

ELD. H. C. VANDERPOOL  
1527 GLENROCK ROAD  
LOUISVILLE, KY. 40216

# Baptist Banner

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\*\*\*\*\* 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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VOLUME 7

TOMPKINSVILLE, KY.

SEPTEMBER, 1972

NUMBER 4

## SEPT. TENT REVIVAL, BOWLING GREEN, KY.

There is to be a two-week tent revival held from Sunday night, Sept. 3 through Saturday night, Sept. 16, 1972, at the Bowling Green Mall on the Nashville Rd., Bowling Green, Ky. Services each night at 7:30 p. m.

The meeting is being sponsored by the five following churches in Bowling Green and Warren County, Ky.: Faith Baptist Church, Elder Paul Hogue, Pastor; Fairview Baptist Church, Elder James Suttle, Pastor; Fairview Memorial Baptist Church, Elder W. T. Russell, Pastor; Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Elder C. D. Miller, Pastor and Old Union Baptist Church, Elder Kenneth Massey, Pastor.

Preaching during this meeting will be by the five pastors of the above named sponsoring churches. The public is invited to attend.



PSALM 122:1

### Thank God For "Small" Churches!

By Norman H. Wells

Baptists have allowed themselves to get caught up in a kind of "numbers racket." Anything goes as long as it produces an increase in the number that attend Sunday School. An increase in numbers is equated with success. Bigness is success, smallness is failure! Many of our religious papers publish the league standings of the "top" Sunday Schools. Sometimes a real rhubarb breaks out as to who is first, who is second, etc.

The assumption is that any church or Sunday School that adopts the methods of these league leading churches will be an overnight success—success meaning an increase in numbers. If you can get a certain number of buses, enough doughnuts, hamburgers, dollars under the seats, bubble gum, etc., well, my friend, you'll have it made.

Any Baptist church or pastor that is worth their salt will be doing their best to reach as many people for Christ as they can. Every Sunday School should be striving to have as many present on Sunday morning as they can. This is not what we are questioning. There are some popularly accepted ideas, however, that we would like to question.

The idea that great numbers of people in attendance always means success is dangerous because it is not necessarily so. **Great numbers can mean tragic failure!** If large numbers is the standard of success and indicates God's stamp of approval we ought to all join the Roman Catholic Church — they

(Continued on page three)

### Missionary Report From Israel

P. O. Box 7305  
Jerusalem, Israel  
July 10, 1972

Dear Friends,

I returned from my visit to Japan last Thursday, July 6th. I stayed there the sixty days that I had previously planned. It was a great blessing for me to see all the Japanese friends and to enjoy fellowship with the Lord's people once more in that country. It was also a blessing to have the opportunity to preach in Japanese again after an elapse of almost five years. I found out, however, that I had forgotten lots of words of the language, and it wasn't so easy to speak at the beginning, but most of what I had forgotten soon came back to me as I did some studying and began to use the language.

The little churches in Japan seemed to be holding their own fairly well. It is like it has always been there, the attendance goes up for a while, and then it takes a nose dive downward. This is due primarily to the way that people move around from place

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### Missionary Report From Japan

Hiroshima, Japan  
July 11, 1972

Dear Elder Vanderpool and Readers,

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

We hope you well and enjoy the blessings from above. My family and I are fine, for which we are thankful to the Lord. We are having heavy rain everyday since last week, as we are now in rainy season which lasts about two months from early June, yet we didn't have much rain last month. This heavy rain caused great damages northern and southern Japan. Nearly three hundred people died or got lost past few days. Many people lost their houses and their belongings. However, our Baptist folks both in Yamaguchi and in Hiroshima have been kept safely by our great Keeper. As far as I checked is concerned, all of us didn't get big damage, for which we are really thankful to the Lord.

We are remembering you in our prayer both in public and in our home every day. We are thankful that you and your

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## Report From Israel

(Continued from page 1)

to place. Students who come to church, get saved, become members of the church and are faithful till graduation comes. Then most of them move out to some other town or city to get work and don't come back to church anymore. These are lost as far as church attendance is concerned. And those who work for companies get transferred to another place where they can't come back to church. Just recently two young married couples from Koi Church in Hiroshima had to move away because of this, and such is a big loss to a struggling church in Japan. But there were some encouragements while I was in Japan. A young high school girl who had been attending Koi Baptist Church and hearing the Gospel message from Brother Tajima, the pastor, for some time came to the church and gave a testimony of how the Lord had saved her and was received into the church for baptism. This girl's brother is a member of the church, his name, Brother Hotta. He is engaged to be married but he is bringing his future bride to church and wants her to be saved so that they can build a Christian home. This rarely happens, most of the time the unbeliever draws the believing husband or wife away from church and the service of the Lord. I have had more heart aches about this situation than any other that I can think of while I was a missionary in Japan.

