

Information on the Hood-Williamson Research Archives for the Holiness Serpent Handling Sects of Southern Appalachia at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Lupton Library, University Archives (Special Collections) is online at <http://findingaids.library.utc.edu/Hood.html>

Hood-Williamson research archives on the serpent handlers of Southern Appalachia, 1975-2004.

This archive currently consists of 184 DVDs of 400+ hours documenting the contemporary serpent handlers of Southern Appalachia, with extensive footage of entire services of the major Jesus Name serpent handling churches of Appalachia over many years. The archives consist of several groupings to aid interested scholars and researchers. They can be identified as follows: Sand Mountain, Alabama (26 DVDs); Del-Rio, Tennessee (8 DVDs); Jolo, West Virginia (24 DVDs); Kingston, Georgia (49 DVDs); Middlesboro, Kentucky (10 DVDs); Calhoun, Georgia (7 DVDs); Interviews with handlers, focusing upon the experience of handling and of near-death experiences from serpent bites (34 DVDs); Fatal bites, funeral, and wake (5 DVDs); Special interests DVDs, including TV clips and documentaries, arbor meetings and handling in private homes (12 DVDs); Isolated footage of additional churches (9 DVDs).

<http://www.worldcat.org/title/hood-williamson-research-archives-on-the-serpent-handlers-of-southern-appalachia-1975-2004/oclc/64576259>

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Special Collections

Register of the Hood-Williamson Archives on the Serpent Handlers of Southern Appalachia MS 074

<http://findingaids.library.utc.edu/Hood.html>

This is a finding aid. It is a description of the contents of an archival collection

held within the Special Collections at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Unless otherwise noted, the materials described below are physically available in our reading room, and not digitally available through the World Wide Web.

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Summary Information

Repository

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Special Collections

Creator

Hood, Ralph W., Dr., Jr.

Creator

Williamson, W. Paul, Dr.

Title

Hood-Williamson Archives on the Serpent Handlers of Southern Appalachia

ID

MS 074

Date [inclusive]

1975-2004

Extent

8.0 Linear feet 184 DVDs and approximately 2,500 photographs

General Physical Description note

Each DVD contains information in the following formats: .BUP, .IFO, and .VOB

Language

English

Abstract

This archive consists of 184 DVDs of 400+ hours documenting the contemporary serpent handlers of Southern Appalachia, with extensive footage of entire services and interviews with church members of the major Jesus Name serpent handling churches of Appalachia from 1975-2004. In addition, there are approximately 2,500 photographs documenting the same church services.

Preferred Citation note

Hood-Williamson Archives on the Serpent Handlers of Southern Appalachia, MS 074, Special Collections, UTC Library, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

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Biographical/Historical note

Dr. Ralph Hood has been a professor in the Psychology department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga since 1970. His teaching interests include the psychology of religion and philosophical psychology. During his tenure at UTC, he has served on many nationally recognized committees in the fields of psychology and religion. He has also held several positions editing journals, including the Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior, Review of Religious Research, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, and Archive for the Psychology of Religion. Dr. Hood has published extensively on varied topics related to his research interests and has given over 300 convention papers as well as numerous invited addresses and plenary presentations.

Dr. W. Paul Williamson has been a professor in the Psychology department at Henderson State University since 2000. He has served as the newsletter editor for American Psychological Association Division 36: Psychology of Religion, a member of the awards committee for APA, Division 36: Psychology of Religion, and as a member of the editorial board for Archive for the Psychology of Religion. Dr. Williamson has published journal articles and books on varied topics related to his research interests.

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Scope and Contents note

This archive currently consists of 184 DVDs of 400+ hours documenting the contemporary serpent handlers of Southern Appalachia, with extensive footage of entire services of the major Jesus Name serpent handling churches of Appalachia over many years. The archives consist of several groupings to aid interested scholars and researchers. They can be identified as follows: Sand Mountain, Alabama (26 DVDs); Del-Rio, Tennessee (8 DVDs); Jolo, West Virginia (24 DVDs); Kingston, Georgia (49

DVDs); Middlesboro, Kentucky (10 DVDs); Calhoun, Georgia (7 DVDs); Interviews with handlers, focusing upon the experience of handling and of near-death experiences from serpent bites (34 DVDs); Fatal bites, funeral, and wake (5 DVDs); Special interests DVDs, including TV clips and documentaries, arbor meetings and handling in private homes (12 DVDs); Isolated footage of additional churches (9 DVDs).

In addition, the collection now holds approximately 2,500 photographs taken in the six core churches listed above. The photographs include both color and black and white images.

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Arrangement note

Series 1: Sand Mountain, Alabama

Series 2: Del-Rio, Tennessee

Series 3: Jolo, West Virginia

Series 4: Kingston, Georgia

Series 5: Middlesboro, Kentucky

Series 6: Calhoun, Georgia

Series 7: Interviews with Serpent Handlers

Series 8: Fatal Bites, Funeral, & Wake

Series 9: Special Interest Footage

Series 10: Additional Churches

Series 11: Photographs

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Administrative Information

Publication Information

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Special Collections June 20, 2012

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Chattanooga, TN, 37403
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Revision Description

Revised to include new accession of 2,500 photographs. 12/12/2012

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Patrons must read and sign the "Rules for Use" form available in the Special Collections in order to view the materials. Please contact the Special Collections of Lupton Library to use this collection.

Publication Rights

The copyright interests in the Hood-Williamson Archives on the Serpent Handlers of Appalachia have not been transferred to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. All DVD's are copyright Ralph W. Hood, Jr. and W. Paul Williamson and cannot be copied without written permission. For further information, see the section on copyright and publishing on the web site for the Special Collections, under "Policies".

Provenance

Donated by Drs. Ralph W. Hood, Jr. and W. Paul Williamson. The photographs were donated in a second deposit (in 2012) to the collection by Dr. Hood.

Processing Information note

Collection arranged and described (with previous data from Steve Cox) by Chapel Cowden, 2012.

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Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Brown, John Wayne "Punkin", 1964-1998
- Chafin, Dewey
- Coots, Jamie
- Covington, Dennis
- Hollins, Lydia "Bugs"
- Hood, Ralph W., Dr., Jr.
- Porter, Carl
- Short, Verlin
- Summerford, Billy
- Williamson, W. Paul, Dr.

Subject(s)

- Appalachian Region, Southern -- Religious life and customs.
- Glossolalia
- Snake cults (Holiness churches) -- Appalachian Region, Southern.
- Strychnine--Social aspects--Appalachian Region, Southern.

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Sand Mountain, Alabama 1996-2004

Scope and Contents note

The material in this series all takes place in Sand Mountain, Alabama at The Old Rock Mountain Holiness Church with Pastor Billy Summerford officiating.

S-1 6/16/1996

Total Running Time

00:57:52

Scope and Contents note

This disc contains the earliest footage of a Sand Mountain service. This is the first return to service of brother Spencer (last name unknown), a convert to serpent handling who nearly died from a bite at a revival. He testifies with a bandaged arm. It is an active

service with lots of handling.
S-2: Homecoming Service 6/14/1997

Total Running Time

00:29:58

Scope and Contents note

Glenn Dukes discusses a bite with Paul Roberts early in the service. There is a major preaching sequence by Punkin Brown. Both Dennis Covington and David Kimbrough, authors of books on serpent handling, are present. Footage of Paul Roberts' swollen hand, the result of a bite, begins at 1534 (tape code). Paul Roberts is seen handling the snake that bit him earlier in service. Roberts leaves the service due to pain. Punkin Brown preaches more toward the end of the tape (handling). Kirby Hollins is handed a snake and handles.

Others Present

1. Bill Pelfrey (preaching)
2. Billy Summerford (handling)
3. Billy Lemming (singing)
4. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins (handling)

S-3 6/15/1997

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

Continued homecoming service described in S-2.
S-4 2/01/1998

Total Running Time

1:10:12

Scope and Contents note

Footage provides a good closeup of a serpent in the box as Billy Summerford opens the serpent box. He carefully tries to handle a difficult serpent, and there is good video of him obtaining victory over the serpent. There are other good continuing shots of handlers

working with a difficult serpent.

Additional Activities

1. J.D. (last name unknown) opens the service with prayer
2. Women sing
3. Unnamed man testifies/preaches
4. Billy Summerford lays hands on church members
5. Charles (last name unknown) has trouble returning a serpent to the box
6. Bobbie Sue Lynn sings
7. Billy preaches
8. Service closes with women singing

S-5 2/15/1998

Total Running Time

00:33:22

Scope and Contents note

Footage shows Billy Summerford and a small church service typical of Sand Mountain. There are several singers. Children are present, but the serpents are in boxes. There is no danger to children even though they are near serpents. The footage shows much handling in a typical fashion for a small service. Good video of a “low key” service.

Additional Activities

1. Billy preaches
2. Joyce Summerford sings
3. Billy handles, and the footage shows serpents being removed from boxes
4. Serpents are passed to other males
5. Gene Roberts (bald man with beard) handles
6. Billy hands a serpent to Joyce Summerford (wife) and then to mother
7. Singing comes before the end of a routine service

S-6 6/20/1998

Total Running Time

1:08:15

Scope and Contents note

The footage shows extensive activities by women in the service. Mainly regular Sand

Mountain church members, about 25, are in attendance.

Activities

1. Women praying, laying on of hands
2. Handling by Billy Summerford and others including Punkin Brown and his father John Brown
3. Punkin Brown testifies
4. Jamie Coots preaches for an extended time
5. John Brown testifies

Others Present

1. John Brown (Marshal, NC)
2. Punkin Brown (John's son)
3. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY)

S-7: Homecoming Service 6/21/1998

Total Running Time

1:55:25

Scope and Contents note

This is a well attended service, approximately 65 persons. Footage includes long handling scenes typical of Sand Mountain services.

Additional Activities

1. Joyce Summerford begins singing
2. James opens service
3. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins plays piano
4. Laying on hands
5. Bill Pelfrey preaches
6. Men handling (with closeup of serpents in and out of boxes)
7. Joyce Summerford sings
8. Long footage of Punkin Brown preaching
9. Billy Summerford preaches
10. Bill Pelfrey preaches some

Handlers (in long handling scenes)

1. Punkin Brown handles large serpent
2. Carl Porter

3. Nola Faye Roberts
4. Bugs Hollins
5. Billy's mother
6. Twins (unnamed)
7. Billy handles difficult serpent as men pray for him

Others Present

1. Gene Short
2. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY)
3. Bill Pelfrey and first wife
4. John Brown

S-8 4/18/1999

Total Running Time

1:52:07

Scope and Contents note

A small number are in attendance, about fifteen. The service is slow to get started. Rayford Dunn tries to get service going, saying, "He's still here."

Additional Activities

1. Joyce Summerford opens with song
2. J.L. Dyal dances
3. Rayford preaches for extended period
4. Bill Pelfrey sings and testifies
5. Billy Summerford preaches
6. Laying on of hands
7. Pelfrey testifies
8. Billy Summerford briefly and casually handles serpent
9. Bobbie Sue Lynn sings
10. Billy Summerford testifies
11. J.L. Dyal testifies

S-9 4/23/1999

Total Running Time

1:43:47

Scope and Contents note

This footage includes a long segment of Jamie Coots preaching and ends with an interview with Coots, and a closeup of his finger which has been bitten by a yellow rattlesnake. He attempts to self-amputate the finger.

Additional Activities

1. Jamie sings
2. Laying hands on several women
3. Men praying for one another
4. James Wade preaches
5. Serpents replaced in box
6. Billy Lemming sings
7. Diane Tucker and Brenda Brown sing
8. Jamie Coots sings
9. Glenn Dukes testifies/preaches
10. Jamie Coots preaches

Handlers

1. Gene Short takes serpent from box
2. Billy handles
3. Billy's wife handles briefly
4. Diane Tucker handles

Others Present

1. John Brown
2. Rayford Dunn

S-10: Homecoming Service 6/19/1999

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

In this footage Jamie Coots testifies, defends signs, and talks of bites. He defends baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. There are two other long segments of preaching by Bill Pelfrey and Gene Sherbert who also testifies.

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with Bill Pelfrey, Gene Sherbert, James Wade

2. Women dance
3. Billy Summerford preaches
4. Joyce Summerford sings
5. Unnamed man takes a serpent from the box and handles
6. Serpent is passed around to other men
7. Alan Williams (Morristown, TN) sings
8. Jamie Coots sings
9. Serpents removed from boxes on pew
10. Bill Pelfrey handles two serpents at once
11. Laying on of hands
12. Virgil Porter sings
13. Jamie Coots sings
14. Steve Frazier testifies/preaches

Handlers

1. Rayford Dunn
2. Steve Frazier
3. Jamie Coots
4. Joyce Summerford
5. James Wade
6. Nola Faye Roberts
7. Bill Pelfrey

S-11 6/22/1999

Total Running Time

2:02:55

Scope and Contents note

This contains good footage of handling; both men and women handle.

