

Carol Hall

May 1995

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 Woman's Missionary Union of the Deaf & Brotherhood meetings	4 Trip to Pine Mountain and Warm Springs, Georgia	5 Return from Pine Mountain and Warm Springs, Georgia	6
7 Deacon Paul Bradford leads morning worship service	8 Deacon's meeting at 6:30pm	9 Teresia Wiley's Birthday	10 Church Committee meeting at 6:30pm	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17 Pastor leads the prayer meeting at 6:30pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 A deacon leads the prayer meeting at 6:30pm	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31 Sunday School Director's meeting at 6:30pm			

June 1995

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Walter Cotton's Birthday	2	3
4	5	6	7 W.M.U.D. and Brotherhood meetings at 6:30pm	8	9	10 Richard and Betty Thomas' 35th Anniversary
11	12	13	14 Flag Day Lawrence Benefield's Birthday Scott & Nina Price's 9th Anniversary Church committee meeting	15	16	17
18 Father's Day John Watson leads morning worship Debra Wilkins' Birthday	19	20	21 Pastor leads the prayer meeting at 6:30pm	22	23	24
25 Cynthia Cain's Birthday	26	27	28 Hebron Ford's Birthday A deacon leads the prayer meeting at 6:30pm	29	30	

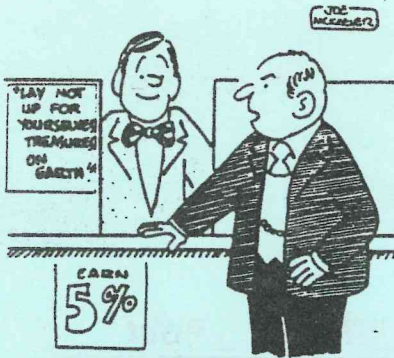
New Testament Numbers

In each question below, a number (1 to 10) is missing. Can you fill in the missing number to complete these New Testament verses?

1. Jesus said to her, "... for you have had _____ husbands. ..."
2. "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the _____?"
3. "Destroy this temple, and in _____ days I will raise it up."
4. "... whose wife will she be? For the _____ had her as wife."
5. "_____ stone jars were sitting there, for the Jewish rites of purification. ..."
6. "We have no more than five loaves and _____ fish."
7. "He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb _____ days."
8. "What woman, having _____ silver coins, if she loses one ..."
9. "Ye compass sea and land to make _____ proselyte." KJV
10. "He found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for _____ years. ..."

Answers

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. five, John 4:18 | 6. two, Luke 9:13 |
| 2. nine, Luke 17:17 | 7. four, John 11:17 |
| 3. three, John 2:19 | 8. ten, Luke 15:8 |
| 4. seven, Mark 12:23 | 9. one, Matthew 23:15 |
| 5. six, John 2:6 | 10. eight, Acts 9:33 |



"NOW SEE HERE, GREEN - THE BANK IS GLAD YOU GOT RELIGION, BUT LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY!"



*YOUR ILLUSTRATIONS NEEDED A SERMON!

The McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission.

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Minister
Richard B Jones

Choir Director
Carol Hall

Sunday School Director
Richard B. Jones

Newsletter Editor
Carol Hall

Assistant Editor
Anne Clower

McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission Newsletter
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Joyce Wesley

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McElwain Baptist Deaf Mission Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1

January - February 1996

From The Pastor's Desk:

Ephesians 1:13-14

13. So it is with you (chosen to bring praises to God's glory). When you heard the true teaching - the Good News about your salvation- you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark of ownership on you - the Holy Spirit that he had promised. That Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive what God promised for His people until God gives full freedom to those who are his-to bring praise to God's glory.

Every year we tend to think about our weaknesses or problems and try to improve ourselves as we make our goals or resolutions for the new year. When the clock strikes 12:00 on January 1st, we tell our friends and family about our resolutions. Do we keep these or fail? Most of the time we fail.

14. But I tell you Good News. God's promises never fail and are never broken with us. First of all, we are saved by our faith in Jesus Christ who forgives us our sins. Then God sent the Holy Spirit to live within us. The Holy Spirit helps change us to become His holy people. The Holy Spirit is everything that we need to live as well as the Holy Spirit has led our life for eternity; that means He will never leave us. The world or Satan can't break or separate us from God. Praise the Lord! We can depend on His guaranteed promises and rejoice with Him.

Brother Cliff

From The Editor's Desk:

Hello, all you good people:

BRRR! It is cold as I write this - 32 degrees outside right now. So you all bundle up good if you go out. We have to watch those sniffles and sneezes.

We had a wonderful Christmas banquet and drama with Faith Baptist people from Talladega and the folks of Green Valley Baptist Church. I look forward to future years of McElwain working with these fine people! We will alternate every year for our annual get together to celebrate the most wonderful birth of all.

Well, we had a good year in 1995 - but let's try to make it an even better year in '96. You can do that by coming to church more regularly, get involved and bring others with you. We miss you when you're not here.

With love of Christ,
Carol Hall

Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf Needs Your Support

The ABCD is in need of some financial support to cover our expenses that occur during our annual conferences.

Any donations from you would be greatly appreciated. This money will go into the General Fund to help with bringing in workshop leaders and guest pastors and/or speakers.

Please cut out and return with your check or money order made payable to ABCD and mail to :
Paul E. Bradford Jr., ABCD Treasurer
127 Parkway Drive
Trussville, Ala. 35127

Yes, I want to help support our ABCD. Enclosed is my donation in the amount of:

(Circle one)

\$20 \$15 \$10 \$5 \$.....

Name.....

Address.....

City, State Zip.....

The Coming Events

For the month of January, there will be a Winter Bible Study each Wednesday starting at 6:30 p.m. The study will be on the book of Amos and Richard B. Jones will teach, starting on the 3rd through the 31st. Please come and learn about Amos.

On January 28th the Super Bowl XXX (30) Day will be at the Green Valley Baptist Church starting at 4:00 p.m. Watch for the newsletter from Deaf Christian Fellowship for details.

Beginning on February 8th, we will have our weekly Prayer Meetings every Thursday (not Wednesdays). This change was made to accommodate Bro. Cliff Watson, and enable him to come to these Prayer Meetings.

In February a Valentine party will be held at the fellowship hall of the Deaf Church on February 10 at 6:00 p.m. Bring refreshments and join the fun.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf during the weekend of March 1 through 3 at Shocco Springs. We will have guests to lead the workshops and also will have Jr. ABCD lead the conference one night during that weekend. The ABCD newsletter will be sent out in the middle of January with reservations forms enclosed.

Mark your calendar

JANUARY:

- 2 - Waymon Harkins' birthday
- 3 - Winter Bible Study
- 4 - Barbara White's birthday
- 10 - Quarterly Business Meeting
Winter Bible Study
Phillip Mitchell's birthday
Bill & Carol Hall's 43rd wedding anniversary
- 15 - Anita Bradford's birthday
- 17 - Winter Bible Study
- 24 - Winter Bible Study
Ann Acton's birthday
- 28 - Super Bowl Supper
Curtis Caldwell's birthday
Sherrita Boswell's birthday
- 31 - Winter Bible Study

FEBRUARY:

- 8 - Bible Study
- 10 - Valentine Party
- 15 - Bible Study
- 16 - William Hall's birthday
- 22 - Bible Study
- 29 - Bible Study
Leap Year

JUST A FEW HINTS:

Common drugs make driving risky. Cold and allergy medicines, blood pressure medications, tranquilizers, sedatives, amphetamines and some anti-depressants can cause vision impairment. *Self-defense:* Any time you notice a vision change while you're taking a medication, talk to your doctor. If possible, don't drive until he/she says it is all right.

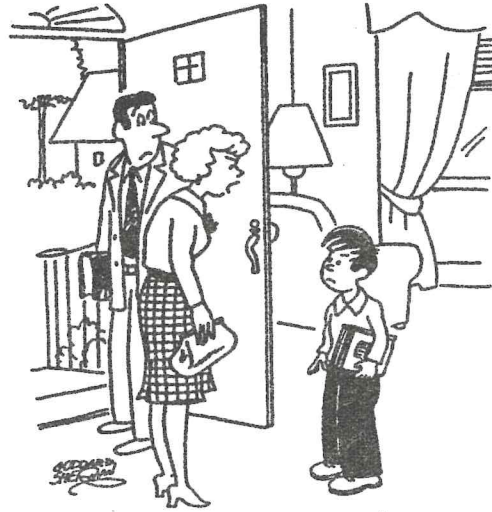
* * *

Garbage can fraud ring stole more than \$10 million in dozens of states by recovering canceled checks, deposit slips and credit card receipts from trash receptacles. . . then cashing counterfeit checks, filing false tax returns and even staging auto accidents to collect on fraudulent claims. *Self-defense:* Shred or burn personal financial records and receipts except for tax records—do not just throw them out.

Roman Officials

The early Christian church lived under the shadow of the Roman Empire. Can you identify the Roman officials in the New Testament who are alluded to in the descriptions given below?

1. Jesus was accused of not paying tribute to _____.
2. Jesus was sent bound to _____, the governor.
3. Joseph was enrolled when _____ was governor of Syria.
4. Peter baptized the centurion _____ at Cesarea.
5. Paul gave a cheerful defense to _____, governor of Judea.
6. Ceasar _____ decreed the "world should be enrolled."
7. Luke addressed his gospel to "most excellent _____."
8. John the Baptist began work under _____ Ceasar's reign.
9. Cheif captain, Claudius _____, save Paul from a mob.
10. Sergius _____ wanted to hear God's word from Saul in Cyprus.