I believe one of the highlights of my stay in Japan was on one Saturday night when Brother Tajima and I had gone to Yamaguchi Baptist Church to hold services on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, and on the way back from Yamaguchi we stopped off at a man's house where Bro. Tajima had been invited to preach, this was at Iwakuni, a city between Hiroshima and Yamaguchi. It was a rainy night, and when we got to this man's house, a Brother Gizie, he said to Brother Tajima, well, we don't have many for you to preach to tonight, and there were just a few, a half a dozen or so. But after the service started people began to come in and the house was just about filled. Brother Tajima preached, what I thought was a powerful message, and he gave an invitation at the close to any one who wanted to be saved and asked that they come and kneel for prayer. It seemed that just about all in the house got on their knees. I don't know how many got saved, but there were two women kneeling close to me gave good evidence that they had trusted the Saviour. I believe that I shall meet those two souls in heaven one day out yonder.

The Lord was very real and close by as I made the long journey to Japan and back. I give Him all the credit for any good I may have done while there. I am happy to be back in Israel. Now I am waiting for the return of my wife, Annie Laura, who is in the States visiting her people and mine. In

closing, may I ask again that you pray for us as we try to accomplish something for the Lord in a very difficult place.

Yours in His dear name,  
J. H. Smith

## Report From Japan

(Continued from page 1)

churches remember us and our missionary work in prayer and in financial way, and giving us kind and encouraging words which we welcome and enjoy so much. God knows all about that.

Last Sunday afternoon I married a couple. It meant greatly something to me. Some fourteen years ago, I still remember the scene quite well, a poor-looking young boy timidly came forward as was invited to seek salvation in Christ at summer tent-evangelical meeting held in Hiroshima by Bro. Eugene Brown and Bro. J. Frank Carr, who were at that time missionaries to Japan. I was invited to preach at the service from Yokohama.

That boy got saved wonderfully and had Baptist Baptism and so became a Baptist. Bro. Hotta has been a good Christian since then. He has wended his way through many difficulties as a Christian, as many other Japanese Christian did. We have prayed for him that he might have a blessed Christian home. According to Japanese idea, rather Oriental idea, matrimony is not only the matter of the persons concerned, but also of the house (family and relatives). The bride's beloved ones except her parents refused to attend the ceremony, because of Christian one. Her parents came anyway, but as soon as the service was over, they went home. She was cut the relationship of hers.

I would like to tell you, Lord blessed their marriage. Bride was accepted warmly by Bro. Hotta and each member of his family and relatives. So had tears in her eyes. That tears tell of so many things that other persons may not understand fully.

Bro. Hotta's sister, high school student, said she got saved two Sunday ago. That was good to hear. She must grow in the grace of the Lord. I would like for you remember them in your prayer.

We will get busier, as these bad weather won't stay any longer above our land. We are to go out to tell people of the great gospel. WE know you are behind us. We get encouraged. We would like for you continue to pray for us. We will keep praying for you.

Following is the offering received for the second quarter of 1972 with so much thanks.

**April:** Plunketts Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 78.60; Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 46.69; Mrs. Dossie Jones, Nashville, Tenn., 2.00; Kokomo Baptist Church, Kokomo, Ind.,

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## THANK GOD FOR SMALL CHURCHES!

(Continued from page one)

have more numbers than anyone else!

Large numbers in attendance can mean that the truths and doctrines of God's Word that are not popular or palatable to the masses of people are being ignored or even denied. The idea is that in order to get a crowd only preach the things people want to hear.

Large numbers in attendance can mean that the church is having services and offering programs that are pleasing to the worldly appetites of unregenerate congregations. Why else do churches feel they have to offer entertainment, contests, prizes, etc.?

Large numbers in attendance can mean that a new "drawing card" has been found. Clerical comedians and hallelujah hucksters that can appeal to the fleshly desires of the carnal are labeled "success" and are much in demand simply because they produce "numbers."

Large numbers in attendance can mean the church has adopted the "Madison Ave." technique of successfully being a merchandiser of a product. They are successful in the same way a worldly business is successful.

Large numbers in attendance can mean that a church has "conformed to the world" in condoning or even "religionizing" the styles, fashions, moral codes, fads, music, etc., of the world and this found popularity with the world.

Churches and pastors (particularly young pastors) all over this land think of themselves as failures because they have not produced "numbers." Many of them have given up or are leading miserably defeated lives because they have tried to live up to this false standard of success. Ministerial students in Bible Colleges and Seminaries indoctrinated with the idea that if they are right with God and work hard in the prescribed method that great numbers will always be the result. The great majority do not produce numbers and as a result a great number quit, thinking they have failed.

