

Winter's Beauty Comes Early

The Elva McIver Bryan Amphitheater at Meredith College was one of the most beautiful places in Raleigh—or anywhere else—last weekend as winter came early to some parts of North Carolina.

Biblical Recorder

DECEMBER 14, 1968

It Was Almost 'Baptist Day' at Council Meeting

It was almost "Baptist Day" at the annual meeting of the N. C. Good Neighbor Council last Saturday, Dec. 7, in Raleigh. The general topic was the church and family—and how both can

Editor's Notebook

play an important role in proper racial attitudes.

The lineup of speakers was an impressive one. John Ryberg, pastor at Smithfield and chairman of the Good Neighbor Council there, brought a major address, excerpts from which were carried all over the state by Associated Press. Dr. John Lewis of Raleigh's First Church was a panel member in the discussion which followed, along with outstanding men from other denominations. At the meal, it was our privilege to introduce Brooks Hays and we've never heard him better, despite the fact that he was running on a close schedule (arriving about noon and returning to Washington at 2:21 p.m.).

As always at these meetings, a number of fine Baptist pastors and laymen were present. Baptists on the 17-member council itself include this writer, Robert Spivey of Windsor, Sam Hayworth of Rocky Mount, Dr. English Jones of Pembroke, Dr. James H. Taylor of Durham, Dr. James Cheek of Raleigh, John Stewart of Durham, and possibly others (since we haven't taken a "Baptist" survey recently).

In view of this participation and support, it is no surprise that a Baptist is among several being prominently mentioned as a successor to the late David S. Coltrane, a Methodist who had high respect for those in our denomination seeking to lead the way to better understanding between the races in our state.

'He Won't Very Bright'

Introducing Brooks Hays as "the best story-teller (raconteur) in America" covers a lot of territory, but he

more than lived up to it, especially in his opening remarks. Later he dug in and brought a tremendous address. One of his stories, used to illustrate the great human resources in the South, went back to the 1930's when new government farm programs were being implemented.

"I was always wary of some of those Ph.D's from the North," Hays began. "They felt they had to 'talk down' to our people, as one of them did one day when I was accompanying him. In making a survey (they were always surveying the South), the good Doctor took great pains to use simple, one-syllable words in talking to a little lady out in the country. The next day the little woman saw me and gave her opinion of the interview: 'Brooks, that man you brought here yesterday won't very bright, was he?'"

Earlier in the Council meeting, a speaker very aptly made a point along the same line: "I'm in favor of Higher Education and we've heard a lot about it lately; however, I don't want Lower Education to be forgotten," referring to the need for better educational and training opportunities for those who were not able to finish high school, let alone go to college.

Criswell Plans SBC Evangelistic Session

An old-fashion evangelistic meeting may put a little revival fire into the "graveyard" ending of the next Southern Baptist Convention session, scheduled for New Orleans June 9-14.

The Friday evening session — when many messengers have drifted toward home — will be devoted to an area-wide evangelistic service.

The plans were announced by Convention President W. A. Criswell at the annual fall session of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"We are entering a new emphasis—that of faith and works, of soul winning and social sensitivity. God is in this," Criswell said. "But now some have gotten the impression we've turned our backs on the 'Old Book' (the Bible).

"Why don't we go down there and have the greatest evangelistic hour the world ever saw?"

Criswell said he asked the convention program committee to turn the final two sessions over to him.

'Appealing to the Home Mission Board as the agency that has led out in many areas of social ministries, Criswell said the effect would be unifying in the denomination if the board would sponsor the evangelistic effort to dem-

onstrate the balance of its concern in a national meeting.

"I believe if the Home Mission Board will come along with me, we will do more to pull our people together in common determination than anything else we can do," he said.

"We can write and we can speak, but to 'do' is infinitely more powerful," Criswell added.

No action on Criswell's appeal was necessary by the board of directors. After a conference with Criswell, evangelism secretary C. E. Autrey confirmed the support of the Home Mission Board and said his division would help Louisiana Baptists rally the support of South Louisiana churches and train counselors.

Autrey said the convention committee has named John R. Bisagno, pastor of the Baptism-leading Del City (Oklahoma) Baptist Church to do the preaching. He said a major effort will be made to appeal to the multiplicity of races and cultures in New Orleans.

The Friday afternoon convention session will involve the association, Louisiana Baptists and Home Mission Board personnel in devotion-prayer service that will serve as preparation for the evening session. (BP)

BIBLICAL RECORDER

VOLUME 134

No. 49

Journal of the Baptist State Convention of N. C. Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith J. Marse Grant, Editor and Business Mgr. Associates:

C. W. Bazemore, *Circulation and Promotion, Field Representative*

Toby Druin, *News and Editorial*

Board of Directors—Bob Shepherd, chairman; T. Robert Mullinax, Robert Poole, Vassar Shearon, Max Linnens, Seth Macon, Henry Stough, Thomas C. Womble, John Ryberg, Ted H. Key, Jack Porter, Alden Angline, Mrs. Robert Andrews, V. A. Parks, Frank Campbell, Roscoe McNeill.

Published fifty times a year by Biblical Recorder, Inc., 301 Hillsboro St., Raleigh, North Carolina, 27603, mailing address P. O. Box 9325, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27603, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, November 21-23, 1939, weekly except during the first week of July and last week of December.

Second-class postage paid at Raleigh, North Carolina, 27602.

Individual subscriptions, \$3.00; Clubs \$2.50; Church Budget Plan, \$2.00; Single copies, 7 cents each. Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax not included in these subscription prices.

There is a charge of five cents a word for all obituaries and formal resolutions, and cash should accompany order.

Stewardship at Its Best: Good Business Policies

GOOD BUSINESS is an important part of Christian stewardship, whether in the local church or the denomination. In most instances, our Baptist churches and conventions have exercised good judgment. Occasionally, though, there are lapses that serve as reminders that Baptists expect their institutions and agencies to be operated on the highest level possible when it comes to financial policies.

Two examples of such "lapses" have been in the news recently—stories from Kansas and Texas involving church loan organizations. (See page 5 for latest on Kansas).

The Nov. 30 RECORDER detailed Kansas' sad experience with its Church Loan Association. The Home Mission Board will try to help save the Association from a "hopeless and insolvent condition," as the news story called it. The deficit is at least half a million dollars and 45 churches have delinquencies amounting to \$380,000. A small state convention such as Kansas must now try to salvage the agency with the help and guidance of the Home Mission Board. An austerity program has been put into effect in the state with the hope that over the next 10 years things will look better.

In Texas, the storm-ridden Church Loan Association and Baptist Church Loan Corporation were involved

in some speculative real estate investments in California. A special committee has issued a comprehensive report on both organizations. Investments totaling more than \$2.5 million were made in California and a "serious mistake in judgment has been admitted by all," the report of the special committee said.

The investments didn't pan out as expected, but reorganization of both church loan groups has corrected some problems and both will remain in business. The situation is not to be compared with Kansas but apparently the same weakness applies to both situations: Good judgment was not used. No fraud has been revealed in either state and this is commendable.

These experiences provide good lessons for all states. We make no special boast for North Carolina except to say that the business and financial operation of the Baptist State Convention has always impressed us. Leaders like Business Manager-Comptroller Leon Spencer know that N. C. Baptists expect a high degree of performance and we do not know of a single instance when this confidence has been shaken.

Through the years, the financial policy of our state convention has been conservative. Yet, when money had to be borrowed to construct needed facilities like the Baptist Building, it was done. These loans were paid on time or ahead of time. The credit rating of the convention remains excellent, thanks to the leadership of M. A. Huggins, the late Dr. Douglas M. Branch, and his successor, Dr. W. Perry Crouch. They earned the confidence placed in them by a million N. C. Baptists.

Mistakes in judgment may occur sometime in the distant future, but chances are very slim when the enviable record of the convention is considered. The RECORDER congratulates those in these key positions who have led our convention in a sound fiscal policy. This is stewardship at its best.

Proud of the Ministry

NEVER HAVE WE BEEN PROUDER of the ministry than at last weekend's N. C. Good Neighbor Council meeting in Raleigh. (See opposite page). Here are some quotes from pastors which need to be circulated widely:

Cortez Cooper, Presbyterian, Raeford: "It is bad when a big (foreign) missions budget is used to buy off our consciences for doing nothing about local human needs. . . . In the South, our first reliance is not upon God, but upon regional prejudices and traditions. . . . The coach (pastor) is called on to play the whole game which he can't possibly do. . . . There is nothing worse than the 'evil silence of good men'. . . . If we're hearing God, we don't act like it."

John Ryberg, Baptist, Smithfield: "What we need is a Good Samaritan to show us how to react to human need. We need to seek out more Samaritans on a person-to-person basis. Too many of us are too interested in our little vested interests. . . . The government can't save us (as some have thought), only God through His church can be our Savior in this situation."

Cecil Bishop, AME Zion, Greensboro: "For too long we have been mild-mannered men standing before mild-mannered congregations asking them to be more mild-mannered."

John Lewis, Baptist, Raleigh: "Instead of being proud of being black or white, we ought to be proud of being human. . . . There is no such thing as the 'theology of violence'."

Clay Madison, Methodist, Greensboro: "Don't blame the church for all the ills of society. It is only a part of it."

Such Exploitation Is Disgraceful

NORMALLY, we strongly oppose unsubstantiated attacks on the news media because we believe so strongly in the freedom of the press as insured by the constitution. On some occasions, however, newsmen engage in tactics which are inexcusable—as well as substantiated.

The story from No. 9 coal mine at Mannington, W. Va., is a case in point. (Seventy-eight miners were entombed). TV newsmen were the "pushiest" and consequently caused a great deal of the resentment against all news media.

One TV cameraman asked a young wife, "What do you plan to do this Christmas without your husband?" This question should have never been asked.

On other occasions, TV newsmen bombarded the grieved people with intimate questions, waiting until they began to cry before the cameras moved in. This is exploitation at its worst and a disgrace to journalism.

Readers Write: More Sobriety, Less Power In Our Automobiles

TO THE EDITOR:

"What Fools We Mortals Be."

This morning the clock-radio did its anticipated functions—precisely at 6:15 music "roused" us from sleep. The first two items of news served as awesome reminders of our foolishness in the game of life.

(1) The ABC stores (pharmacies that dispense medicine to sick people) announced that we can now purchase liquor in HALF-GALLONS.

(2) The motor clubs & highway safety people predict a record 1,800 automotive accidents for the Thanksgiving Holidays in North Carolina.

The publisher of the *Winston-Salem Journal* has recently accepted liquor advertising. I called to his attention the ethical standards and policies of our papers in the past and he said, "Well, every other magazine and paper coming to your home carries liquor advertising, so we decided no harm would be done in the *Journal & Sentinel's* acceptance of such advertising."

We are urged to use safety devices on our cars and continue to increase the horsepower under the hoods—We flood our culture with liquor and cry at the grave sides as we lower guilty and innocent victims into senseless graves. Where are the needed voices to cry out of our self-made wilderness? Will *The Church* make any pronouncements just now or are we afraid that too many good-time-Charlies will be offended?

I have just visited a home where the lady was mourning the loss of a brother—a fine Christian young man in his twenties. He was killed by a drunken driver. The teenager who was totally guilty is still on our highways out on bond until the court can try his case.

May God help our lawmakers and enforcement people use good sense in regulating the power supply in motor carriers and in the policies and amounts of liquors in human carriers. I am glad that the *BIBLICAL RECORDER* has an editor who stands unashamedly in the horsepower/liquor gaps via honest articles and editorials on highway safety and liquor promotions of all kinds.

In the name of sobriety and less powerful autos—

—TED H. KEY, Pastor
Old Town Church,
Winston-Salem

R. O. Brinkley, pastor at First Church, China Grove, for the last 34 years, will retire soon. He and Mrs. Brinkley were honored at a reception at the church, Dec. 8.

\$14.9 Million Budget for HMB

Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board endorsed a \$14.9 million budget that includes three new urban pilot projects, increased Christian social ministries and money for three nationwide evangelistic telecasts.

Acting in annual session in Atlanta, the 64-member board of directors approved the record budget unanimously after hearing detailed accounts of how the agency's 12 programs of work and service departments would spend the funds.

The budget includes about \$3 million in work directly related to areas of racial tension and poverty, according to executive secretary Arthur B. Rutledge.

This is partially reflected in the \$1.3 million budget for Christian social ministries, which includes Baptist centers, weekday ministries, literacy training, youth and family services and migrant missions.

Most of these ministries relate to disadvantaged areas of the nation's cities, especially inner city situations. A new effort—a church oriented ministry to alcoholics—will get underway in 1969.

Included also in the budget is \$175,000 for three nationwide color telecasts featuring Billy Graham, which have been produced as part of the Crusade of the Americas.

The metropolitan missions report

showed that three new pilot projects—one in a planned city, one in an inner city ghetto and one in a high-rise apartment—are included in its \$955,000 budget. Specific sites are being studied now.

Rutledge, in his annual report to the directors, said 392 mission appointments were made by the agency, 81 of which are fulltime career missionaries, 32 of which are young college graduates participating in two-year mission assignments.

Overall, the net increase over the 1968 budget is about \$600,000.

The missions division, which includes nine of the Home Mission Boards 12 programs of work, will spend about \$9.3 million next year. Within this division, the program of language missions has the largest budget, with an allocation of nearly \$3.4 million.

The Home Mission Board programs are:

Establishing new churches and church-type missions, pioneer missions, rural-urban missions, metropolitan missions, language missions, Christian social ministries, work with National Baptists, work related to non-evangelicals, associational administration services (assists associations of churches in mission work), evangelism development, chaplaincy and church loans. (BP)

TAR HEEL MISSIONARIES—Two native Tar Heels—Herbert T. Blanton, standing, who was born in Grover, and H. Warren Rice, who was born in Brevard—were among Southern Baptist missionaries recently appointed for foreign service. Here they discuss their appointments with their wives. Blanton presently is a school teacher and pastor in Greenwood, Arkansas, and was appointed to the Bahamas. The Rices, until their appointment served pastorates in Indiana.



Board Acts to Avert Kansas Loan Disaster

The Home Mission Board has voted unanimous approval of an unprecedented, emergency action that hopefully will avert financial disaster for the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

The plan — already approved by messengers to the Kansas convention — calls for the Board to assume full management of the obligations and is under scrutiny by the federal Securities Exchange Commission.

In order to prevent bankruptcy proceedings that would force foreclosure on 70 per cent of the Kansas loans; the Home Mission Board will spend about \$1 million in the emergency action.

The board will purchase about \$400,000 worth of Kansas loans, establish a \$300,000 funded reserve and refinance the Kansas convention building for \$325,000.

Most of this money is recoverable, said Robert H. Kilgore, director of the Home Mission Board's Church Loan Division.

The major financial risk for the Home Mission Board involves the \$300,000 funded reserve, which would be lost if bankruptcy proceedings were initiated.

The Home Mission Board action includes informing the committee of the Southern Baptist Convention of the details of the problem.

Kilgore said the overwhelming work load created by the situation will require up to 75 per cent of the time of one Home Mission Board staffer.

Kansas Baptists took immediate steps of their own by reducing their 1969 budget by \$61,000 — which includes elimination of two state office positions — and pledging complete cooperation with the Home Mission Board.

