Evangelist Jerry Lail, a native of Cherryville and former pastor of North Brook Baptist Church, said he is expecting the Citizens Center to be overflowing with people during the Jerry Lail Evangelistic Association Countywide Crusade, "a revival for all churches," beginning at 7:30 each night, March 25-31.

Lail said he has enlisted 40 churches of all denominations to participate in the crusade, his first attempt at a countywide program of this sort. Lail, who preached at North Brook for three years and had seven interim pastorages, left the church and began to devote his time to forming the Jerry Lail Evangelistic Association in September, 1983.

He is also self-employed with a local monument manufacturer.

Other interested individuals have volunteered to help coordinate his organization. Rita Katz acts as crusade coordinator. Lail has two musicians. Larry Martin and David Hutchins. James and Judy McCurry are in charge of counseling and witnessing and Lail's wife, Rita is director of prayer.

The evangelist said he chose Lincolnton because he felt that the Citizens Center "was a nice place..."
Countywide Crusade

Counselor training for the crusade will take place over the next two weeks beginning Sunday at 3 p.m. at First Wesleyan Church. Between March 19 and 31, Lail said he and his workers hope to canvas everyone in Lincolnton asking the public their church affiliation and relationship to Christ.

Lail said he has organized a church choir with more than 200 members and has selected special groups from each church in the area to sing nightly during the crusade. "Our primary emphasis is this," Lail said. "We believe, no matter who the preacher is, as long as he is a man of God, that through the prayer participation and these people coming together on their own accord, we can reach for Christ.

"We also believe that it's time the churches in America stop placing denominations before the Lord." Lail added that in his opinion, churches need to reach outside to the people. "They're (churches) over-programmed," he said.

Birthday
Matthew White

BOB TURNER
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ORDINATION — Rev. Jerry Lail, center, was ordained into the gospel ministry Sunday evening at Diamond Hill Baptist Church. Among those participating in the ordination service were, from left, Rev. Elmer Thomas, Rev. James Lail, Rev. Jerry Lail, Rev. Harvey Clark, pastor of Diamond Hill Baptist Church; and Rev. Thad Dowdle.

At Diamond Hill Baptist

Ordination Service Is Held

Rev. Jerry Lail was ordained into the gospel ministry at Diamond Hill Baptist Church in a service on Sunday evening.

Mr. Lail is the assistant to the pastor of the church, Rev. Harvey Clark.

His father, Rev. James Lail, delivered the ordination message, speaking on “Pulpits and Preachers.” He discussed the responsibilities of a minister toward his God, himself and his church.

The pulpit should be used to proclaim the gospel message, he added, and not for personal gain or glory.

Rev. Elmer Thomas, South Yadkin Baptist Association missionary, delivered the charge to the candidate. Mr. Thomas pointed out the importance of the minister’s wife in the ministry, as well as the conduct of the minister himself.

The church pastor, Mr. Clark, led the ordination prayer and presented the ordination Bible to the candidate.

Rev. Thad Dowdle, pastor at College Avenue Baptist Church in Lenoir, presented the charge to the church. Mr. Dowdle reminded the church that the minister is a man of God, but he is still a man, and needs encouragement from the people as much as anyone else does. He added that a price could not be put on the ministry; that it is a calling of God to preach the gospel and the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ and not of mankind.

Rev. Jerry Lail led the benediction prayer, asking God to guide him as he accepts this responsibility and that he might be worthy of the calling to the ministry.
JERRY LAIL

Minister
Licensed

Jerry Lail, 719 Park Drive, has been licensed to the ministry by Diamond Hill Baptist Church.

Lail is employed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and is attending Mitchell Community College.

For the past month he has served as supply pastor of the White Plains Baptist Church, Taylorville. He is married to the former Miss Linda Russell and they have a daughter, Tanya.