This is not intended to say that simply because a church is large it is guilty of these things. It is, however, an appalling thing to see

the price that "success" can demand and how many of the league leading churches are guilty of these things. **A large church, then, can be an utter failure!** Very few churches and pastors can handle what the world recognizes as success, that is, great numbers. More often than not great numbers bring failure rather than success.

There is another way large churches and Sunday Schools can be a failure. Most of them put great emphasis upon missions — foreign missions! They are for home missions—in someone else's city! Too many large, metropolitan churches have the idea that there should only be one church in the entire city—theirs! It would be difficult to find this kind of reasoning in the New Testament. These churches have no idea of starting other churches in the same city. A bus ministry is good—but not if it's used as a substitute for starting a church.

By the same token, it is not necessarily so that a small church is successful simply because it is small. A church and Sunday School could be small for a number of negative reasons.

Small numbers in attendance could indicate a lack of concern and compassion on the part of the pastor and congregation.

Small numbers in attendance could indicate worldliness, lack of separation, lack of spirituality, etc.

However, contrary to popular belief, a church can be small and successful at the same time. It does not have to be big or getting big in order to be successful. **In fact it is more likely that the small church will be the successful church rather than the large church.**

There are hundreds, possibly thousands, of "small" churches in villages, country communities, etc., across America that have won a greater percentage of their area to Christ and had a greater influence in their community than most of the "league leading" churches and Sunday Schools will ever have. **Thank God for these small churches.**

Thank God for the small churches who have not compro-

mised Bible truth in order to obtain bigness.

Thank God for the small churches who have not stooped to cheap entertainment to attract a crowd.

Thank God for the small churches who keep Jesus as their only "drawing card."

Thank God for the small churches that let God run their business and do not turn it over to Satan's crowd.

Thank God for the small churches who refuse to "conform to the world" and reject the world's fashions and codes.

Being small or big is not the criteria of success in God's eyes but rather that we have been faithful. It is my firm conviction that the hope of this age rests in that band of pastors and churches, large and small that stay true to the things of God and refuse to adopt the world's standard of success. **CENTRAL CONTENDER**

## Report From Japan

(Continued from page 2)

35.00; Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., 73.00; Lyons Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., 150.00; Total, \$386.31.

**May:** Mr. and Mrs. Bill Petty, Carthage, Tenn., 25.00; Plunketts Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 87.00; Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 39.26; North Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 35.87 & 33.95; Calvary Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 50.00; Young Adults S. S. Class of South Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 100.00; Total \$371.08.

**June:** Plunketts Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 77.34; Faith Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., 33.63 & 35.60; Young Adult S. S. Class of Summer Shade Baptist Church, Summer Shade, Ky., 18.75; Adult Class of South Carthage Baptist Church, Carthage, Tenn., 50.00; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Petty, Carthage, Tenn., 18.50 and 6.50 from selling Cook Book; Total \$240.32.

From McFerrin Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., to Koi Baptist Church, April, 162.45; May, 88.49. From Young Adult Class of Summer Shade Baptist Church, Summer Shade, Ky., to Yamaguchi First Baptist Church, June, 18.75.

May God richly bless you.  
Yours sincerely in Him,  
Koji Tajima

P. S. April 14, mail train coming to Hiroshima had an accident on its way and had nearly a million mail burned. If you didn't get the acknowledgement from me, please let me know of it. Thank you.

# An Empty Pew

By Don McDonald

For some time I have been disturbed and concerned because of the decline in Church attendance in our Old time Baptist Churches. Many people who claim they have been saved by the Grace of God do not attend their Church regularly.

One of the many reasons is because of prosperity. Prosperity is good in its place, but it should not at any time come between us and our worshiping God and supporting the Church with our presence and means that God has blessed us with.

We as individuals, and the Church collectively, should strive to solve this situation. God has a remedy for every situation and this can only be solved through prayer and a work of Faith on the part of each member.

David said; I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord, Psa. 122:1.

We, as the true people of God should be also glad to be able to go to the house of God. We are admonished; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Heb. 10:25.

Seems like people do not have the zeal for lost souls as they did just a few years ago. Their minds are upon the pleasures of the world and not trying to be an influence on the lost and a help to the Church.

On Sunday morning, I am sure, some will take their boat and go to the lake. Others will stay home because they do not like the ways of someone or perhaps because they wanted someone else for their pastor. These excuses will not stand in the day of judgment.

If we fail to attend our Church services, we are not going to be of any great influence or help to the unsaved. Remember, someone influenced you to seek the Lord and be saved. They did it by attending their Church services and faithful praying and living a life that was pleasing to God. We should do the same.

I believe we are experiencing the great falling away that is spoken about in the Bible. I also believe we are living down in the evening of time. What we do for the Lord, we had better get busy, because I do not believe the Lord will delay his coming much longer. When He splits the elements, Grace and Mercy will be over and the destiny of the lost will be forever doomed for Hell.

I am thankful that I am saved by the Grace of God. Also, that I am able to go to the house of God and be fed on the spiritual food from Heaven.

Will you take your place in the Lord's Church the next Lord's Day or will you leave "AN EMPTY PEW"?

# Siloam Missionary Baptist Association To Convene In 20th Annual Session

The Siloam Missionary Baptist Association is to convene in its twentieth annual session beginning on Friday, Sept. 29 and continue for three days through Sunday, Oct. 1, 1972, with Old Union Baptist Church, Highway 240, Bowling Green, Ky. A map showing the location is on this page.

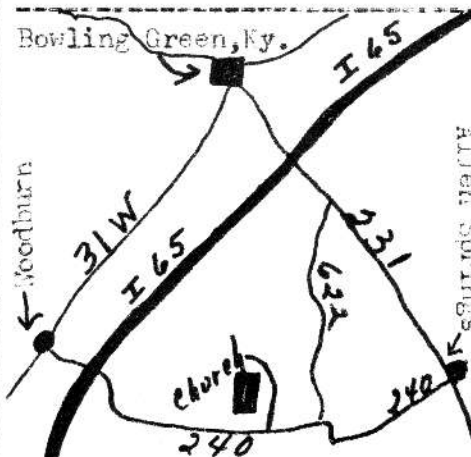
Officers elected last year were: Elder F. W. Lambert, Westmoreland, Tenn., Moderator; Elder H. C. Vanderpool, Louisville, Ky., Clerk, and Bro. G. W. Hauskins, Lafayette, Tenn., Treasurer.

Elder Kenneth W. Massey, pastor of host church, will preach the Intoductory Sermon on Friday. On Saturday Elder H. C. Vanderpool is to preach the Memorial Sermon. The Doctrinal Sermon is to be preached on Sunday by Elder F. W. Lambert.

Subjects to be discussed during the three-day session are: Old Ministers and Orphans Home, Religious Literature, Sunday Schools, Prayer Meetings, Missions, Finances and Church Discipline. Churches from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee represent in this association. Everyone is invited to attend.

## BOOKS

There has been a new printing of History of Middle Tennessee Baptists by J. H. Grime. The price per copy is \$6.00. Other books by this author are Catechism of Ecclesiastical History which are 50 cents per copy and "History of Alien Immersion at 50 cents per copy. These books may be ordered from Elder J. Hall Grime, Rt. 3, Hwy. 231 North, Lebanon, Tenn. 37087.



# Revival Reports

Fairview Memorial Baptist Church, 1202 Fairview Ave., Bowling Green, Ky. Three professions of faith with three additions to the church. Pastor W. T. Russell was assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Members of the church in charge of music and singing.

Harmony Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. Sixteen professions of faith with fourteen additions to the church. Pastor C. B. Massey was assisted by Elder F. L. Ray.

Faith Baptist Church, 901 Tenth St., Bowling Green, Ky. Seven professions of faith. Pastor Paul Hogue was assisted by Elder Hilman Duncan.

Concord Baptist Church, White House, Tenn. No professions of faith. Pastor G. C. Smith was assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool. Two saved before first revival service. Members of the church were in charge of music and singing.

East Side Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. Eight saved and nine additions to church. Pastor W. V. Deweese was assisted by Bro. Harold Carter.

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Washington, Ill. One saved. Pastor Raymond Hargis was assisted by Elder Mitchell Rigsby.

Green Valley Baptist Church, Smith County, Tenn. No professions or additions to the church. Pastor Phocian Gibbs was assisted by Elder W. V. Deweese.

Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Two professions of faith with one addition to the church. Pastor Kenneth Massey was assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool and Bro. Lonnie Cockriel was in charge of the singing.

Faith Baptist Church, Rose and Burbank Sts., Nashville, Tenn. Ten professions of faith with eleven additions to the church. Pastor Howard G. Taylor was assisted by Elder James (Pete) Porter and the singing was directed by Bro. J. W. Gregory.

South Carthage Baptist Church, Smith County, Tenn. Eight professions of faith and three additions to the church. Pastor W. V. Deweese was assisted by Elder C. A. Gentry and Bro. Harold Carter in charge of the singing.

Lyons Baptist Church, 904 Gagel Ave., Louisville, Ky. Five professions of faith with six additions to the church. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool was assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Members of the church were in charge of the music and singing.

NOTE: If your revival report is not in the above, please send it to me so I may report it next month. — Editor.

## Revival

A revival is to begin the third Sunday night in Sept. at Bide Russell Memorial Baptist Church, Riddleton, Tenn. Pastor J. B. Shoulders is to be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Bro. Bobby Linville is to direct the singing. Everyone is invited.