

of

The Reverend C. R. Roberts

Lake City, Florida

### Associational District Festivals

at week's issue of the *Witness* contain information regarding Associational/District Festivals. It will be the times, places, of festival and person to a registration forms should be. Be sure to get your registration before January 14.

1 districts and almost every nation will have either a n Emphasis or an Anthem hasis festival. Some associa-will have both types of festi- There will be a festival near ight to your church that with ort drive the choir members ur church can enjoy the won- l fellowship and inspiration can come from attending a e festival. Provision will be e at the festivals for Adult, th and Children's Choirs, n Playing for adults, youth children, Song Leading, Hand and Instrumental Ensembles. i group or individual must par- in an Associational/Di- Festival in order to participate i State Festival. **Deadline for strations at all festivals is Jan- 14, 1972.**

**ADULT MUSIC FESTIVALS** ooms in the Adult Assembly at e Yale are filling rapidly. The kend of February 25-26 is al- ly full and the other two week- have very little space left in Adult Assembly. At this time e is available each weekend e North and South Camps. Directors, encourage your High ol Juniors or Seniors to enter Scholarship Competition. Music his competition is listed in the ival brochure. Vocal music is pages 21-23, piano music is on s 23-24, organ music is on s 24-25. A student must first r competition at an Associa- /District Festival. The winner e Associational/District Com- tion will then compete at a e Youth Music Festival. The e place winner at each State h Festival will receive tuition e Youth Music Workshop at ecrest, N. C. and the second

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### Slate National Mission Action Training

A nationwide network of mission action workshops has been scheduled by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Home Mission Board.

**Fifteen regional workshops will be conducted by the staff of WMU headquarters, Birmingham, and of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta. Training will begin in February, 1972 and move across the country until October, 1972.**

Mission action aims ministry and witness to persons whose special needs and circumstances keep them from being likely prospects for church participation. The purpose is to crack barriers and bring persons to positive response to the gospel. Mission action emphasizes careful preparation, in-service training, long-range intent, and person-to-person relationships.

This is the first effort to take in-depth mission action training across the nation.

Each conference will run from 1:00 p.m. on opening day, through all day and evening on the second day, and until noon on the third day. WMU representatives will teach methods of organizing and administering mission action programs. A battery of Home Mission Board experts will offer specific training in a choice of 11 target ministries.

Courses will be offered on work with language groups, internationals, juvenile offenders, nonreaders, the economically disadvantaged, the sick, the aging, in resort areas, in combating moral problems, and with prisoners, alcohol and drug abusers.

Workshops are open to both lay people and church staff members. Missions organization officers and leaders and all mission action

personnel are among key people expected to attend. Training will be applicable to persons already at work in mission action as well as to those considering beginning.

Explaining why workshops were located regionally rather than in each state, Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of WMU, said, "The faculty of each workshop will be large and of top quality. The Home Mission Board and WMU felt that 15 outstanding conferences would be a greater service to the denomination than state conferences on a reduced basis."

Reservations for lodging are to be made directly with the places where workshops will be held. Food and rooms will be budget priced.

Detailed information about workshops may be ordered from state WMU offices.

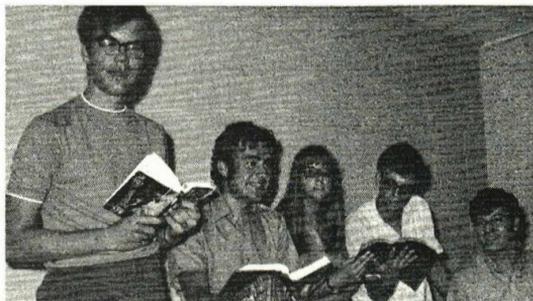
"Interest in mission action has been phenomenal," Miss Hunt stated. "We expect this massive training effort to upgrade work already in progress and to spur more churches to go to work in earnest."

