

The Decatur News/Sun
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Chapel Hill Church

Hosting Seminar

With Dennis Peacocke

A number of local pastors, Christian activist leaders and hundreds of Christians are expected to attend the opening session of a weekend seminar called "Let Us Rise Up And Build" to begin on Friday, July 8, at 7:30 p.m. and concluding on Saturday, July 9, with the 8:45 a.m. session concluding at 1 p.m.

These sessions will be held in the K-Center at Chapel Hill Harvester Church, 4650 Flat Shoals Road, Decatur.

The seminar, is on a nation-wide tour. It is designed to challenge Christians to "get involved with people, meet their needs and help rebuild the spiritual foundations of your city."

The Friday night, Saturday morning seminar is taught by Dennis Peacocke, a nationally known conference speaker, author and news commentator whose primary ministry is designed "to help caring Christians re-establish an agenda for this nation that gives your children some kind of meaningful future."

Peacocke, a former radical activist at Berkeley, Calif. in the 1960s, is teaching this seminar around this and other nations in cooperation with local leaders in the cities where the seminars are held. The teaching topics include: How The World-System Has Ripped Us Off; Fulfilling Your Personal Destiny; How To Become A Fisher of Men; and Leading Your City Through Service.

Author of *The Bottom Line*, a news analysis commentary going out to 40,000 people monthly, Peacocke has recently released a new book called *Winning The Battle For The Minds Of Men*.

The seminar is free but does have a manual and seminar materials for sale at the door. For further information telephone Chapel Hill Harvester Church, 243-5020.

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Senior Center Gets Banquet

Mary Geiger, left, talks with Ron Oni at the Stone Mountain Senior Citizens Center. The center, The Housing Authority and the Stone Mountain Covenant Community of Chapel Hill Harvester Church joined together to provide a banquet for 250 people at the Stone Mountain Senior Center. The guests visited with one another and were entertained by musicians from the center and the church. Children and adults of all ages gathered together for the evening banquet. Pictured is Mary Geiger from the Center visiting with Ron Oni from the Covenant Community.

8/9/89

Celebrities Support Chapel Hill Project

What do Sen. Wyche Fowler, Maynard Jackson, Michael Lomax, U.S. Rep. Ben Jones, former congressman Pat Swindall, Atlanta Public Safety Director George Napper and Fulton Commissioner Michael Hightower all have in common?

Add media personalities Vic Carter, Fred Hickman, Ken Cooper and Graylon Young, along with Tiger Green of the Green Bay Packers, Homer the Brave and former rock star turned preacher Wayne Cochran and the group represents quite a montage.

Though they may disagree in other areas, one thing they all support is the project of Chapel Hill Harvester Church to help Bankhead Courts in its struggle to rid itself of drug and crime infestation. This southwest Atlanta housing project has been the focus of much attention recently because of the problems there. Chapel Hill, A DeKalb County church of more than 12,000 members under the leadership of Bishop Earl Paulk, has adopted Bankhead Courts as a special project. The church regularly sends teams of teachers and other volunteers into the troubled neighborhood to help the residents in a variety of areas. Among them are classes in infant care, personal grooming, how to prepare a job resume, dance, drama and art classes and other areas of self-enrichment.

The first step in this effort was to invite celebrities to lend their support for the project. They did this by participating in a day of activities at the Chapel Hill recreational complex. The day featured tennis matches, volley ball and softball games pitting the celebrities against the pastors of Chapel Hill. Many of the Bankhead Courts residents, among them many children, were transported by MARTA to the church's recreational complex which features a swimming pool and manmade beach. The church hopes to raise funds to duplicate the recreational complex

at the Bankhead Courts location.

According to Patti, Battle, project director for Chapel Hill, over a thousand dollars was raised, but the real gain was in arousing public awareness of the project through the cooperation of the news media. Other fund-raising activities are being planned, she added.

The Atlanta Housing Authority has given its full support for the project and AHA Director Sam Hyder was on hand to personally express his cooperation. Other political leaders of the area have pledged their support.

Anyone wishing to participate may contact Ms. Battle at 243-1172. Contributions may be sent to Bankhead Courts Project, Chapel Hill Harvester Church, 4650 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, Ga. 30034.

