

that through the years have been meaningful. The excellent choir directed by Jim Redling with a tenor section that could have sung anywhere in the world and with the other parts of great quality allowed me to sing with the gang. The ferocious volley ball games played on the uneven blacktop behind the main building constituted an every afternoon scramble. But what really struck me was the organization and precision of everything done. I was a younger man, then—of course—but I had been to enough conferences to know that this was not the normal order of things...that the meetings began and ended on time and that the planned activities happened as they were announced. It was a treat to be there and when I look over these old outlines I am gratified and amazed that they asked me back. But this was the start of a happy relationship involving the people who attended the conferences and the other brothers with whom I ministered at various times.

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2. BRISTOL 1972 (maybe) --week # 1

Am introductory note: I am not certain of the date! Probably could figure it out with a little more work but it was early in my Bristol days. At this time the conference was meeting for two weeks and we were invited to both of them. I decided to minister on the concept of studying the Bible with some ideas of how one might study better, etc. I planned in the first week to use the book of Judges for the study but then my friend, Bob Clark, who was also ministering announced in his opening session that he would hold his studies in the book of Judges. I went back to the drawing board that night and moved my ideas to another part of the Bible. It is one of the risk one takes in an "assembly" conference....the person speaking before you might have your message. And there are some good spiritual sides to this but it can be a bit upsetting at the time. In this case, though, it certainly worked for good both for Bob and myself. How well the rest of the conference fared I cannot tell. And if you find a record of the right date, it is too late to tell me now. Sure, I wish I had kept better notes and exact data but that is part of a non-diary past.

Sometime after this study I went to an almost exclusive inductive method of Bible study. There are many methods, however, although I am convinced the inductive study is the best of the formal systems. The Bristol studies were on the order of analytical studies, not inductive, and if you do not know the difference it is amazing how little joy that will take from your life.

The Ministry: The study of the Bible...Some general notes: