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August 29, 1967

Texas Pastor Says
 Baptists Seek Action

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Baptist churches are seeking the action, a Texas pastor said last week, but they don't seem to know where it is.

James Flamming, pastor of First Baptist Church of Abilene, said the churches are saying "Let's go where the action is." "But," he said, "what bothers me is that no one seems to know where the action is."

"I don't know where it is either," he continued. "All I know is that everyone... is quite sure he's not there and most are scrambling around to find where it is."

Flamming addressed a record 2,450 high school and college students at the 15th annual Glorieta Student Conference. The conference was held at Glorieta Baptist Assembly and was sponsored by the student department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Flamming admonished conferees to stop scrambling around to find a center of action that didn't exist.

"If you're a Christian," he told the young people, "you're never going to be at the center of things. The Christian is always going to be on the peripheral. There is no center for the Christian but the Lord."

Flamming told the group there was no need to look for the action, because it had found them. He reminded them that Christ said the Kingdom of God was in them, and told them all they had to do was try.

"Go, do, speak, love, heal, clothe, feed, witness," Flamming urged. "All we have to do is be willing to fail. Act, because God gives you the right to fail flat."

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Growth Pattern Cited
 In Sunday Night Services

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DALLAS (BP)--Pastor Neal T. Jones, who initiated a Sunday night "Summer in the Parks" program in Shiloh Terrace Church here, said this week "It brought new growth patterns to many people who had forsaken Sunday night services."

Summer in the Parks, a program started in June and ending Sunday evening, August 27, was designed to reach into the community. Formal Sunday evening worship services in the church's modern facilities were abandoned and informal services were moved to two local baseball diamonds.

Jones estimated a 30 per cent increase in Sunday night attendance during the three month period. And, since June 1, there have been 30 professions of faith and 58 additions by letter.

"We don't consider statistics as our sole criteria for success," added Jones, "but rather look upon this Christian venture as a leap in faith."

"The outdoor services caused our people to focus attention on those outside of the church rather than themselves. It made them realize it is not easy to reach people under any conditions."

In June, Jones opened the first service with the provoking question, "What in the world are we doing here?"

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He closed the summer program with "Putting God in a Box."

Jones said, "One of the toys that has survived for generations is the Jack-in-the-box. You crank out a little tune and Jack pops his head out and everybody gets a laugh.

"But after you have done it two or three times you grow tired of it. You push him on the head and place him back into his box. You clamp the lid on it and place the box on a shelf where it stays until you want another laugh.

"This is what people are doing today with God. This is why we moved to the parks. We didn't what to put God in a box."

Jones feels certain the Shiloh Terrace congregation will take another "leap in faith" next summer by "doing this or something similar."

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East Texas Baptist College
Names PR Director

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MARSHALL, TEX (BP)--Kenneth L. Everett, an assistant editor at the Brotherhood Commission, will become director of public relations of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Tex., on Sept. 1.

President Howard C. Bennett said Everett will succeed Eugene Spruell who accepted a pastorate in June.

During his five-year stint at the Brotherhood Commission Everett handled major editing assignments on Baptist Men's Journal and Guide, two quarterlies containing missions information for men.

A 1950 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Everett earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1954.

Everett was pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Texas for seven years before beginning a newspaper career that led to the Brotherhood Commission.

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\$50,000 Set Aside
For Alaska Baptists

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ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here has set aside \$50,000 of an emergency relief fund to aid flood-racked Baptist churches in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The funds will be used to guarantee pastors' salaries for at least three months and to purchase construction materials needed to refurbish the nine Baptist churches in the area.

The ceiling of \$50,000 includes \$10,000 sent immediately into the area by the Home Mission Board, \$9,000 of which was used to evacuate pastors' families so that pastors could turn their attention to the community.

Earlier the Home Mission Board issued an appeal for at least 100 masons, carpenters, furnace workers and other specialists to volunteer at their own expense to help rebuild the damaged church buildings in Alaska.

Most church members are working frantically to clear water from homes and repair heating equipment before the onset of freezing weather around Oct. 1. Few have time to spend at the churches.

The Home Mission Board also declared a three-months moratorium on church loans interest and loan payments for six congregations in the area that hold loans with the Board.

The permanent relief fund of \$125,000 was established by the Home Mission Board in the spring of 1966 after Hurricane Betsy severely damaged Baptist church buildings and pastors' homes in south Louisiana.

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"The Crosses At Zarin"
Selected By Book Club

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NASHVILLE (BP)--"The Crosses at Zarin" by Jean Bell Mosley, already in its second printing less than a month after its regular publication, has become the first Broadman Press fiction title ever chosen by a national book club.

Daniel A. Poling, advisory chairman of the Family Bookshelf, said the book will be distributed in October to the club's members.

Poling, chairman of the board and editorial consultant for "The Christian Herald," called the Broadman book "a splendid portrayal of a man torn by hatred, suspicion and revenge...finally touched by the love of God...." "The portrait of Zebedee," he said, "is strong and virile; so is the message this story leaves in the reader's mind."

William J. Fallis, manager of Broadman books, said Broadman was "especially happy to cooperate" with the club in making "The Crosses at Zarin" available to its readers.

"We consider the immediate response to this title by the public and the Family Bookshelf as an outstanding acceptance of our new Broadman 'fiction with a difference,'" Fallis said. He said the book's publication was in keeping with the Broadman objective of providing realistic and powerful Christian fiction.

Fallis said the book, which sold 40,000 copies before its August publication, was the best Broadman seller since Jesse C. Fletcher's biographical "Bill Wallace of China."

Mrs. Mosley, author of the book, is also author of two previous books and over 200 stories and articles. Two of her articles have appeared this year in "Reader's Digest," including one in the current August issue.

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