

Box 305  
Norths Bookbinding Co  
XX  
U



Dr. Rule

## How can we, as United Methodists, best serve our day?

by Dr. E. Clifton Rule\*

Eighty years is a long time. But my memories of The Methodist Church are nearly that long. There was the singing in the Sunday school, when all met together. And there was a preacher whose voice and face and presence spoke of grace and earnest concern. He was a local preacher, a physician and planter, who (I learned later) served his church as minister in a time of crisis.

I am grateful for the years of my growing and the patience of that church. For nearly sixty years I have been a minister of Little Rock Conference. Now I am retired. Yet I have a concern for the life and work of the Methodist people. So long as I live this will continue. This is my reason for writing.

I was interested in the article by Bishop Walton calling our attention to the loss of national membership in the past years. What he said should have stirred us to ask why this condition prevails.

Then came the letter from Bishop Frank. He expressed his concern for a change. I was interested in that he raised the question of leadership. He led me to ask if we have been following a leadership who have

renounced the disciplines and lost the spirit and purpose that made us great servants of Christ?

But we make our leaders. And I want to ask the ministers "in the ranks" and the people in the local churches to consider our responsibility. Where have we gone wrong? What have we forgotten or neglected? For until we are willing to ask these questions we will continue in the doldrums.

### How Can We Serve

The first question is not "how can we reach greater numbers?" nor even how we can hold those we have. The all-embracing question is "how can we, as Methodist people, serve our day?"

Our only reason for being is that we might help one another in the growth and expression of Christ in us. And that means a concern for every element in the life of the community and nation that affects the whole life of persons. We will be seeking to reach "the last and the least" of those uncommitted. We will be nurturing their growth, and therefore ours, as followers and servants of

Christ. We will be concerned for the mind and spirit of Christ in every social issue.

The first suggestion may seem out of place. I say we must make clear our total commitment to Jesus Christ. But you say we have already done that. Have we? All right then, remember there are times when we lose the sharp edge of our commitment. We may need to "pray through some things," to rearrange our priorities, and to renew — in a personal encounter — our total commitment to him and his purpose for us. Herein is wholeness in the power of living faith. Herein, always, has been found the power of a living Church.

Costly? Surely it is a costly way of renewal. Neither the ministry nor the laity can escape the cost. When we try, we lose Christ. Yet he still remains so honest — "he that would save his life shall lose it." His compassionate love does not mean that he forsakes judgment. For his judgment speaks the greatness of what we are made for. His "he that will lose his life shall save it," is both a

(Continued on page two)

# Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, June 26, 1975

94th Year, No. 26

### GENERAL ORDER

Issued by General George Washington in New York, July 1776

"The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing, a vice heretofore little known in an American army, is growing into fashion. He hopes the officers will, by example as well as influence, endeavor to check it, and that both they and the men will reflect, that we can have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms, if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without any temptation, that every man of sense and character detests and despises it."

*George Washington*

### Washington Combats A Problem

In July 1776, General George Washington found himself faced with a problem — "the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing" — and issued this General Order to his army.

—RNS Photo

## Commission to consider 'master plan' for U.M. higher education

### Dr. Shilling on commission

Dr. Roy B. Shilling Jr., president of Hendrix College, has been selected as a member of a new National Commission on United Methodist Higher Education.

The independent commission is expected to provide the denomination with reasons for continuing in higher education and a master plan for United Methodist Higher Education during the remainder of this century, according to Dr. F. Thomas Trotter, general secretary of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Dr. Paul Hardin III, president of Drew University, has been appointed chairman of the 16-member commission which will hold its first meeting in Nashville, June 20-21.

Other members are the Honorable James C. Corman, U.S. Congressman from California; Dr. August W. Eberle, professor of higher education at Indiana University; Dr. Lloyd C. Gerhan, professor of economics at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio; Dr. Thomas K. Kim, president of McMurry College in Abilene, Tex., and Monsignor John F. Murphy, executive secretary of the College and University Department of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Other members include Dr. Willa B. Player, director of the Division of College Support of the U.S. Office of Education; Robert Rankin, vice president of the Danforth Foundation; Dr. John R. Silber, president of Boston University; Dr. Harry E. Smith, executive director of the Society for Religion in Higher Education; Elmer B. Staats,

Comptroller General of the United States; Dr. Ralph M. Tanner, president of Birmingham-Southern College; Mrs. Carolyn Warner, superintendent for the State of Arizona Department of Education, and Bishop D. Frederick Wertz of the West Virginia Area of The United Methodist Church.

The Commission is being funded by a grant from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry and an anticipated matching grant from a private foundation. The members and staff of the Commission will complete their work by the close of 1976 with a basic outline of their final report to be available for the General Conference in April.

There are more than 108 institutions of higher education related to the denomination, enrolling more than 185,000 students and employing more than 13,000 faculty members. Total operating budgets of the schools exceed \$1 billion annually.

†

### NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

In keeping with our practice of many years we will not publish an issue next week, the week in which the Fourth of July occurs. The Sunday School Lesson for July 13 will be found on page nine of this issue, in addition to the regular lesson on page eight. For the convenience of our readers we are printing, on page 11 in this issue, Daily Bible Readings for two weeks.

†



## How can United Methodists best serve?

(Continued from page one)

challenge to the high and real, but also an implied promise of becoming. Let us dare.

Our Methodist fathers knew the world with its constant pressures. They feared the subtle power of evil. In their earnestness they set up certain disciplines formerly well known among us. We have largely disregarded these disciplines. Have we become a freer people? Have we become a stronger people? Have we found an inward serenity? Have we become more effective servants of our time? You know the answer. "Conforming to the world" has fettered us in shackles. If we are to follow the genius of "a peculiar people" we must face the matter of the moral, spiritual, social disciplines that enable us to "overcome the world."

Sometimes it disturbs me deeply when I wonder if the living Christ is not saying to us, "how oft would I have gathered you — but ye would not." Then when I think of the desperate needs of our day, and what a real opportunity Methodist people have to minister to the needs, I wonder if we should not ask ourselves the

question that Esther faced: "who knoweth but that thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Our Christ can use us greatly if we are willing.

### Some Spirit Lost

Some have expressed concern with the loss of the spirit of close fellowship among our ministers. Perhaps it is only in the common commitment to a great way and a great service we can enjoy this blessing. Again some comment on the loss of the spirit of joy in life and work. Is it not experience that the joy of the Christian life blooms as the fruit of fellowship with Christ in the great way of faith and service?

Will it be easy to fulfill our destiny under God in this time? No. Always across the heart of the communion of the saints is the spirit of Christ, the crucified and risen Lord. But he is living not dead. And when we dare follow in his way there is a blessing the world can never give. And then it may be said again: "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God." And the powers of evil

will be shaken by that spiritual reality against which even "the gates of hell cannot prevail."

After he returned from a trip to England I heard Dr. Robert Moore tell of a visit he made to John Wesley's old quarters. There was a room where he had an altar for kneeling in prayer. One day an official went to that room. And there kneeling at that altar was the caretaker. And he was crying out "Do it again, Lord. Do it again." In these times of crisis, when it seems the whole world teeters toward the abyss, let's open the way that he may do it again. And he will, perhaps, as is often his way, in greater power and richer blessing than we could ever ask or think.

†

\*Dr. Rule, a retired member of the Little Rock Conference, lives in Pine Bluff. He retired in 1965 after 49 years of pastoral ministry.

## Women authors invited

The Board of Discipleship, in cooperation with the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, is inviting women to submit materials for publication in a new devotional booklet to be available in December.

Wanted are poetry, prose, stories, essays, prayers, creeds and pictures and graphic art work. The publication, to be available for distribution at the April, 1976 General Conference and for later circulation throughout the church, will mark the conclusion of the International Women's Year.

Manuscripts should not exceed 1,000 words in any single selection and all materials must be submitted by July 15 to Janice Grana, Director, Department of Devotional Literature, Board of Discipleship, Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

†

## CORRECTION

In the issue of June 12, page three, it was noted that "so far as could be readily determined, no previous North Arkansas Conference General Conference delegations have had a woman in their membership." It has since been pointed out to us that the General Conference delegation of 1952 contained a woman. In that year Mrs. Johnnie McClure (now Mrs. A. W. Martin) of Springdale was one of the three lay delegates elected to attend the San Francisco conference. We regret the error in reporting.

## News In Brief

The premiere of two musical compositions will be featured at "Renaissance '75", a convocation on worship, music and other arts to be held on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va., Aug. 3-9 under sponsorship of the Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians and the Board of Discipleship's section on worship.

†



## Searcy Director of Music consecrated

During the recent North Arkansas Conference session, Mr. Monty Ray Bell (right), having met the qualifications of United Methodism's Board of Higher Education, was consecrated as a Director of Music by Bishop Eugene M. Frank. Shown with Mr. Bell, director of music at First Church, Searcy, is Dr. J. Ralph Clayton, pastor. Bell holds music degrees from United Methodism's Morningside College, Sioux City, Ia. and the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. He has served as organist and choral director at Christ United Methodist Church, Davenport, Ia., at Whitfield United Methodist Church, Sioux City, Ia., and at First United Methodist Church, Vermillion, South Dakota. He has wide experience with children's, youth, and adult choirs.