Chapel Hill Says ⁹ Not Participating In Plan To Buy PTL

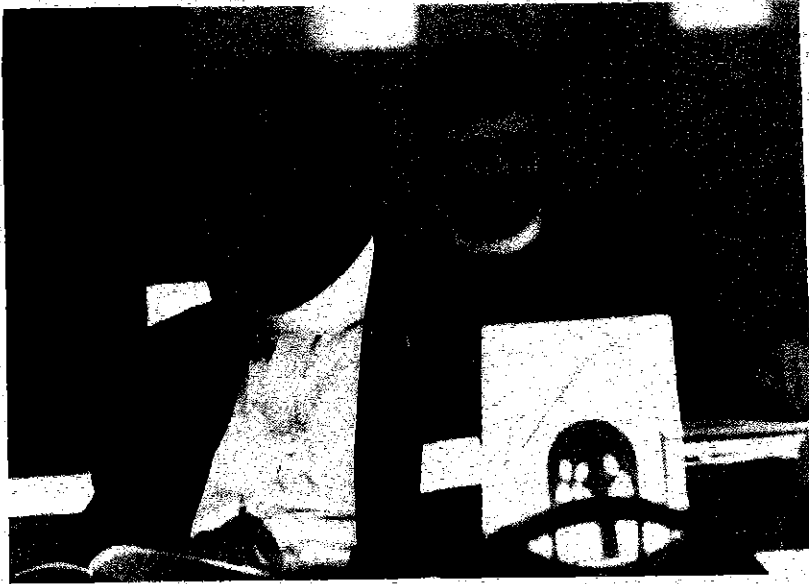
Chapel Hill Harvester Church in south DeKalb is taking no part in a bid to purchase the PTL organization left by the downfall of convicted televangelist Jim Bakker and his wife, Tammy Faye.

A meeting of "partners" in the PTL venture was held last week at the church, according to Chapel Hill spokesman Tricia Weeks, but the church's only role was allowing use of the site, she said.

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Million Dollar Goal Is Set

Pastor James Powers of Chapel Hill Harvester Church in south DeKalb attends a steering committee meeting for the Community Appeal to Address Homelessness. Religious leaders and lay people from metro Atlanta have committed to a second interfaith effort and have set a goal of one million dollars. The first drive raised \$300,000 from local congregations and grants were awarded to 35 agencies serving homeless people. United Way is donating staff so that 100 percent of the money raised is distributed to help people in need, a spokesman said.

Legally They Are Adults — 14-year-olds With Babies

By HELEN ORDNER

They come in a succession to the public housing office — 14- and 15-year-old girls with babies.

Sarah Jordan, a 17-year veteran with the Atlanta Housing Authority, screens applicants for housing units for the city, including the area within DeKalb County.

She's dismayed by the increasing number of such young girls. They lack parenting skills, house-keeping skills and coping skills, but under present law, these teen mothers are recognized as adults.

To Ms. Jordan, they represent a lost generation, with no better prospects for the on-coming one.

The law calls them emancipated minors and they are responsible for their own welfare. Ordinarily without jobs, they draw checks from AFDC (Aid to Families With Dependent Children) and can apply as a family for an apartment in public housing. It is not unusual, although illegal, for non-registered outsiders to inhabit there also.

According to Ms. Jordan, such young fall easy prey to drug dealers. In many cases, they face eviction for non-payment of rent within a few months and are back on the streets or in a shelter.

Frequently, by then the young mother is pregnant again.

If she should be inclined to return to school, someone must care for her baby. Only two housing complexes offer child care, according to Ms. Jordan.

She has written a production aimed at informing young girls of the trap they may be facing, but it has not reached the public. She was unable to get a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) grant for a performance in a downtown hotel.

Ms. Jordan would like to just start all over in public housing, "but you can't sweep out people." She is encouraged by the appointment of a new housing director,

"First, you ask yourself, what can be done about it?"

"Then, what can I do about it?"

Sarah Jordan

retired Col. Delmar Corbin.

A south DeKalb resident with two children attending Miller Grove Jr. High, she has served over long periods as a volunteer at several shelters for the homeless.

Shelters deal with present day survival, however, and frequently not changes of direction.

INTERVENTION is going to have to be on an individual basis, she feels. She herself serves as a role model for a succession of young girls, sometimes feeling there is a victory; sometimes facing heartbreak and disappointment.

"The only thing I can see," she said, "is that the community is going to have to get involved."

Federal funds are expected to lessen, placing more burden locally.

Chapel Hill Harvester Church, the super-fast growing south DeKalb church on Chapel Hill, is making a difference at East Lake Meadows and Bankhead Courts, she said.

Persons or groups wanting to help can work through the tenant association in each housing complex, according to Ms. Jordan. "We've got to help each other," she said. "Everybody is looking to blame someone else for the problem. Instead of blaming people, we need to be coming up with solutions.

"If you yourself pull up one person, then the next — that's going to be the best approach."

At first, she recalled, you ask yourself, "What can be done about it?" Then, it becomes, "What can I do about it?"