Kilgore said the Home Mission Board church loans staff will implement a new phase of its ministry in 1969 that should help prevent the kind of situations that finally caught up with the Kansas convention.

The church loans budget includes funds for traveling, mortgage finance courses for missionaries and missions pastors. The staff will compile a textbook on the mortgage loan business, with particular emphasis on church situations, and conduct the courses in the field. (BP)

In Evangelism-Social Action

ABC President Says SBC Has Strategic Reconciling Role

Unless Christian churches are able to reconcile the biblical theology of evangelism and social action, they will split into two polarized groups and fail at their very purpose for being, the president of the American Baptist Convention said in Nashville.

Speaking to the SBC Christian Life Commission, Culbert C. Rutenber added that Southern Baptists are in a unique role to creatively reconcile the two.

"You've got the strategic position," he said at a dinner meeting here. "You've got the evangelical zeal, the biblical theology, and now you're becoming more concerned about social issues."

Polarization

He lamented a continuing polarization into two camps — the orthodox, historical Christians on one hand who are concerned about winning others, praying, giving and building churches; and the social actionists on the other who are concerned only about changing society.

Saying that neither is true Christianity, Rutenber stated that "a form of orthodoxy which does not see the need for helping others and society lacks something that is in the New Testament. But an emphasis on social justice that is not grounded in the New Testament is nothing but shallow humanism, and that's liable to get worse instead of better."

Rutenber said that Christians must be peacemakers in the world today,

Methodists: 10,997,720

The membership of the United Methodist Church in the U. S. is 10,997,720, keeping it close to the 11,142,726 members of the Southern Baptist Convention. Even with this figure approaching 11 million, Methodist statistics showed a decline over the previous year — a year in which Methodists merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church. During the year, Methodists lost 36,256 and EUB lost 8,337. Like Baptists, Methodist Sunday school enrollment is about twice as high as attendance — enrollment being 6,852,335 while average attendance is only 3,503,146.

following the example of Jesus who was hung on the cross because he was a peacemaker. "A peacemaker stands between two opposing forces and gets kicked from both sides," Rutenber said.

"There is a big difference between peace keeping or peace loving, and peacemaking," he added. "Peace keeping is the job of the police. Any coward can be a peace lover."

The job of the peacemaker is reconciliation, the American Baptist leader said. "The church ought to be an umpire with competing groups in society," he declared.

Self-Interest

He observed that the cry for justice is always tainted with elements of self-interest, and although the church partially transcends, it is not able to transcend enough, and thus cannot umpire well enough. "Not even the Christian church is good enough to be trusted with other people's rights," he said.

The church must seek changes in attitudes among its own members and in society, he added. "Unless we can change the attitudes of our orthodox neighbors, then we haven't been able to communicate the gospel.

"Attitudes are basic to social change in America, and if the Christian church is not able to produce this, then we will fail to be peacemakers in justice and reconciliation," Rutenber said.

Change in Attitude

Citing the Christian church's failure to help the black man throughout history, Rutenber said that there must be a change in the attitudes of church members who say to Negroes, "You become worthy and we'll take you in."

He called such statements "a lie to begin with," for the Negro has in many cases become educated, cleaned up, tried non-violence, and "we still didn't take them in."

He added that it is a half-truth to say, "Only changed men change society," for he had seen men who are not changed who are changing society, and many who claim to be changed who are making no effort to change society. (BP)

Changes

H. Grady Wheeler, Jr. Resigns at Beaufort

H. Grady Wheeler Jr., pastor of First Church, Beaufort, for the last three and a half years, has resigned to become a Job Corps counselor with the N. C. Department of Public Welfare. . . . **James Lochridge**, a student at East Carolina University, is the new music director at First Church, Grifton, in South Roanoke Association. . . .

In Gaston Association, **Ray England** is the new pastor at the Bingham Church. He had been interim. . . . **James M. Gantt** of Glennville, Ga., will become pastor of Ceperview Church in January. . . .

Wayne Hayes, pastor at Green Level Church for more than four years, has accepted a call to the pastorate of Hocutt Memorial Church in Johnston Association. . . . **J. Rex Collins** is the new pastor at Naples Church in Carolina Association. He has been pastor of New Morgan Hill Church, Candler, in Buncombe Association for the last four years.

Hugh Cherry of Raleigh has accepted a call to the pastorate of Reedy Creek Church in Raleigh Association. He has been serving the church as interim pastor. . . . **William Buchanan**, pastor of Summer Set and Spring Road churches in Grètna, Va., has accepted a call to become pastor of Ayersville Church in Dan Valley Association. . . . **W. P. Lark** of Petzer, S. C., has been called as pastor of Enon Church near Brevard. He has been pastor of Westville Church in Greenville, S. C., for the last six years. He is a graduate of Furman University. . . .

Three changes are reported in Tuckaseegee Association: **Ralph Easterly**, a Tennessean, is the new pastor at Tuckaseegee Church. . . . **Toby Lutz**, a student at Western Carolina University, is the new pastor at Lumberton Church which recently ordained him to the ministry. . . .

Melvin Greene, pastor of Erlanger Church in Liberty Association, has been called to the pastorate of Rich Fork Church, Thomasville, effective Jan. 1 . . . **J. Marshall Neathery**, senior at Southeastern Seminary, has been called as pastor of Middleburg Church in Cullom Association. He is also pastor of Browns Church in Warren County. . . . **Donald Almond** has been called as minister of education at Bessemer Church, Greensboro. He presently is minister of music and education at Southside Church, Greensboro. . . .

Eleven recent pastoral changes have been reported in Brushy Mountain Association, according to the association newsletter. **Fellman Cheek** has been called



FRIENDLY AVENUE CHURCH, GREENSBORO, entered this float in the city's Christmas parade. See story in Life in the Churches.

Life in the Churches

Greensboro Church's Float in Parade: 'Christ is Only Hope'

The Christian Youth Council of **Friendly Avenue Church, Greensboro**, built and entered a float in a local Christmas parade. The float bore the Crusade of the Americas theme, "Christ The Only Hope." The red, white and blue float was viewed by more than 200,000 persons lining the streets of downtown Greensboro, November 29. A rustic cross overshadowed the world beneath a canopy of cedar shingles at the rear of the float. The gable of the roof symbolized the nativity, and the cross and the world attempted to show that Christ's coming at Christmas time was for a world to have salvation through the sacrifice of the cross. Several young people kneeling around an empty manger showed that true worshippers must follow Christ from the nativity into a world of service.

The evangelism committee of Alex-

as pastor of Calvary Church . . . **W. L. Pitts**, former pastor of Corinth Church in Theron Rankin Association, is the new pastor at Hinshaw Street Church. . . . **James Williams** has resigned at Gordon and is now serving as pastor of Goshen Church . . . at Friendly Grove the new pastor is **J. E. Key** who also serves at Oak Grove Church. . . . **Rex Shumate** is serving as pastor at Boiling Springs Church. . . . **J. G. Cardwell** is the pastor at Mt. Carmel Church. . . . **Ralph Stanley** is the pastor at Millers Creek Church. . . . **Shady Grove** has as its pastor **Garland Reeves**. . . . **Cecil Hooper**, pastor at Maple Springs in Elkin Association, has been called to the pastorate of Pleasant Grove Church. . . . **Raytee Green** is the new pastor at Hillcrest Mission . . . and Moravian Falls Mission is being led by **Claude Soots**. . . .

ander Association — **Doug Willett**, Director; **Grady Blakely**, and **Grady Kerley**, recently projected and put into action an Evangelistic Rally for Christ. Young people were contacted in each church to participate. About 300 came and gave a program of singing, in groups, quartets, trios, and solos. Testimonies were given and evangelistic materials were distributed. Held at a supermarket parking lot on main street of Taylorsville, the rally stressed to the community that Christ is the only hope. Similar rallies will be held all over the county in the coming year.