Additional Activities

1. Jamie Coots sings
2. Extended laying on of hands and praying for sick
3. Billy Summerford and Rayford Dunn handle large serpents for extended periods
4. Others handle
5. Billy preaches/testifies
6. Jason Barnes preaches for extended time
7. Billy Summerford testifies
8. Jamie Coots sings
9. Altar service

10. Virgil Porter preaches intensely for extended period

Others Present

1. Bill Pelfrey
2. Steve and Diane Frazier
3. Glenn Dukes
4. Jason Barnes (new young convert)
5. Dennis (last name unknown)
6. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY)

S-12 9/10/1999

Total Running Time

1:59:29

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows a good example of a typical service not influenced by outside observers. The singing and preaching are typical of Sand Mountain. No cameras are present except for Hood and Williamson. There are about 25 present. This also illustrates a male dominated service.

Additional Activities

1. Billy Summerford preaches while handling a serpent
2. Rayford handles as do a few other men
3. Glenn Dukes preaches
4. Rayford Dunn preaches for extended time
5. Testimonies
6. Billy Summerford preaches again
7. Women gather around altar for prayer as Joyce Summerford sings

S-13 11/27/1999

Total Running Time

2:03:23

Scope and Contents note

This is a good example of a Sand Mountain service with few outsiders present. This is not a large service and all attendees are local.

Additional Activities

1. Active music
2. Virgil Porter plays drums
3. Handling
4. Jason Barnes preaches

Others Present

1. Rayford Dunn
2. Bill Pelfrey

S-14 3/10/2000

Total Running Time

2:03:15

Scope and Contents note

A very good handling tape showing a typical service with no cameras or press present (except for Hood and Williamson).

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with prayer requests Unnamed woman sings
2. Dakota Coots on drums
3. Joyce Summerford sings
4. Singing and laying on of hands
5. Billy Summerford exhorts church members, then lays on hands
6. Billy testifies, then takes up serpent briefly
7. Billy continues to testify/preach
8. Jamie Coots sings, then handles serpent
9. Others handle serpents
10. Virgil testifies and rebukes camera operator and presence of cameras in church
11. Others testify

Others Present

1. Steve and Tammy Porter
2. Virgil Porter
3. Rayford Dunn
4. Jason Barnes
5. Jamie Coots and son, Dakota Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY)

S-15 4/23/2000

Total Running Time

1:59:28

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Bobby Smart opens service
2. Believers come to altar for prayer
3. Singing by Joyce Summerford and others
4. Laying on of hands at altar by Rayford Dunn, Billy Summerford, and others
5. Testimonies
6. Singing follows
7. Preaching by Bobby Smart
8. Testimonies by others
9. Serpent handling

Handlers

1. Billy Summerford
2. Rayford Dunn
3. J.L. Dyal
4. Robertson (first name unknown)
5. Dennis (last name unknown)
6. Others

S-16: Homecoming Service 6/17/2000

Total Running Time

1:57:13

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Altar prayer
2. Billy Summerford opens service
3. Bill Pelfrey leads singing and worship
4. Preaching, testifying, and laying on of hands
5. Serpents are handled by several
6. Singing by several, including children

7. Billy Summerford closes service

Others Present

1. Gene Sherbert
2. Alan Williams (Morristown, TN)
3. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY)
4. Glenn Dukes
5. Parker Smith
6. Paul Roberts

S-17: Homecoming Service 6/18/2000

Total Running Time

1:59:30

Scope and Contents note

This includes rare footage of a cobra being handled. It begins with an outside shot of the church building and grounds. Members from Morristown, TN, and Middlesboro, KY, are present.

Additional Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey starts the service, leads singing, and testifies/preaches
2. Several members sing and testify
3. Laying on of hands for the sick
4. Junior McCormick and Billy Summerford take serpents from boxes
5. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY) takes up a cobra from the box and places it around his neck
6. Billy handles the cobra
7. Jason Barnes handles fire
8. Laying hands on children at altar
9. James Wade testifies

Handlers

1. Gene Sherbert
2. Robertson (first name unknown)
3. Dennis (last name unknown)
4. James Wade
5. Rayford Dunn
6. Jason Barnes
7. Glenn Dukes

8. Parker Smith

S-18 10/27/2000

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

The footage shows a guest black preacher, rare in serpent handling churches, who preaches for an extended period and works gifts of the spirit when praying for people.

Additional Activities

1. Virgil Porter opens service
2. Laying hands on a child
3. Billy Summerford preaches

S-19 4/27/2001

Total Running Time

00:27:01

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Service opens with prayer
2. Joyce Summerford sings
3. Bobby Smart testifies
4. Steve Frazier sings
5. Ronnie Tucker sings
6. Steve Frazier testifies/preaches
7. John Brown testifies/preaches
8. Altar prayer
9. Billy takes up serpent
10. Unnamed woman dances
11. Unnamed man handles serpent
12. Glenn Dukes testifies

S-20 6/10/2001

Total Running Time

00:59:58

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Cecil Eslinger on guitar
2. Bobbie Sue Lynn on drums
3. Billy Summerford testifies
4. Joyce Summerford sings
5. Laying on of hands
6. Women dancing and praying for one another
7. Woman slain in spirit
8. Billy Summerford takes up serpent while Joyce Summerford sings
9. Billy lays hands on church members
10. Unnamed man testifies

S-21: Homecoming Service 6/16/2001

Total Running Time

1:00:45

Scope and Contents note

Others Present

1. Gene Sherbert

Activities

1. Service opens with Mark Brown singing
2. Christie Williams sings
3. Billy Summerford lays on hands
4. Billy testifies
5. Billy takes up serpent for extended time and dances with serpent
6. John Brown laying on hands
7. Diane Frazier (Bill Pelfrey's daughter) sings
8. Billy Summerford lays on hands
9. Women pray for one another
10. Alan Williams (Morristown, TN) on bench with John Brown
11. Mark Brown sings
12. Billy testifies while women continue to pray intensely for another woman

S-22 11/25/2001

Total Running Time

1:01:36

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Service opens with Tammy Porter singing
2. Billy Summerford preaches for an extended time
3. Joyce Summerford sings
4. Altar call
5. Laying on of hands
6. Rayford Dunn present
7. Gene Sherbert testifies
8. Unnamed mother and child sing
9. Billy Summerford testifies

S-23: Homecoming Service 6/15/2002

Total Running Time

1:59:38

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Arnold Saylor (Indiana) opens playing cymbals as Virgil Porter sings
2. Singing and testimonies by several
3. Paul Roberts takes up serpent and passes to others
4. Laying on of hands
5. Testimonies by various believers
6. Alan Williams preaches extensively on love

Others Present

1. Dennis Covington (author)
2. Billy Taylor and family
3. Paul and Nola Faye Roberts
4. Alan Williams and family
5. Tom Burton (author)
6. Gene Sherbert

7. Rayford Dunn

S-24: Homecoming Service 6/12/2002

Total Running Time

00:58:14

Scope and Contents note

There is no serpent handling at this homecoming service which is rare. The theme is "Believers are Doers." There is good footage of a serpent box. At the beginning there is a long piece of footage of the farm where the church is located.

Additional Activities

1. Unnamed woman sings
2. Joyce Summerford sings
3. Unnamed man testifies
4. Nola Faye Roberts sings
5. Cecil Eslinger sings
6. Parker Smith sings
7. Dancing by members
8. Rayford Dunn testifies
9. Billy Summerford preaches

S-25 7/7/2002

Total Running Time

00:56:09

Scope and Contents note

The footage gives a good example of continuity of tradition with periodic fluctuations in attendance. It is a small meeting with no handling. Billy Summerford preaches, and there is good footage of a man slain in spirit.

S-26 5/19/2004

Total Running Time

00:47:00

Scope and Contents note

This is a small, quiet service with no handling. It shows the range of service types even in this church widely known for its handling and for the deaths that have occurred in services there.

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Series 2: Del-Rio, Tennessee 2002-2004

Scope and Contents note

The material in this series all takes place in Del-Rio, Tennessee at The Church of God in Jesus Christ's Name with Pastor Jimmy Morrow officiating.

[In this series, we are currently missing D-2: Homecoming Service. The disc labeled for D-2 did not match the content; but did match the content of another one of the discs. There is one disc however, that was mislabeled & did not match any of the provided descriptions. This disc has been labeled D-9 and a description has been given for it to the best of the describer's ability.]

D-1 4/20/2002

Total Running Time

1:00:16

Scope and Contents note

A small number of members are present.

Additional Activities

1. Brother (name unknown) opens church service and leads in prayer
2. Singing by Jason Barnes and sister (name unknown)
3. Pastor Jimmy Morrow handles serpents
4. Others handle, including Glenn Dukes (Sand Mountain, AL)
5. Jimmy Morrow preaches and handles serpent while preaching
6. Singing follows
7. Rayford Dunn testifies

D-3 6/30/2002

Total Running Time

1:01:50

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows a typical small service in this Appalachian church. A small group of members are present. Singing is led by Jason Barnes and members of the church, followed by testimony and prayer. There are more songs and laying on of hands. Morrow preaches and handles serpent, hands the serpent to his wife, then continues preaching. Jason sings. There is more serpent handling by Morrow. The service ends with testimonies by visitors.

D-4 6/7/2003

Total Running Time

1:39:33

Scope and Contents note

Only a few people are in attendance. There is a good preaching sequence by Jimmy Morrow.

D-5: Homecoming Service 6/8/2003

Total Running Time

00:59:01

Scope and Contents note

This shows a homecoming crowd with less than 20 in attendance. The footage includes not only handling of serpents but also handling fire.

Additional Activities

1. Unnamed man opens the service by giving extended testimony and receiving prayer requests
2. After prayer, the congregation worships in song
3. Jimmy Morrow handles a serpent while preaching
4. Silas Crawford, Jason Barnes, and others handle
5. Jimmy continues to preach and handle
6. Jimmy lights a blow torch and handles fire
7. Jimmy's wife handles a serpent
8. Silas Crawford handles fire from a bottle

D-6 4/5/2004

Total Running Time

00:51:09 (blank footage on first track)

Scope and Contents note

Footage includes good rhythmic preaching by Jimmy Morrow and handling of copperheads.

Others Present

1. Pam Morrow
2. Jason Barnes and wife

D-7 6/12/2004

Total Running Time

00:53:36

Scope and Contents note

Although the group is small, this is good footage to illustrate the power of the tradition to continue with small, little known congregations. The service is typical of Jimmy Morrow's church consisting primarily of singing, Jimmy preaching, and additional testimony.

D-8: Homecoming Service 6/13/2004

Total Running Time

1:56:01

Scope and Contents note

This is a homecoming service with singing but no handling. Jimmy Morrow preaches; Rayford Dunn testifies.

D-9 unknown

Total Running Time

First Track: 1:00:41

Second Track: 00:31:07

Scope and Contents note

The footage on this disc is split into two tracks with the first portion of the service on the first track and the last half on the second track. Included in the first segment is a significant amount of singing. Jimmy Morrow and others handle copperheads. Morrow preaches. In the second segment, Morrow continues to preach and there is more singing and testifying.

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Series 3: Jolo, West Virginia 1989-2004

Scope and Contents note

The material in this series all takes place in Jolo, West Virginia at The Church of the Lord Jesus with Pastors Bob and Barb Elkins officiating, 1989-2001, and Pastors Kirby and Lydia Hollins officiating, 2002-2004.

J-1: Friday & Saturday, Homecoming Service 1989

Total Running Time

3:05:40

Scope and Contents note

Friday night and Saturday are on one disc. All of the major Jolo members are present. Barb is active in this service. There is a guitar solo during handling as well as a good extended dancing sequence.

Activities

1. Friday opens with prayer.
2. Bob Elkins acknowledges visiting preachers, urges everyone to “get into service”
3. Singing
4. Dewey handles
5. Unnamed guest preaches
6. Ray, Dewey and others handle in lovely subdued fashion to guitar solo
7. Barb testifies
8. Saturday begins with prayer and music
9. Handling by visitor

Others Present

1. Carl Porter
2. Ray McCalister

J-2: Sunday, Homecoming Service 1989

Total Running Time

3:02:47

Scope and Contents note

This disc contains good footage showing church's reaction to outside media. It opens with shots of Dewey Chafin, Barb and Bob Elkins. There is also a guest preacher. Dewey talks to camera, saying handling is "not for show." He also argues against media claiming "snake worship." On this tape Dewey claims to having been bitten 106 times. He describes what it is like to be bitten and how much it hurts. He also claims children are not allowed to handle.

J-3: Homecoming Service 1993

Total Running Time

Disc 1: 3:04:00

Disc 2: 2:57:00

Scope and Contents note

This footage is a good example of Jolo at its prime as a hub church. [At times, the video footage is of poor quality.]

Activities

1. Bob Elkins opens service
2. Glen Dukes preaches
3. Singing and dancing
4. Tim McCoy in "swirling" dance move
5. Many Jolo believers handle
6. Visitors Carl Porter, Bill Pelfrey, and Punkin Brown handle
7. Carl Porter testifies saying he is "not ashamed of the gospel"
8. Bob Elkins preaches/testifies

Others Present

1. Bob Elkins
2. Carl Porter & his first wife, Carolyn
3. Glenn Dukes
4. Punkin Brown

5. Bill Pelfrey

J-4: Homecoming Service 9/2/1995

Total Running Time

1:18:00

Scope and Contents note

This footage open with outside shots of Jolo with a shot of the posted church rules for members. There are also many good close-up shots of handling. [Editorial Note: This disc also includes the same footage contained on J-5.]

Additional Activities

1. Tim McCoy sings as Lydia Hollins plays piano in classic Jolo style
2. Dewey handles
3. Barb handles
4. Other Jolo regulars handle
5. Carl Porter handles
6. Barb Elkins testifies and bemoans loss of many of the "old ways"
7. Dewey handles (good view)
8. Barb testifies and argues against "women in pants, shorts, etc."
9. Continued handling by many Jolo regulars, including women
10. Singing

Others Present

1. David Kimbrough (author)
2. Ralph Hood
3. Lydia Hollins
4. Dewey Chafin
5. Carl Porter
6. Many other regular members

J-5: Homecoming Service 9/3/1995

Total Running Time

00:36:00

Scope and Contents note

This footage has interesting segments in which Barb Elkins handles serpents with her

granddaughter Lydia “Bugs” Hollins and her great granddaughter Melissa Evans. Barb also handles serpents with her son, Dewey Chafin. Richard Evans handles serpents with his wife Melissa. The dancing by members includes the twirling style typical of Jolo. The snakes appear to be more feisty than usual. [Editor's Note: This footage is also on J-4 and some of the activities listed may be on that disc instead.]

Additional Activities

1. Singing, worship, and dancing by members
2. Several rounds of serpent handling by many different members
3. Bob Elkins drinks strychnine
4. Various people testify, including Barb Elkins
5. Worship, singing, and dancing down front by attendees
6. Intermittent testimonies
7. Handling particularly by Jolo members
8. Fire handling
9. Several women handle
10. Jamie Coots and Carl Porter handle
11. Dancing
12. One man is bitten while handling and attempting to return snake to box, later handles 3-4 snakes at 1 time; others gather around him for prayer; he leaves the service

Others Present

1. Kirby Hollins
2. Ray and Ailene McCalister
3. Charles & Lucille Church
4. Carl and Carolyn Porter (Kingston, GA)
5. Timmy McCoy
6. Buddy and Ruby Jewel
7. Roy "Bootie" Christian
8. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY)
9. Dennis Covington (author)

J-6: Homecoming Service 8/31/1996

Total Running Time

2:00:25

Scope and Contents note

This is a Saturday night service with a large crowd.

Additional Activities

1. Bob Elkins opens the service
2. Prayer by attendees
3. Singing, dancing, and twirling break out down front
4. Strychnine drinking by 7 different persons
5. Brice Anderson preaches
6. Spencer Evans preaches

Handlers

1. Bob Elkins
2. Barb Elkins
3. Timmy McCoy
4. Jeff Hagaman
5. Lydia Hollins
6. Dewey Chafin
7. Joel Sherbert
8. Buddy Jewel
9. Richard Evans
10. Charles Church
11. Carl Porter
12. David Kimbrough
13. Kirby Hollins
14. Brice Anderson
15. Spencer Evans (three months after receiving an almost lethal bite)
16. Steve Porter
17. Roy "Bootie" Christian

J-7: Homecoming Service 9/01/1996

Total Running Time

1:13:45

Scope and Contents note

This is the Sunday homecoming service. Many people are present and there is a great deal of handling.

Additional Activities

1. Lydia Hollins opens on organ and singing
2. Dancing and twirling by Tim McCoy and Jeff Hagaman
3. Bob Elkins greets everyone and gives and instructions

4. Singing
5. Serpents are removed from boxes
6. Laying on of hands
7. Strychnine drinking
8. Testimonies and special singing by visitors

Handlers

1. Jeff Hagaman
2. Kirby Hollins
3. Lydia Hollins
4. Spencer Evans
5. Verlin Short
6. Tim McCoy
7. Joel Sherbert
8. Carl Porter
9. Melissa Evans
10. Dewey Chafin
11. Charles Church
12. Lucille Church
13. Buddy Jewel
14. Ruby Jewell

Others Present

1. Carl & Caroline Porter
2. Virgil Porter
3. Brice Anderson
4. Tammy Porter
5. Spencer Evans

J-8: Homecoming Service 8/30/1997

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

This contains some significant footage: there are three bites at this homecoming service.

Additional Activities

1. Bob Elkins welcomes people.
2. Music and dancing

3. Serpent handling by both men and women in the regular membership
4. Music, provided by Roy "Bootie" Christian.
5. Melissa Evans receives a bite on the arm from a rattlesnake; subsequent prayer from members; she leaves service but later returns to handle another serpent
6. Testimonies and preaching interspersed throughout service

Handlers

1. Glenn Dukes
2. Larry Muncie
3. Punkin Brown
4. Carl Porter
5. Bryan Cloyd

Others Present

1. Barb Elkins
2. David Kimbrough (author)
3. Roy "Bootie" Christian

J-9: Homecoming Service 8/31/1997

Total Running Time

1:46:30

Scope and Contents note

Before Sunday service begins, Barb Elkins checks on her great granddaughter Melissa Evans whose swollen arm, bitten the day before (see disc J-8), is resting on a pillow as she sits in the pew. Both a man and a woman (names unknown) receive serpent bites in this service. Although neither is clearly captured in the footage, the prayerful response by members to the bites is recorded. All three persons who were bitten in this homecoming are recorded in the footage as they sit side by side on the piano stool at end of service.

Additional Activities

1. Lydia Hollins opens service with singing
2. Congregants gather down front to worship and dance
3. Serpents are handled by regular Jolo members and those guests including listed above
4. Glenn Dukes and Billy Summerford preach
5. Kirby Hollins handles fire

Others Present

1. Jeff Hagaman
2. Larry Muncie
3. Paul Roberts
4. Punkin Brown
5. Nola Faye Roberts
6. Verlin Short
7. Bryan Cloyd

J-10: Homecoming Service 9/04/1998

Total Running Time

1:52:54

Scope and Contents note

The Friday night service opens with Tim McCoy singing. Serpent handling occurs among Jolo members as Barb Elkins looks on from a wheelchair. There is a lot of dancing, worship, and handling by both men and women. An admonition is given by Barb Elkins for lack of participation in worship by some. Various testimonies are offered, including one by Carl Porter. Bob Elkins preaches at the end of the service.

J-11: Homecoming Service 9/05/1998

Total Running Time

1:23:34

Scope and Contents note

The Saturday service begins with church singing. The believers gather down front to sing and dance. Serpents are handled by various men and women of Jolo. One man (name unknown) is bitten as he takes a serpent from a box. Laying on of hands follows. More handling follows, and Bob Elkins preaches while handling two serpents. Special singing by guests.

J-12: Homecoming Service 9/06/1998

Total Running Time

2:00:15

Scope and Contents note

The Sunday service has a somewhat low attendance. This is Barb Elkins' last homecoming service before her death. A special guest who is blind (name unknown)

provides the entire service with exceptional music. There is a lot of singing, dancing, and handling of serpents by men and women of Jolo. Testimonies are offered by Larry Muncie, Jimmy Salley, and Carl Porter. Other testimonies and songs follow including Barb Elkins. The footage ends with special singing.

J-13: Homecoming Service 9/04/1999

Total Running Time

2:00:20

Scope and Contents note

This is the first homecoming since Barbara Elkins' death.

Additional Activities

1. Bob Elkins testifies
2. Bootie and Dewey Chafin play guitars
3. Dancing
4. Bob Elkins removes a serpent from the box and handles
5. Jeff Hagaman and other men and women of Jolo join in the handling
6. Jeff Hagaman handles with and without music
7. Testimonies are interspersed throughout service
8. Dewey Chafin testifies while handling
9. Guest preaches
10. Jeff Hagaman preaches
11. Hagaman drinks strychnine
12. Lydia Hollins sings at keyboard

Others Present

1. Photographers

J-14: Homecoming Service 9/05/1999

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

Footage opens with Bob Elkins leading church in prayer.

Additional Activities

1. Lydia Hollins sings at keyboard
2. Believers gather in the front of the room to participate in worship
3. Singing and dancing
4. Three participants drink strychnine
5. Special singing and testimonies follow
6. Visiting preacher gives the final sermon

Handlers

1. Ruby Jewel
2. Ray McCalister
3. Dewey Chafin
4. Larry Muncie
5. Roy "Bootie" Christian
6. Melissa Evans
7. Cynthia Porter
8. Verlin Short
9. Richard Evans

J-15 9/25/1999

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

Footage shows a regular Jolo service with a small number who attend the service. There are many serpent boxes at altar, as many boxes there are participants.

Additional Activities

1. Prayer for the sick
2. Singing, dancing, and serpent handling
3. Bob Elkins preaches on tithes
4. Testimonies are offered by numerous persons
5. Laying on of hands

Handlers

1. Dewey Chafin
2. Ray McCalister
3. Richard Evans
4. Buddy Jewel

5. Ruby Jewel

J-16: Homecoming Service 9/01/2001

Total Running Time

1:00:40

Scope and Contents note

This footage includes very good shots of serpent boxes on altar and a great deal of Activities. Bob Elkins warns reporters not to come near serpents, warning that the church is not responsible for anybody who chooses to handle serpents. He says, "Better know what you are doing when you go to the box... They will bite and they will kill you. ... Make sure you know where you stand with the Lord before you go to the box." The service features wonderful dancing. A black preacher (name unknown) testifies he was on death row and placed in an electric chair that mal-functioned. Amazing story and "acted out" in a powerful demonstration.

Additional Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey handles large rattler
2. Dewey handles several serpents at once
3. Jolo regulars handle
4. Dancing with a good close-up of dance steps
5. Women handle

Others Present

1. Black preachers and musicians from Alabama
2. Cynthia Church Porter

J-17: Homecoming service 9/12/2001

Total Running Time

00:28:20

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Bob Elkins leads in prayer
2. Singing and worship
3. Believers move to the front of the room

4. Jeff Hagaman removes serpent from box and handles
5. Testimonies by Bob Elkins and others
6. Blind musician provides music
7. Close up shot of Dewey Chafin's recently bitten hand
8. Singing and serpent handling
9. Laying on of hands
10. Bob Elkins preaches
11. Large copperhead is passed around

Handlers

1. Ray McCalister
2. Dewey Chafin
3. Buddy Jewel
4. Larry Muncie
5. Carl Porter
6. Rayford Dunn
7. Cynthia Porter
8. Ruby Jewel
9. Roy "Bootie" Christian
10. Glenn Dukes

J-18: Friday & Saturday, Homecoming Service 2001

Total Running Time

Track 1: 00:56:17

Track 2: 00:47:23

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Bob Elkins opens Friday service with warning to reporters to stay away from area where serpents are handled
2. Melissa Evans plays piano and sings
3. Booty plays guitar
4. Dancing in typical Jolo style
5. Jeff Hagaman handles huge rattler
6. Others handle large serpents
7. Close-ups of handling by both Jolo regulars and visitors
8. Women handle
9. Glenn Dukes testifies
10. Jeff Hagaman opens Saturday service with a lot of handling by
11. Close-ups of people removing serpents from the box and replacing them

12. Bob Elkins prays for ill man
13. One man (name unknown) is bitten by a serpent and gives private testimony after service
14. Other serpent handlers offer their stories of serpent bites

Others Present

1. Ray McCallister
2. Verlin Short
3. Visiting black preacher from Alabama (name unknown)
4. Blind musician (name unknown)

J-19: Saturday, Homecoming Service under Kirby Hollins, Pastor 2002

Total Running Time

Track 1: 00:41:24

Track 2: 00:42:00

Scope and Contents note

Footage shows a good attendance. Marvelous sequence of Booty playing guitar as a guest (name unknown) handles a large rattler. Jolo regulars handle and dance. The son of a man killed twenty years ago returns. (Note: During the Sunday service on disc J-20, this man is bitten.) The service includes drinking poison.

J-20: Sunday, Homecoming Service 2002

Total Running Time

1:46:32

Scope and Contents note

The footage shows a man (name unknown) holding a huge nest of copperheads overhead. The copperheads are passed around in smaller clumps throughout the service. Booty plays the guitar. There is a tearful testimony by a Jolo woman (name unknown). Dancing sequence shows good close-ups of dance steps. Handling is done by Jolo regulars and by visitors such as Glenn Dukes. There is an interview with an unnamed man who is sitting in his truck outside the church. One unnamed man is bitten severely and talks about the experience.

Editor's Note: There is a short blank spot in the footage at around 42 minutes into the service. Also, there is an interview with Kirby Hollins' mother on this disc.

J-21 5/16/2004

Total Running Time

1:00:01

Scope and Contents note

This is important footage for documentation of the decline of the once mighty church at Jolo. Almost no one is in attendance. The service opens with Jolo women singing at the piano. Bob Elkins is present using an oxygen mask. Dewey and Jolo regulars talk of the decline of the Jolo church. Bob Elkins preaches. Bob Elkins talks with Ralph Hood and Paul Williamson about the decline of the church; then he needs to be put back on oxygen.
J-22: Saturday, Homecoming Service 9/04/2004

Total Running Time

2:00:25

Scope and Contents note

Jolo is definitely on the decline and unlikely to recover. There are few people in attendance. There is blank footage at the beginning.

Additional Activities

1. Bob Elkins (on oxygen) testifies
2. Singing and dancing
3. Handling by Richard Evans and other Jolo regulars such as Jeff Hagaman and Dewey Chafin.
4. Lydia Hollins reads from the Bible as Kirby comments (Note: This is close to an example of a woman preacher at Jolo)
5. Extended preaching by Kirby
6. Service concludes with great shots of handling by Richard Evans and Dewey

J-23: Homecoming Service 8/05/2004

Total Running Time

1:59:27

Scope and Contents note

Bob Elkins is present with a walker and oxygen. Only a small number of members are present. There are good shots of Bob handling several serpents at once and of Melissa

Evans handling a large rattler.

Additional Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey preaches an extended sermon
2. Melissa Evans plays the piano

Handlers

1. Bob Elkins
2. Dewey Chafin
3. Richard Evans
4. Larry Muncie
5. Melissa Evans

J-24 9/04/2004

Total Running Time

1:59:00

Scope and Contents note

Several men handling multiple snakes.

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Series 4: Kingston, Georgia 1994-2003

Scope and Contents note

The material in this series all takes place in Kingston, Georgia at The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ with Pastor Carl Porter officiating.

K-1 7/30/1994

Total Running Time

1:28:51

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey opens service with testimony and calls believers to altar for prayer

2. Billy Lemming leads singing
3. Others sings and offer testimonies
4. Pastor Carl Porter testifies, sings a song, and takes up a serpent
5. Porter is bitten by the copperhead but continues singing
6. Bill Pelfrey comes to microphone to announce that Brother Porter is doing fine and that saints should not worry about him, but continue to pray for him
7. Singing by Brenda Brown and Diane Tucker
8. Sister Pelfrey gives out a message in tongues

K-2 01/14/1995

Total Running Time

1:59:30

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows extensive handling as well as drinking strychnine.

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with altar prayer
2. Carl Porter talks to observers and urges church to get into service
3. Jamie Coots (Middlesboro, KY) leads in song
4. Dancing by members
5. Singers provide music
6. Long handling sequence with testifying, music, and dancing
7. Kimbrough briefly handles
8. Porter preaches and drinks strychnine
9. Two others (names unknown) drink as well
10. Testimonies/preaching
11. Junior McCormick removes serpent from box and passes to others

Handlers

1. Junior McCormick
2. Rayford Dunn
3. Shade Miller
4. Bill Pelfrey
5. Billy Lemming
6. Punkin Brown
7. Carl Porter

Others Present

1. Camera crew
2. Dennis Covington (author)
3. David Kimbrough (author)
4. Don Davis (sociologist)
5. Bill Pelfrey's wife

K-3 02/04/1995

Total Running Time

1:59:29

Scope and Contents note

One additional photographer and Bob Hopkins (psychologist) are present.

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter opens service with prayer and laying on of hands
2. Billy Lemming leads in song
3. Believers worship and dance
4. Laying on of hands
5. Billy Lemming goes to box and removes serpent
6. Porter testifies while handling large serpent
7. Pelfrey drinks strychnine
8. Testimonies are offered
9. Bill Pelfrey preaches
10. Church enters worship again with dancing
11. Porter closes service
12. Shade Miller and Bill Pelfrey also handle

K-4 02/18/1995

Total Running Time

00:45:00

Scope and Contents note

Footage shows an outside shot of the Kingston church stone/brick refacing. Among the outsiders present are David Kimbrough (author) and one additional still camera person.

Additional Activities

1. Jamie Coots sings
2. Carl Porter removes serpents from box
3. Porter testifies
4. Handling
5. Junior McCormick continues to handle and testifies while others sing
6. Carl Porter continues handling and testifying
7. Estel (last name unknown) handles for first time
8. Laying on hands by believers
9. Black man (name unknown) testifies

Handlers

1. Junior McCormick
2. Shade Miller
3. Punkin Brown
4. Bill Pelfrey
5. Diane Frazier
6. Carl Porter

K-5 03/11/1995

Total Running Time

00:34:41

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Carl and Carolyn Porter sing
2. Laying on hands by Junior McCormick
3. Carl Porter preaches
4. Serpent handling begins with Junior McCormick going to box
5. Porter, Pelfrey, and McCormick all handling at once
6. Bill Pelfrey hands serpent to his wife who handles
7. Small child dancing (name unknown)
8. Carl Porter testifies
9. Dr. Hood reports results of independent chemical analysis of strychnine to church
10. Diane Tucker and other women dance
11. Brandon Nietzle slain in the spirit

K-6 04/15/1995

Total Running Time

00:24:29

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Carl Porter opens with singing and testifying
2. Carl goes to box and removes serpent
3. Carl Porter testifies
4. Laying on of hands
5. Dancing
6. Woman (name unknown) slain in spirit
7. More dancing and handling by Junior McCormick, Estel (last name unknown), Shade Miller, and Billy Lemming.

K-7 05/06/1995

Total Running Time

00:32:42

Scope and Contents note

A crew from the TV show "Hard Copy" is present. (Note: TV segment aired 5-30-95 based on tapings from this service. See disc K-8).

Additional Activities

1. Jamie Coots opens with singing
2. Dancing
3. Extended footage of Junior and Carl handling multiple serpents
4. Junior testifies while holding serpent
5. Carl Porter and Billy Lemming take drinks of strychnine
6. David Kimbrough briefly handles
7. Laying on of hands
8. Handling and dancing by Carl Porter, Bill Pelfrey, Junior McCormick, Shade Miller, Estel (last name unknown), Billy Lemming, Sister Pelfrey

Others Present

1. Bill Pelfrey's first wife

K-8 05/27/1995

Total Running Time

00:36:00 (the last 3 minutes of the tape include footage from a television show, Hard Copy)

Scope and Contents note

This is an interesting service as the church lights keep going off and on during a thunderstorm. Handling continues even under these conditions. There is dancing, handling, and testimony interspersed throughout. Middlesboro and Jolo churches present. Carl Porter hands a serpent to psychologist observer Bob Hopkins who handles for first time. Carl also offers serpent to Paul Williamson (cameraman) who refuses.

Handlers

1. Billy Lemming
2. Junior McCormick
3. Dewey Chafin
4. Carl Porter
5. Barb Elkins
6. Bob Elkins
7. Jeff Hagaman
8. Larry Muncie
9. Glenn Dukes
10. Roy "Bootie" Christian
11. Rayford Dunn
12. Jimmy Salley
13. David Kimbrough
14. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins

Others Present

1. David Kimbrough (author)
2. Bob Hopkins (psychologist, observer)
3. Paul Williamson (cameraman)

K-9 09/16/1995

Total Running Time

00:38:36 (starting at around 00:23:10, contains footage from 09/17/1995)

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Jamie Coots opens with singing
2. Junior McCormick handling
3. Believers worship and dance
4. Extensive handling continues
5. Carl Porter testifies/preaches

Handlers

1. Estel (last name unknown)
2. Shade Miller
3. Brandon Nietzle
4. Glen Adkins
5. Ethel Miler
6. Steve Porter
7. Billy Lemming
8. Bil Pelfrey

K-10 09/17/1995

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Service opens with singing
2. Dancing
3. Glen Adkins sings
4. Junior McCormick removes serpent from box
5. All attendees listed above join in the handling at different times
6. Sister Pelfrey sings "Gathering Buds for the Master's Bouquet" in a touching sequence
7. Jamie Coots testifies while holding large cotton mouth
8. Brice Anderson handles for the first time
9. Additional handling and testimonies

Others Present

1. Gene Sherbert
2. Billy Summerford
3. Shade Miller
4. Brandon and Delphia Nietzle
5. Glenn Dukes
6. Fanny Bell Baker
7. Ethel Miller
8. Estel (last name unknown)
9. Diane Tucker

10. Carl Porter
11. Bill Pelfrey and his wife

Total Running Time

00:42:42
K-11 10/21/1995

Total Running Time

00:46:00

Scope and Contents note

Handlers

1. Carl Porter
2. Junior McCormick
3. Estel (last name unknown)
4. Shade Miller
5. Brandon Nietzle
6. Steve Porter
7. Glen Adkins
8. Bobbie Sue Lynn

Additional Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey opens with singing
2. Worship and dancing
3. Junior McCormick goes to box and removes large serpent
4. McCormick rubs socked foot over serpent on floor
5. Carl Porter testifies while holding serpents
6. Handling of serpents back and forth
7. Laying on of hands led by Bill Pelfrey and others
8. Prayerful activities in church as Porter testifies
9. Hood called up to testify on strychnine and new translations of Bible
10. Glen Adkins preaches to end of tape

Editor's Note: The date and time listed are correct, but the contents of the film footage does not correspond to the written description (taken from the creator's notes). The original written description is provided below.

K-12 11/11/1995

Total Running Time

1:35:00

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows a large crowd in attendance with lots of handling, worship, dancing and some fire handling.

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with music
2. Carl Porter testifies
3. Glen Adkins leads singing
4. Paul Roberts goes to box and removes serpents
5. All individuals listed above handle at various times
6. Lots of handling, worship, and dancing
7. Glen Adkins handles fire from bottle while others handle serpents
8. Shade Miller rubs socked foot on serpent
9. Glen Adkins preaches on peeled rods, using visual aids
10. Glen Adkins at church pews preaching
11. Altar service with laying on of hands

Handlers

1. Paul Roberts
2. Bill Lemming
3. Steve Porter
4. Brandon & Delphia Nietzle
5. Glen Adkins
6. Shade & Gail Miller
7. Estel (last name unknown)
8. Gail Miller
9. Fanny Bell Baker
10. Steve Porter
11. Bobbie Sue Lynn
12. Bill Pelfrey and his first wife
13. Elderly female from Sand Mountain (name unknown)

K-13 11/18/1995

Total Running Time

1:30:47

Scope and Contents note

David Kimbrough (author) and another camera crew are present. Porter warns that serpents can bite and kill. There is continual handling by all during the service.

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter opens service
2. Billy Lemming leads singing, followed by others
3. Junior McCormick removes serpent from box
4. Carl Porter testifies
5. Singing and handling by both men and women continues
6. Shade rubs serpent with foot
7. Carl handles big water moccasin then testifies, "This is real"
8. Jamie Coots sings
9. Billy Summerford testifies followed others
10. Carl Porter dismisses church in prayer

Handlers

1. Brandon Nietzle
2. Estel (last name unknown)
3. Billy Summerford
4. Shade Miller
5. Gene Sherbert
6. Jamie Coots
7. Carl Porter
8. Junior McCormick

K-14 12/02/1995

Total Running Time

1:43:17

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Carl Porter opens service, then testifies/preaches
2. Glen Adkins sings
3. Junior McCormick goes to the box and handles large serpent
4. Billy Summerford and Paul Roberts handle
5. Glen Adkins handles as he sings
6. Carl Porter handles as he testifies
7. Bill Pelfrey sings
8. Joyce Summerford sings

9. Laying on of hands
10. Porter preaches
11. Testimonies from Billy Summerford, Brandon Nietzle, Carolyn Porter, Rayford Dunn, Gene Sherbert, Glen Adkins, elder female twin (name unknown)

Others Present

1. Paul Roberts
2. Carolyn Porter

K-15 1/27/1996

Total Running Time

1:45:00

Scope and Contents note

This footage is video only; there is no sound on the disc. An interesting feature is a “victory march” around the building followed by testimonies.

[Editor's Note: Though the original notes for this footage indicate that there is no sound on the disc, there is indeed sound throughout. Following footage of the service is a 12 minute clip about the Jolo, WV, church from a Fox Network program “Encounters: Mysteries of the Mind: The Hidden Truth.” Those interviewed are: David Kimbrough, Dewey Chafin, Ralph Hood, Carl Porter, Tim McCoy, and Bob Elkins.]

Additional Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey begins service with testimony
2. Joyce Summerford, Brenda Brown, Diane Tucker, and Spencer Evans' wife sing
3. Billy Summerford goes to serpent box and handles
4. Pelfrey and others lay on hands as worship continues
5. “Victory march” around the building
6. Testimonials
7. Spencer Evans gives sermon
8. Laying on of hands followed by testimonies

Handlers

1. Junior McCormick
2. Joel Sherbert
3. Shade Miller
4. Rayford Dunn
5. Bill Pelfrey and wife

6. Carl Porter
7. Gene Sherbert
8. Diane Tucker
9. Joyce Summerford
10. Spencer Evans
11. Bobbie Sue Lynn

K-16 2/23/1996

Total Running Time

1:55:00

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows lots of handling including a bite by a copperhead and the drinking of strychnine. [Editor's Note: The video metadata gives the date as 2/24/1996.]

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter opens service by setting boundaries for handling serpents
2. Junior McCormick removes serpents from box
3. Songs and testimonies
4. Carl Porter preaches and sings while handling a serpent
5. Junior McCormick is bitten by a copperhead
6. Church members pray and lay hands on McCormick
7. McCormick continues to participate in service and preaches the validity of signs
8. Porter asks Misty Williamson (Paul Williamson's daughter) to sing
9. Two unidentified participants drink strychnine
10. Aunt Daisy (last name unknown) is honored for her 89th birthday

Handlers

1. Billy Summerford
2. David Kimbrough (author)
3. Junior McCormick
4. Brice Anderson
5. Carl Porter
6. Bill Pelfrey
7. Gene Sherbert

K-17 3/02/1996

Total Running Time

1:57:30

Scope and Contents note

The footage contains a brief interview with Junior McCormick showing swollen finger from an earlier copperhead bite. (See tape K-16, 2-23-1996).

Additional Activities

1. Spencer Evans opens service
2. Billy Lemming and others sing
3. Punkin Brown sings
4. Spencer Evans drinks strychnine
5. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins sings
6. Laying on of hands
7. Dancing and testimonies, including one by Aunt Daisy
8. Spencer Evans and Punkin Brown preach

Handlers

1. Joel Sherbert
2. Gene Sherbert
3. Spencer Evans
4. Carl Porter
5. Junior McCormick

K-18 1/06/1996

Total Running Time

1:13:40

Scope and Contents note

This is a small service with only one musician. There is extended handling. At one point Billy Summerford turns his serpent over. This is a controversial move for handlers: some say this makes a serpent unable to strike.

Additional Activities

1. Bill Pelfrey sings
2. Carl Porter opens service with prayer requests
3. Anointing and praying over prayer cloths
4. Bill Pelfrey exhorts and testifies

5. Carl Porter preaches
6. Bobbie Sue Lynn sings
7. Carolyn Porter sing
8. Estel (last name unknown) removes serpent from box and handles
9. Carl testifies
10. Spencer Evans preaches while handling serpents

Handlers

1. Billy Summerford
2. Carl Porter
3. Shade Miller
4. Carol Porter
5. Estel
6. Spencer Evans

K-19: Homecoming Service 5/24/1996

Total Running Time

1:26:59

Scope and Contents note

Several people from Jolo, WV, are present, including Barb and Bob Elkins. There is extended handling in this service.

Additional Activities

1. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins plays the organ
2. Singing, worship, and dancing
3. Punkin Brown sings and preaches
4. Others sing and testify
5. Carl Porter removes serpent from box
6. Carl Porter walks on a serpent with his full weight
7. Handling
8. Bob Elkins preaches
9. Spencer Evans preaches
10. Gene Sherbert testifies to end service

Handlers

1. Billy Summerford
2. Bill Pelfrey
3. Shade Miller

4. Ethel Miller
5. Dewey Chafin
6. Gene Sherbert and son Joel
7. Bob Elkins
8. Buddy and Ruby Jewel
9. Brice Anderson
10. Lucille Church
11. Carl Porter
12. Barb Elkins

K-20: Homecoming Service 5/25/1996

Total Running Time

00:59:22

Scope and Contents note

[Editor's Note: Many members of the Jolo church are present at this service.]

Additional Activities

1. Punkin Brown sings
2. Others singing
3. Junior McCormick goes to box for serpent
4. Lucille Church and Cecil Eslinger sing
5. Laying on of hands
6. Carl Porter preaches while holding large serpent
7. Brother Kenny (last name unknown) from Big Stone Gap, VA testifies

Handlers

1. Bill Pelfrey
2. Steve Porter
3. Spencer Evans
4. Brother Kenny
5. Brice Anderson
6. Verlin Short
7. Junior McCormick
8. Carl Porter

K-21: Homecoming Service 5/26/1996

Total Running Time

1:33:35

Scope and Contents note

This footage features extended serpent handling as well as drinking strychnine and walking on a serpent. Several people from Morristown (TN), Sand Mountain (AL), and Middlesboro (KY) are in attendance. The service closes for a rare event – a wedding ceremony of a non-serpent handling couple, conducted by Brice Anderson.

Additional Activities

1. Jamie Coots opens service with singing
2. Laying on of hands
3. Singing
4. Junior McCormick removes serpent from box and handles
5. Women laying on hands and praying
6. Dancing
7. Billy Summerford walks on serpent.
8. Laying on of hands
9. Several testimonies
10. Spencer Evans drinks strychnine

Handlers

1. Gene Sherbert
2. Bill Pelfrey and his wife (name unknown)
3. Carl Porter
4. Joel Sherbert
5. Brother Kenny
6. Billy Summerford
7. Carl Turner
8. Shade Miller
9. Ethel Miller
10. Spencer Evans and his wife (name unknown)
11. Verlin Short
12. J.L. Dyal
13. Punkin Brown
14. elderly female twin (name unknown)
15. Delphia Nietzle
16. Brice Anderson
17. Bobbie Sue Lynn
18. Diane Tucker
19. Brenda Brown (see her interview tape)
20. Alan Williams

21. Arnold Saylor (IN)

K-22 6/08/1996

Total Running Time

1:35:25

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Carl Porter opens service
2. Billy Lemming plays guitar as Carl sings
3. Arnold Saylor exhorts and sings
4. Testimonies
5. Laying on hands
6. Singing
7. Carl Porter takes up large serpent
8. Shade and Ethel Miller handle
9. Bill Pelfrey sings and testifies/preaches
10. Arnold Saylor (IN) present

K-23 6/29/1996

Total Running Time

1:44:23

Scope and Contents note

The footage opens with a discussion with Spencer Evans outside the church on his nearly fatal serpent bite. Spencer discusses how surgeons saved his arm.

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter opens service
2. Singing
3. Carl Porter handles
4. Carl preaches
5. Billy Sumerford preaches
6. Bill Pelfrey reaches and testifies on "signs"

Others Present

1. Carolyn Porter
2. Porter's sons (names unknown)

K-24 9/07/1996

Total Running Time

1:37:04

Scope and Contents note

Small service for Georgia at this time with good handling scenes. The handling is done in a low key, slow manner.

Additional Activities

1. Carl opens service
2. Singing and dancing
3. Carl removes serpent from box and handles
4. Spencer handles
5. Billy Summerford handles as do others
6. Glenn Dukes sings
7. Brice Anderson testifies

Others Present

1. Carolyn Porter
2. Billy Sue (last name unknown)
3. Carl's sons and their wives (names unknown)
4. Bill Pelfrey
5. Spencer Evans

K-25 10/12/1996

Total Running Time

1:45:58

Scope and Contents note

The footage includes good handling segments. The video ends with brief interview of Ethyl Miller about her recent copperhead bite, with a close-up of her hand and of the snake that bit her, followed by a brief discussion with Carl Porter about the bite he

receives in this service.

Additional Activities

1. Brandon Nietzle at pulpit
2. Billy Lemming sings
3. Spencer Evans goes to box for serpents
4. Carl Porter is bitten trying to put serpents back into box; there seems to be little harm
5. Porter and Joel Sherbert handle again, then put serpents away
6. Carl says, "I do not mind getting bit like that"
7. Laying hands on church members
8. Prayer Activities
9. Various testimonies and songs
10. Carl Porter removes serpent from box again and briefly handles
11. Testimonies

Handlers

1. Carl Porter
2. Joel Sherbert (escapes near bite)
3. Gene Sherbert
4. Junior McCormick
5. Bill Pelfrey
6. Estel (last name unknown)
7. Spencer Evans

K-26 10/26/1996

Total Running Time

1:51:00

Scope and Contents note

In this footage there are about 45-55 in attendance. Jamie Coots preaches with intense power. There is also an additional camera present.

Additional Activities

1. Carl opens service
2. Church members request prayer
3. Singing
4. Spencer goes to box
5. Jamie Coots sings and later handles

6. Billy Lemming sings
7. Carl walks with serpent, testifying with serpent in hand
8. Jamie preaches with intense power
9. Spencer Evans preaches/testifies
10. Bill Pelfrey preaches for an extended time
11. Testimonies by members

Others Present

1. Carl's sons (names not given)
2. Rayford Dunn

K-27 11/30/1996

Total Running Time

1:37:15

Scope and Contents note

This presents good footage of glossolalia. There is a guest preacher from KY (name unknown) who preaches for an extended time.

Additional Activities

1. Carl opens service
2. Bill Pelfrey sings
3. Shade Miller handles large rattler as does
4. Bill Pelfrey handles large rattler
5. Carl Porter handles large rattler
6. Porter's first wife (name unknown) lays hands on women
7. Extended preaching by guest preacher from Kentucky

K-28 2/01/1997

Total Running Time

1:32:25

Scope and Contents note

In attendance on this footage are visiting students from Dalton College with professor of sociology, Don Davis.

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter's son (name unknown) opens service
2. Singing
3. Joyce Summerford handles
4. Other women handle
5. Carl testifies
6. Bill Pelfrey preaches ("heaven is 1500 miles long!")
7. Singing ends service
8. Kirby and Lydia Hollins are in attendance [Editorial addition]

K-29 4/19/1997

Total Running Time

1:07:14

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Spencer Evans opens the service
2. Altar prayer
3. Joel Sherbert leads singing
4. Carl Porter testifies
5. Bill Pelfrey removes large serpent from box and handles
6. Singing and joyful activities in church
7. Testimonies and songs
8. Laying on of hands
9. Victory march with eight members
10. More handling
11. Spencer Evans preaches
12. Sister Pelfrey (first name unknown) testifies and sings

Handlers

1. Carl Porter
2. Steve Porter
3. Spencer Evans
4. Billy Lemming
5. Junior McCormick
6. Bill Pelfrey

K-30 5/23/1997

Total Running Time

1:44:05

Scope and Contents note

This is a very active service with lots of handling including passing serpents from one person to another and buck dancing. (Note: At this point Carolyn Porter is no longer living with Carl Porter as wife; she is absent from services.)

Additional Activities

1. Opens with singing by Tammy Porter, Lydia and Kirby Hollins, Punkin Brown, Charles Church, Bill Pelfrey, Lucille Church, Ruby Jewel, Larry Muncie, and Roy "Bootie" Christian on guitar
2. Glen Dukes asks for prayer for young girl
3. Billy Lemming playing as Joel Sherbert sings
4. Lucille Church sings
5. Long sequence of handling during which:
6. Spencer Evans plays bongo drums
7. Carl Porter testifies
8. Punkin Brown testifies
9. Ruby Jewel and Steve Porter buck dance
10. Joel Sherbert is nearly bitten
11. Church members show concern
12. Continuous handling scenes
13. All serpents are returned to boxes
14. Carol Porter testifies
15. Visiting brothers (names unknown) testify
16. Carl asks Brother Dexter (last name unknown) to testify
17. Service becomes active again with buck dancing, singing, laying on of hands, anointing with oil
18. Some members are slain in the spirit
19. Spencer Evans testifies
20. Music by Bootie as heavy handling Activities continues
21. Glenn Dukes preaches
22. Author David Kimbrough is present

Handlers

1. Bill Pelfrey goes to box, removes serpents, hands one serpent to Joel Sherbert
2. Pelfrey keeps one serpent for himself
3. Dewey Chafin takes serpent from Bill Pelfrey
4. Chafin hands to Punkin Brown who handles and places back in box
5. Steve Porter handles and dances with two serpents
6. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins twirls, falls to carpet, and crawls to serpent box
7. Lydia removes serpent and handles

8. Punkin Brown removes serpent from box and handles while continuing to testify
9. Buddy's wife handles
10. Dewey Chafin gets serpent from Lydia "Bugs" Hollins
11. Larry Muncie handles
12. Muncie gives serpent to Rayford Dunn
13. Kirby Hollins handles and gives serpent to Verlin Short
14. Charles Church takes serpent from Verlin Short
15. Short handles while dancing with Carl Porter
16. Short passes serpent to Bill Pelfrey
17. Lucille Church takes serpent from Bill Pelfrey and dances while handling
18. Kirby takes serpent from Lucille
19. Joel Sherbert and Punkin Brown are handling serpents on stage
20. Glenn Dukes handles, then gives serpent to Carl
21. Carl Porter handles serpent
22. Punkin Brown puts his serpent into the box
23. Carl offers serpent to visiting male church member (name unknown)
24. Buddy Jewel hands serpent to Bootie
25. Larry Muncie
26. Joel Sherbert
27. Carl Porter
28. Glenn Dukes handles and returns serpent to box
29. Dewey
30. Spencer goes to box with anointed handkerchief and picks up serpent with it
31. Punkin Brown handles
32. Joel Sherbert (removes from box)
33. Steve Porter (removes from box)
34. Kirby handles
35. Verlin handles
36. Punkin Brown
37. Carl (removes from box)
38. Joel hands serpent to Lydia
39. Carl hands serpent to Diane Tucker
40. Punkin Brown
41. Joel Sherbert
42. Dewey Chafin
43. Lydia
44. Verlin buck steps while handling
45. Glenn Dukes
46. Punkin Brown takes serpent from Joel
47. Billy Lemming
48. Joel with nest of serpents
49. Bill Pelfrey hands serpent to his wife
50. Mrs. Pelfrey holds briefly and gives back to husband
51. Bill hands same serpent to Joel
52. Joel hands serpent to Billy Lemming (good slow shots)

53. Billy handles while praying for church member and returns serpent to box

Others Testifying

1. Dewey Chafin
2. Verlin Short
3. Kirby Hollins
4. Lucille Church
5. Buddy Jewel
6. Lydia Hollins
7. Roy "Bootie" Christian
8. Sally D. Hunt

K-31: Homecoming Service 5/24/1997

Total Running Time

1:43:43

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows another good serpent handling service. The Jolo (WV), Middlesboro (KY), and Sand Mountain (AL) churches are well represented. Children are present. This service contains a lot of dancing, handling, and testimony. There is an extended segment of Carl Porter testifying.

Additional Activities

1. Altar prayer
2. Billy Lemming and Jamie Coots sing
3. Carl Porter testifies
4. Buddy Jewel removes serpent from box
5. Carl Porter testifies
6. More worship, dancing, praying, serpent handling
7. Children sing

Handlers

1. Junior McCormick
2. Billy Summerford
3. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins
4. Larry Muncie
5. Punkin Brown
6. Joel Sherbert
7. Rayford Dunn

8. Bill Pelfrey
9. Paul Roberts
10. Barb Elkins
11. Bob Elkins
12. David Kimbrough (author)
13. Diane Frazier
14. Spencer Evans
15. Bruce Helton
16. Jamie Coots
17. Sherman Ward
18. Nola Faye Roberts
19. Diane Tucker
20. Joyce Summerford
21. Lucille Church
22. Roy "Bootie" Christian
23. Steve Porter
24. Buddy Jewel

Others Present

1. Another camera crew
2. Aunt Daisy (last name unknown)

K-32 5/25/1997

Total Running Time

1:50:39

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Music, dancing, and testimonies
2. Joel Sherbert sings
3. Kirby Hollins starts the handling
4. Footage ends with testimonies by Carl Porter, David Kimbrough, Louis Hobbs, Bobbie Sue Lynn

Handlers

1. Paul Roberts
2. Billy Summerford
3. Larry Muncie
4. Punkin Brown
5. Sherman Ward

6. Joel Sherbert
7. Carl Porter
8. Jamie Coots
9. Glenn Dukes
10. Bruce Helton
11. Verlin Short
12. David Kimbrough (author)
13. Bill Pelfrey and his wife
14. Aunt Daisy (last name unknown)
15. Diane Tucker
16. Linda Coots
17. Rayford Dunn
18. Joel Sherbert handles wild, striking serpent
19. Kirby Hollins

Others Present

1. Another camera crew present
2. Churches of Jolo (WV), Middlesboro (KY), and Sand Mountain (AL) are well represented
3. Bob and Barb Elkins
4. Joyce Summerford

K-33 9/13/1997

Total Running Time

2:00:25

Scope and Contents note

This is a much smaller service from the preceding ones. Another camera crew is present.

Additional Activities

1. Bobbie Smart testifies and leads with opening prayer
2. Billy Lemming sings and leads worship
3. Bobby Smart and Carl Porter testify
4. Junior McCormick removes large serpent from box
5. Laying on of hands
6. Preaching by guest preacher (name unknown)
7. Testimonies and preaching by Carl Porter
8. Punkin Brown preaches and handles
9. Guest preacher and Billy Lemming handle
10. Testimonies

Handlers

1. Carl Porter
2. David Kimbrough (author)
3. Louis Hobbs
4. Bobbie Sue Lynn
5. Junior McCormick
6. Punkin Brown
7. Billy Lemming
8. Guest preacher

K-34 10/22/1997

Total Running Time

1:26:58

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows a difficult service with small numbers and few musicians. [Editor's Note: Though the original description of this disc indicates that it was filmed on 10/22/1997, the metadata included on the disc gives a record date of 11/22/1997.]

Additional Activities

1. Junior McCormick opens with singing
2. Virgil and Carl Porter sing
3. Carl Porter preaches
4. Carl places serpent box on rail of altar but no serpents are removed
5. Songs and testimonies
6. Junior McCormick testifies and removes large serpent
7. Dancing
8. Porter lays hands on several church members in a circle

K-35 4/25/1998

Total Running Time

1:42:37

Scope and Contents note

This is a relatively small service.

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter sings
2. Louis Hobbs dances
3. Larry Pelfrey on guitar
4. Carl Porter testifies then sings
5. Virgil Porter testifies
6. Fanny Bell Baker, Diane and Crystal Tucker sing
7. Charles (last name unknown; guest preacher from Alabama) preaches
8. Porter sings
9. Joyce Summerford sings
10. Billy Summerford handles
11. Singing
12. Carl anoints and prays for church members
13. Others testify: Billy Summerford, Brice Anderson, James Wade, Junior McCormick

Handlers

1. Carol & Steve Porter
2. Louis Hobbs
3. James Wade
4. Billy Summerford

K-36: Homecoming Service 5/22/1998

Total Running Time

00:58:45

Scope and Contents note

The footage shows a church that is clearly in decline. Only a small number of people are present, and the service never “gets off the ground.” James Wade is present as one of the few visitors. Carl Porter opens the service and announces serpents are available. Singing stops and starts as an effort is made to “get into” the service. There are testimonies and more singing. Carl handles.

K-37: Homecoming Service 5/24/1998

Total Running Time

1:40:35

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. J.D. singing
2. Joyce Summerford sings
3. Virgil Porter sings
4. Billy Summerford removes serpent from box.
5. Porter preaches
6. Special songs and testimonies
7. Jamie Coots sings and then preaches
8. Lucille Church sings and plays keyboard

Handlers

1. Jamie Coots
2. Carl Porter
3. James Wade
4. Linda Coots
5. Cynthia Church
6. Brice Anderson
7. J.D.
8. Billy Summerford

Others Present

1. J.D. (full name unknown-possibly J.L. Dyal?), Sand Mountain, AL

K-38 6/06/1998

Total Running Time

1:52:00

Scope and Contents note

This is another small and slow service.

Additional Activities

1. Junior McCormick testifies and then sings
2. James Wade testifies
3. Brice Anderson testifies
4. Margaret Baker sings
5. Carl Porter testifies
6. Brice Anderson preaches, gives altar call, and prays for church members
7. James Wade sings
8. Carl helps Junior McCormick to remove large serpent from the box
9. Junior McCormick dancing with a wild serpent

10. Carl Porter handles
11. James Wade handles
12. Dancing, worship, and laying on of hands
13. Virgil Porter testifies

K-39 1/30/1999

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

This is unique footage with simultaneous fire and serpent handling. Only a small number are in attendance.

Additional Activities

1. Junior McCormick sings and testifies
2. Fanny Bell Baker sings
3. Laying on of hands
4. Steve and Carl Porter sing
5. Carl Porter testifies in extended segment
6. Carl sings
7. Steve Porter removes two serpents from box and rubs socked foot on two serpents
8. Steve then lights bottle and handles fire while handling serpent
9. Junior McCormick handles serpent and (later) fire
10. Carl Porter sings and testifies
11. Larry Pelfrey sings
12. Junior McCormick testifies in extended segment

Others Present

1. Carl Porter and second wife, Cynthia Church

K-40 5/08/1999

Total Running Time

1:59:30

Scope and Contents note

In this footage the few church members in attendance react to Carl Porter's marriage to Cynthia Church. There is an extended segment on speaking in tongues (not interpreted)

as well as drinking.

Additional Activities

1. Tony (last name unknown) leads the beginning of the service
2. Junior McCormick sings, then testifies
3. Virgil Porter plays drums and sings
4. Speaking in tongues (not interpreted)
5. Carl Porter sings and testifies
6. Junior McCormick removes serpent from box, handles, and testifies
7. Brice Anderson drinks strychnine
8. Carl Porter handles and sings
9. Brice Anderson preaches
10. Service ends with altar call and prayer

K-41: Homecoming Service 5/29/1999

Total Running Time

1:55:00

Scope and Contents note

This is an unusual service; a Black congregation had been invited by Carl Porter. A camera crew was present to tape service. Some Jolo Church members are also in attendance. After handling by Jesus Only tradition church members, the service is turned over to the visiting Black congregation.

Additional Activities

1. Brice Anderson opens service with scripture reading and then testifies
2. Paul Roberts removes a serpent from the box and handles
3. Dancing
4. Carl Porter holds serpent while testifying
5. Black men's choir sings
6. Black women's choir sings
7. Testimonies
8. Visiting Black elder preaches
9. Carl Porter dismisses congregation

Handlers

1. Paul Roberts
2. Carl Porter
3. Junior McCormick

4. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins
5. Charles Church
6. Rayford Dunn
7. Tony (last name unknown)
8. Lucille Church
9. Glenn Dukes
10. Brice Anderson
11. Cynthia Church Porter

K-42: Homecoming Service 5/30/1999

Total Running Time

1:59:29

Scope and Contents note

At this service another camera person is present taking still photos only. Attendance is low. For much of the time serpents are laid on the pulpit, taken up, and returned.

Additional Activities

1. Junior McCormick opens service with testimony and prayer requests
2. Altar call
3. Don (last name unknown), a blind man, sings and plays guitar with unique style
4. Junior McCormick sings
5. Lucille Church plays keyboard and sings with McCormick
6. James Wade testifies, then sings
7. Junior McCormick testifies
8. Aunt Daisy (last name unknown) testifies
9. Joyce Summerford sings
10. Carl Porter removes serpent from box
11. Testimonies and singing
12. Songs and testimonies

Handlers

1. Junior McCormick
2. Billy Summerford
3. Lucille Church
4. Barbara Coleman (Lucille Church's daughter)
5. James Wade
6. Gene Sherbert
7. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins
8. Cynthia Church Porter
9. Tony (last name unknown)

10. Carl Porter
11. New female handler (name unknown)
12. Visiting preacher (name unknown)

K-43: Kingston Church under Brice Anderson, Pastor 4/08/2000

Total Running Time

1:59:32

Scope and Contents note

Footage shows a small congregation. An additional camera crew is still present at this service.

Additional Activities

1. Brice Anderson testifying
2. Altar call
3. Tony (last name unknown) sings
4. Junior McCormick testifies
5. Singing by different persons
6. Carl Porter takes up serpent
7. Brice Anderson preaches in extended segment
8. Laying on of hands during singing and prayer Activities
9. Tony sings

Handlers

1. Junior McCormick
2. Tony
3. Louis Hobbs
4. Diane Tucker
5. Carl Porter (testifies while handling)
6. Arnold Saylor (IN) takes serpent from Carl and handles

K-44: Homecoming Service under Brice Anderson, Pastor 5/28/2000

Total Running Time

1:51:26

Scope and Contents note

Additional Activities

1. Brice Anderson opens service
2. Altar call
3. Tony (last name unknown) and Steve Porter sing
4. Tony removes serpent from box and handles
5. Carl Porter is bitten by a rattlesnake (29:50 into tape).
6. Charles McGlocklin and Brice Anderson lay hands on Carl Porter
7. Song and prayer at altar
8. Brice Anderson exhorts congregation
9. McGlocklin is seen taking Porter from church
10. Service continues with songs by women
11. Guest preacher speaks
12. Brice Anderson announces Carl Porter has requested an ambulance and will leave for the hospital
13. Brice affirms Mark 16
14. Singing and laying on hands
15. Baptism service at nearby creek
16. Charles McGlocklin and Brice Anderson also handle

A remarkable bite is recorded in this footage. There is also a combination casting out of demons and baptism in a local creek. This is Brice Anderson's first homecoming as pastor of the Kingston church. There is a small number in attendance. [*Addendum: Carl was taken to the basement of the church. He was prayed over by church members. Later he asked for 911 and medics were called. EMTs took Carl to the hospital where he recovered. There are still photos of Carl with bite on file in the hospital.]

K-45: Kingston Church under Junior McCormick, Pastor 4/14/2001

Total Running Time

1:00:05

Scope and Contents note

Footage includes a unique shot of a taunted serpent striking at a wallet. Few members are in attendance.

