

Baptist Banner

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MA 773

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

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NUMBER 10

Editor Reports On Third Tour Of Bible Lands

By H. C. Vanderpool

(I am reporting on my third tour of Bible Lands — Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Our group of 243 were on tour Oct. 30 — Nov. 8, 1972. The previous articles covered the first four days of the tour in Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria. This article — No. 3 — begins in late afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 2, 1972, after we had finished our tour of Damascus. — Editor.)

Late afternoon, Nov. 2, 1972 — In Damascus. We came back to our Lebanese buses and after loading we left Damascus crossing the Abana River of which Naaman spoke (II Kings 5:1-12). We traveled west back across the Lebanese-Syrian border and back to Beirut. It was now 9:30 P. M. We were served a very enjoyable dinner and after some time spent around on the ship we retired for the night. Again we sail south on the Mediterranean during the night. Tomorrow morning we are to arrive in the port of

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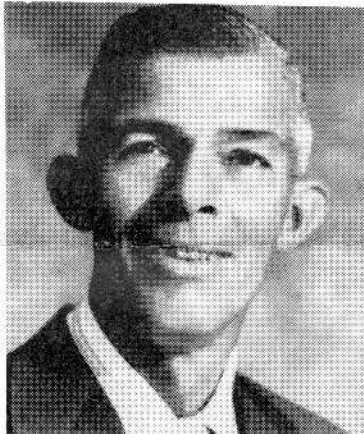
To The Editor

By H. B. Eaton
Indianapolis, Ind.

First I want to thank the editor for the article on Ministerial Education. I want to thank Old Union Baptist Church and their pastor for the great work that is to begin there on March 27. If there was ever a time that old time Baptists needed a school of learning of the Word of God it is today.

The great preacher Paul said to the young preacher, "preach the word". If the preacher doesn't know what the word is, how is he going to preach it? God does by the power of the Holy Spirit help His called men. I have heard this old saying, "Open your mouth and God will fill it". I have sat and listened to such preaching and become so embarrassed and wished to be somewhere else.

If it is God's will I mean to attend the school. May God bless this work.



Elder James H. Overton

Elder James Halqua Overton was born December 11, 1920, and entered vast and boundless eternity November 23, 1972. Age 51. He was the son of Herl and Myra Overton.

He was married to Hortense Linville July 5, 1943. To this union, one son, Roger, was born.

Brother Overton, by the grace of God, was saved 1937, and united with Rocky Mound Missionary Baptist Church in 1939.

He was educated in the public schools, also held a B. A. and Masters Degree from Western Kentucky University. He had done work beyond the Masters Degree at George Peabody College and also Western University. He was a school teacher for 23 years, mostly high school mathematics. He taught in Allen County, Kentucky, Macon and Sumner Counties in Tennessee.

He was ordained to preach by Rocky Mound Church on March 19, 1954, and was a very active preacher having the care of many churches as their pastor. Brother Overton was loved by his many church members and the large number of students he had taught through the years.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Hortense Overton, his son, Roger Overton, daughter-in-law, Karen, and granddaughter, Sandi, all of Westmoreland, Tennessee. Also, his mother, Mrs. Myra Overton; four brothers, Darrel of Westmoreland; C. T. of Indianapolis, Ind.; Talmadge of Lafayette, Tenn.; David of Forestville, Md.; three sisters, Mrs. C. W. Estes of Lincoln Park, Mich.; Mrs. Author Beasley of Adolphus, Kentucky; Mrs. Billy Jo Hawkins, of Westmoreland, Tennessee.

Brother Overton was a good husband and father, fine neighbor and had a host of friends who feel their loss of such a wonderful man.

Gospel Hardened?

By Calvin Perrigo
Indianapolis, Ind.

We hear this statement quite frequently, "people attend church so often, they become hardened to the Word of the Lord".

When we consider certain present day trends, it would be rather easy to agree with this line of thought. Let us look at our own position in the Lord's work before we completely accept this alibi for our lack of interest today.

We choose to look at a twenty-five year period in some Baptist Churches. Our choice is the Wiseman Baptist Association Minutes. There is no particular reason for this choice, but if one be required, we stay near the middle of the road. The Enon Association is older, the Siloam Association does not have a twenty-five year record yet, therefore, the Wiseman Association record is our selection.

The year, 1947, found 36 churches meeting an average of one and one third times per month. In the year, 1972, the record shows 26 churches met an average of three and one third times per month. This amounts to an increase of almost 150 percent in church services in a twenty-five year period of time.

Do we dare view our present church activities with this increase in mind? Has the average lay member applied themselves according to this increase in his

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Missionary Report From Japan

Feb. 5, 1973
Hiroshima, Japan

Dear Elder Vanderpool and Readers:

We are sending you our Christian greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Japan.