Temple Church, Gastonia, recently celebrated the retirement of debt on the church property. The service coincided with the close of a series of revival services. Participating were **George Price**, treasurer; **Dave Wortman**, chairman of deacons; **Lander Mincey**, former treasurer; and **S. Guy Walker**, pastor. The church already is planning an additional education building.

JOTS AND TITLES — **First Church, Raleigh**, keeping its members informed on matters of the moment, had **Dr. D. L. Stickel** from the Duke University School of Medicine as a seminar speaker recently. His subject was "The Ethics of Transplantation." . . . Many churches are planning special Christmas parties for the elderly in their membership and communities. **Bethesda Church, Durham**, had one for its "young people" on Dec. 12, and **English Street Church** in High Point had a "Rockin' Chair Christmas Party" scheduled Dec. 21 for those 70 and older. . . .

Our Readers Write:

Problem Stated— Solution Offered

TO THE EDITOR:

In the November 30 RECORDER you call editorially for solutions, not criticism, concerning the weaknesses of the church. Very good, if anyone will listen and heed sound judgment when they get it. Please permit me the space to state the problem as I see it, and also the solution, if there is ever to be a solution.

PROBLEM: Man, being carnal minded by nature, will go as far astray as he can find the approval and sanction of those about him in condoning his action. He will usually go no further than that, either in childhood or adulthood, once he learns the limits which will be tolerated. He will live on the outer edge of toleration for a time and then accept it as right and proper if no action is taken to bring him back to the center line and adulterers, fornicators, and a general cross section of the less-than-devout persons enjoying full membership in their favorite churches, and the churches are spiritually dead to the same extent as their members are spiritually dead. In short, the church becomes little more than a social club with the membership wide open to all comers.

SOLUTION: Weed the membership as carefully as a good gardener would weed his crop. No one needs to be told how to do this. All that is needed is the grace and courage to start calling errant members on the carpet and placing their continued membership on the line. Several pastorates may be lost, but many souls will doubtless be saved. One dozen devout members will make a stronger church than one thousand social members.

—WALTER R. CALLOWAY
Box 7, Elkin, N. C.

ASKS BROCHURE BE READ

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to encourage every pastor and layman to write Mr. Brooks Hays, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C. and request the brochure concerning the Ecumenical Institute which has recently been established there. Please, read it carefully.

—JOHNNIE BRADLEY
Calvary Baptist Church
820 Nashville Road
Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801

EDITOR COMMENDED

TO THE EDITOR:

The Gaston Alert organization has been made aware of your stand in the BIBLICAL RECORDER on the liquor ques-

Statewide Evangelism Conference Scheduled Feb. 3-5 in Greensboro

Stephen Olford and Vance Havner, biennial fixtures on the program, again head the roster of speakers for the 23rd annual Statewide Conference on Evangelism at Greensboro's War Memorial Auditorium, Feb. 3-5.

The 1969 conference will be sponsored jointly by the Baptist State Convention and the General Baptist Convention.

For Olford and Havner, the 1969 meeting will mark their third appearance in five years on the evangelism conference program. They were among the speakers in 1963 and 1965. Each will present six messages this year. Olford is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, New York City; Havner is an evangelist whose membership is in First Church, Greensboro.

Robert A. Wilson, pastor of St. John's Church, Dallas, Texas, will preach three times. Eual Lawson, associate director of the Home Mission Board's Division of Evangelism, will preach twice as will William Bennett, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, Ark.

Music for the conference will be directed by Robert Bradley, director of church for the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., from Nashville.

Presiding at the sessions will be O. L. Sherrill, executive secretary of the General Baptist Convention; Otis Hairston, pastor of Shiloh Church, Greensboro; C. M. Creecy, pastor of Nebo Church, Murfreesboro; and Ernest Holt, pastor of Guess Road Church, Durham.

tion and wish to go on record in commending you for the opinion you have expressed.

We are conscious of the need of those who are willing to stand up and be counted as opposing this evil in our society, and are thankful to you for your plain and outspoken articles, knowing they will be read in many homes of our state and nation.

May God richly bless you for your stand.

—VIRGINIA SONDERMAN
Secretary

How True, How True!

One thing many a person has yet to learn is that he cannot travel the wrong road and come to the right destination.



Robert Bradley

Christian Life Commission Puts Funds in Negro Agency

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has voted to deposit one-half of its reserve funds in a Nashville Negro savings and loan company "to serve the cause of justice" and to "encourage other Southern Baptist agencies to join with us."

The 35-member commission also adopted statements on the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic campaign and on the continuing national crisis.

Amount of the reserve funds to be deposited with the Community Federal Savings and Loan Co., here was only \$2,000, but it represents one-half of the commission's reserves, said Foy D. Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission.

"We are determined to make the symbolic gesture, pitifully inadequate though it is, in the hope that this drop in the bucket, like the widow's mite, may accomplish the kind of thing which the Southern Baptist Convention challenged the agencies to do in the Statement On the Crisis in Our Nation last June in Houston," said a commission approved recommendation. (BP)

Spend Night in Cuba

Southern Seminary President, Wife Aboard Hijacked Airplane

A Southern Baptist seminary president was among 34 persons hijacked and taken to Cuba by a gun and grenade-wielding Cuban who threatened to blow the plane sky-high if anyone made a move.

Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Seminary, and his wife, spent nearly 24 hours in Cuba after the National Airlines jet they were flying from Tampa to Miami was hijacked.

McCall was enroute to Miami to attend the annual meeting of the presidents of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries.

It really wasn't too frightening, except at the moment the passengers discovered the Spanish-speaking man was taking over the plane, McCall said.

"Just as we were about to land in Miami, I heard a noise behind me to the right," McCall said in a telephone interview with Baptist Press. "A man who had his arm in a sling pulled out a hand grenade and a pistol, and was holding the grenade under the chin of the stewardess, ordering her to take him to the pilot.

"When the pilot discovered what was happening, he gave power to the plane and took off instead of landing," McCall added. "Another three or four minutes later and we would have been on the ground in Miami."

Pilot Held Hostage

McCall explained that the plane was low on fuel and had to land at Key West, Fla., for refueling since it could not make it to Havana. For 81 minutes, the hijacker held the pilot hostage, while he radioed to a nearby Naval Air Station to send a truck of jet fuel, which was not available at the small Key West airport.

During this time, the 27 passengers discussed the possibility of going out the rear exit of the plane, but they felt that this might endanger the lives of the seven crewmen, most of whom were in the cockpit with the hijacker.

"We all decided that we would rather go through the inconvenience and take the time necessary, rather than run the risk of jeopardizing the lives of the pilot and stewardess and those in the cabin," McCall added.

Passengers were not allowed to take

the same plane back to Miami because Cuba authorities said the Jose Marti Airport runways are too short for jet takeoffs. But the crew did fly the plane back.

After spending the night in one of Cuba's most plush hotels at a resort area near the international airport, they were allowed to walk on the beach and visit with the people.

He said they were royally entertained with good food and facilities. McCall and his wife talked to Cuban honeymooners on the beach and lounged around the hotel until leaving about 6:00 p.m.

They tried to telephone Mrs. Herbert Caudill, wife of an imprisoned Southern Baptist missionary in Havana, but none of the party of 27 were able to complete any telephone calls.

"God Bless America"

McCall said as he was flying into Miami on return, he felt sentimental about the song, "God Bless America," and that he felt that the reason he loves America is because God has blessed it.

Searching for a lesson in the experience, McCall observed that he is even more convinced Baptists should redouble efforts in the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic campaign, involving Baptists in North, Central and South America. Cuban Baptists have said they, too, would participate.

"Here is the hope not just for our own land but for the whole hemisphere, for we will never see society transformed until individuals are transformed by the grace and power of God," he said.

In a lighter vein, McCall added that the seminary presidents had really ribbed him about doing anything possible to be late to their meeting. "It's been a lot of fun, with the joking about it all.

"I'm convinced that America is the only country in the world where you can enjoy foreign air travel on a domestic air ticket." (BP)

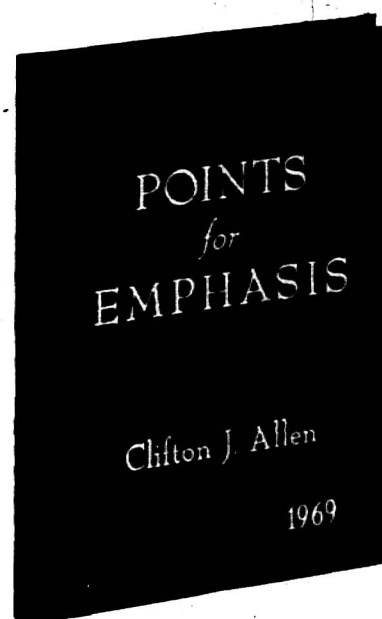
Introduce the
'Recorder' to a
Friend at Christmas

Two Churches Add Recorder to Budget

Cedar Grove Church in South Fork Association and Dysartsville Church in Blue Ridge Association recently have adopted the Church Budget Plan of subscribing to the BIBLICAL RECORDER for their members.

Jack Johnson is the pastor at Cedar Grove. R. L. Crawford is pastor at Dysartsville.

FITS EASILY INTO POCKET OR PURSE



POINTS FOR EMPHASIS, 1969

by Clifton J. Allen

The only pocket-size commentary on the International Sunday School Lessons on the market today is this widely used one by Broadman Press. Each lesson treatment contains the full Bible text, a brief exposition, truths to live by, and references for daily Bible readings. Comprehensive and well organized, its convenient size is only 3 5/8 x 5 inches. (26b) **\$1.25**

order this **BROADMAN
BOOK** from your Baptist
Book Store

Consider Action 'Persecution'

Arkansas Members Protest Ouster by Convention

A statement prepared by the pastors of three of the four churches excluded from the Arkansas Baptist Convention was signed by 22 of the churches' members in a meeting here protesting the action as illegal, unconstitutional, and as persecution.

The statement said that the convention went beyond its authority in attempting to discipline the four churches on doctrinal matters, and that the action was actually illegal because it was taken before the convention was duly constituted.

The open meeting was held at University Baptist Church in Little Rock, one of the four churches ousted by the convention because of practices of either "alien immersion" or "open communion," or both.

The statement was drafted by the pastors of three of the churches: Charles B. Thompson of First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark.; Merle A. Johnson Jr., of First Baptist Church, Malvern, Ark.; and Perry D. Blount of Lake Village Baptist Church, Lake Village, Ark.

The pastor of the fourth church, Glynn McCalman of University Baptist Church where the meeting was held, explained that he was not signing the statement, but this was not to be taken as opposition. He indicated that he might sign it later.

After a caucus, members of the University Baptist Church present announced that the entire church would consider the statement at its Wednesday night service two days later.

Authority Questioned

Stating that "we do not look upon ourselves as being legally out of the convention," the signed statement contended that the authority of the state convention is restricted to messengers to the convention and not to churches from which the messengers come.

The convention's constitution states that "The convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this convention."

The statement signed by members of the four churches contended that

there was an unconstitutional interpretation of the meaning of the term "regular" Baptist churches at the Hot Springs convention in November to include only churches which do not practice "open communion" and "alien immersion."

The interpretation at the Hot Springs convention was based on resolutions passed by the convention during previous years on a majority vote. Some of these resolutions were made appendices to the constitution or by-laws, but by majority vote, and not by the two-thirds vote necessary to amend the constitution and bylaws, the statement said.

In strong language, the statement declared: "The people of the Arkansas Baptist churches should be told that we feel that this is persecution and we see this as an attempt to dictate to the local church, which would make the convention an ecclesiastical body with power of expulsion over the local church."

The statement further pointed out that from time to time there have been efforts at the Southern Baptist Convention to make "open communion" and "alien immersion" tests of fellowship, but that the convention presidents have always ruled such efforts out of order.

Those attending the meeting stated that the churches involved should continue to cooperate with the convention, sending their missions contributions to the convention office for distribution.

"We may be denied our credentials in Ft. Smith at the 1969 session, but we are going to be there asking to be seated," concluded the statement.

The group said it would not meet with a committee for reconciliation ap-

pointed by the convention "because, in our opinion, there is no reason for this committee because no legal breach has taken place."

They added they would be glad to discuss the legality of the action with an impartial committee appointed for this purpose, and suggested a public meeting of all interested persons later.

Thompson, pastor of the Russellville church, stressed that the churches were not trying to make any other churches adopt policies of observing open communion. "We do not feel that the convention has any authority to rule one way or another on doctrinal matters," he said. "We must want to be left alone as autonomous churches." (BP)

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION ROBERT B. ANDREWS

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert B. Andrews has served as Church Clerk of the Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, Fairmont, North Carolina, for 50 years, and as Chairman of Deacons for 25 years, and as Treasurer for 9 years, until his recent illness in 1968, performing his duties faithfully and loyally.

AND WHEREAS, We sincerely regret that he is unable to serve in those offices due to his illness. However, we do feel we have been very fortunate to have him serve in these opportunities for service. He and his loyal wife have been an inspiration to our Church, to our community, and to the entire Fairmont area. They have brought hope where there was discouragement; light where there was darkness, and love where there was hate and strife. They, together, have served Christ well, and they are continuing to serve Him with their heart and mind, and for this we are grateful.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved, that we, the members of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, Fairmont, North Carolina, wish to express our appreciation to Robert B. Andrews for his excellent services to us and to our church, and we offer to him our best wishes and our earnest prayers for a speedy recovery from his present illness.

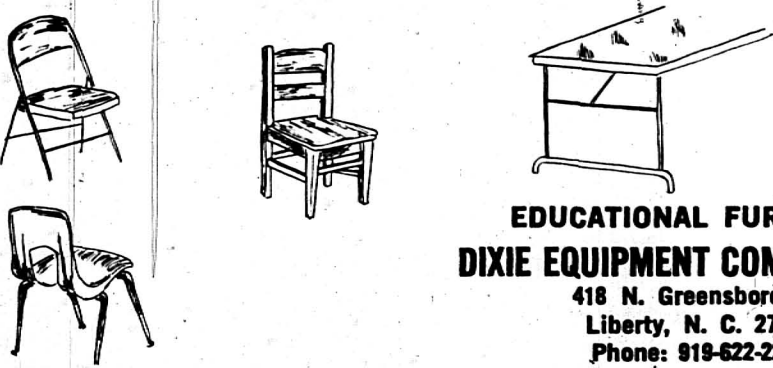
AND, THEREFORE, Be it resolved, that Robert B. Andrews be named as Honorary Chairman of the Board of Deacons of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, and he be given all the honors pertaining thereto.

SO, BELOVED, Be it resolved, that this resolution of appreciation be entered in the minutes of the Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, a copy presented to Robert B. Andrews, and a copy to the Times-Messenger, Fairmont, North Carolina, and a copy to our Baptist State Paper, the BIBLICAL RECORDER, for publication.

The above resolution has been approved by the Board of Deacons, and is recommended to the church for adoption.

Adopted by the Pleasant Hope Baptist Church this the 24th day of November, 1968.

David B. McGugan, Pastor
Mrs. Bagley Jenkins, Clerk
Wilton Baxley, Chm. of Deacons



EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
DIXIE EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.
418 N. Greensboro St.
Liberty, N. C. 27298
Phone: 919-622-2204

**When you're facing
a blank sheet of paper...**



... reference books like these can make the difference. Particularly if you're a minister with a sermon to prepare ... a student writing a term paper ... a Sunday School teacher planning a lesson ... or a layman searching for more meaning from your Bible. These books present the facts you need to know — concisely, conveniently, accurately. Visit your Baptist Book Store today and help yourself.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT FROM 26
TRANSLATIONS, Cloth.....\$12.50**
HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK,
 New Revised Edition,
 Regular Edition.....\$ 3.95
 Deluxe Edition (in slipcase).....\$ 5.95
THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE, Cloth.....\$ 9.95
CRUDEN'S COMPACT CONCOR-
DANCE, Cloth.....\$ 3.95
CRUDEN'S COMPACT CONCOR-
DANCE, COMPACT BIBLE DICTION-
ARY, HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK,
 3-Volume Set available at a \$2.00 saving.
 \$11.85 value only.....\$ 9.85
MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY
ON THE WHOLE BIBLE, One Volume,
 Cloth.....\$10.95
THE ZONDERVAN PICTORIAL BIBLE
DICTIONARY, Cloth.....\$ 9.95
 Buy **MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY**
 and **ZONDERVAN PICTORIAL**
BIBLE DICTIONARY Set and save \$1.00
 —\$20.90 value for.....\$19.90

**Seven valuable reference works
at your Baptist Book Store**

Comments on BOOKS

By C. Sylvester Green

Instrument of Thy Peace by Alan Paton (Seabury. \$3.50). Written as the Seabury Lenten Book for 1968, this is a collection of highly inspirational prose by the author of the long famous, "Cry, the Beloved Country." It is a volume of prayers that makes a true Christian humble, that gives a nominal Christian heart to improve, that shows Christ is the King — an answer for the melancholy and withdrawn. It is therefore good diet for any day or season.

The Magnificent Defeat by Frederick Buechner (Seabury. \$3.50). In Mr. Buechner's ability as a writer is an inherent capacity to give life to everything he touches. Clergyman and novelist, he makes the Bible "speak." Here is a collection of 18 devotionals under three major heads: the challenge to surrender; the triumph of love; and the mystery and miracle of grace.

Foreign Missions Benefit From Foundation Services

Some three years ago, a businessman inquired of the Baptist Foundation office how he might make investments periodically through the foundation for the benefit of foreign missions.

He had two distinct purposes in mind: (1) to see a portion of his money invested in perpetuity while he is living and observing the proceeds go annually to foreign missions, and (2) by making annual contributions to this trust fund, he can take advantage of saving in income taxes afforded by this method.

This trust agreement has been effected so that the donor, or any of his friends, may add to this fund at any time for any amount. The trust fund can become a memorial fund through arrangement with the foundation, or through the will of the donor, if he so designates it.

—GORDON MADDREY

15 DAY SOJOURN TO BIBLE LANDS AND EUROPE

Let the Bible come alive for you on this fascinating study tour. 1st class hotels, all meals. Only a few more weeks to sign up—March 10 departure on Air France-Wholesale Tours. Write or call:

THE REV. JOHN W. STEEN
First Baptist Church, Clayton, N. C. 27520

Even Bank Robbers Take Their Troubles to Church

For a while, it looked like some shy philanthropist had dumped a bundle of money on the steps of First Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., right in the middle of a budget campaign.

Fat chance! It turned out to be a bank robber getting rid of some booby-trapped loot.

Robert Snead, minister of music at the church, saw it all and leaped into action.

Snead was sitting in his upstairs office when he heard a car come to a screeching stop outside.

Looking out, he saw red smoke pouring from the car. The driver jumped out, jerked off his coat, fanned the smoke, jumped back in, started toward the corner, stopped again, and fanned the smoke some more.

Snead ran downstairs, thinking the car was on fire and seeking to help. The car had gone, but Snead found on the sidewalk a bundle with a genuine \$5 bill on top, but fake money underneath. Red smoke was pouring from the bundle.

Snead called the police and five patrol cars converged on the scene. The story then began to fall into place.

A nearby branch bank had been robbed of less than \$600. The teller had given the robber a smoke bomb disguised as a packet of \$5 bills. The robber put the "money" into his coat

pocket, and three minutes later as he drove past the church, the bomb went off.

Snead said when he called the police, he thought that someone had bobby-trapped the money to try to kill the man, and that the bomb might yet explode outside the church.

Despite Snead's description of the car and the driver, police several days later had not located the thief.

Snead said everyone he knows, and many strangers, had kidded him about the incident, about being a non-hero, and about going to any length to raise money for the church's \$586,000 budget campaign.

If he had only captured the robber, Snead might have been able to donate the reward money to the church campaign, which raised nearly \$500,000 on the first day of pledging.

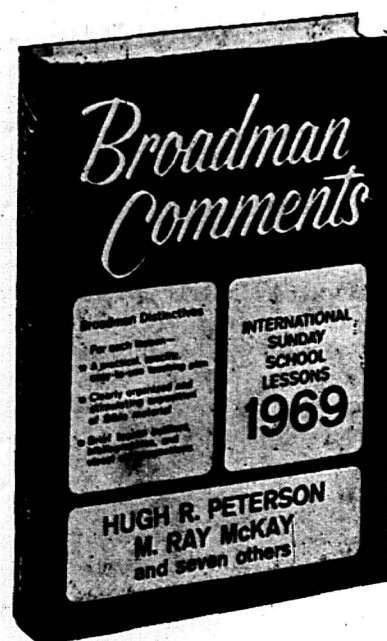
When asked if he really would have given it all to the church, Snead replied, "Well, at least 10 per cent of it." (BP)

Dewey Robbins Ordained

Dewey Robbins was ordained to the gospel ministry October 6 by Lebanon Baptist Church, Winnabow. He received his training at Southwestern Seminary and has been called as pastor of Pine View Baptist Church, Wilmington Association. Henry Reggster preached the ordination sermon.

Limited Amount
**REGISTERED
FIRST MORTGAGE
CHURCH BONDS**
with **7%**
YIELD TO MATURITY
Call or Write
CHURCH INVESTORS
DeKalb-Peachtree Airport
Atlanta, Ga. 30005
Phone 451-5431

BROADMAN'S POPULAR COMMENTARY



BROADMAN COMMENTS, 1969
by M. Ray McKay, Hugh R. Peterson
and seven others

Here's practical help for the Sunday School teacher and student in preparing each International Sunday School Lesson in 1969. Each lesson treatment includes: a practical, easy-to-use teaching plan, clearly organized and stimulating exposition of Bible material, realistic application to everyday living, brief lesson outline, bibliographies, and visual aid suggestions. (26b) \$3.25

Buy **BROADMAN BOOKS**
at your Baptist Book Store

BUILDING MONEY For Churches

Happy New Year and Thank You...

for selecting Guaranty Bond to provide financing for so many of your church buildings during 1968. It has been a good year for us, thanks to you. Best wishes for the coming year and be assured of our continuing interest and desire to be of service.

AS LOW AS

6%

Guaranty BOND

AND SECURITIES CORP.

TELEPHONE

615-291-4660

2312 WEST END AVE., NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

**MAIL
COUPON
TODAY**

Please send complete information, without obligation

BR

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Sunday School Lesson

Larger Lesson: I John 1:1-4; Revelation 15:3-4; 11:15

Lesson Passage: I John 1:1-4; Revelation 15:3-4; 11:15

The birth of Jesus into our world is a historical fact. His physical existence, His family life in the home of Mary and Joseph, His teaching ministry, His healing ministry, His social and spiritual contacts with men, His death, resurrection, and ascension — these, too, are facts in history. Ours is a historical Christ. He was within history, but is before recorded history, and above history.

The event in Bethlehem's stable holds special significance for every Christian. The fact of the incarnation of God into human flesh is the focal point, the starting point, and the foundation of the Christian gospel. The miraculous and redemptive ministry of God's Son could not be possible except He be born into our world. He was.

It is significant that our lesson this year comes not from the gospels but from the faith and experience of the Early Church after Jesus had bodily left their presence. This gives us an opportunity to study the incarnation in the light of the Early Church's sure hope of His coming again in victory and in glory at the end of the age.

The Historical Jesus (I John 1:1-4)

The Apostle John begins this letter as he did his gospel — with a prologue. This prologue is strikingly similar in style

and in length with the one in the gospel. The same figure is the central concern: Jesus the Word of God.

But the prologue to the gospel emphasizes the eternal nature of God's Word, His complete oneness with God Himself, and His agency in creation, as background for its stirring insistence that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The letter, on the other hand, stresses this presence of the Word in the midst of men. But there is here the same grand assertion that characterizes the gospel, namely, that this very human Word of God is "that which was from the beginning."

John was eager to make his readers realize that Christ was real. Because of the presence of the gnostic heresy some found it hard to believe that such a one as Jesus actually lived.

What place has the eternal Christ in our time schedule? John came to grips with this question. He insisted that he knew the answer. He and the others who proclaimed Jesus as the Christ had actually seen and touched Him as a fellow man. Christ was from an altogether different world, God's world, yet He lived among us as a real man.

But why should one who belonged to God's world become part of ours? The purpose is very clear. It is so that God's very life should become our life. It is "the life" that "was made manifest." It is "the eternal life" which is made our actual possession. He has brought the spiritual order into our material world so that those who saw Him may know that "our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

Mystic contemplation of God does not satisfy. A bowing acquaintance with those who have seen the Lord is not enough. Complete fellowship — among believers on earth and between earth and heaven — is the actual goal of the Christian life.



By **D. E. Parkerson**

D. E. Parkerson is pastor of Carrboro Church.

The Eternal Christ (Rev. 15:3-4)

The eternal Christ became the historical Christ that men in history might become eternally His. In this chapter the safety of those who believe in Christ is stressed. Even as God had saved Israel by leading them safely across the Red Sea in an escape from Egyptian bondage, Christ leads His followers from sin's bondage across the barrier of death into life eternal.

The song that they sing is appropriately called "the song of Moses . . . and the song of the Lamb" (v. 3). Because Jesus was born in our world and lived among us we can experience new birth into a world that knows no death.

Christ our King Forever (Rev. 11:15)

This verse is a testimony from heaven. It anticipates the time when the kingdom of Christ shall have conquered the kingdom of the world, when goodness shall have triumphed over evil, when love shall have banished hate, and when the rule of Christ shall have been eternally established. The unity of God's rule is through His Son. He will be our King forever.

What could be more appropriate at Christmas time than celebrating the ultimate victory of our Christ? When He was born, the angels sang of "peace on earth." Peace will come, because the Prince of Peace will reign throughout all eternity. His sovereignty guarantees that righteousness, truth, love, and joy are not transient virtues.

Thought For Today

How meaningful is our observance of Christmas? What does the birth of Christ and the existence of His Kingship mean to us? Are we inspired through this special season to a fuller commitment to Him? Is Christmas to be a spree in self-indulgence or a self-giving in worshipful adoration to the King of Kings?

BAPTISTRIES — SPIRES

- Unit-Molded Fiberglass
- Accessories

Wiedemann Industries, Inc.
Box 672 Dept. JS, Muscatine, Iowa

**WHY TAKE LESS?
RECEIVE 6% INTEREST
ON YOUR MONEY**

VISIT—WRITE OR CALL TODAY

BAPTIST BUILDING SAVINGS, INC.

716 MAIN, LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS PHONE FR 4-2481

**INTEREST PAID
SEMI-ANNUALLY
ON
First Mortgage-Baptist
Building Bonds**



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

For Dec. 22, 1968

Good News About Jesus' Coming

By James O. Hagwood

Basic Passages: Isaiah 7:10-16; 11:1-10

Focal Passage: Isaiah 11:1-10

This lesson begins a study of the final unit of this quarter, "The Gospel in Promise." The first lesson deals with the promise of the coming of the Messiah. The second points to the future when we shall see the ultimate triumph of God.

During this Christmas season it is appropriate that we review some of the promises which are found in the Old Testament concerning the coming of our Lord. In all the hustle and activity associated with this festive time of the year, we must not forget the true significance of Christmas. This great event is the fulfillment of God's plan for the salvation of mankind. That plan was revealed to prophets of old and brought to fruition in the coming of Jesus. Thus the good news about Jesus began long before the first Christmas. It was only a gospel in promise then but it was the beginning of good news for all.

There are several Old Testament prophecies which deal with the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah seems to express this expectation in the most beautiful and poetic manner. Our larger Bible reading tells us of the nature of the Messiah's birth and something of his mission. The ninth chapter of Isaiah portrays the work of the Messiah as that of the Wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. In the Servant passages a further description of the ministry of this Anointed One is given to us. Our focal passage for today's lesson is from the prophecy in the eleventh chapter of Isaiah.

The Character of the Promised One, Isaiah 11:1-5

The prophet Isaiah had given a graphic picture of the fall of Assyria in the tenth chapter of his prophecy. At the close of that chapter Assyria is compared to a mighty forest which was to be cut down, never to spring up again. By contrast, Isaiah proclaims that from the destroyed oak, which represents Israel, shall come a shoot which shall grow and flourish. The Messiah, God's Anointed One, shall come from the stock of Judah's royal dynasty which seemed to have been destroyed forever. By changing the text slightly to give better parallelism, we can read, "a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit."

This Messiah is to be equipped and endowed for his work. The Spirit of the Lord is to rest upon him. The next few

verses describe the nature of this spirit as it will manifest itself in the ministry of this coming one. Wisdom and understanding will be his. These represent the fundamental intellectual qualifications of this ruler. Counsel and might signify the practical aspects of his reign. The Messiah will know what is needful and will have the energy to carry out his resolutions. Knowledge and fear or reverential awe constitute the religious area. Here is one who will delight in true religion. Since he will know what is within men, he will be able to judge with righteousness.

Special objects of the care of the Messiah will be the defenseless and down-trodden. The Messianic age does not exclude evil. There are still those who will transgress against God and their fellows. However, transgressors and oppressors are recognized as such and are judged.

The strength of the Messiah's government is to be found in righteousness and faithfulness. The girdle which is mentioned is a symbol of resolute and vigorous action on the part of this servant of God.

The Reign of Peace, Isaiah 11:6-10

The prophet moves beyond the simple prophecy of the coming of the Messiah to describe the consequences of his coming. This remarkable prophecy uses pictorial language to describe what is to come. Harmony is to be restored to creation by the ministry of God's Servant. The description is not a simple allegory which substitutes wild beasts for cruel and evil men. Rather, here is a poetic presentation of the truth that the regeneration of society is to be accompanied by a restoration of harmony which existed at creation. Sharp contrasts, such as a child playing with a deadly serpent, characterize the change taking place when men are redeemed. This passage has a parallel in Paul's Roman letter (chapter eight). The benefits brought to men by the Holy Spirit are to be shared by all creation. Isaiah is saying that the consequences of the Anointed One's reign is the transformation of the order of life itself.

The final verse in the passage indicates the world-wide influence of the coming of the Messiah. He is to be a rallying point for all mankind.

We see in the coming of Jesus the fulfillment of many of these Old Testament prophecies. This is the reason that the Christmas season means so much to us. We are not as interested as were those to whom Isaiah spoke in the lin-



James O. Hagwood is pastor of First Church, Robersonville.

eage of the Messiah. Christmas means that God has sent his Son to redeem us. He has given us an opportunity to begin anew and afresh with our sins forgiven and forgotten. Wild beasts do not as yet live peaceably with each other but men have been changed as Christ has been brought into their lives. During this Christmas season we bow in thanksgiving that these promises made to men of old have been fulfilled in the coming of Jesus our Saviour and Lord.

Special Offer

Kodak Roll Film
DEVELOPED & JUMBO PRINTS

Any Black and White film 8 or 12 Exposure Roll developed and printed for only

49c

KODACOLOR

8 Exposures.....\$1.88

12 Exposures.....\$2.60

(plus 2 names of persons having cameras)

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____



P.O. Box 3212, Charleston, S. C. 29407
Established 1910

Ordinations

ROY ARNOLD

Roy Arnold was ordained to the gospel ministry recently by Falls Church, Wake Forest. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Preston Arnold of Greenville, S. C. Leon Keefe, pastor of the church, preached the ordination sermon. Others participating were Aubry Folk, pastor of Bells Church, Apex; Charles Bullock, pastor of First Church, Mocksville; Horace Jackson, pastor of Oakdale Church, Fair-

mont, and J. C. Strickland, deacon in Falls Church. Arnold is a graduate of Clemson University and is a second year student at Southeastern Seminary. He has been called as pastor of Thomas Memorial Church, Drewryville, Va. His wife is the former Joan Letlow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Letlow of Easley, S. C.

ART AND STAINED GLASS COMPANY
COMPLETE CHURCH WINDOW SERVICE
1000 Tryon St., High Point, N. C. 27260
Phone 883-0516

SOUTHEASTERN EQUIPMENT CO.



Chairs and tables in complete range of sizes for every Church need. Steel and wood folding chairs, folding banquet tables, speakers' stands. Also office desks and chairs. Write for information.



SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

THE BEAM

Publication of Southern Baptists' Radio-Television Commission

FORGET THE ALPHABET

The alphabet for failure is learned at an early age. From our earliest days it is drilled and hammered in. It is stamped and stained into every day, engraved, inlaid and enameled every hour:

It's never been done before--it won't work--it costs too much--this is not the time.

If a man's life is thus circumscribed, if he never finds the door of service to others, he will live and die behind those four prison bars.

To the man of faith, a great and effectual door opens which releases life from such inane restrictions and sets his feet on the rising slopes of fulfillment.

So if you have learned that asinine alphabet, forget it. Don't give any of it a second thought. For behind it you will find a huge assortment of faded failures who actually never even tried. -P.M.S.

Q What is public service time? I have heard the Commission uses such time for its programs. Is it free?

A Time devoted to such things as news, weather, documentaries and religious programs is called "public service time." Many stations make this time available free. Stations and networks give more than \$3 million worth of free time each year for Commission programs.

DESPERATE "Please send me your book, 'Reaching Up.' I am desperate and almost ready to give up"... "I received your book, 'The Answer.' I was seeking desperately, any kind of consolation and comfort"... "I got my booklet, 'Reaching Up.' I've prayed for my lost husband so hard I've almost given up."

Thousands of people like these, desperate in the face of life's problems, send in each year for the Commission's faith-building inspirational materials after hearing one of our programs. Most of them are hidden away from the normal outreach of the local church. If you would like a brochure describing our ministry through the mails, write the Commission at 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas, 76116.

CUBAN WITNESS

"I am a listener of 'La Hora Bautista.' Your messages are so interesting that I listen every week. Each message seems to give me a feeling of restfulness. I have accepted Christ as my personal Saviour."

This letter is representative of thousands that come each year from the Radio-TV Commission's Spanish audience.

Spanish language broadcasts began 10 years ago with one program on only two stations. Now the Language Department produces five Spanish programs heard on over 300 stations in the United States and 40 other countries including Cuba.

In addition, the Commission provides Bibles, sermon excerpts, correspondence courses and personal spiritual counseling for thousands of Spanish speaking people who see or hear its programs.



Film team at British Museum



The most extensive television photography mission ever staged in the massive British Museum in London was completed recently by a film team from NBC-TV and the Radio-TV Commission. More than 21,000 feet of film were shot and woven into an hour-long color documentary, "Ecce Homo", to be presented on NBC-TV, January 5.

Using the Museum as the basic source of reference, the history of man, his hands, his head, his heart, is re-lived in the artifacts cast up on the banks of the river of time.

FREE RECORD

Write for a free record sampler of the music heard weekly on The Baptist Hour.



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Paul M. Stevens, Director
C. Edward Shipman, Editor

BIBLICAL RECORDER

\$3,000 in Food, Medicine Going to Biafran Refugees

More than \$3,000 in food and medical supplies will be sent to Biafran refugees by Wake Forest University students sometime before Christmas.

The money was raised last month in a student-organized "Fast for Biafra," when students and faculty members went without meals and donated their money to the project.

Almost \$1,000 was collected when 350 members of the women's Inter-Society Council spent two hours each in downtown Winston-Salem asking shoppers to donate money. The Men's Residence Council helped with the drive. Other funds were raised during a work day, when students hired out to do odd jobs in homes and yards. Contributions also arrived from churches and from individuals.

Brotherhood Will Sponsor Royal Ambassador Meet

The Brotherhood Department of the Baptist State Convention will sponsor the first Royal Ambassador State Track Meet at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, May 17. Harold Rhea, track coach at Wake Forest, will be meet director.

Competition will be open to Royal Ambassador boys, 9-17. Events will include 100 and 50 yard dash, shot put, softball throw, long jump, high jump, 440 yard relay, and 880 yard run.

A series of associational meets are being arranged leading up to the State Meet. Winners from the associational meets will participate at Wake Forest.

CHURCH FURNITURE

Pews
Pulpits
Altars
Fonts
Screens
Lecterns
Reading Stands
Offering Plates
Chairs
Tables



CATALOG ON
REQUEST

**CARRIKER CHURCH
FURNITURE CO.**

Box 220, Monroe, N. C. 28110

MEMBER CHURCH FURNITURE
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Your Friends Can Open This Christmas Gift



50 Times Each Year

AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

- Special Christmas rate—One subscription \$3.00 (as usual)
Each additional subscription \$2.50 each plus N. C. Sales tax.
- A gift letter will be sent with each Christmas subscription.

Send the BIBLICAL RECORDER to:

Name
Street or P. O. Box ZIP Code
City State
Name
Street or P. O. Box ZIP Code
City State
Name
Street or P. O. Box ZIP Code
City State

This gift subscription order is from:

Please indicate if you would like to be notified at expiration.

Name
Street ZIP Code
City State

BIBLICAL RECORDER

P. O. BOX 9325

Raleigh, North Carolina 27603



Christmas

at Your Baptist Hospital

Christmas is a time for pausing in a busy life to enjoy your family and friends, for giving gifts to loved ones and to those whose lives are made brighter because we care.

At your Hospital there is, of course, no pause, for its resources must be ready every day in the year to serve those who need them.

Yet, Christmas is definitely in the air as we join to make this a Christmas to be remembered by our patients and staff. Students of the School of Nursing have decorated the entrance to Twin Castles, their residence, and have painted gay Christmas scenes on the doors of rooms in the Pediatrics Department. They are buying and wrapping gifts for our needy patients to make sure no one is forgotten and are planning to serenade us with Christmas carols. Others are contributing in a variety of ways to the good cheer and joyousness of the season.

As the close of 1968 draws near and we approach a new year, those of us who have the privilege of serving your Hospital wish for all of you good health, peace, and happiness and ask for your prayers as we continue our efforts in your ministry of healing.

HISTORICAL COMM
1900 BAPT CONVENTION
1227 NINTH AVENUE N
NASHVILLE TENN 37302

North Carolina

a medical center ministering with skill and understanding



Baptist Hospitals, inc.

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA