

EVANGEL NEWS DIGEST

FROM EVANGELICAL PRESS NEWS SERVICE, CORRESPONDENCE, PERIODICALS, PRESS REPORTS
This news is reported for your information; publication does not indicate approval of persons, concepts, or actions.

COPY OF ARK OF THE COVENANT UNEARTHED IN GALILEE

DURHAM, N.C.—The ruins of an ancient synagogue in a desolate area of Galilee have yielded a portion of an ark of the covenant—one that is thought to be a copy of the long lost original.

According to the Associated Press, a husband-wife team from Duke University and a University of South Florida professor claimed the discovery, which they said was the first such find in the ruins of ancient Palestine.

"Even though only the uppermost portion survives, this is the first ark . . . that has been recovered from ancient remains," said Dr. Eric Meyers in an announcement made jointly by Duke and the Ameri-

can Schools of Oriental Research in Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Meyers, a professor of religion at Duke, was director of the archaeological project that discovered the ark in July.

The portion of the ark found at the site of Nabratein in upper Galilee is made of white limestone and weighs more than 1,000 pounds. The designs on the ark show two rampant lions standing astride a gabled roof and a scallop shell with a place for the ever-burning light.

Don Seaver, a spokesman at Duke, said archaeologists believe ancient arks copied the design of the original.

Myers said the discovery was found buried in the prayer platform of a later structure after an

earlier synagogue had been badly damaged in an earthquake in A.D. 306. A third synagogue, of broadhouse design, was found beneath the other two temple ruins.

"The building represents the earliest broadhouse synagogue

ever discovered in ancient Palestine and dates to the period just after the Bar Kokhba Wars with Rome in A.D. 135, making it also the earliest Galilean synagogue recovered to date," Professor Meyers said.

Message to would-be terrorists: 'He's all yours. You can have him.'

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.—If Larry Ward, president of Food for the Hungry International, is ever kidnapped or taken hostage by international terrorists, his captors won't get much out of it.

According to Ward's specific instructions to his staff (and written request to the United States government), in the event of his being kidnapped or taken hostage no negotiations of any kind are to be conducted with terrorist groups.

In a notarized statement witnessed by his wife, Ward states that if he is ever kidnapped, "It is my specific desire that not one cent of money or moment of time be expended in any negotiations for my release."

A veteran of 23 years of relief work; Ward has recently returned from Laos, Cambodia,

and Vietnam. His organization operates a rescue ship in the South China Sea, and he specializes in ministering in the world's "hot spots." He went to the scene of Lebanon's civil war, and was in Thailand and Bolivia during coups and coup attempts.

Ward sums it up:

"I fully support the present strong position taken against terrorism by the U.S. government. International gangsterism must be stopped.

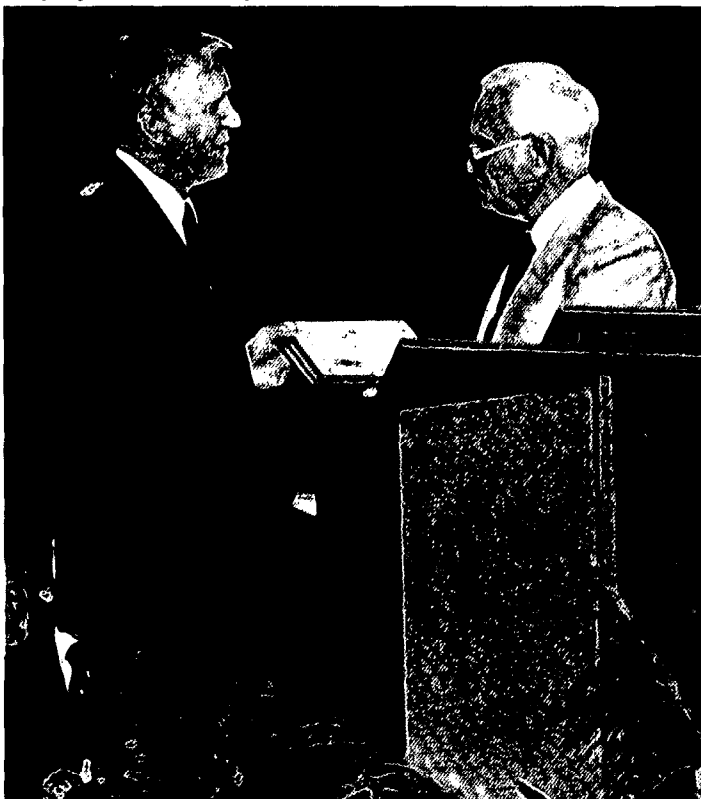
"As a relief worker, I am totally expendable. As a Christian, I gladly put myself in the hands of our all-powerful God."

He suggested if he is kidnapped or held hostage, his notarized letter simply be published with this notation for his captors: "He's all yours. You can have him."

Royal Rangers commander honored on 20th anniversary of the program

During the 39th General Council in St. Louis, Mo., General Superintendent Thos. F. Zimmerman (right) presented a plaque to Johnnie Barnes, Royal Rangers national commander, on the 20th anniversary of the Royal Rangers program which Commander Barnes pioneered.

Approximately 100,000 boys in 41 countries are now involved in the program. (Photo by Phil Stovall)



Chinese Christians set goals for decade

SINGAPORE—The National Theater was filled again with 3,800 Christians for the closing of the Second Chinese Congress on World Evangelization, which was held here June 16-24.

Under the general theme of "Life and Ministry: Chinese Churches Confronting the 80s," the 1,500 participants and helpers sought to hammer out goals for the decade.

The first CCOWE held in 1976 in Hong Kong placed emphasis on the imparting of information, but now in the 80s the emphasis has moved on to implementation.

"This means," said Dr. Philip

Teng who was reelected chairman, "that we should go above Chinese self-centeredness and move on to the new level of spiritual internationalism—the common task of world evangelism—and a strong consciousness of our world responsibility."

The General Director of Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Dr. James Taylor III, a great-grandson of Hudson Taylor, challenged those gathered to meet the vast need in Southeast Asia, where the missionary force is being depleted because of retirements and unrenewed visas.