"I KNOW IT'S A PRAYING MANTIS, BUT YOU CANNOT TAKE IT TO CHURCH."



"IF I BECOME 'BORN AGAIN,' CAN I FUDGE A BIT ON MY AGE?"

Answers to Roman Officials

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ceasar, Luke 23:2 | 6. Augustua, Luke 2:1 |
| 2. Pilate, Matthew 27:2 | 7. Theiphilus, Luke 1:3 |
| 3. Quirinius, Luke 2:2 | 8. Tiberius, Luke 3:1 |
| 4. Cornelius, Acts 10:1 | 9. Lysias, Acts 23:26-27 |
| 5. Feiix, Acts 23:26 | 10. Paulus, Acts 13:7 |

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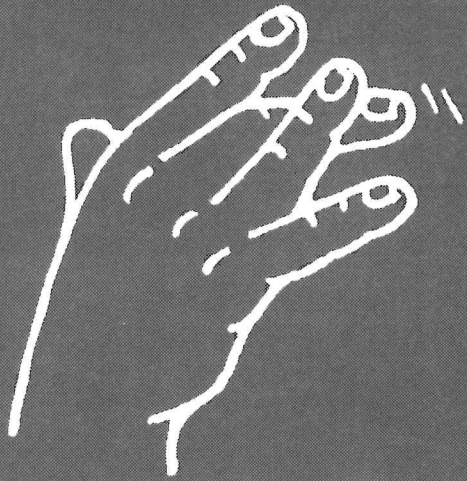
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BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY DEAF CHURCH



IN TOUCH

Vol. 1, No. 3 JUNE 1996

WITH EVERYONE



BCDC CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

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Singapore Report

SINGAPORE! Where is it? What is it all about?

Singapore is a small island, just a dot at the tip of the Malaysia Peninsula. The island is 29 miles long and 14 miles wide with over four million people. It is nine miles north of the Equator.

About 1,700 years ago, there was an island called Pu Luo Chung, which in time became Tamasek, Singapura, and eventually Singapore. In the seventh century and for many years thereafter Tamasek, a "Sea Town" flourished at Singapore's site.

By the 13th century, Sri Tri Buana, king of Palembang, (a seaport in SE Sumatra, Indonesia), was out searching for a good place to establish a city when his ship was struck by a sudden storm. He was able to save himself and his men by casting his crown into the waves and they came ashore on an unchartered island.

The king saw a creature with a red body, black head and white breast. He asked his aides what manner of beast it was. One of the advisers suggested it was a lion, and thus the king gave the name Singha pura, the "Lion City". (Later it was thought what the king saw was a tiger!) The settlement prospered as Singa Pura.

(Note--The first word Singha stands for lion, and the second word pura for city. Thus it is called the "Lion City". It is also called the Merlion City!)

Later fierce fighting with envious neighbors caused the settlement to be abandoned and it was taken over by the jungle. Then in 1811 it was resettled by Malays.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, a Briton, bought Singapore from its Malay ruler in 1819. He founded the town, thick with swamps and jungles, as a trading post for the East Indies Company. He laid plans for the future of the city. He later became ill in 1823, and he returned home to England where he died three years later. Things that bear the Raffles name include a famous 19th century hotel, a school, a pre-university college, a huge modern complex with two hotels and department stores, a boulevard, a business class on the national airlines, a golf club, and last but not least, a lighthouse.

By 1882 Singapore had become the center of government of the Strait Settlements and now, in less than two centuries, the island's previous jungle wilderness had been replaced by a thick forest of skyscrapers.

Futuristic, modern buildings have turned this small country close to the Equator into a Manhattan of the Far East. Singapore

is the "Wall Street" of Southeast Asia. It is third after London and New York!

The diversity of ethnic groups which have made Singapore their home while never abandoning the customs and traditions of their countries of origin has made an important contribution to rapid development and amply demonstrated business success.

Population growth shows as follows:

1819--500	1911--312,000
1820--5,000	1957--1,470,000
1824--10,000	1994--2,880,000
1860--80,000	1996--3,600,000
1901--230,000	1998--Over 4 million!

The population composition is:

Chinese	77%
Malay	14%
Indian	7%
Others	2%

The religious composition of the population is:

Taoist	29%
Buddhist	27%
Muslim	15%
Christian	11%
Hindu	4%
Other/none	14%

There are four official languages: English, Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil.

The vast majority (90%) of Singapore's population lives in Housing Development Board (HDB) apartments. The other 10% lives in houses.

Singapore receives 98% imports and sends 2% exports!