New Education Building at Perryville

## Perryville congregation to dedicate new facility

Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Conway District superintendent, will officiate at the dedication of the new Education Building at Perryville United Methodist Church this Sunday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m. Presenting the dedicatory address will be Dr. J. Ralph Clayton, former district superintendent, now pastor of First Church, Searcy.

Construction of the new facility began in September, 1974 and was completed in time for the annual Christmas bazaar on Dec. 5th. A spokesman said "construction of the building was begun on faith, anticipating it would require several years to pay the indebtedness. However, through the efforts of the

entire congregation and other interested parties — including a grant from the North Arkansas Conference — the building debt of \$45,000 was paid in full by May, 1975." The Rev. A. L. Chaffin provided pastoral leadership for the project.

The new structure replaces a 52-year-old church building which had been converted to an education building after a new sanctuary was erected nearly 17 years ago. The building contains 2880 square feet of space with six permanent classrooms (each of which will accommodate 15 to 25 persons), a fellowship hall, fully equipped kitchen, and two rest rooms.

## New History Of Arkansas Methodism Advance Subscription

Pre-publication price — (\$2 Discount) — \$7.95  
Regular subscription price per copy — \$9.95

(On and after May 25, 1976, date of publication)

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ copies for undersigned at \$7.95 each.  
Please check one: A. ☐ Cash attached. B. ☐ Please bill me. C. ☐ Cash on delivery

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Send order to: Area Treasurer's Office  
P.O. Box 6009  
Little Rock, Ark. 72206

Arkansas Methodist Publication Committee



## Guest Editorial

# Things Are Looking Up

By Dr. Ewing T. Wayland\*

Now that the Annual Conference season is over for this year and the annual summer slackening of pace in Church activities is at hand, this is an excellent time for examining the current state of Church affairs. The Church to which many of us have committed ourselves continues to weather the onslaught of changing times and conditions, the attempted manipulations by some who compete for leadership roles, and the defections of those who become frustrated with the Church not being the means to fulfilling their prejudices. What is the mood of the Church in the overall setting of today's world?

Students of history point out that interests and emphases have their peaks and valleys, times when certain issues are very much in vogue and again when interest in those same issues is low or practically impossible to maintain. For many issues, timing is of the very essence, since the public's willingness to maintain a sustained interest in many interests or subjects is limited. Theologically, for example, the "God is dead" issue had its day, made its point, and God is "back," very much alive and doing quite well.

As for the Church, the current state of affairs seems to indicate a positive position. In our judgment, things are looking up. Some negative signs are to be seen, but at the moment, these are fewer and further apart. There are a number of hopeful, positive indicators that seem to support a prediction for an upswing for the institutional Church for the next several years. Exceptions to positive indicators are on every hand, but better days are ahead.

### Hopeful Signs

Among these indicators is increased interest in theology, especially, among laypersons who want to know more about the Christian faith that undergirds the Church's operation.

Equally encouraging is the seeking by the Church's laity for a greater voice in policy roles and decision making, and personal involvement in the life of the Church, both on a general and local level. This is a very significant indicator. The ordained, long accustomed to unchallenged roles in these matters, sometimes find this painful, but increased participation by the laity in all levels of the organizational life of the Church is a most positive sign.

Increased interest throughout the Church in evangelism has to be viewed with hope. The Church has been awaiting a new understanding of evangelism, new evangelistic techniques, new effective approaches to unchristianized peoples, new patterns of missional procedures which grow out of new definitions of evangelism. This waiting has been long, and the search has been overshadowed at times by the Church's social activism. Now, however, new interest in evangelism is seen on every hand. The wait will not be long.

Most encouraging is the stirrings of interest among the youth. For a number of years, interest by youth was at a low tide. Youth programs in many churches barely held on, and what was happening on a general Church level among youth was viewed with much suspicion. This is no longer true. There is renewed interest, more involvement, and genuine commitment by larger numbers of United Methodist youth than has been true for a number of years.

At this writing, the financial support of the Church's financial commitment continues strong. This is true despite the economic uncertainties and inflationary pressures of the times. While it is true that financial giving to the Church is not ahead of the annual rate of inflation, the number of dollars given is increasing. Costs for the Church to stay in mission continue to climb, but United Methodists continue to give more to underwrite these increased costs.

Finally, one can sense a more positive atmosphere in most sections of the Church. Local churches are places of renewed activity, and this activity is more concerned with missional activities than building programs. Annual conferences have been structuring themselves for mission. Many districts of annual conferences are becoming promotional and missional centers of activities, a development that will result in positive gains. Increased confidence and less suspicion in and toward the general Church, its agencies and leadership, is in marked contrast to the situation a decade ago. All in all, this adds up to a very positive atmosphere.

### Greatest Challenges And Opportunities Ahead

We are not suggesting that all problems are solved and that the Kingdom is at hand. Far from it. Never before has the institutional Church been faced with the challenges, the tasks, the amounts of unfinished business that now confronts it. We are suggesting there are many favorable signs that offer encouragement. Within the institutional Church there are peaks and valleys, inflation and depression, periods of negativism and positivism. And there are good reasons to believe that just now things are looking up for the Church. Your commitment and mine could make the difference.

\*Dr. Wayland is associate general secretary of United Methodism's General Council on Finance and Administration, Evanston, Ill., and a former editor of the ARKANSAS METHODIST and THE LOUISIANA METHODIST. We appreciate his willingness to editorialize on the state of the Church while the present editor is on vacation.

## Off the Top of the Head

Leeway on the freeway (or)

The longest prayer

Having just returned safely from a seven-day, 3000-mile dash to and from New Haven, Conn., surviving the freeways of New York, New Jersey and all points in between, I feel a moral obligation to share with you a bit, at least, of the wisdom gained from such a harried venture.

The object of our excursion was to deposit our eldest son at Yale University. The need to get him and all his belongings from here to there afforded the chance to mix that business with pleasure, so we took our vacation time to make the journey.

So with my holiday immediately behind me I am freshly qualified to offer some dandy advice for all of you who have yet to make your summer's venture out on the freeways. So here they are, some handy Vacation Dos and Don'ts:

- **DO** take your vacation early in the summer. The weather is nice, gas prices are lower, and the crowds aren't out yet.
  - **DON'T** take your vacation early in the summer. It'll rain most of the way to where you're going, especially as you are setting up your camping tent each night and taking it down the next morning. And gas prices are higher than later in the season. Also, everybody else in America is taking their vacation early in order to avoid the crowds.
  - **DO** assign a family member as Official Map Reader, preferably your wife and especially so if she is a school teacher (they read maps well).
  - **DON'T** assign an Official Map Reader and especially not your wife — if, that is, you want to remain on reasonably good terms with her. Maps are for teaching other people to read them.
  - **DO** assign one person the responsibility of watching all freeway signs for exact directions. This will enable you to concentrate on the race you will be having with the cars in the six lanes on either side of you.
  - **DON'T** ever assign one person the responsibility of being Official Freeway Sign Watcher. Ask everyone in the car which way they think you should go and then go the way you want to. This is guaranteed to create a lot of fun, and that's what vacations are supposed to do. And besides, you've got hundreds of miles to patch up your marriage and mend family relations.
  - **DO** plan a lot of quiet travel games for your youngest son. It'll help keep him still.
  - **DON'T** plan a single travel game for your children! They'll talk all the more trying to figure out how to play them.
  - **DO** try to sleep while your wife drives. It'll be very relaxing for you.
  - **DON'T** ever try to sleep while your wife drives; you'll be a bundle of nerves. Even though she has the least-busy section of freeway, five minutes after she takes over there'll be a construction detour and it will be two-way traffic for 25 miles. And even though you've got a pillow over your head every big truck you hear approaching will sound like it's smack in the middle of your side of the road.
  - **DO** change drivers frequently and ask, every so often, "Aren't you going the wrong way?" It will assure your wife or husband or other driving family members that you are a caring person.
  - **DON'T** ever change drivers! Do the whole thing yourself. And don't ever let the question "Aren't you going the wrong way?" be asked. If passengers must inquire, instruct them to say "We're going in the right direction, aren't we?" And besides, if one of you is going the wrong way, all of you are. And probably will be, several times, before your expedition is over.
- In short, such a venture is a must for anyone who is behind in their devotional life. And one learns a lot of handy things to know, too. Like, for example, that it's possible to pray all the way from Philadelphia, Penn., to the north end of the New Jersey Turnpike. So the next time somebody asks you if that can be done, you can answer "Yes, and I know somebody who did it!"

†

JSW

## Arkansas Methodist

Established 1882

Official newspaper of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

### Editor and Business

Manager ..... John S. Workman  
Associate Editor ..... Doris Woolard  
Editorial Assistant and  
Bookkeeper ..... Karen Compton  
Office Secretary ..... Kathleen Storey  
Circulation Manager ..... Jane Raiford  
Poetry Editor ..... Barbara L. Mulkey  
Contributing Editors ..... Alf A. Eason  
Myers B. Curtis

### Officers — Board of Managers

Chairman ..... Edward G. Matthews  
Vice Chairman ..... Charles Casteel  
Secretary ..... Kenneth Parker

PUBLISHED every Thursday except weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25 at United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., Little Rock, Ark. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark. When asking for change of address please include key number, new and old address and pastor's name.