**Florida is fortunate in being selected as site for one of the workshops, to be held February 21-23 at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly near Leesburg.**

**ASSOCIATIONAL WMU'S RECEIVE RECOGNITION**  
Alachua Association, Mrs. M. K. Langston, WMU director and Santa Rosa Association, Mrs. William M. Watson, WMU director received advanced recognition on the Associational WMU Achievement Guide. South Florida Association with Mrs. R. H. Amidon as WMU director received distinguished recognition.

place winner will receive tuition to Harmony Bay Youth Music Camp at West Florida Assembly. There is no cost to enter the Associational/District Competition, but there will be a charge of \$2.50 to enter the State Competition.

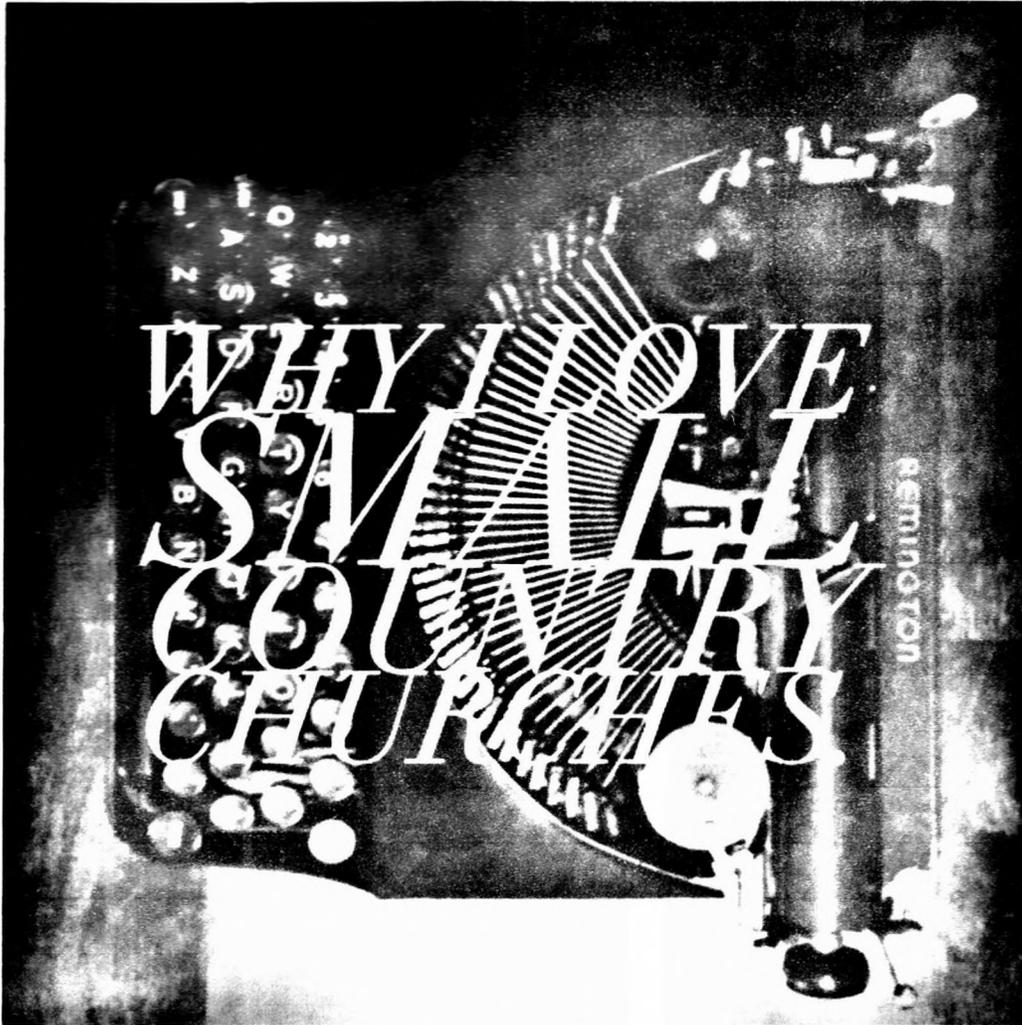
Memorization is required of all choirs. The anthems or hymns sung for adjudication must be memorized. The anthems and the first and last stanzas of the hymns on the required list for choirs must be memorized. Hymn Players, Song Leaders, Bell Choirs and Instrumental Ensembles need not memorize the music used for adjudication. We are asking the directors of the choirs to bring three copies of the music their choirs will sing for adjudication so the judges might make additional comments on the music.