Additional Activities

1. Altar prayer
2. Pastor Junior McCormick leads singing
3. Billy Lemming plays guitar and sings
4. Junior McCormick removes serpent from box and handles
5. Takes out wallet and taunts serpent to strike at wallet; serpent does strike
6. Junior McCormick preaches from pulpit
7. Billy Lemming testifies on the validity of the signs and on the handling of fire

K-46: Kingston Church under Virgil Porter, Pastor 11/17/2001

Total Running Time

1:00:26

Scope and Contents note

This is rare footage of a Kingston service with no serpent handling.

Additional Activities

1. Virgil Porter opens service and urges people to obey God
2. Billy Summerford leads congregation in altar prayer
3. Carl Porter sings
4. Margaret Baker sings
5. Virgil Porter and visiting preacher (name unknown) testify
6. Other testimonies
7. Billy Summerford preaches and lays on hands
8. Songs and testimony
9. Virgil Porter preaches against church leaders who have compromised holiness
10. Billy Summerford testifies

K-47: Kingston Church under Virgil Porter, Pastor 12/01/2001

Total Running Time

2:00:00

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Virgil Porter invites people to altar for prayer
2. Carl Porter sings, then plays cymbals
3. Louis Hobbs plays guitar
4. Virgil Porter sings while playing drums
5. Carl Porter handles large serpent he has taken from box
6. Carl Porter testifies
7. Steve and Tammy Porter sing together
8. Virgil Porter preaches in an extended sequence, asks for prayer for himself
9. Louis Hobbs and Carl Porter among (others) pray for Virgil
10. Carl Porter testifies

K-48: Kingston Church Taken Back by Carl Porter, Meeting in Old Building 7/06/2002

Total Running Time

1:01:15

Scope and Contents note

There are twenty-two present at this service.

Additional Activities

1. Carl Porter opens with prayer
2. Singing by Tony, Silas Crawford, Jason Burn, and James Wade
3. James Wade testifies
4. Singing, dancing, and laying on hands
5. Serpent handling by Silas Crawford, Carl Porter, Tony, James Wade, and Phillip Prince (first time to handle)
6. Brice Anderson lays hands on Robby Prince
7. Testimonies by Tony and James Wade
8. Songs and prayer
9. (Note: Interview with Phillip Prince about his handling taken one week later at his home church in Cumming, GA. See Prince Interview).

K-49 7/19/2003

Total Running Time

1:52:00 (Two tracks on this disc.)

Scope and Contents note

The service takes place in the “old” Kingston church. Junior McCormick is pastor and only a few people are present. This shows the full decline of old Kingston church and a seed start for renewal by a few former members. Carl Porter is now fully removed from preaching or pastoring any serpent handling church. Students from Japan and Norway are present. There is singing. Brice Anderson preaches, followed by more singing. A large rattler is handled.

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Series 5: Middlesboro, Kentucky 1994-1998

Scope and Contents note

The material in this series all takes place in Middlesboro, Kentucky at The Full Gospel Tabernacle in Jesus' Name with Pastor Jamie Coots officiating.

M-1 11/1994

Total Running Time

00:53:09

Scope and Contents note

There is a considerable amount of music and handling. Arnold Saylor from the Indiana church is in attendance.

M-2: Homecoming Service 8/03/1996

Total Running Time

1:41:30

Scope and Contents note

This is the first Middlesboro homecoming following Melinda Brown's death by serpent bite at a 1995 Middlesboro homecoming. (Her husband Punkin Brown will die of serpent bite in October 1998 at the Sand Mountain Church.*) David Kimbrough (author) is present. Jeff Swartz (author) is also present, making film and audio recordings.

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with Jamie Coots and father Greg playing guitar and singing
2. Others singing include: Mark Brown, Sherman Ward, Punkin Brown, Rochelle Brown, Jamie and Linda Coots,
3. Bruce Helton preaches
4. Laying on of hands
5. Testimonies by believers
6. Footage ends with Jamie Coots at pulpit

Handlers

1. Punkin Brown
2. Carl Porter
3. Sherman Ward

4. John Brown
5. Carl Turner

M-3: Homecoming Service 8/04/1996

Total Running Time

1:59:29

Scope and Contents note

Footage includes long segments of serpent handling.

Additional Activities

1. Jamie Coots leads church in prayer
2. Sherman Ward and others sing
3. Several testimonies are offered
4. Dancing and singing in the church
5. Songs and testimonies

Handlers

1. Punkin Brown
2. Gene Sherbert
3. Carl Porter
4. Joel Sherbert
5. Bill Pelfrey
6. Carl Turner
7. Verlin Short
8. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins
9. Jamie Coots
10. John Brown
11. John Fish
12. David Kimbrough (author)
13. Diane Tucker
14. Sherman Ward
15. Greg Coots
16. Sister Pelfrey
17. Mark Brown
18. Kirby Hollins

Others Present

1. Thomas Burton (author)

2. Spencer Evans

M-4: Homecoming Service 8/01/1997

Total Running Time

2:02:36

Scope and Contents note

Jeff Swartz (author) is present with video and audio recording. The service includes fire handling.

Additional Activities

1. Billy Taylor opens service
2. Punkin Brown testifies while handling
3. Gracie McCalister handles fire
4. Testimonies and singing follow
5. Bruce Helton preaches
6. More testimonies from: Glenn Dukes, Dewey Chafin, Larry Muncie, Rayford Dunn, Sherman Ward, Billy Taylor, Jamie Coots, Sister Coots, Gracie McCalister

Handlers

1. Bruce Helton
2. Sherman Ward
3. Carl Turner
4. Gracie McCalister
5. Jamie Coots
6. Punkin Brown

M-5: Homecoming Service 8/02/1997

Total Running Time

1:59:31

Scope and Contents note

A professional camera crew present, which will lead to the church's decision to ban all videotaping. There is footage of Barb Elkins on a pew with her great, great grandchild.

Additional Activities

1. Pastor Jamie Coots opens service
2. Singing by various believers
3. Punkin Brown testifies while handling serpent
4. Testimonies are offered
5. Singing and worship continue
6. Spencer Evans preaches
7. Bruce Helton preaches
8. Testimonies from Diane Tucker and others

Handlers

1. Punkin Brown
2. Jamie Coots
3. Larry Muncie
4. Bruce Helton
5. Billy Taylor
6. Dewey Chafin
7. Carl Porter
8. Charles Church
9. David Kimbrough (author)
10. Carl Turner
11. Billy Summerford
12. Diane Tucker
13. Glen Dukes
14. Barb Elkins
15. Verlin Short
16. Spencer Evans

Others Present

1. Bob Elkins
2. Melissa & Richard Evans

M-6: Homecoming Service 8/03/1997

Total Running Time

1:59:30

Scope and Contents note

This is a Sunday service. Those handling serpents include all of those who handled the night before plus others attending the Sunday service. There is impressive fire handling by Billy Taylor towards the end.

Additional Activities

1. Pastor Jamie Coots opens service
2. Singing
3. Worship Activities
4. Billy Taylor preaches
5. Bruce Helton preaches
6. Testimonies by others
7. Fire handling by Billy Taylor

Handlers

1. Punkin Brown
2. Paul Roberts
3. Lydia "Bugs" Hollins
4. Daryl Phillips
5. Spencer Evans wife (name unknown)
6. Bryan Cloyd
7. Joyce Summerford
8. Nola Faye Roberts
9. Bobbie Sue Lynn
10. Alan Williams
11. Steve Frazier

M-7: Homecoming Service 7/31/1998

Total Running Time

1:59:32

Scope and Contents note

Scott Swartz is present with another camera crew. This will be Punkin Brown's last homecoming before he dies by serpent bite in October, 1998.

Additional Activities

1. Billy Taylor opens service
2. On stage are Billy Lemming, Jamie Coots, Greg and Linda Coots (Jamie's parents)
3. Sherman Ward, Billy Lemming, and others sing
4. Serpent handling by several believers
5. Laying on of hands
6. Word of knowledge/prophecy
7. Other testimonies offered by believers

8. Preaching by Bruce Helton, Glenn Dukes, Rayford Dunn, Sherman Ward, Punkin Brown, Billy Lemming

M-8: Homecoming Service 8/01/1998

Total Running Time

2:43:50

Scope and Contents note

Not much liberty felt in service by attendees to handle serpents.

Additional Activities

1. Billy Taylor opens service by addressing church
2. Members pray
3. Mark Brown and others sing
4. Several testimonies and prayer by members
5. Bruce Helton preaches and takes up a serpent
6. Billy Summerford handles as Bruce Helton continues to preach
7. Billy Lemming handles serpent as Bruce Helton continues to preach

M-9: Homecoming Service 8/02/1998

Total Running Time

1:59:31

Scope and Contents note

An additional camera present with Scott Swartz. This is a good example of a service with few in attendance and minimal serpent handling.

Additional Activities

1. Pastor Jamie Coots opens service with prayer
2. Singing by Sister Coots
3. Mark Brown and several others sing
4. Moderate handling follows
5. Billy Taylor plays guitar and sings
6. Linda and Jamie Coots sing
7. Katrina Coots sings as grandfather Greg Coots plays guitar
8. More singing is followed by preaching and serpent handling by Billy Taylor

Others Present

1. Mark & Rochelle Brown
2. Billy & Joyce Summerford
3. Alan & Christie Williams
4. John Brown
5. Rayford Dunn
6. Glenn Dukes
7. Jimmy Morrow (Del-Rio, TN)
8. Richard Evans
9. Brice Anderson
10. Verlin Short
11. Sherman Ward
12. Spencer Evans
13. Daryl Phillips

M-10: Last filming permitted at Middlesboro 10/10/1998

Total Running Time

3:15:00

Scope and Contents note

This shows rare footage of Billy Taylor preaching. Jamie Coots testifies and preaches. Testimonies follow by attending believers. Service ends with laying hands on a child.

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Series 6: Calhoun, Georgia 1997-2000

Scope and Contents note

The material in this series all takes place in Calhoun, Georgia at The Church of the True Believers in Jesus' Name with Pastor Shade Miller officiating.

C-1 9/27/1997

Total Running Time

1:31:56

Scope and Contents note

Footage is of a small congregation with regular members present and no serpent

handling.

Additional Activities

1. Singing and testimonies offered by several
2. Laying on of hands
3. References to drinking strychnine
4. Ralph Hood offers a testimony
5. Shade Miller preaches
6. Church prays over anointed prayer cloth

Others Present

1. Gail Miller (pastor's wife)
2. Ethel Miller (pastor's mother)
3. Billy and Doris Lemming
4. Brandon and Delphia Nietzle
5. Estel (last name unknown)

C-2 10/11/1997

Total Running Time

1:19:12

Scope and Contents note

Footage shows a small group service.

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with singing by Billy Lemming
2. Worship follows with seekers in altar
3. Shade Miller prays for others and testifies
4. Singing and dancing by members
5. Shade Miller preaches in extended segment
6. Shade removes serpent from box and handles
7. Preaching and testimonies continue
8. Laying on of hands

Others Present

1. Brandon and Delphia Nietzle
2. Don Davis (sociologist)

3. student observers

C-3 12/20/1997

Total Running Time

1:54:00

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Rayford Dunn lays hands on Ralph Hood and others
2. Singing and dancing by members
3. Rayford Dunn preaches and lays hands on members
4. Church members come forth for prayer
5. Billy Lemming sings
6. Shade Miller removes serpent from box and handles
7. Rayford Dunn continues to preach
8. Shade Miller closes service

Others Present

1. Gail Miller
2. Ethel Miller
3. Delphia Nietzle
4. Estel (last name unknown)
5. Rayford Dunn (special guest)

C-4 4/11/1998

Total Running Time

1:50:22

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Service opens with child (name unknown) singing
2. Delphia Nietzle sings
3. Diane Tucker sings
4. Other members come and sing
5. Testimonies are offered
6. Billy Lemming sings

7. Members pray for one another
8. Testimonies
9. Glenn Dukes preaches
10. Rayford Dunn preaches

Handlers

1. Shade Miller
2. Estel (last name unknown)
3. Diane Tucker
4. Rayford Dunn
5. Glenn Dukes

C-5 5/09/1998

Total Running Time

1:43:01

Scope and Contents note

In this service church members get into general discussion about the validity of serpent handling.

Additional Activities

1. Service opens with prayer requests and prayer
2. Singing by two young female converts (names unknown)
3. Shade Miller preaches with Bible in hand
4. Laying on of hands and prayer
5. Billy Lemming sings then testifies in extended segment
6. Shade Miller gets serpent from box and handles
7. Estel takes serpent from box and handles
8. Billy Lemming takes serpent from Estel and handles
9. Billy Lemming testifies followed by testimonies by Shade Miller, Brandon Nietzle, Gail Miller, Delphia Nietzle

C-6 3/27/1999

Total Running Time

2:00:28

Scope and Contents note

This footage shows the rare event of a new male convert removing a serpent from the box and handling.