POSTMASTER: Mail form 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

EDITORIAL and business offices located in United Methodist Headquarters Building, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark.

NEWS SERVICES: United Methodist Communications (UMC), United Methodist boards and agencies: Religious News Service (RNS), National Council of Churches, and others.

ADVERTISING RATES on request. Represented nationally by Jacob's List, Inc., Clinton, S.C. 29325. Products or services advertised are not necessarily endorsed by this newspaper or by The United Methodist Church.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$4.00 per year.

MEMBER:  
Associated Church Press,  
United Methodist Press Association



## Council Directors to Local Churches

# Summer Opportunities

Vacation Church Schools and special opportunities for Youth are conducted in most churches of the Arkansas Area. Children and Youth will respond to these pleasurable experiences of fellowship and learning. Beyond the local church are additional opportunities such as events at Mt. Sequoyah:

## JURISDICTIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY ENTERPRISE

The Jurisdiction Youth Ministry Enterprise will be conducted July 7-11, for all Senior High Youth at Mt. Sequoyah. There will be leadership for individual youth, conference teams, district councils, and local church groups.

There will be opportunities in Bible Study, Heritage of the United Methodist Church, Officer Training, Coordinators Training, Youth in Government, Human Relations, Drama, Recreation, Multi-Media, Local Church Programming, Conflict Management, Women, Innovative Worship, World Hunger, Junior High Ministry, and Serendipity.

## MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL

This event will be conducted at Mt. Sequoyah, July 13-18, and will include: Laboratory Classes, Seminar, and Leadership Class. The purpose of the Laboratory Class is to provide a learning situation, with clearly identified objectives and conditions, under the guidance of skilled leaders in which a climate for experimentation is created so that persons may develop understandings and competencies through a process of diagnosing needs, setting goals, planning

and selecting resources, practicing and evaluating as a means for interrelating theory and practice.

The laboratory process may be seen as advanced training and/or basic training which supports and complements other forms of leadership development. Lab Classes will be conducted for workers with Nursery, Kindergarten, Elementary I-II, Elementary III-IV, Elementary V-VI, Open Classroom (IV-VI), Small Church (Pre-School & Elementary), Junior High, Senior High, Small Church (Youth), Adults, and Library.

The Seminar is a training opportunity for persons working toward certification as laboratory leaders. The following are prerequisites:

(1) approval of participant's Conference Council on Ministries and acceptance of that approval by the Section on Local Church Education at Nashville;

(2) attendance at two Laboratory Schools in age group sections for which certification is sought;

(3) attendance at third laboratory school along with the Seminar. Attendance for Lab and Seminar is required at all sessions.

The Leadership Class is a basic orientation course on the philosophy, theology, methodology, and resources used in our Church School for District Superintendents, Pastors, Education Directors and Assistants, Church School Superintendents, Superintendent of Study Program, Education Chairpersons, et cetera. Eligible persons will find fellowship, learning, and richly inspiring experiences in these summer opportunities.

†

# Sunshine Club at Washington Avenue lives up to its name

While fellowship is an important aspect of the Sunshine Club organized by senior citizens of Washington Avenue United Methodist Church in North Little Rock in April of 1973, service appears to be a motivating force of equal importance.

With an average attendance of 38 persons at regular monthly program and potluck luncheon meetings Sunshine Club has engaged in numerous service projects and has participated in a variety of field trips.

Service projects have included:

- The donation of \$35 to the Salvation Army for "Food for the Hungry."
- Providing for patients at Memorial Hospital, North Little Rock, 500 tray cards, 10 wheelchair lap spreads, 45 floral arrangements, and 30 bedside pockets.
- After hearing a presentation by Mr. Troy Collier of Teen Challenge, an offering of \$32 was presented to him for the program.
- Used eyeglasses were collected and sent for Honduras flood refugees.
- Presentation of \$20 for the purchase of books for the libraries at Cummins Prison Farm and the Intermediate Reformatory at Tucker during a recent visit there.

A recent program featured a presenta-

tion by Lt. Gene Barrentine of the North Little Rock Police Community Relations department including a film on Home Protection and Safety.

Field trips have included: A tour of the North Little Rock Police Department and Police Court, bus trips to Clinton and surrounding area to see the fall colors, Wilhelmina State Park, Methodist Hospital and Pink Palace in Memphis, Mountain View during dogwood viewing season, and Aldersgate.

In the near future the Sunshine Club plans to visit Heifer Project International near Perryville.

Officers who have given leadership in the lively program of Sunshine Club include Mattie (Mrs. Rollo) Miller, chairperson; Cassie (Mrs. Buford) Beavers, co-chairperson; Veta (Mrs. Cecil) Keller, secretary-treasurer, and Gladys (Mrs. Harry) McKelvey, devotional leader.

†

The special "July 4, 1776" edition of Time magazine devotes most of its Religion section to the beginnings of Methodism, particularly in Virginia, and notes that "despite their rapid growth, the Methodist 'societies' claim only 2,456 members in Virginia and a scant 4,921 in the Colonies as a whole."

## Tapes And Slides To Carry Sight-Sound Report On 1976 General Conference

PARK RIDGE, Ill. (UMC) — A sight-sound report on the 1976 General Conference consisting of five cassette tapes and a 20-piece slide set is being planned by the United Methodist Publishing House in cooperation with United Methodist Communications (UMC).

To be known as NEWSCOPE REPORTS, the cassettes and slide set will be narrated in part by Floyd Kalber, a United Methodist layman who is an NBC television news personality and anchorman at the network's Chicago station. The project marks the first time these two national church agencies have joined forces to prepare a report on the denomination's highest legislative body.

In the first report, to be released just before the conference, Kalber will highlight issues to come before the 984 elected delegates. The next three tapes will be on-the-scene reports by members of the NEWSCOPE, a weekly newsletter, and UMC staffs from Portland, Ore., and will include commentary by delegates and persons affected by General Conference action.

In the final tape, Kalber will summarize the legislative actions and narrate the slide series featuring conference programs and pageantry.

The entire series, and especially the final cassette and slides, will be designed to give local church groups a full report on the quadrennial meeting and decisions which will affect the entire church for the next four years.

The Rev. J. Richard Peck, NEW-

## Family Weekend Retreat at Tanako

The annual Family Weekend Retreat sponsored by the young adult organization of Little Rock Conference has been scheduled for the weekend of July 18-20 at Camp Tanako on Lake Catherine near Hot Springs.

Mr. Charles Capps, a layman from England, Ark., will be the spiritual resource leader. Capps, a farmer, serves on the Board of Directors of Teen Challenge of Arkansas and has served as president of the Arkansas Flying Farmers Association.

Officers of the conference organization of young adults for this year include: Co-presidents, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Katz of Pullman Heights Church in Hot Springs; Co-vice presidents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Raeford of St. Andrew Church in Little Rock; and Co-secretaries, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sullivan of St. Paul Church, El Dorado.

Advance registration is important. The cost is \$40 per family, \$32 a couple or \$16 for a single reservation. Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Chuck Katz, Rt. 7, Box 211, Hot Springs, Ark. 71901.

SCOPE staff member and a member of the New York Annual Conference, will be the project editor. William Richards of United Methodist Communications will serve as consultant.

The set of five cassettes and 20 slides will be sold through Cokesbury and at the site of the General Conference.

†

For Your Spiritual Enrichment —

# "Four Nights For God"

PRESENTED BY  
OAK FOREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Twenty-fifth & Fair Park Blvd.,  
Little Rock

JULY 13

10:45 a.m. — Bishop Frank  
7:00 p.m. — preaching

JULY 14, 15, 16

10:00 a.m. — Song Services  
With Bill Mann  
7:30 p.m. — Bishop Frank preaching,  
Mr. Mann directing singing

## SERMON SUBJECTS

Sunday morning: The Son Who Comes to Collect the Rent  
Sunday evening: The Shepherd Who Goes Seeking  
Monday evening: The Groom Who May Come at Any Moment  
Tuesday evening: The Door Through Which the Sheep Must Pass  
Wednesday evening: The Judge Who Comes to Separate

†



MR. BILL MANN  
United Methodist's  
nationally known song  
leader and recording artist



BISHOP EUGENE M. FRANK  
Presiding Bishop,  
Arkansas Area

NURSERY  
WILL BE  
OPEN  
EACH  
EVENING



# NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



Dr. Phillip A. Potter, chief executive of the World Council of Churches, has expressed the view that the organization's coming Fifth Assembly will test whether the parts of divided Christianity can "speak to" rather than "at or past each other." Representatives of the "Third World," said Dr. Potter, are increasingly able to express their own theologies — and are no longer reliant on Europeans and North Americans. "Today, we speak of faith in terms of our own cultures."

Vietnamese refugees at Fort Chaffee include more than 10,000 Roman Catholics, together with 24 priests and about 30 nuns, making it necessary to set up four Catholic chapels, according to a Religious News Service report. While the refugees include some Protestants, the majority of the 25,000 inhabitants are said to be Buddhists.

More than 5,000 Vietnamese refugees at Camp Pendleton attended a concert of Asian-style music performed by Crossroads, an Asian-American group of the Campus Crusade for Christ International. Interpreters translated the testimonies and gospel message to the refugees, some 51 per cent of whom come from Buddhist backgrounds, 48 per cent from Catholic and less than 1 per cent from Protestant. "This is probably the first time many of the refugees have been exposed to the gospel," a spokesman said.

