Baptist Church Groups Visit Missionary In Mexico

By LEE ANN NECESSARY

Recently a group consisting of several of the county Baptist churches and some churches of the surrounding counties, traveled to Mexico to visit Dale Spicer who has been a missionary in Durango, Mexico for the past seven months. The Rev. Ted Combs of Oak Ridge Baptist Church organized the trip and assembled the group together to visit Spicer who is a member of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Hays.

The group members which traveled to Mexico included: the Rev. Ted Combs, John Harrold, Joe Baugess, Jerry Reavis, and Roy Absher all of North Wilkesboro; from the Millers Creek area; the Rev. Amos Combs, the Rev. Plato Shepherd, James Sheets, and Clyde Wyatt; the Rev. Tim Pruitt and Claude Miles, both of Hays; the Rev. Roger Miller of Elkin; the Rev. Roland Harke Jr., Weslaco, Texas; Roosevelt Moree, Onondaga, Mich.; Rex Cummings, Ararat; Darrell Farrington and Wayne Roope, both of Hays; Eddie Brown, Boonsville; the Rev. Phil Chapman, Wilkesboro; Steve Greene, Lanasig, Mich.; Phil Simmons, Thurmond; Howard Reynolds, Ronda; Gary Billings, Purlear; Randall W. Green, Deep Gap; John E. Ellis, West Jefferson; Bud Ward, Mason, Mich.; the Rev. Carl Lackey, White Plains; and Tom Delph, Mount Airy.

Spicer, who has been teaching Bible classes and informing the villagers of the Bible and the Christian religion, has also been traveling to a local Indian reservation of the Tephehu tribe. For this reason the group took Spicer a new 4-wheel drive Ford pickup for him to drive through the rough and mountainous terrain.

The group traveled on a bus donated by White Plains Baptist Church in Surry County. They left on Sunday, May 13, and returned on Tuesday, May 22. Combs stated that Spicer had been in Mexico since November with his wife, Jan, and their daughter Angie. While he has been there he has learned to speak the native language fluently and is expecting to stay in Mexico for several more years.

While in Mexico the group spent time in several of the villages passing out literature to the villagers and some of the preachers of the group were asked to speak to the village churches. The group also spent one day shopping which was enjoyed by all.

Combs stated, "The trip was very inspirational, but definitely left you feeling very lucky that you were from the United States." He also mentioned that everyone seemed to enjoy the trip. If anyone is interested in corresponding with Spicer you can contact him (Combs) at his home or at Oak Ridge Baptist Church. Combs hopes that he can get a group to go to Mexico each year that Spicer remains in Mexico.
Former Pastors Featured

Oak Ridge Baptist
To Celebrate 75th
With Special Revival

Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Hays will celebrate its 75th anniversary beginning Sunday with revival services featuring a different former pastor each evening Monday through Aug. 23.

The Sunday evening service, which begins at 7 p.m., will include special singing. The Rev. Ted Combs, pastor of the church for the last 16 years, will speak Sunday night.

The revival will conclude with a fellowship supper on Aug. 23 at 6 p.m.

The former pastors who will speak are the Rev. Bill Pruitt, Monday; the Rev. Major Caudill, Tuesday; the Rev. David Cockerham, Wednesday; the Rev. Rex Shumate, Thursday; and the Rev. Ivan Dameron, Friday. Each will speak at 7:30 p.m. "All former members and people from churches in the area whose relatives were members are urged to attend," said the Rev. Mr. Combs.

He explained that there are close ties between Oak Ridge Baptist and other churches in the Hays area. One of the charter members of the church, Marshall Billings of Vespers Nursing Home in Wilkesboro, is still living. The other charter members were W.J. Billings, Sarah M. Billings, G.W. Combs, Alice Combs, G.W. Johnson, E.S. Johnson, James Porter, Mrs. James Porter, C.W. Wiles, Clarence Billings, Charles Billings, Peter Johnson, Felix Johnson, Martha Johnson, Bertha Johnson Billings and Thomas Wheatley.

G.W. Combs and Alice Combs are the grandparents of the Rev. Mr. Combs.

The church was established Dec. 23, 1911, in a building near its present location. Matthew 16 was the scripture used and "Rock of Ages" and "Blest Be The Tie" were the hymns sung at the opening service.

The church took its name from Oak Ridge School, a small community school that was nearby. Services were held in the old Oak Ridge School building from the early 1920s until 1949, when the present building was constructed.

There have been three additions since then.


The church has produced many pastors, including the Rev. Dale Spicer, a missionary to Mexico.

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