It is always a great blessing to us every time when we learn that our ministry here in this land is remembered both in your

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EDITOR ON TOUR

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Haifa, Israel.

Friday, Nov. 3, 1972 — At 1:00 A. M. during the night our ship left Beirut, Lebanon, and sailed south to Haifa. Our ship was to stay here in the harbor during the entire time that we are to tour Israel. So, it will be next Monday night before we sail from Haifa back to Cyprus. This gives us four days to tour Israel.

We had breakfast aboard our ship, gathered our cameras, notebooks and went ashore and boarded our Israeli buses and headed across the Promised Land. Our Israeli guide was Mr. Hagi Bry. He was born in Germany and at the age of twelve escaped to Israel. I saw Mr. Zvi Gafnie, who was our guide last year, and was privileged to speak with him briefly.

We began our tour southward with the beautiful Carmel Mountains to our left and the Mediterranean to the right. It was here on these mountains that Elijah had his encounter with the prophets of Baal (I King 18:19-40). Around the harbor of Haifa one sees some of the most beautiful scenes of God's handywork.

We visited the mountain of Megiddo where about 1000 B. C. Solomon made this one of the chariot cities. According to (II Chro. 1:1-14) and also (II Chro. 9:25) he had 4,000 stalls for horses, 1400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen.

We left Megiddo and drove through the beautiful Valley of Jezreel and the Plains of Esdrael. We went through Narazeth — we are to come back through this city in the afternoon — then on to Cana of Galilee, Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene and on to the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, to the ruins of the old city of Capernaum.

After sometime here we boarded a large

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Gospel Hardened?

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attending services? Has the praying, Bible study (even the reading of the Bible), the ability to hear, and all other things we do in serving the Lord daily shown an increase of 150 per cent? If our service, or our preparing for service, does not show an increase maybe herein is one reason for our, "dull of hearing". There is a strong possibility that the time we ought to be teachers, we are only setting in a pew bored with the service. If our searching the highways and byways trying to fill the church building with sinners and wayward church members has been successful, then we have these people beside us in the pew. When the preacher delivers the truth to us and our visitors, "the ordinary church service", takes on a real meaning. This can be a sure cure for complacent church goers.

We should not, and do not intend to place the entire responsibility for our condition upon the lay member of the church.

Now we must go to the other side of the pulpit and bring the ministry into focus with our problem. The ministry carried the load of our people being gospel hardened, at ease in Zion, unaware of Bible doctrine, and even for the oft used statement, the lost are unreachable today.

The number of ordained preachers has not increased as much as our church services have but there is a respectable growth. Twenty-five years ago there were 1.7 ordained preachers per church. In 1972, there were 2.4 ordained preachers per church, or an increase of almost 50 per cent. Truly, it appears the Lord's work is advancing upon the earth.

The echo returns, "why the lack of interest"? God has almost kept pace with the increase in church services by calling more men into the work of the ministry. Therefore, we cannot use this for an excuse, because, numerically, the strength is sufficient to meet the needs of the church that meets more frequently today. Why can't we reach and hold our audiences today? If we reach them today, we can reach the world tomorrow! Have we kept pace with the increase in church services? Can a part time ministry fill a full time responsibility? We need to look for the part time preacher in the Bible, taking a pattern from God's record.

Several things confront the preacher today that our minister of twenty-five years ago did not face. People come to church services more often. Our society is exposed to much more education. People are taught from many sources today. Mistrust is wide spread, "prove it" is the cry today. Man's ability has increased, thus God's power is not recognized as such. College students and graduates frequent Baptist services today. I'm not implying that these things have not always been before the church. For a while some were sheltered from some of them but these and others were familiar to the New Testament church. Have we had opportu-

nity to preach to a king lately? Have we been stoned, (with rocks), for our telling it like it is? Have we been chased out of town for what we preached (unjust deeds don't count)? Have we been accused of being mad, due to much learning (I speak foolishly)? My purpose is, to call our attention to what God and man expects of us as preachers of the gospel. There is expectation.

I doubt if the caliber of men God calls into the ministry varies much from one generation to another. Regardless of the answer, we have no authority over such matters; God calls, some answer, few go. This cry comes forth from our elderly brethren, "if only Bro. so-and-so were still with us, he would correctly lead or advise us in the right direction". What is our dilemma, brethren? Are we ashamed? Are we ready for the task? Are our hands actually on the plow? Can we regain the respect of our people to the extent that they will follow as we follow Christ? Is it a limited knowledge? Knowledge is the result of combining wisdom and effort. We stand without excuse here. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and up braideth not; and it shall be given him.