United Methodists of North Carolina rejected by a 194-179 vote a resolution calling for unconditional amnesty for draft evaders and resisters in the Vietnam war.



—RNS Photo

## Colson Describes His Conversion

MIAMI BEACH — Charles Colson (right), former Presidential aide and convicted Watergate conspirator, fields questions during a press conference following his address to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Miami Beach. With him is the Rev. Edmon W. Blow, pastor of Trinity Bible Church in Montgomery, Ala., who helped direct Mr. Colson to Christ when he was serving seven months in Maxwell Federal Prison Camp in Montgomery. Mr. Colson told the 6,000 pastors that if it had not been for the national scandal and his subsequent imprisonment he might not have found Christ as Savior.

Women scholars have for the first time in history been named to the Revised Standard Version Bible (RSV) Committee. They are Dr. Lucetta Mowry, professor of biblical studies at Wellesley College, Mass., and Dr. Phyllis Tribble, associate professor of Old Testament, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass.

Laws restricting opium cultivation and sale in Laos have reportedly been labeled a "product of American imperialism" by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao which is campaigning for a relaxation of laws governing the cultivation and marketing of the drug.

The tenth anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Buber, the renowned Jewish philosopher, was marked with a symposium of scholars at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr. Buber, whose "I-You" concept of man's relationship to God and to his fellowman profoundly influenced Christian and Jewish theology throughout the world, died in Jerusalem on June 13, 1965. Dr. Buber placed this concept in contrast with the impersonal "I-It" relation of a subject to an object, in which one person treats another as an object or "a thing."

Father Robert F. Drinan, a Massachusetts Congressman, has declared that the Catholic "right to life" movement, while compassionate toward the earliest stages of life, lacks perspective on other life issues facing the nation and is overly "politicized" on abortion.

The Methodist Church of South Africa will deal with five major recommendations when the annual conference meets in Kimberley in August. They include the appointment of boundary commissions to consider the redrawing of "circuit" boundaries on geographical lines to replace racial lines of division; prohibiting of any local church from limiting use of its property for any one racial group exclusively; acceptance of the ideal of theological training on a multiracial basis; exploration of the scriptural basis of the Church's attitude towards mixed marriages and resultant implications for ministers as marriage officials, and a request that the government allow the Church to register as a multiracial organization.

Affirming the principle of the tithe (a tenth of one's income as a basis for stewardship) Minnesota district superintendents expressed concern about statistics "which say that 20 per cent of the membership of a local church contribute 80 per cent of the budget and the leadership, while another 40 per cent contribute only 20 per cent of the budget, and the remaining 40 per cent give little or no financial support to their church."

The congregation of historic Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church has decided to stay in downtown Washington and try to raise \$1.2 million to restore the deteriorating structure dedicated in 1866. If the fund drive succeeds Metropolitan will be the only black congregation remaining in the center of the nation's capital city. The funeral of abolitionist Frederick Douglass was held there in 1895.

Egil Krogh Jr., one of the former White House "plumbers," addressing a United Presbyterian Men's breakfast in New York City, said he decided to plead guilty in the Ellsberg case and take whatever punishment the court imposed after serious Bible reading and reflection. Krogh said he studied the life of St. Paul, a man who "made mistakes but searched and found answers and was willing to pay any price to get right with Christ and his conscience."



—RNS Photo

## Accepted Into United Methodist Church

BALDWIN, Kans. — The Rev. Marie Moorefield smiles as Bishop Ernest T. Dixon of the Kansas East United Methodist Conference announces that the conference has officially accepted her as a deacon at a meeting in Baldwin, Kansas. Miss Moorefield, one of the 11 Episcopal women irregularly ordained to the priesthood last year, will be eligible for ordination to full ministerial status as an elder in The United Methodist Church in one year. Miss Moorefield, a former Southern Baptist, joined the Episcopal Church in 1969 because she felt it more closely reflected her beliefs. The first of the 11 women to leave the Episcopal Church, she said she could no longer use large portions of her time and energy struggling with an institution that denies women who are called to be ministers.

Harold Myra, 35-year-old publisher of Campus Life magazine and author of several books including the recently published volume, *Is There A Place I Can Scream?*, has been named publisher of Christianity Today. He succeeds Dr. Harold Lindsell, who has followed Dr. Carl F. H. Henry as editor of the evangelical fortnightly. His responsibilities will be in circulation, advertising, organization, development, planning, accounting and physical format.

A World Council of Churches Commission has agreed to a two-year \$3.6 million rehabilitation program in the Sahel countries of Africa which are just emerging from a five-year drought.

BROTHERS & SISTERS, an educational bulletin for black churches, is scheduled for weekly publication in Liguori, Mo. beginning Sept. 21. The ecumenical bulletin, jointly produced by Family Communications, Inc., of Kansas City, and Liguori Publications, a Roman Catholic operation, will be produced out of "recognition of a critical need for religious materials that are meaningful in the black community," a spokesperson said.

Archbishop Stuart Blanch of York, England, writing in a pastoral letter to his diocese concerning men entering the ministry of the Church of England, suggested that they must be prepared for the "rough treatment" faced by the first apostles. The archbishop said, "... however it may stand in law, the church in England is no longer in any significant sense 'established.' It will have to learn to make its way 'no longer within the framework of a friendly environment but in a society increasingly alien to it, relying no longer on worldly power but on the power of God.'"



# Arkansas School of

Hendrix College

July 23-25  
3-Day School

LITTLE ROCK  
NORTH ARKANSAS

Board of  
United Methodist

DEAN: Mrs. Ed Davis, Jr.

ASSOCIATE DEAN: The Rev. Dr. J. H. Box 3071, Monticello, Ark.

REGISTRAR: Mrs. Harry 72015

## The Prophets

Instructor: The Rev. Frank Jones

TEXT: DECISION FOR DESTINY  
by Dr. Everett Tilson, \$1.45

Does the Bible speak to our time? What are the prophetic voices for today? Where would the timeless, Biblical convictions of the prophets lead us? These are the questions dealt with in this provocative and inspiring Bible study.



The Rev. Frank Jones, former minister in North Arkansas Conference now pastor at Brookfield, Mo.; wide experience as teacher of Bible courses.

## A Nation Under God

### LEADERSHIP STAFF

The Rev. E. Edwin LeMaster  
Marie Whitmore Watkins  
Mrs. C. Clifford Cummings  
The Rev. William A. Cheyne  
Mrs. J. J. Johnson

TEXT: THE NATION YET TO BE: Christian Mission and the new patriotism  
by Bishop James Armstrong, \$2.25

Bishop Armstrong raises the question, "Is celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial anything more than just a year-long nationalistic event?" He asks how reflections of national history and Christian ethics can join to resolve the polarizations of self-sufficiency and interdependence, patriotism and world citizenship. The text looks into the future of a nation yet to fulfill its Divine destiny.



The Rev. E. Edwin LeMaster, dean of Sue Bennett College, London, Ky.; former missionary to Angola, Africa, has served on Board of Missions staff.



Eula (Mrs. J. J.) Johnson, wife of United Methodist minister, Kansas City, Mo.; serves on Board of Directors of Spofford Home, and member of various church-oriented organizations; wide experience as teacher in conference schools.



Mrs. C. Clifford Cummings, president of United Methodist Women's Division, and a vice president of the Board of Global Ministries.



Marie Whitmore Watkins, teacher in Pulaski County Special School District, Little Rock; has served in jurisdictional UMW task force, and as Women's Division travel seminar participant.



The Rev. William A. Cheyne, currently pastor of Ashdown-Richmond Charge; has been staff member of Board of Global Ministries and served as jurisdictional Advance director for National and Overseas Missions.

## Things You Should

### EXPENSES (room, meals, registration)

Three Day School .....  
Weekend School .....  
Both Schools (including Fri. Night Bk. Room Tuesday or Friday Nights .....  
(You may come in Tuesday or Friday own for evening meal and breakfast)

### COMMUTERS (insurance and registration)

(Fee must accompany Registration meals as you go thru the line.)

### HOUSING: Two (2) single beds per room together.

### WHAT TO BRING: Sweater, walking flashlight, blanket, towels, soap, devotional materials, textbooks, and

### LITERATURE: Read Study Text before from:

SERVICE CENTER  
7820 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

(All Literature will be available at Student Union.)

NOTE: Fees (less \$1.00) are refunded within 30 days of the School. Refund transferred by notifying the Registrar. deposit is \$1.00.

## SPECIAL

### United Methodist Women

TEXT: United Methodist Women: In the Middle of Tomorrow,  
by Barbara E. Campbell, \$1.50

LEADER: Mrs. C. Clifford Cummings, president of United Methodist Women's Division, will present a review of the text which takes a definitive look at the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries and stresses the relationship of individual members and local units to the Division.



# Christian Mission

Conway, Arkansas

July 26-27  
Weekend School

CONFERENCE  
CONFERENCE

and  
Women

Sherwood, 72116

Thomas A. Abney, U.A.M.,

824 Evans Dr., Benton,

how

ance)

\$20.00

12.00

35.00

3.00

On your

\$2.00

you pay for

uples may

ed linens,

hs, Bible,

ook.

ing, order

l in the

a request

s may be

oom key

l in the

a request

s may be

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

oom key

## SOUTHEAST ASIA: Christian Presence

### LEADERSHIP STAFF

Mrs. H. Olin Troy  
Mrs. H. V. Anderson  
The Rev. Charles Hugh Germany  
Dr. Marvin H. Harper

TEXT: SOUTHEAST ASIANS SPEAK OUT: Hope and despair  
in many lands  
by Barbara and Leon Howell, \$2.50

Voices from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Burma are among those from many Asian countries which speak through this book — reflecting the scope and influence of native religion, the struggle for economic development, and the effects of international politics. The text presents a fine blend of views from Asia and America, optimistic with faith.



Mrs. H. Olin Troy, daughter of missionary parents and wife of minister in Holston Conference; participant in Partnership in Mission Consultations in Japan and Philippines for World Division; currently on Quadrennial Commission to Study the Ministry.



The Rev. Charles Hugh Germany, staff member of Global Ministries Board in New York City; served as missionary in Japan from 1947 until 1964.



Dr. Marvin H. Harper, although retired is presently pastor at Ellenwood, Ga.; served as president of Leonard Theological College in Jabalpur, India from 1945 until 1957, then professor at Candler School of Theology until 1970 retirement.



Mrs. H. V. Anderson, minister's wife, Oklahoma City; former public school teacher, now leader in Laubach Literacy work; has taught courses at local, district and conference levels.



Dr. Myers Curtis

## EMPHASES

### Conference Council Ministries:

What does it do?  
your church benefit from it?  
Dr. Myers Curtis, executive director of North Arkansas Conference Council.

SPECIAL EMPHASES WILL BE  
ED AS OPTIONS IN BOTH  
EE-DAY AND THE WEEKEND

## REGISTRATIONS AND HOUSING

IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY AT ANY TIME YOU MUST BE REGISTERED

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATELY

\_\_\_ Three day school, July 23-25, Cost \$20.00 \_\_\_ Weekend school, July 26-27, Cost \$12.00  
\_\_\_ Both schools, July 23-27, Cost \$35.00 \_\_\_ Commuter, Cost \$2.00 Registration and Insurance  
(Friday night room included) Tuesday night room \$3.00  
\_\_\_ WOMAN \_\_\_ MAN \_\_\_ COUPLE \_\_\_ YOUTH MALE \_\_\_ YOUTH FEMALE \_\_\_

NAME OF ROOMMATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any health factor affecting room assignment \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD LIKE NAME TAG TO READ: \_\_\_\_\_  
SINCE THERE ARE NO FACILITIES TO CARE FOR CHILDREN, HENDRIX COLLEGE REQUESTS  
THAT PARTICIPANTS DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION.

### STUDY CLASSES

#### BIBLE STUDY FOR EVERYONE: THE PROPHETS "DECISION FOR DESTINY"

You may take one study class in each school (3 day or weekend). Check 1st and 2nd choice of Teachers. (If attending both Schools, indicate choices for each school.)

#### A NATION UNDER GOD

	3 day school	weekend school
Rev. Cheyne	_____	_____
Mrs. Cummings	_____	_____
Mrs. Johnson	_____	_____
Rev. LeMaster	_____	_____
Mrs. Watkins	_____	_____

#### SOUTHEAST ASIA: CHRISTIAN PRESENCE

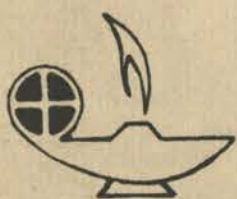
	3 day school	weekend school
Mrs. Anderson	_____	_____
Dr. Harper	_____	_____
Dr. Germany	_____	_____
Mrs. Troy	_____	_____

Class assignments will be made in the order they are received, so register early. This, also, applies to your housing.

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MUST ACCOMPANY EACH REGISTRATION FORM!  
Make check payable to: SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION, TREASURER

Send registration to: MRS. HARRIET KELLEY, 824 EVANS DRIVE, BENTON, ARK. 72015.  
REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JULY 11, 1975.  
If a receipt is needed please request one!





## The Sunday School Lesson for July 6, 1975

# Christian Growth In A Changing World

by WAYNE S. WHITE

**ORIENTATION:** If we abide in the vine, which is Christ, are we bearing good fruit as Christians? How do we evaluate the personal change that marks a live Christian? Since our world environment is different from the first century New Testament world how do we apply Bible principles?

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** I Corinthians 3:1-9; II Peter 1:3-11.

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:** Growth principles as seen in the life and teachings of Jesus and the letters of Paul can guide twentieth century Christians, also. The challenge of change may mean newness of life.

.....

### The Changing World

When you returned after several years to your childhood farm or town were you surprised at the changes? Should you be surprised? Did you expect every house, field and orchard to look just like you remembered it? Were you honestly glad to see the old dusty road paved, and the television aerials on the improved houses? Maybe you were saddened or resentful. Did you ask yourself, why?

Since change is inevitable we might as well accept it and adjust to it. Or even better, we can take part in change by helping guide it toward desired objectives.

We talk about a youth whose immature behavior has worried us. We sometimes say when we are patient, "Oh, give him time; he will change." That shows our faith in his freedom to change and that he will improve. He can be helped to grow to maturity if he decides that he wants to do so. He can grow in "knowledge, self-control, godliness and love" (2 Peter 1:7). He is free to choose for himself how he will grow. He alone can do it, for we know that people grow from within.

Time and change will work for us. We learn to accept and live with change, since change is always with us. So, today's world is not like our own childhood world; but it is the world of today's children. It is home for them, no matter how strange it looks to us. We with the young folks around us can work in it and grow in it.

### Retreat Stops Growth

People who are cynical about "modern" life and see no hope, often are retreating into evasion. They are trying to escape from the effort of living and growing in a complex society. They see wrongs and injustices but turn away with all kinds of excuses. They say life was better long ago, or this is the end of the world.

This old world would have ended a thousand times in the past if that was the way God worked. We can't just rock comfortably and say "Jesus is coming soon." There is no way for us to sit by, or walk by "on the other side" like the priest and Levite did in the parable of the Good Samaritan. To live in the past, or only the future is to try to evade the reality of the present.

We grow by searching our souls. It is healthy to ask ourselves if we are willing to confront the challenges to Christ-like living in days of change. Or is it easier and more popular to distract ourselves and just get too busy? Much activity is a poor substitute for thinking. It is one way to let the world — including ourselves — go to its doom and destruction.

### Change Is Opportunity

A changing world is an invitation to spiritual adventure. But Whitehead warns us, "The death of religion comes in the repression of the high hope of adventure." Growth which means life is being aware of the opportunity to put Christian principles into practice in difficult days.

It requires both imagination and courage to apply the ethics and spirit of Jesus to large social issues. We follow Jesus in serving the hungry and thirsty if they live next door. But if they harvest food crops in Texas or California we may shop for bargains at their expense. Our low priced lettuce may perpetuate the hunger of the workers. And if the hungry live in Asia do we cut down on meat to provide more cereals for them? How do you register the Christian stand on corporation profits? (especially when you are an investor?)

The imagination of Jesus shocked his disciples, and would startle us if he were in our midst. You fed me, he said, when I was hungry; visited me in illness and in prison. This was incredible and they asked him when and how did that happen; he replied with that spiritual imagination which puts us in the other fellow's shoes, saying "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least, you did it to me."

We need imagination to practice the command to love our neighbor as ourselves, for unless we respond to his feelings and are sensitive about him, we simply feed our own egos and hurt him. We cultivate the imagination by meditation and sympathy (or empathy?). When we muse in our prayer time about human hurts and hungers the Holy Spirit can help us feel with other people.

Then we may need the courage to be a brother to those in trouble or need. We can grow in courage, too. If, in childhood, our parents were overprotective they may have required us to act out a role, instead of knowing

and being ourselves. We grow in courage to be ourselves when we step out on our own to fall occasionally but eventually succeed, secure in the faith and love of parents.

Courage comes from the quiet confidence one has in his own powers and native human qualities. It is learning to stand on one's own convictions, saying by such, "I am myself." To love Jesus is to follow one with supreme courage to do and be what he felt right. Socrates found his guide for conduct in his inmost self, so he could say to the jury, he would obey God rather than men.

One who knew much about self and the inner life, Meister Eckhart, said "No one has known God who has not known himself." So in this day of personal isolation and what is called, "herd-morality," or sheep-like people, we go to the secret place of the Most High and find both God and ourselves.

.....

### QUESTIONS

- 1. Our attitude toward change is often revealed by the way we feel about the younger generation (if we are seniors or adults). Do you think today's youth are hopeless, gone or going to the dogs? Have you faith in their future?
- 2. How much of our criticism of the other (older if we are young, and younger if we are the old ones) generation is on trivial matters? Once Jane Addams was asked if she approved short hair for girls; she replied that it was not the outside but the inside of people's heads that was important.
- 3. Is the generation gap fixed and unchangeable? Have we tried to bridge it by making friends with someone in the other generation?
- 4. Does our concern with the second coming of Christ get us off the hook of responsibility for the hunger, misery and crime around us now?
- 5. When you say you are too busy to write your Congressman about world peace, or honest government, are you busy about things that really matter?
- 6. Since we can easily get deeply involved in doing good things, does our meditation ever condemn us for letting good things become the enemy of the best?
- 7. Was your last recent adventure in faith making friends of a person of another race? or a different faith? or nationality?
- 8. Since many foreign students never see the inside of a Christian American home, have you recently entertained a foreign student?
- 9. Is it possible that your mind can be so full of heavenly things that you permit, or even encourage, the devil to take over the world?



The Sunday School Lesson  
for July 13, 1975



# What Is Christian Maturity?

by WAYNE S. WHITE

**ORIENTATION:** When we can face changes in a positive spirit we are on the way toward personal maturity. Continued growth is essential to "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** I John 3:1-3; Ephesians 4; Philippians 3.

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:** Every available help should be used to assist the Christian in being true to himself. He must be an authentic person, making the most of God's rich gift of personality, unique and different to each one. The abundant life is the personal goal, because through it God can do His work. The queer phrase of a crippled girl to her ill pastor may have a pointed significance for us here; she wrote, "I hope you may live all your life."

.....

## Maturity

When an adult is behaving irresponsibly or acting in a petty, irritable manner, we say he ought to "grow up." But since he has grown up chronologically we are saying something very important for him. We mean that he needs to mature; he needs to get out of the childish or adolescent stage of life, and grow up intellectually and emotionally.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with an adult playing and enjoying himself heartily as a child might do. When it is time and the occasion is suitable, the adult who knows himself, and trusts himself will act spontaneously. Then the actual meaning of maturity is complicated.

What is maturity? Some students of personality refer to the mature person as a "winner," not in competition with others, one who responds wholesomely to all of life. He reacts "authentically by being credible, trustworthy, responsive and genuine, both as an individual and as a member of society" (Born To Win, by James and Jongeward).

Look again at this word "authentic" and study it as it applies to each of us. You are yourself, of course, and no one else. But are you? Are you sometimes alone, and is it good? Do you make your own decisions, even if they differ from others? T. S. Eliot says many of us are "hollow men," who are not self-directing, but do what is pleasing to other people.

It is not easy for a person to be his real self. Martin Buber tells of an old rabbi who realized when on his deathbed that he had not lived his own life, or been authentic. The rabbi laments that in the world to come he will not be asked why he wasn't Moses; he will be asked why he wasn't himself.

Each of us is born with the possibilities of being a unique person who in his own way can

see, hear, taste, touch and think for himself. He can work out an image of what he is when he is himself. He does not put on a performance; he does not maintain a pretense, or put on a front; nor does he need to wear a mask.

He is mature enough to be himself and reveal himself without fear. He is not afraid to make judgments and do his own thinking. He does not have all the answers, but he knows, modestly, that no one else does. He knows his past; he is alive and aware of the present, and confidently faces the future.

By accepting himself he has standards by which he can carry out the goal of Jesus, who put love to God first, then "love thy neighbor as thyself." He can and does care about people, faces up to national and international adversity and does what he can to make a better world, and leave it better than he found it.

Some people, without realizing it, hate themselves. Their urge to self-destruction may be expressed in taking risks, dangerous actions with a car or with firearms, and with things that harm their health.

Violence against others is more than defense against threats; it expresses the death-wish, either against themselves, or against others. The violence of white people toward Indians and Black people chokes our national maturity. Perhaps the soul of America is already destroyed by the suicide of hate and violence and its ultimate expression in wars.

## Christian Maturity

Explicit guidance is given in Ephesians, chapter four, to help Christians grow in Christ-likeness, to attain the "measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." This list of Christian qualities is worth our honest study, and review. It concludes with the urgent invitation for mature Christians to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us.

The Church in Paul's time was a fellowship which helped each other to Christian maturity. And so it is today. Not that it is self-centered, existing only for the spiritual health of its members; it is united for that, because it is aimed at providing the abundant life for all.

## Preaching Helps People Grow

Since preaching is very essential in our Church it holds high potential as an agent of Christian maturity. The preacher tries "through the sermon and close human relationships with people to set in motion life-changing forces" (E. N. Jackson, Psychology For Preaching). It is not a one-way stream, but the congregation helps.

Ministers appreciate the prayerful, helpful response and cooperation of the children, youth and adults of the Church. Dr. Fosdick saw this important mutuality of growth when he introduced his successor to the congregation and said he was a good preacher, but the congregation could make him a great preacher.

## The Sunday School Class and Maturity

If you go to your Sunday School Class in the spirit of trustfulness and faith in each other, as well as prayerful sympathy with the leader, you help create a spirit in which people can grow.

I think of one special adult class with an amazing atmosphere. There is a spirit in that class in which each knows that he counts as a person, and is respected. The relaxed teacher minimizes mechanics, and waits for the members' attention before introducing the subject matter of the lesson. He encourages response by everyone, and waits for it. When members verbalize their honest reactions they know that what they say will be respected and held in trust. They gain courage by the way others listen and react in a positive manner. They are all honest, saying not what they ought to think about things, but what they actually think.

The teacher does much to help the class to grow toward maturity in each lesson by the attitude to the class. It starts, of course, with his attitude toward himself. He trusts himself, and the class; he is honest with himself, and with the class; he does not need to dominate the class because he is mature. He waits on the others because he respects them as persons, and trusts the Holy Spirit.

One member of the class can set a tone of deep intimate sharing by opening his inner life to the group.

.....

## QUESTIONS

- 1. Do we share real things with our Sunday School class? Can we speak our mind, and the truth?
- 2. If we are growing can we ever be bored? Is boredom a sign we are not authentic? or not alive in spirit?
- 3. How much of our lives is involved in doing, and what kind of life would we be living if we couldn't do?
- 4. When we say someone is a success are we judging by the Beatitudes and Sermon on the Mount?
- 5. Why do we have to think of ourselves as a success, or show it off by some thing we own, or drive (if we do)?
- 6. Can some religion keep people immature?



# From Our Readers

## Local church speaks to 'Resolution on Family'

To the Editor:

In the Program Resource Book of the United Methodist Women there is a program entitled, "Marriage and Family Life in Today's World." The program suggested ordering copies of the "Resolution On The Family" for each member, from the General Committee on Family Life, Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

A portion of the UMW Program read, "As you may know, this resolution was received by the last General Conference and referred to the churches for study. Although not voted on by the Conference because of lack of time it was recommended by the Legislative Committee on Social Concerns almost unanimously — 53 for, none against, and 2 abstained. So it is a semi-official Resolution."

Having read the "Resolution On The Family" we were both shocked and repelled by the recommendations of this Committee to General Conference. Trying to come to grips with the issues it raises we can only conclude that it is aimed at destroying the Christian family and rejects the counsel of God.

We ask that you bring this information to the readers of the Arkansas Methodist so that they may read for themselves the Recommendations — 3 through 8 — and if they so choose, petition the 1976 General Conference to reject it, or, submit comments by July 1, as recommended in the June Interpreter, page 35.

We cannot, we must not, agree with a resolution or recommendation which asks us to "work for removal of laws which define as crime sexual acts privately committed by consenting adults." Think of the whiplash this would make on the children even if we disregarded the heartbreak to a trusting and faithful marriage partner. There would be no court or church to appeal to for justice. There would be no standard to bring transgressors to light.

Also the life of the homosexual is not called "Sodomy" but an "alternate life style"; and the recommendation calls upon the "local churches to extend to all persons, including homosexual orientation, the redemptive life of church community."

We know Jesus extends to all persons,

including homosexuals, redemption through His blood when they come as sinners for forgiveness and cleansing and receive Jesus into their hearts as Savior and Lord, then He ushers them into the Life of the Beloved.

God's elect to the Gentiles writes: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (homosexuals), nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:9-11).

So what is the question? Are we being

asked to receive them without regeneration? It would seem so, for those who are redeemed are no longer homosexuals.

The Resolution also proposes that the practice of abortion should be considered "standard medical practice." Surely, if our consciences are not already seared, such thoughts cause our hearts to condemn us.

It calls on us to approve and provide material for study classes on sex life and furnish the personnel to teach it. All the while the minds and spirits of our children and youth would be led toward destruction and away from God. God's wrath has always fallen upon His disobedient and rebellious people who keep such practices.

Should words and phrases be changed to make this resolution acceptable to

General Conference there will remain hidden in its meaning deceptive measures that can be used later in open defiance against God and His Church.

It is reasonable to conclude that should in any measure this resolution pass we will have little hope of expecting that homosexuality will be a bar to ordination into the ministry.

Respectfully submitted in the name of Christ Jesus,

Julious M. Brown,  
Chairperson of Administrative Board  
Mrs. H. B. Roberson,  
Chairperson, United Methodist Women  
Penny Bailey,  
President, United Methodist Youth  
Rev. Veo E. Green, Pastor  
Pleasant Grove United Methodist  
Church, El Dorado, Ark. 71730

## Getting what we deserve

To the Editor:

... I for one, along with a growing number of United Methodist lay people, as well as pastors, believe that we are getting (receiving, appropriating) just exactly what we deserve. By this I mean that those United Methodists my age (40's) and our parents have "created" the "mess" we are in today as a church via our SINS of commission as well as omission.