There is Central Provident Fund (CPF) under the government of Singapore. It is a form of forced saving plan. It will take 20 percent (20%) each from the employees' paychecks. The companies also will contribute 20 percent to the fund for each employee. What is the fund used for? It will provide money for buying a car, buying an apartment, education and pension when the employees ask for.

Sri Mariamman Temple is Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, built in 1827. It is still in use.

Thian Hock King Temple is Singapore's oldest and most beautiful Chinese temple. It was completed in 1841.

Nagore Durgha Shrine is the oldest mosque, completed in 1830 by South-Indian Muslims.

Maghain Aboth Synagogue was the first place of worship built by Singapore's small but significant Jewish community.

Armenian Church is Singapore's oldest church, built in 1835. It is dedicated to the first monk, St. Gregory the illuminator, and it is now a national monument.

The oldest Catholic church in Singapore is Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, built in 1843. It is also a national monument.

St. Andrew's Cathedral is the third building to be erected on this site. It was built in 1835 and the second in 1842, but they were demolished in 1855 following two lightning strikes. The present church was built in 1856 and has been extended twice--in 1952 and 1983. Anglican services are held every Sunday.

* * * * *

Now, about the Deaf Singaporeans? There are around 5,000 who have hearing problems. Some are hearing impaired, some are oral, and some became deaf at late age. Twenty-five percent (25%) of 5,000 are profound deaf.

There is Singapore Association for the Deaf. It is a Voluntary Welfare Organization (VWO), and they are supported by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and the Community Chest of Singapore (the fund raising body of NCSS). The NCSS and Com Chest come under the charge of the Ministry of Community Development (MCD). However, Singapore is not a Welfare State, so grants are not plenty, as compared to the States.

The Singapore School for the Deaf and the Vocational School for the Handicapped come under the charge of the Singapore Association for the Deaf. However, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has representatives sitting in the School Management Committees of the two (2) schools. They also have connections with the two (2) Secondary Schools (Boon Lay Secondary School and Upper Serangoon Secondary School) which have an integrated secondary education program for the deaf kids. Both integrated secondary schools (which is something like High School) are government schools, which means the teachers are government employees, and the school receives standard government grants for various school projects.

No special attention is given to the deaf kids, and they go through school like any other kid in Singapore. After Secondary school, if the students do well enough, they can apply for entry into Junior College (where they are prepared for the GCE Advanced Level papers with which you apply to gain entry into any of the Local and Commonwealth universities) or they can apply for entry into any of the 4 Polytechnics in Singapore. No interpreters or resource teachers are provided by the state after secondary school.

There is the TOUCH Silent Club located at the TOUCH Community

Theater. It is a non-profit, voluntary based club under the umbrella of TOUCH Community Services, a voluntary welfare and charitable organization registered in 1992 and a member of the National Council of Social Service. TOUCH Silent Club was launched in March 1993, born out of needs they recognized among the deaf community.

TOUCH Silent Club aims to provide: * Free social services: legal advice, interpreters, counseling * Educational services: Free tuition for students of all ages, sign language courses, before/after school care * Vocational services: Job placement, preparation for interviews * Recreational services: Extramural courses, leisure activities, sports activities.

The TOUCH Silent Club currently serves 300 hearing-impaired members and their families. There is at present a strength of 50 volunteers.

There are no close-captioning programs on TV. They often have English subtitles on movies. A lot of Chinese and Malay subtitles are shown on programs as well.

There is no "ADA" there like Americans on Disabilities Act here! The Deaf have to find work. No welfare assistance is offered by the government, not like here in America where people get welfare assistance for two years before they will have to look for work.

* * * * *

There are 30 Baptist churches in Singapore, and also 11 in Indonesia. Thomson Baptist Church is the oldest church in Singapore, built in 1937. It was planted by an American missionary from China. The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) started helping local churches in 1950.

There is no Deaf ministry among the Baptist churches, though there are one or two maybe three that have interpreted services. What I have information on hand are as follows:

Faith Community Baptist Church meets at TOUCH Community Theater. Rev. David Michel Wee is hearing pastor to the Deaf. They have Deaf cell group for youth and adults, each 8-10 people, Sundays 2:30-5:30 p.m. at TOUCH Community Theater.

Harvester Baptist Church has interpreted services, however, the Deaf no longer regularly attend. It is independent.

Church of Our Savior, Anglican church, has Deaf interpretation at 10:30 a.m. Sundays. A few Deaf attend.

There are two Deaf pastors, one at the Assembly of God with over 100 Deaf attending, and the other at World Revival Church with over 100 in attendance.

There is Deaf ministry at Wesley Methodist Church. There is an average attendance of 10-20, and when there are such events, they will draw more Deaf in attendance. There is a strong Methodist movement there.

There are other churches: Psar Church of Christ and World Church of Christ, Lutheran Church, Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints, others (?).