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460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

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Six Churches Represented  
In Dialogue With Baptists

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593  
DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996  
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 344-4226

**BUREAU**

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631

By Jim Newton

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (BP)--A unique series of Sunday night worship services at the Snyder Memorial Baptist Church here, according to the church's pastor, has broken down biased attitudes and stereotyped images and created a bond of fellowship and understanding between Baptists and churches from six different denominations.

The series of six Sunday night services, entitled "What Our Church Is Doing To Redeem the World," has featured messages on this subject by ministers from the local Methodist, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches.

Following the sermons, the congregation which has included both Baptists and guests from the other denominations, has moved to another part of the church to exchange in a dialogue-type "talk-back" to allow the members and visitors to ask questions and express their own viewpoints.

James Cammack, pastor of the 1,700-member church, called the response "exciting" and "excellent."

"I think the main result," he said, "has been that we have found that we have more in common with people of whom we have been previously suspicious doctrinally."

Cammack, however, said that there was no effort on the part of the church to have a local-level ecumenical movement. "It is a cooperative venture rather than the hope of unity or merger, which is not what we are after," Cammack said.

"I think the ecumenical movement, when it is structured, is a good deal more shallow than the task that we have in each doing his own task in his own way but each doing the same task," Cammack added.

The pastor said that the series has emphasized what each different church is doing in the world to present the Christian message and redeem mankind, rather than emphasizing the doctrinal differences between the churches.

Real dialogue has resulted between the Baptists and the other denominational groups, he said. "There has been doctrinal discussion and doctrinal differences of opinion expressed, but there has been no defensive attitude about this.

"This freedom of dialogue," he added, "means that you can ask me any question and I will try to answer it as freely and honestly as I can."

The dialogue, Cammack continued, has helped the Baptists to understand why, for example, the Pentecostals speak in tongues. With this understanding comes fellowship and improved relationships.

"This fellowship and understanding," he said, "is even being generated with Roman Catholics."

Another result, he said, has been the response from the unchurched people in the community who have come to the services, perhaps out of curiosity, and have heard the message of Christianity.

In one service, he said, attendance was about 300, with perhaps one third of them visitors from the other denomination, and about 35 who were members of no church.

None of the churches except the Baptist and the Pentecostal churches have Sunday night services, Cammack added.

None of the other churches have made plans to conduct similar services in their churches. "It is not a swap-off," Cammack said. "It is just something we have done to get good fellowship."

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"The Christian church has too long been criticized for talking to itself," he added. "We hope this series will attract people of all faiths--and no faith. The services so far have been most helpful," Cammack said at the half-way point in the six-week series.

Churches which are participating in the unique series at the Snyder Memorial Church are: St. Pauls in the Pines Episcopal Church, Northwood Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church, Highland Presbyterian Church, Haymount Methodist Church, St. James Lutheran Church, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

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Maples Named Director  
Of Miami Beach Ministries

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MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Lewis Maples of Tulsa, Okla., has been named director of Southern Baptist ministries here and also pastor of First Baptist Church of Miami Beach, the only Southern Baptist Church on this island of 75,000.

His resignation from Brookside Baptist Church in Tulsa, where he has been pastor eight years, is effective Aug. 15.

Maples will direct the already existing ministries to language groups and non-evangelicals. He also will initiate a new program to include a "Chapel by the Sea" (on-the-beach worship services) and weekday ministries mainly for adults, highlighting cultural, commercial and religious aspects of life.

"Baptists need to find the city man," according to Conrad Williard, pastor of the sponsoring Central Baptist Church. "He could not care less whether we reach him or not."

The island's single Southern Baptist church was established in 1920. Recently the church reverted to mission (fledgling) status and at present is sponsored by the Central Baptist Church of Miami. The Miami Baptist Association and the SBC Home Mission Board also give financial support to the work.

The 10-mile-long beach is the permanent residence of about 75,000 persons, of which 90 percent are Jewish and 80 percent are over 65. In addition, as a tourist attraction the beach draws more than a million tourists annually.

As pastor of the church, Maples also will begin an \$80,000 building and renovation program.

A former professional baseball player, Maples has been in the ministry 33 years. He has held pastorates in Missouri, Indiana and California.

He is a graduate of William Jewell College (Baptist) in Liberty, Mo., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

According to J. N. Evans, secretary of the Home Mission Board's department of metropolitan missions, "We anticipate supplying needed staff as the program expands."

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