For example we have not really banded together and seen to it that our great Wesleyan heritage was carried out in our churches or in our daily lives, or for that matter, we have not seen to it that even our current UM discipline is carried out in our local congregations or daily lives.

If we will but think for a moment in light of the directives we receive from the Bible, we can see that the little (in Arkansas Methodist) controversy between myself and our Sunday school literature writers — publishers and the current dialogue (Dr. Pherigo — Wilson; Crain — Barbaree) points out in my mind that in general we "pew warmers" are getting what we deserve.

By this I mean we can expect no more from our seminarians Pherigo-Barbaree and some pastors because we lay people who directly or indirectly support our seminaries and local churches have by

our sins of omission and carnality allowed the seminary to apparently become staffed with a good number of professors-teachers that present to the young man, that has apparently been called of God, a lot of manmade theory and not just Holy Spirit revealed scripture.

Again we lay people allow this graduate to present this same "gobbly gook" from our pulpits without even caring enough to go to the Word and see if it is true or not. Consequently, we ourselves in general have not been taught/preached the full gospel (nor have we studied for ourselves the full gospel) and without this individual study and revelation, we cannot progress any further than our preacher/teacher in our walk with God. This same principle applies to the seminary teacher-student as well as the pastor lay person in the same way.

Please, I beg you Mr. Editor or any reader, do not take this letter as sour grapes because I have asked Him to search and know my heart. (Psm. 139:23) The Lord has come down on me hard because of my former carnal Christianity that allowed the state of my beloved UMC to continue its carnal ways.

We (all United Methodists) and all professing Christians must truly examine ourselves...

When born again Christianity comes about from our seminaries, pulpits, and is taught to the lay people, and ALL receive and act upon it as He directs, then our UMC can start fulfilling its commission in our world, and God can start fulfilling His promises to us and His troubled world.

William C. Terry, DVM  
2242 Malvern Avenue  
Hot Springs, Ark. 71901

## DOUBLE BLESSING

To the Editor:

The United Methodist Women of Pride Valley United Methodist Church want to thank you for the very fine selection of Sarah Galloway, one of our members, to write last quarter's Sunday School lessons.

We all not only received invaluable benefit from her weekly, well studied and beautifully expressed lessons, but were doubly blessed to also have had her for our class teacher, not only for this series, but for many months.

Thank you,

Renie Robbins, secretary  
UMW, Pride Valley UM Church

## Mission expert sees future thrust of Christianity as emanating from Third World regions

DUBUQUE, Iowa (RNS) — The outgoing president of the three-year-old interreligious American Society of Missiology said here he foresees a time when the majority of the world's Christians will be in what were once the "heathen" areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America and will revitalize the missionary thrust of Christianity.

Dr. Gerald Anderson, a former United Methodist missionary in the Philippines for 10 years and now associate director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center, Ventnor, N.J., observed a "new vitality" in the Third World churches that comes simultaneously with declines in European and North American churches.

The traditional centers of Christian outreach and action "are becoming increasingly static, domesticated, experiencing a loss of spiritual nerve and a crisis of faith, and, to some extent, a corruption of the Gospel."

Dr. Anderson, speaking at the missiology society's annual meeting at Aquinas Institute in Dubuque, said he foresees a time when the majority of Christians will be found in the Third World, those areas which were once the object of Christian missionary activity.

In the future, he expects the flow of missionary influence to reverse through "an interchange, cross-fertilization of Christian experience, giving it a global

perspective."

By the 1980s, he added, a new era of cooperation between the West and the Third World will begin.

Father Robert V. Monticello, associate general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington, D.C., told the missiology gathering of ecumenical leaders, scripture scholars and seminary professors that the "form and style of Christian mission in today's world are being vigorously tested."

The old concepts of "pagan and heathen" have been discarded and the religions of the Third World — Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and others — are being assessed in light of their strivings "to answer the restless searchings of the human heart."

The priest noted that today the Catholic Church, for instance, "rejects nothing which is true and holy in these religions."

Having been stripped of their "old weapon" against unbelievers — "the threat of eternal damnation" — the only authentic instrument for missionary outreach is the "ancient and primitive one prescribed by Jesus: Do the Good News," Father Monticello said.

The USCC official said that in recent years the world has begun to acknowledge that the Third World has been the victim of injustices incorporated into the social

economic and political systems which affect their lives and over which they have little control. He added that the U.S. plays a critical part in this situation.

While stressing that the U.S. espouses concepts of individual worth and social justice, the priest said "American policy is often an obstacle to the just development of Third World nations through its support of multi-national corporations."

Noting signs of change, however, Father Monticello said "the emergence of leaders in the Third World, including many Church people, is an exciting and encouraging phenomenon."

He said he believed, however, that "it is not enough for us merely to be impressed. The Church, especially the American Church, must continue to develop global-oriented social consciousness."

"Christian involvement in this process of social change is an urgent matter," he continued. "The fact that Christian contributions to humanity's civilized process as viewed by the populations of most of the world which are not Christian are meager, must give us serious cause for reflection."

"As American Christians," he said, "we cannot avoid or ignore the central role the United States plays in world affairs."

Arkansas Methodist





### Summer Youth Director

Eloise Benberg (above), new summer youth director at First Church, North Little Rock. Miss Benberg is a junior at Hendrix College and a member of the Hendrix Choir. She accompanied the senior high youth on a Buffalo River canoe trip and will go with the junior high youth to Silver Dollar City, Mo., later this summer.

†

THE REV. ALFRED DOSS, associate pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs, was the evangelist for the recent revival held at Morning Star Church, Hot Springs.

GARDNER AND NEW SALEM Churches honored the Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. Woody with farewell parties recently. Gardner Church held a reception in the church fellowship hall and presented the Woodys with a gift. The New Salem Church had a fish fry in the home of one of their members and presented a love offering.

### "THE VENABLES" TO PERFORM AT ASBURY CHURCH

"The Venable," recently reorganized gospel music group, will present a variety program at Asbury United Methodist Church, 12th at Schiller in Little Rock on Thursday, June 26th at 8 p.m. The program will be preceded by an ice cream and cake social sponsored by the youth of the church, with free-will contributions designated for the summer youth program.

Three members of the original Venable Quartet, Fred Smith, T. O. Miller and Jerry Venable, join with Tommy Thompson to form the present quartet.

Other groups within the new musical organization include The Miller Family Trio — T. O. Miller's wife Rachel, and children, Kim and Marty; Ronnie Smith, son of Fred Smith, baritone; Ellen Kennedy Marsh, pianist, vocalist and accordionist, and "The Old Timer."

†



### Old Fashioned Day At Paris

The youth of Paris United Methodist Church sponsored an Old Fashioned Day in celebration of the church's centennial. Everyone wore clothes depicting the 1870s era. Youth who led the service were (left to right): Mark Hudson, Sandra Hooper, Dale Vernon and Eddie Jacobs. The worship service was followed by a potluck dinner.

Thursday, June 26, 1975

THE COMBINED handbell choirs of First United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kans., and Trinity United Methodist Church, Hutchinson, Kans., will present a concert in the sanctuary of Trinity United Methodist Church, Evergreen at Mississippi in Little Rock, on Wednesday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m.

MORNING STAR United Methodist Church, near Hot Springs, held a homecoming recently. Dinner on the ground was served following morning worship. Several singing groups participated in the afternoon songfest. The Rev. E. Stanley Wagner is the Morning Star pastor.

BAYOU METO United Methodist Church held vacation church school recently. Mrs. Dale Milliken served as superintendent. The daily average was fifty-six. Refreshments were furnished by the UMW. Closing day a picnic was held with games and races directed by the Rev. Jerry Yarbrough, pastor.

OVER SIXTY CHILDREN, youth and adults participated in the recent vacation church school at Griffin Memorial Church in Paragould. Co-directors of the school were Mrs. Gladys Hurt and Mrs. Inetta Cline.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of First Church, Hoxie, sponsored a Father's Day service on Sunday evening, June 15. A reception following the service honored all fathers and also welcomed the Rev. Kelly Jones, pastor, and his family back for another year.

THE REV. POWELL G. WILLIAMS of Hendrix College in Conway was a recent guest minister at the morning services at Waltreak and Danville.

THE REV. DOUGLAS E. EDWARDS III of North Little Rock is the summer intern at Danville. He will be in Danville for 12 weeks and will preach at Trinity and Danville while the pastor is on vacation.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church, Alma, held a homecoming and centennial celebration recently. The events included a special morning worship service, an old fashioned potluck meal, and a "Feast of Favorite Songs."



### Van Buren Fish Fry

United Methodist Men of St. John's Church, Van Buren, held their annual fish fry recently. More than 100 pounds of fish, caught at a Men's Club fishing tournament, were cooked and served to the 65 people attending. Shown cooking the fish are Elvis Abbott, John Williams, president, James Abbott and Richard Krajewski, vice president.

### THOMAS W. WYNN

Thomas W. Wynn was born March 26, 1886, Corning, Ark., the son of the late W. R. Wynn and Arabelle Walker Wynn. He died on June 7, 1975 at the age of 89.