Sarah Jordan

Sexual allegations cut membership

By HELEN ORDNER

Charges of impropriety and sexual relationships involving top clergy of a once flourishing south Dekalb megachurch have cut its membership in half and threaten its financial ruin, lawyers for the church say.

The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, formerly known as Chapel Hill Harvester Church, Friday filed a \$24 million slander and libel suit against the seven persons church officials charge have conspired to bring about its downfall.

The suit is against three former church employees, Rebecca Joy Moses, Tricia Weeks and Jesse Leopard; former pastor Barry Smith, and three volunteer workers, Wayne Slapey, Johnny Enlow and Bill Dallas.

The suit was filed after attorneys for Moses, according to church attorney Jack Cook, attempted to extort money from the church, showing the draft of a threatened lawsuit. "They gave a deadline to pay X dollars or said we will file suit."

Attorney William Quinn, representing Moses, however said that "I absolutely, categorically deny that the church was given a deadline to pay money by Friday."

AT THE HEART of the controversy is a ten-month sexual affair between Moses and Pastor Don Paulk — co-founder of the church with his brother, Bishop Earl Paulk.

Moses, a tall brunette Agnes Scott graduate, Monday afternoon gave a statement about her involvement with the minister she had called "Uncle Don."

Reading slowly, with hands visibly shaking at times, she told of growing up in a dysfunctional family and becoming involved with Chapel Hill Harvester Church at age 14 through a foster family.

As a teenager, she said, she was close friends with Pastor Don Paulk's daughter and frequently visited in their home. She thought of Paulk as a father figure, "a



Bishop Earl Paulk

person who loved me and would protect me, a man of God."

Her life, said the 28-year-old woman, had become centered around the church as years went by.

"From the outset, the church indoctrinated me and other members into a series of written 'covenants' in which we were taught to submit to the authority of the pastors of the church as being 'over us in the Lord.'"

Questioned later as to whether this indoctrination had brought her to the "poison Kool-aid stage," she said that she would have done anything for the church short of taking her life.

At a very early age she had decided to dedicate her life and career to the church, she said, and she left a lucrative job for church employment and volunteer work.

Don Paulk, in 1991, asked her to work with him on writing projects and it was at this time, she said, that his sexual advances toward her began.

"I was both confused and at the

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ions, rumors ip of cathedral

same time, terrified," she said. "Don Paulk told me that he wanted a sexual relationship with me and told me that such a relationship would not be wrong in the eyes of God. Pastor Paulk told me that such a relationship would in fact be 'beneficial to the church' and would be condoned by the Bishop Earl Paulk.

"I make no excuses for my own conduct, but by trusting Pastor Don I eventually succumbed to his advances with the result being an extremely destructive sexual relationship."

She tried to break away from the influence he held over her, but his control was too strong and "the power he held over me reached back into my childhood," she said.

She was told by other clergy that by meeting the physical needs of Pastor Don, she was serving the church, she said.

Her conclusion, she said, is that Bishop Paulk was aware of the sexual nature of her relationship with his brother. She talked to the bishop, she said, about rumors circulating in the church about her relationship with Don Paulk. Bishop Paulk instructed her, she said, not to judge the relationship "on the basis of narrow-minded Christians" and said that she had brought good fruit to his brother's life.

Bishop Paulk, at a later press conference Monday, denied that he had known of a sexual relationship until his brother confessed it to him. Don Paulk was then suspended from church duties for a period of three weeks.

Moses said Monday that up to that time she had declined to tell her story to the media and that by written agreement with the church, it had been agreed that the matter would be kept confidential.

"By the filing of this law suit against me, the church has elected to make public certain issues which, for the sake of the innocent parishioners remaining in the church, I had hoped to keep private," she said.

Moses, who is now engaged to be

married, said that she was not the only person to be victimized by Don Paulk and that she is aware of sexual misconduct on the part of other church officials.

DEFENDANTS deny church officials' charges that "malicious interference" with the church, by them, has resulted in a drop in membership from approximately 12,000 persons to no more than 6,000 now. Income, officials say, has fallen from approximately \$160,000 per week to around \$70,000.

The defendants, according to church attorneys, have made false allegations to bond holders and the newest sanctuary, a \$12 million structure, has been placed in jeopardy.

Cook alleges that the defendants, using a membership list, have prevailed upon members not to support the church through attendance or giving.

The church was at one time recognized as one of the fastest growing in the nation and was named one of 1000 Points of Light by President George Bush. It has been widely recognized for ministry to gays, the mentally ill, unwed mothers, and public housing residents in Atlanta.