The need of wisdom can be obtained from God, by asking. We must not be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit; serving the Lord. Laziness is no different than disobedience if it hinders us from filling God's desire in our call to preach.

The Apostle Paul gave some good sound advice for these problems we face. "Study to show thy self approved unto God, (if God approves our knowledge of His word there won't be any ashames before our audiences, and the word can be preached, in season and out of season). Where is the unskilled workman in our labor force?

Now in all sincerity, have we as preachers been aware of these things. Has our praying, studying, application, and dedication in the Lord's work shown the same increase as our church services have the past twenty-five years? Is it not true, in order to get and hold the attention of an audience, the preacher (in reality a teacher) must know more about his particular subject than the audience? This may help explain why we younger preachers some time, have a hard time when older, more experienced preachers set in our services. This also could help understand why older preachers are not attracted in certain directions.

In conclusion, God does not change. Man does, and will, so let us be aware of the present, accepting the changes, adjust to the field we are in. Prepare ourselves to the work today, not yesterday, we cannot work yesterday's field. Let's go on and serve Him for what He is, Lord! The food supply is sufficient, may it be distributed in a fashion that none go to waste and that no soul be neglected.

Consider the following report:

"The education of the ministry is a very vital matter in this 20th century. Many people have a wrong conception of an education. They feel that an education

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Gospel Hardened

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ruins a minister. A minister who is ruined by an education is no good either with or without training. As a minister needs to advise not only in temporal matters, but more especially in spiritual matters, he needs an education almost above every other man. An education when rightly used will result in the accomplishment of work that otherwise could not be done. We urge that our ministry make diligent use of every means in their power to secure an education. The greatest of all the apostles was Paul, the most highly educated. A minister needs first of all, to know the Lord in the forgiveness of sins. Next a divine call to the ministry. Then he needs to have a thorough knowledge of the Holy scriptures. In order to possess this Bible knowledge, he needs to make a conscientious and prayerful study of God's word, using all the help he can find. We recommend Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas, and all other sound schools for the education of our ministry. We do not recommend the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. We believe that it's teachings are responsible for many of the heresies among our brethren."

Now don't call me modern, this is not my report, but it was submitted to and discussed before the Wiseman Baptist Association when they met at Dixon Creek Baptist Church in Oct., 1917. Calvin Gregory — Robert A. Freeland, Committee.

I do not know if Jacksonville College is still doing business or not, this is no present recommendation of such.

How old is "old fashioned"? Study to show thyself approved unto God is old enough and has been sufficient all through the years, since the Apostles, for the God called minister to deliver the truth in an effective manner. I believe study can help us all not to become Gospel Hardened.

Report From Japan

(Continued from page 1)

prayer and in your financial supporting. We thank God for such Baptist friends like you and your churches that make us possible carry the Gospel of Christ out to the lost, and establish those who got saved by His saving power into local independent Baptist churches in this darkened and confused land of paganism.

Following is the offering received for the fourth quarter of 1972, with so much thanks. They are:

Oct. — Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 40.60; South Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., Young Adult Class, 100.00; Older Adult Class, 100.00; North Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 76.30 & 20.46; Plunketts Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 79.00; Bro. David Pickel, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, 10.00; Lyons Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., 150.00; Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., 70.55; New Bethel Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tenn., 100.00; TOTAL \$746.91.

Nov. — Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 38.72; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Petty, Carthage, Tenn., 50.00; Friendly Baptist Church, Ecorse, Mich., 250.00; Plunketts Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 97.73; Calvary Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 50.00 & 50.00; Cave Springs Baptist Church, Liberty, Tenn., 52.00; Rock Bridge Sunday School, Gallatin, Tenn., 162.00; Maple Grove Baptist Church, Fountain Run, Ky., 30.00; Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Westmoreland, Tenn., 30.00; TOTAL \$810.45.

Dec. — Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Vaden, Carthage, Tenn., 20.00; Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 44.34; Union No. 2 Baptist Church, Summer Shade, Ky., 43.44; Summer Shade Baptist Church, Summer Shade, Ky., 56.26; Mr. & Mrs. George Hefner, Phoenix, Ariz., 50.00; Mr. & Mrs. D. T. McCall, Carthage, Tenn., 20.00; Plunketts Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 72.30; North Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 80.59 & 118.20; Union No. 1 Baptist Church, Austin,

Ky., 58.00; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Hughes, Carthage, Tenn., 25.00; Young Adult Class of South Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 100.00; Mr. & Mrs. John Miller, Mt. Hermon, Ky., 5.00; Mr. & Mrs. Dexter Bacon, Sr., Glasgow, Ky., 5.00; Mrs. Estelene Sloan, Pleasant Shade, Tenn., 10.00; East Side Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky., 75.00; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Petty, Carthage, Tenn., 25.00; Junior Class of South Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 15.00; Eld. William House, Nashville, Tenn., 5.00; Mr. & Mrs. Sylvia Craven, Denver, Colo., 10.00; Adult Class of South Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 100.00; Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 39.41; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Harper, Carthage, Tenn., 5.00; Calvary Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 50.00; TOTAL, \$1,032.54.

To Koi Baptist Church from McFerrin Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., Oct., 114.20, and Dec., 110.00. To Yamaguchi First Baptist Church, McFerrin Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 100.00; Union No. 2 Baptist Church, Summer Shade, Ky., 43.44; Summer Shade Baptist Church, Summer Shade, Ky., 56.26. (Dec.).

We surely enjoyed your nice Christmas cards and ones from readers. It was good also to our friends as they learn Christian love with your greetings. We appreciated your kind and encouraging words. Mrs. Charles Taylor, of Carthage, Tenn., sent us a box, as she does every Christmas season. We appreciated her love to us and enjoyed her fruitcake. Bro. Rex Hunt, of Austin, Ky., sent us books, "Twentieth Century Baptist," and "History of the Welsh Baptists". They are interesting. We learn a lot of what Baptist must be from these books. They also urge us to do something of this kind in this land of Japan. We feel you and your churches much closer after we read "Twentieth Century Baptists".

My family and I are fine and doing fine for His glory. We have pretty good weather lately and this gets us more busy in the service of our Lord, and we are glad to be busy and thankful to the Keeper of our soul. I will write you again soon of our work here and the things Lord let us see while we work for Him. We would like for you to pray for us. We will be praying for you all.

May God richly bless you.

Your brother in Christ
Koji Tajima

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Kenneth W. Massey, Chairman
J. O. Raines
Dumont Stringer
J. P. Doss
Clifford R. Hayes, Jr.



First Session: March 27, 28, 29, 1973

SUBJECTS

Ministerial Duties, Ethics and Habits Elder F. W. Lambert
Study Methods for Sermon Preparation Elder F. L. Ray
Church History Elder H. C. Vanderpool
Harmony of Old and New Testaments Elder W. T. Russell

TEACHERS



Sea of Galilee



Nazareth



Cana of Galilee



Jordan River

EDITOR ON TOUR

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boat in which we crossed the Sea of Galilee. It was here that Jesus spent much of His ministry. He called some of His disciples from the shores of this body of water as they fished. Matthew was called from Capernaum.

As we crossed the Sea of Galilee we held a service. It was here that I enjoyed one of the greatest times of all my travels of Bible Lands on various tours. During the service of singing, praying and testifying, I was privileged to preach. As our boat cruised toward Tiberias and while I read the Bible and preached the glorious gospel of Christ, I could view the Mount of Beatitudes to the northwest and the general area of the Lord's Ministry. The Spirit and power of God came down upon us and as people rejoiced and praised the Lord, we felt that this one experience was worth the time and trip to the Holy Land.

By the time our service was over we reached the western shore of the Sea of Galilee and went ashore. We were served a very delicious dinner in a fine restaurant. We had a choice of fish with all the

trimmings. After an hour of fellowship and eating we boarded our buses that were waiting for us and drove south through Tiberias to the Jordan River. Here we were able to stand on the bank of the Jordan and meditate upon its Biblical and historical past.

We leave this beautiful and inspiring place to travel again. Climbing up the mountain to the west and looking back down into the Jordan Valley, thinking about what God has done here through the history of Israel seemed to make one's heart beat just a little harder and the eyes moistened with tears.

We soon come to the summit and ride on through Cana of Galilee. It was here that I saw the name of a Baptist Church near the road where we passed. Our next stop was Nazareth. We spent some time here. We always enjoy being in the city where our Lord was reared up as a youth. It was here that the angel spoke to Mary, it was here that Joseph had his carpenter shop. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and was then forty days tempted by Satan he returned to Nazareth and then went to Capernaum. Here at Capernaum he began to preach. (Matt. 4:12-17.)

We left Nazareth and went back to Haifa

where we went aboard our ship. We had a delightful meal, a time of fellowship and up on deck we could view the millions of lights beaming out from the harbor. We then retired for the night to dream and await another day of happiness and inspiration in the Promised Land.

(Continued next month)

Bible Study

Southside Missionary Baptist Church, 1850 E. Sumner Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., is having a Bible Study on Baptist Doctrine on March 12 through 16. Services are to begin each night at 7:30 P. M. Elder F. L. Ray, Goodlettsville, Tenn., is to be the teacher. Eld. William Shoulders, the pastor of the church, welcomes everyone to the study.

Direction to the church from the south. Stay on I-65 to Keystone exit F. From the North 465 around city, take 31 exit North or Keystone exit North.