These University of Miami students, from left, Bruce Leidy, Pat Walther, Lynn Steil, Paul Qubeck and John Qubeck, led by Baptist Campus President Bruce Leidy, are participating in a dorm student-led Bible study. This is an on-going project which is being given special emphasis this year through the Department of Student Work of the Florida Baptist Convention. Frank McCollough is the director of student work in Miami.

## Why I love small country churches // My spiritual heritage

*by Jay Porter*



On our dining room table sits my 3rd Great-Grandfather's Remington typewriter. Our family tells stories of how on Saturday nights he would go into the back room and type away for his Sunday message. Every time I walk by it I'm reminded of my family's genealogy and its impact on where I am today.

It starts in a beautiful small Baptist church.

It's honor to be able to work at [LifeChurch.tv](http://LifeChurch.tv) where a true move of God is taking place, but regardless of where I serve, I stand where I am today because of my family, their love for God, and their willingness to follow God into the unknown.

-In 1686, Reverend Pierre Roberts (my 10th Great-Grandfather) came to America from Switzerland where he was an ordained minister. He was one of the first, if not the first, Huguenot Pastor in America, but definitely the first in South Carolina. He was the founder and the first Rector of the French congregation at French Santee in St. James Parish.

-Eventually my family came to Florida as some of the first white settlers in Columbia County in North Central Florida. My 5th Great-Grandfather was the second white child born in the county. We have records of our family and their struggles to survive, but through it all God had a plan.

-One day a gentlemen by the name of Kinsey Chambers came to what was known as the Alligator Community (Columba County.) He was one of the first Southern Baptist minsters to share the message of Christ to my families' community. I wouldn't doubt he ran into my family at least at some point or another, if he didn't, his love for planting churches did.

Chambers served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1867. He baptized over 500 people in Florida, and helped start numbers of churches including a church by the name of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Lake City located just down the road from my childhood home in Columbia County.

--C.R. Roberts, my 3rd great-grandfather was born December 7th 1893 and was licensed to preach by First Baptist Church in Mulberry on December 3, 1924, and ordained by the Bethlehem Baptist Church on January 28th, 1927, the church Kinsey Chambers planted.



My Grandfather went on to pastor Bethlehem Baptist Church along with many other churches in the area and, from what I understand, even help plant Pine Grove Baptist Church in Lake City where he pastored the church for 17 years.

My Grandmother and Great-Grandmother called Bethlehem Baptist Church

their church home and I had the great honor of attending many times as a kid. Their Pastor, Lowell O'Steen, still pastors the church where he loved my grandmothers dearly and pastored them greatly.

As I walked those halls as a kid and visited the cemetery where many of my relatives are laid to rest, I never knew so much of my family's history was tied to this little country church in the heart of North Central Florida. Nether did I know it would have such an impact on my future as well.

My 3rd Great-Grandfather was setting a legacy that would carry over to his daughter's great grandchildren.

It's because of him and an entire group of men, many of them pastors and members of small country churches, **I stand where I am today**. It's because of their willingness to go out into the unknown and trust God.

I strive to do the same.

This is why I love small country churches... they are the backbone of my spiritual heritage and their place in American church history can never be overlooked.

Next time you drive by a small country church, maybe with only a few cars in the parking lot, take time and pray for them. There is a pastor there faithfully loving his flock and I promise you God is up to something big.