

# (BP)

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## ---FEATURES

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### Florida Church Uses Cable-TV To Boost Vacation Bible School

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (BP)--When Lindsey D. Boyd, minister of education for Cinco Baptist Church here, was mapping plans for the church's Vacation Bible School, he predicted the Bible School would double its attendance this year.

But little did he know that the influence of the Bible school would reach the entire community through a new mass media approach--cable television.

When he sat down with the church staff recently to plan for the Bible school, he was concerned about enlisting enough qualified teachers to provide for the increased number of children they expected to attend.

Television seemed to be the answer.

"This medium seemed to offer more variety and more professionally prepared material than any other sources of help for a group this size," Boyd said.

"We decided that with the addition of programs, video-taped segments done by our teachers, directors and members, this could be the new approach we needed," he added.

And why not? The church already had a television camera, a television recorder-player, a modulator and an amplifier.

Contact with a local cable television company resulted in a schedule designed to show five films per day on cable-TV.

The mere fact that nothing of that sort had ever been done before didn't deter Boyd for a microsecond. His first move was to call the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth for help.

"I thought if there were just some brochures or something to help us in the video-taping it would be marvelous," he said. "But as I talked to James Holcomb of the commission's marketing department, he said there were some television prints available that the commission could send to us for this particular use."

Boyd said he hoped for "maybe five films to support the subjects covered in the Vacation Bible School."

But when the package of "The Answer" films arrived, Boyd rejoiced. Instead of "maybe five", there were 25 films.

"We were thrilled beyond words," he said. "We selected the five that we needed for Vacation Bible School. And then, to our further delight, the cable-TV company was so impressed with the films that they agreed to run the other 20 also."

All the films carried on the cable-TV system were available to the entire area covered by the system. Before and after each film, an announcer explained to the viewing public that the films were part of the Cinco Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School program.

Boyd said the films gave the church "outstanding publicity," as well as boosted the teaching quality of the church's Vacation Bible School.

The church borrowed television sets from members and placed the sets in 21 different locations enabling those attending the Bible school to view both the video-taped and filmed presentations without leaving their areas.

Commenting on the success of the effort, Boyd praised especially the local cable television company, local church men who helped string 2,500 feet of cable, and the SBC Radio-TV

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Commission for its guidance and for the loan of the films.

An average of 701 young people attended the Bible School program at the church. On Parent's Night, 641 regular VBS students entertained 596 guests.

Boyd said that as a result of the Vacation Bible School of the Air, there were 47 professions of faith, and 137 prospects for the Sunday School discovered.

"We were thrilled beyond words with the success of the project, and we plan to use it again next year," Boyd said.

"During our workers' evaluation program, one woman said she had not seen how the television segment could possibly work, but after the school was over, she was a staunch supporter of the idea," Boyd added.

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#### Toynbee, Muggeridge Featured On SBC and ABC-TV Programs

FORT WORTH (BP)--Conversations with intellectuals Arnold Toynbee and Malcolm Muggeridge will be broadcast in November when the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here cooperates with the American Broadcasting Co. news network in production of two ABC "Directions" television programs.

Toynbee, perhaps best known for his 12-volume study of world history, will be featured on the ABC "Directions" program on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Muggeridge, 20th Century philosopher and author from Great Britain, will follow the next Sunday, No. 26. Both programs will be broadcast on the network from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. EST.

"We are happy to be involved with these two programs," said Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the SBC Radio-TV Commission here. "While we do not agree 100 per cent with everything Mr. Toynbee (and Mr. Muggeridge) say and think, we feel they are giant intellects who should be heard and heeded in our day."

In the television interview with ABC News host George Watson, Toynbee says that he "is certain of the existence of spiritual reality. I couldn't prove it. It is an act of faith. I just feel it inside me, in my experience of life and the world and my fellow human beings."

Muggeridge, once an ardent atheist who later became a committed Christian, declares emphatically in his interview that "the one thing you cannot do, if you are to exist in this world as a community, is to live without God."

"You can't survive, simply on the momentum of your own human potentialities," he says in the taped interview. "And that is what the western world is trying to do with its permissiveness. By seeking liberation through exercising their passions, people "chain themselves more terribly than before."

Citing the interest of a loving God who is benevolent, not malevolent, Muggeridge says he approaches death "in the next 5, or 10 or, at the most, 15 years, with a feeling of utter joy, because it's a continuation of this marvelous process of living."

"In the ending of life there lies the opening up of the next stage," he says. "It's quite impossible to perceive what the next stage is. If you could, it would be less marvelous actually. It's because you can't perceive it that it's so terrific."

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