Additional Activities

1. Estel opens service with prayer
2. Delphia Nietzle, Gail Miller and sister (name unknown) sing
3. Testimonies follow by Shade Miller and others
4. Special singing by Brenda Brown
5. Estel handles
6. Rayford Dunn handles
7. Shade Miller handles
8. Billy Lemming sings
9. Laying on of hands
10. Brandon Nietzle anoints Jeff Brown
11. Singing and testimonies follow by several, including Rayford Dunn
12. Shade Miller preaches

C-7: Fall 2000; last video before Church folded Fall 2000

Total Running Time

2:00:27

Scope and Contents note

Activities

1. Service opens with Glenn Dukes greeting members
2. Brief testimonies and prayer
3. Singing and testimonies
4. Worship, dancing, prayer at altar
5. Serpent handling done by Shade Miller and Estel
6. Glenn Dukes preaches
7. Rayford Dunn preaches
8. Shade Miller preaches in extended sequence
9. Gene Sherbert and Glenn Dukes also handle

Others Present

1. Gail Miller
2. Verlin Short and his mother (name unknown)
3. Brenda Brown
4. Billy Lemming
5. Ethel Miller

6. Diane Tucker
7. Virgil Porter

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Series 7: Interviews with Serpent Handlers 1997-2004

I-1: Brice Anderson, 1 of 2 06/06/1998

Total Running Time

1:22:44

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Anderson is a 49 year-old evangelist who was converted to Christianity 7 years earlier. He was converted to the serpent handling tradition 4 years prior to the interview and does evangelistic work both in churches and on the streets.

I-2: Brice Anderson, 2 of 2 09/11/2002

Total Running Time

00:56:46

I-3: Brenda Brown 04/25/1998

Total Running Time

1:34:19

Biographical/Historical note

Sister Brenda, age 32, was raised in the tradition of serpent handling but did not convert until 10 years before the interview date. She is a part-time college student and a member of a north Georgia congregation.

I-4: Dewey Chafin, 1 of 2 09/05/1998

Total Running Time

1:25:43

Biographical/Historical note

With a long history in the serpent handling tradition, 66 year-old Brother Chafin became a believer 38 years prior to the first interview in 1998, and a year after his conversion to

Christianity. He is currently the overseer of a church in West Virginia.
I-5: Dewey Chafin, 2 of 2 05/15/2004

Total Running Time

1:01:56
I-6: Cynthia Church 09/25/1999

Total Running Time

1:19:43

Biographical/Historical note

Sister Church was a 37 year-old medical nurse at the time of this interview. Although she was raised in the serpent handling tradition, and converted at age 16, she left the faith as a young adult. However, she returned to her religious heritage in 1997 and worshipped with her family in West Virginia.

I-7: Jamie Coots, 1 of 2 10/11/1998

Total Running Time

1:29:44

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Coots, a 27 year-old pastor in eastern Kentucky at the time of this interview, carried on both the legacy and the church of his deceased, signs-believing grandfather, Tommy Coots. He was saved in 1990 and began taking up serpents the following year.

I-8: Jamie Coots, 2 of 2 05/23/2004 No video on this DVD; simply audio with a still image.

Total Running Time

00:49:06
I-9: Silas Crawford 05/19/2004

Total Running Time

00:58:13
I-10: Glenn Dukes, 1 of 2 07/14/2002

Total Running Time

First Track: 00:56:22 Second Track: 00:39:38

Scope and Contents note

Editorial Note: Mr. Dukes speaks often of Vietnam during this interview.
I-11: Glenn Dukes, 2 of 2 05/18/2004

Total Running Time

1:02:43
I-12: Rayford Dunn 2003

Total Running Time

00:34:49
I-13: Bob Elkins 05/16/2004

Total Running Time

00:35:54
I-14: Melissa Evans 09/05/1998

Total Running Time

00:31:30

Biographical/Historical note

Raised in the tradition, 30 year-old Sister Melissa was saved at age 13, and practiced serpent handling for much of the time since then. She, her husband, and children attend a church in West Virginia.
I-15: Richard Evans 05/15/2004

Total Running Time

00:52:57
I-16: Spencer Evans 12/07/1997

Total Running Time

1:54:18
I-17: Clayton Hall 09/2002

Total Running

1:23:37

I-18: Billy Lemming 02/21/1998

Total Running Time

1:33:54

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Lemming was a 55 year-old believer at the time of this interview. He became a Christian twenty-six years earlier and converted to the serpent handling tradition the following year. He is a renowned musician in the serpent handling tradition.

I-19: Bobby Sue Lynn 02/01/1998

Total Running Time

00:51:49

Biographical/Historical note

Sister Bobby was 43 years of age at the time of this interview. She had converted to the serpent handling tradition two years after her Christian conversion, 12 years prior to the interview. She, her husband, and son, attend a congregation in northeast Alabama.

I-20: Junior McCormick, 1 of 2 11/22/1997

Total Running Time

2:03:06

Biographical/Historical note

Brother McCormick was a 61 year-old preacher at the time of this interview . He had converted to the serpent handling faith 24 years earlier. He served as pastor to various congregations in north Georgia over the years.

I-21: Junior McCormick, 2 of 2 05/21/2004

Total Running Time

00:48:25

I-22: Tim McCoy 09/06/1998

Total Running Time

00:49:40

I-23: Shade Miller 12/20/1997

Total Running Time

1:22:35

I-24: Brandon Nietzel 05/09/1998

Total Running Time

1:38:50

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Brandon, the husband of Delphia (Tape 3), was 28 years old at the time of this interview. He converted to serpent handling at the same time as his wife. He plays drums as a musician at his local church.

I-25: Missing 1998

Scope and Contents note

The information given for this entry indicates that it should be an interview with Brenda Nietzel, but it is not on disc.

I-26: Delphia Nietzel 04/25/1998

Total Running Time

1:21:00

I-27: Carl Porter, 1 of 2 5/22/1998

Total Running Time

1:09:33

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Porter, age 53, was pastor of a north Georgia congregation at the time of this interview. He was saved 30 years prior to the interview, converting to the serpent handling tradition from the Church of God denomination three years after his salvation experience.

I-28: Carl Porter, 2 of 2 05/21/2004

Total Running Time

00:41:11

I-29: Wayne Ray 05/23/2004

Total Running Time

00:32:07

I-30: Nola Faye Roberts 05/17/2004

Total Running Time

00:31:16

I-31: Paul Roberts 05/17/2004

Total Running Time

00:33:41

I-32: Verlin Short, Pt. 1 10/10/1998

Total Running Time

1:48:26

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Short, a 27 year-old believer at the time of this interview, who was raised in the tradition in eastern Kentucky. He was saved 8 years prior to the interview and began practicing serpent handling about that time.

I-33: Verlin Short, Pt. 2 10/10/1998

Total Running Time

1:08:00

I-34: Billy Summerford 02/15/1998

Total Running Time

1:58:40

Biographical/Historical note

Brother Summerford was pastor of a northeast Alabama congregation. Fifty years old at the time of the interview, he was saved at the age of 33 and became a “signs believer” 5 years later.

I-35: James Wade 05/21/2004

Total Running Time

1:55:20

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Series 8: Fatal Bites, Funeral, & Wake

F-1: Ulysses Prince fatal bite; Greeneville, TN 08/17/1985

Total Running Time

00:27:20

F-2: Ulysses Prince fatal bite, death and funeral service; Greeneville, TN 08/1995

Total Running Time

1:54:00

F-3: Punkin Brown fatal bite; Sand Mountain, AL 1998

Total Running Time

00:12:00

F-4: Barb Elkin's funeral; Jolo, WV 02/09/1999

Total Running Time

1:53:00

F-5: Ray McCallister's Wake; Jolo, WV 11/14/2000

Total Running Time

00:30:00

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Series 9: Special Interest Footage

SI-1: Arbor service in State Line, KY (rare footage) 1950

Total Running Time

1:02:28

Scope and Contents note

In addition to the arbor service from 1950 (in documentary form), there is newer, random footage that includes several baptisms.

SI-2: Home meeting in Kentucky 1970

Total Running Time

1:28:57

SI-3: Footage of photographer, Shelby Adams, and serpent handlers Verlin and Joe Short (rare) unknown

Total Running Time

00:57:42

SI-4: New Year's Eve service in Harlan, KY 1987

Total Running Time

2:00:01

SI-5: James Wade homecoming service at home 05/07/2000

Total Running Time

1:43:12

SI-6: Jason Barnes and Silas Crawford-very good footage of conversations with two thoughtful young men who grew up in the tradition. unknown

Total Running Time

1:56:00

SI-7: Two day snake hunt with Verlin Short 07/1999

Total Running Time

1:03:00

SI-8: Verlin Short's footage of Jolo, WV service 05/09/1993

Total Running Time

Pt. 1- 1:29:54

Pt. 2- 1:33:44

[Editorial Note: 30 minutes of Pt. 2 is the remainder of the church service seen in Pt. 1.

The second portion looks as though it is in Carl Porter's church-not the Jolo, WV church.]
SI-9: "Saga of the serpent handlers" documentary by Mary Lee Daugherty and Kenneth Ambrose 1970

Scope and Contents note

Part 1: A Typical Service Duration 17 min.

Segments from "Holy Ghost People" by Dr. Nathan Gerrard filmed in early 1960s of the Church of All Nations. Explains origin, beliefs, and practices of serpent handling (music, dancing, washing feet of believers, kiss of peace, faith healing and laying on of hands, praying aloud,) featuring: Joe Turner, Dan McCormick, Kathy Turner Miller (daughter), Brother Hammond (one of oldest in WV), Bill Ward, Donny Turner (son), Sam Miller (husband) Donny Turner handles fire [Note: The film "Holy Ghost People" is also available in complete form in the Lupton Library – BX8773 .Z7 H64 1983

Pt. 2: Funerals Duration 28 min.

Very important footage discussing deaths of believers and the legal aspects what does it mean when a believer is bitten (Bible says they shall take up serpents; doesn't say they won't get bitten) "situational realism" rather than fatalism

Pt. 3: "Baptism in the name of Jesus only..." Duration 24 min.

Focuses on the baptismal experiences in the southern Appalachians and the holiness style of preaching

Pt. 4: miscellaneous church service footage Duration 25 min.

Total Running Time

Pt. 1- 00:17:00

Pt. 2- 00:28:00

Pt. 3- 00:24:00

Pt. 4- 00:25:00

SI-10: Television clips featuring Del-Rio, TN, church pastored by Jimmy Morrow unknown

Total Running Time

00:27:40

SI-11: "They shall take up serpents" circa 1994

Total Running Time

00:40:41

Scope and Contents note

4-part series by local news reporter Dan MacDonald, WKYC-TV, Cleveland, OH, about the Kingston, GA church featured: Dr. Thomas Burton, author; Carl Porter; Junior McCormick; Bill Pelfrey; Methodist minister Ronald Carrier segment 3 focuses on Dewey Chaffin (Jolo, WV); disc ends with footage of a service at Full Gospel Tabernacle in Jesus' Name 11-20-1994.

SI-12: "The Jolo serpent handlers" by Karen Kramer [wife of film producer Stanley Kramer] 1975

Total Running Time

00:40:00

Scope and Contents note

Footage includes the Jolo twirling dance. A young woman (Lydia Hollins) talks about the isolation of her life in Jolo. Barb Elkins talks about her daughter's death (Lydia's mom) and state laws on snake handling. There is a vigil for Dewey Chaffin who was bitten twice by a rattler. The film closes with an outdoor service.

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Series 10: Additional Churches

A-1: Berea, KY (clips of the church only) 06/04/2000

Total Running Time

00:04:30

A-2: Brice Anderson Church, GA (founded 2002) 07/17/2002

Total Running Time

00:56:27

Scope and Contents note

This footage includes an interview with Phillip, a first time serpent handler.

A-3: Brice Anderson Church, GA (founded 2002) 09/11/2002

Total Running Time

Track 1: 00:57:18

Track 2: 1:00:47

A-4: Bruce Helton Church in Harlan, KY (rarely photographed or videotaped) 1987

Total Running Time

1:30:39

A-5: Bruce Helton Church in Harlan, KY (rarely photographed or videotaped) unknown

Total Running Time

00:59:08

A-6: Bruce Helton Church in Harlan, KY (rarely photographed or videotaped) unknown

Total Running Time

1:33:50

A-7: House of Prayer, Morristown, TN 12/27/1985 and 01/03/1986

Total Running Time

Pt. 1: 00:48:00

Pt. 2: 1:12:00

A-8: Marshall, NC homecoming service (photography or videotape rarely allowed) 09/08/2001

Total Running Time

00:03:46

Scope and Contents note

Footage is of the graves of John (Punkin) Brown and Melinda Brown, both of who died of snakebite, and James Ray Williams who died from drinking strychnine.

A-9: Ulysses Prince preaching in Greenville, TN unknown

Total Running Time

Pt. 1: 1:00:02

Pt. 2: 1:00:32

Pt. 3: 1:02:38

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Series 11: Photographs

Scope and Contents note

This series consists of approximately 2,500 photographs taken while Drs. Hood and Williamson were conducting their research in serpent handling churches of the Southern Appalachians.

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Box

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Box

1

Box

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