

March 19, 1974

**Every Week They Have
A 'Deacon' Meeting**

By Tim Nicholas
for Baptist Press

Bozeman, Montana, thinks small.

Its thinking has affected Kirkwood Baptist Church, the town's only Southern Baptist congregation, which has only one deacon. "Every week we have a 'deacon' meeting," laughs John Lane, pastor of the 150-member church.

Bozeman is in south central Montana, 90 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. It's the kind of town that residents would like to keep a secret--because it's that good.

"People here in Bozeman will stop a litterer and ask him--politely--to go back and pick up his mess," Lane reports.

"And they look out for their children too," Lane says. Residents of Bozeman insisted on and got G-rated movies in theaters on Saturdays all summer.

Once the Bozeman city council tried to get the road signs leading to Yellowstone taken down so people wouldn't come through Bozeman.

"A lot of people want to keep this area small to keep out corruption," says Bud Sievert, a Kirkwood member.

The town of 18,000 (plus 8,200 students at Montana State University here) boasts a small crime rate. "Not that many roads a bank robber could get out on," Sievert says.

Since coming to Bozeman from Daytona Beach, Fla., to be pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church, John Lane hasn't adopted the usual 'wait-and-see' attitude toward newcomers that most Bozeman residents have.

Rather, his relaxed manner and the fact that he looks as natural hunting deer in his cowboy hat and fleece-lined coat as he does preaching in his Sunday coat and tie, helps him make friends quickly.

"John is reaching everybody, Bozemanites and students alike," says Sievert.

Lane serves as volunteer director of the Baptist Student Union at the university there. Not only do the students boost attendance at Kirkwood church, but until the energy crunch, they formed a major part of a ministry in White Sulphur Springs, a town 100 miles north of Bozeman.

Lane started the mission ministry after a visit with a rancher while hunting in the White Sulphur Springs area.

"The rancher asked me, 'Why is it that people on ranches have to go to hell because they don't have time to go into the cities to go to church?' I had no answer, and when the opportunity to begin the ministry came along, I jumped at it."

Each week Lane and a group of students would travel to the little town to hold worship services in an Episcopal church. Attendance ranged from zero to twenty. Now another Baptist church holds services there.

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Where hard times and the small size of his church would force other pastors with a wife and five children to look for part-time work, Lane has remained a full-time pastor. "We never have a guarantee on salary," he says.

His wife Helen works as a dentist's receptionist. They also grow garden vegetables, and "so far our income has been very stable," says Lane.

The people of Bozeman have accepted Lane. He has even become an unofficial hospital chaplain and regularly visits the sick. "But since I've been here not one member of our church has been sick," he says smiling.

Bozeman doesn't accept all outsiders so eagerly.

Last summer a youth group came from out of state to hold Vacation Bible Schools and a revival in Bozeman. The last night of the revival a Bozemanite (not a church member) stood and asked if he could say something to the youth group.

He said the people of Bozeman didn't need any help in missions so "Why don't you go home?" the man concluded.

Not everyone is so anxious to get rid of outsiders, but almost everybody jokes about it.

When 5,000 members of the Airstream Campers group came into Bozeman for their annual convention last summer, Sievert reports that "A friend said it would be nice if we could have a snowstorm to show them what winter is like."

Sure enough, on Sunday morning, June 17, it snowed two inches on downtown Bozeman, Sievert said.

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S.C. Baptist Leader
A.T. Greene Jr. Dies

3/19/74

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--A.T. Greene Jr., assistant general secretary-treasurer of the General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention four years, died here March 18, 1974, of an apparent heart attack, a convention spokesman said.

The spokesman said Greene was at home on Monday evening (March 18) when he complained of feeling ill and went to his room. He was found dead a short time later.

A native of Spartanburg, S.C., Greene resided in Columbia. He previously served as director of the missions department of the South Carolina convention and was the pastor of several churches in North and South Carolina. Greene also served as superintendent of missions for Carbarus Association in Concord, N.C.

A graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg and of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Greene served as Royal Ambassador secretary (Southern Baptists' missions organization for boys) in Kentucky, and for North and South Carolina Baptists, before the latter two conventions became separate organizations.

Greene's widow, Mrs. Katherine Abee Greene, is Woman's Missionary Union president for South Carolina. Surviving also are three daughters and a son; Greene's mother; sister and brother.

Funeral services were held at North Trenholm Baptist Church in Columbia. Burial was in Hickory, N.C.

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Southern Baptists to Hear
Bahamian Choir in Dallas

DALLAS, Tex. (BP)--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting here in June will hear music--Bahamian style.

The 130-voice United Baptist choir from Nassau, Bahamas will sing in the SBC's Thursday morning and evening sessions on June 13 and also during the Monday afternoon (June 10) session of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, annual meeting here.

Members of the choir, from 23 of Nassau's 46 Baptist churches, are paying their own way to Dallas and will stay in homes of members of four churches here, according to Miss Antonina Canzoneri, missionary press representative.

The Bahamian young people and adults are directed by Southern Baptist missionary Mrs. Ernest E. Brown Sr., an organizer of the choir. They will present sacred music from the Caribbean as well as more familiar choral selections.

The choir was organized in 1968 to sing at a convention meeting of the Bahama Baptists in 1969. They have appeared publicly in the Bahamas but have not traveled as a group outside of the islands.

The SBC will meet June 11-13, while the WMU meeting will be June 9-10, both in the Dallas Convention Center.

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Educator, Disbanded Church
Give \$89,000 to College

3/19/74

DALLAS (BP)--A disbanded church and a veteran educator have set up special scholarship funds at Dallas Baptist College (DBC) here.

Kiest Park Baptist Church, which recently disbanded here, contributed \$55,000 to a special scholarship. The funds were from liquidation of the church's assets.

E. N. Jones, former president of Texas Tech and Texas A & I Universities and former member of the Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission, donated \$34,000. The monies are from the sale of a parcel of land in Kansas which Jones donated to the college.

Jones is administrative associate to DBC President Charles Pitts.

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