Mr. Wynn became a member of First United Methodist Church of Corning in 1897 and remained a faithful and active member until his death following an illness of less than three weeks. During 78 years of membership in the church, he served in many ways. He was for many years a member of the Board of Stewards and a Trustee. He also served as a delegate to district and annual conferences. He was superintendent of the church school for 25 years.

He is survived by one son, Robert Wynn, Holden, Mass.; two daughters, Mrs. Kathleen Rogers, Ruston, La. and Mrs. Helen Wilmont, Nevada, Mo.; one sister, Mrs. Reuben Tipton, Tiptonville, Tenn. and eight grandchildren.

†

A MEMORIAL DEDICATION was held recently in Traskwood United Methodist Church. An altar set, a communion cloth, church doors and some paneling were dedicated to the memory of John Z. Cunningham Sr., George H. Spencer Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sanders. The Rev. Ed McCullough, pastor, officiated at the service.

### Personalia

GARY W. VILLINES, son of the Rev. Floyd G. Villines, Batesville District superintendent, and Mrs. Villines, graduated from the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock recently. His father presented the invocation and benediction at the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Villines will intern at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

MICHAEL PAUL NORMAN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Norman of Hot Springs, was christened recently by his grandfather, the Rev. Robert E. Woody, at Gardner United Methodist Church, Hot Springs.

THOMAS MERCER BRITT III was born May 30 in Paragould. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Britt. Grandparents are the Rev. and Mrs. Joe W. Hunter of Gurdon and Mrs. Cecil Bowers of St. Louis.

### Daily Bible Readings

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Readings, which the Board of Discipleship invites you to use as a regular guide in your homes.

June 29—Sunday	..... Luke 10:8-12
June 30	..... Matt. 24:34-39
July 1	..... Jer. 28:12-14
July 2	..... I Kings 19:11-16
July 3	..... Acts 18:5-11
July 4	..... Acts 18:24-28
July 5	..... Ezek. 2:3-7
July 6—Sunday	..... Luke 10:25-28
July 7	..... Mark 6:2-4
July 8	..... Romans 8:27-30
July 9	..... Zech. 9:9-10
July 10	..... Daniel 1:8-16
July 11	..... Daniel 1:17-20
July 12	..... Psalm 69:33-36
July 13—Sunday	..... Mark 6:7-11

†



### Farewell Party

Wesley United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, recently honored the Rev. Victor Green and family at a going-away party. The Greens have gone to the pastorate of McCrory United Methodist Church.

†

JONESBORO DISTRICT Parsonettes elected new officers recently. They are: Mrs. Suzanne Gibson, president; Mrs. Linda Harrison, vice president; Mrs. Eva Patton, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Pat Sherman, reporter.

NEW OFFICERS for the Little Rock District Parsonettes for 1975-76 are: Mrs. Robert Regnier, president; Mrs. Clint Atchley, vice president; Mrs. Gerald Fincher, secretary; Mrs. John B. Hays, treasurer; Mrs. W. M. Robinson, sunshine chairperson; Mrs. Edwin Keith, telephone chairperson; Mrs. Bob Robertson, transportation, and Mrs. Fred Haustein, special guide.



### UMY At Burns Park

The United Methodist Youth of New Hope Church, Benton, recently spent a day at Burns Park in North Little Rock picnicking and taking advantage of the rides. Judy Watson and the Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Wallis Jr., pastor and wife, were the chaperones.



## Bicentennial thought:

# Complacency not contemplated by authors of Constitution

by James L. Verhoeff

Voters in a democracy now observing the bicentennial of government by, and for the people have in recent years been electing promising candidates to Congress to function for the good of all Americans.

In Washington some of them become frustrated as they honestly try to operate within the framework of a constitution drafted 200 years ago by men deeply religious and many of them alert to the need to preserve for all times inalienable rights such as freedom of religion and a desire through self-government to escape from the tyranny of unjust taxes.

The trouble today stems not from the Constitution but arises when clever minds seek to circumvent the meaning of the noble document and twist it to serve selfish interests.

Any year seems appropriate for thoughts relating to our Christian heritage and renewal of understanding that the principles of a democratic form of government are closely related to the role of religion in the lives of the men who drafted a constitution for the United States.

This year offers an opportune time to look back to the beginning of time when man was created to have dominion over all things.

### Reexamine The Foundation Stones

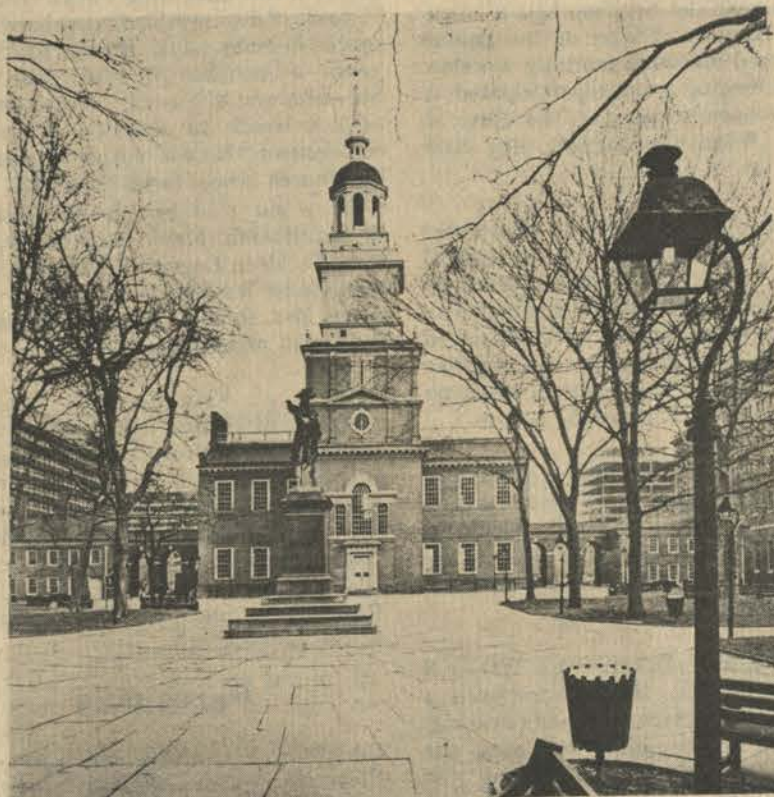
It should be equally important to begin now with plans for making the future for democracy better by giving special emphasis to the foundation stones used by religious men seeking freedom as a way of life and release from bondage to rulers who inherited their power.

A casual look into the past reminds us that man was created in the image of God and endowed with freedom to choose between good and evil.

Adam in the Garden of Eden yearned for companionship and the Creator responded. Adam and Eve yearned for knowledge and partook of



—RNS Photo



—RNS Photo

### Landmarks Of Liberty

Philadelphia's Independence Hall and Liberty Bell (below, left) are both intimately involved with the independence of our nation. Independence Hall was the scene of the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It was also the meeting place of the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention. The Liberty Bell, housed in Independence Hall was first hung in 1753 and bears the inscription, "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof." It was rung on July 4, 1776, to proclaim the Declaration of Independence. When the U.S. observes its 200th birthday in 1976, both of these landmarks of liberty will be focal points of the celebrations.

forbidden fruit. This might have been in keeping with the Creator's plan for the advancement of future generations.

Without this desire to learn and improve, man might never have learned to use the talents with which he is endowed. He might never have cultivated his ability to choose what is right and shun that which is wrong. He might never have learned that he has a conscience and the ability to suffer remorse for failure to lead an upright life.

At some point along life's journey some men are prone to become greedy in their search for wealth and power, and even to gain social status. They can become so ruthless they inflict injuries and injustices by ignoring the rights of others.

This greed has surfaced through the centuries and men following in the footsteps of their maker found it difficult to cope with the problems selfish men had created. Not all rulers became despots but the deeds of some kings and monarchs led to war and enslavement for the defeated.

Defeat seems never to have curbed man's desire for peace, or his chance to continue to strive for meaningful accomplishments, not for his own glorification but to bring benefits for his fellowmen.

After the discovery of America

some good men sought escape from despotic rulers and migrated to the new world with freedom of worship, freedom of expression, and escape from tyranny foremost in their minds.

### Taxation And Representation

In the new world they experienced hardships. They discovered they had not escaped burdensome taxes, and as colonists they were without representation in matters of government.

It was in such a setting that men of character developed a desire to set up a new form of government where people might rule themselves. Thus democracy was born and men of stout hearts set out to make the dream become real and meaningful.

Every American today is deeply indebted to the wise men who drafted the Constitution of the United States incorporating into this inspiring document the principles of self-government in such a way that it could survive and bring advancement in many forms for those governed.

This constitution, now 200 years old, contains provision for separation of church and state to preserve freedoms for persons with varying religious beliefs. At the same time it is so steeped in religion that self-government was founded on a solid rock.

This does not mean that govern-

Mr. Verhoeff, a member of Winfield United Methodist Church in Little Rock, submitted the winning entry for our Bicentennial essay competition. We here present his essay for reflection by our readers as we approach the 1975 celebration of Independence Day and the 1976 observance of our country's Bicentennial.

mental operations at the democratic level have been perfect. Deviations have been recorded and there is need for rededication to both religion and good government if future deviations are to be avoided.

The minds of ambitious, and sometimes greedy, men in business and in politics have been busy.

### Needed: 'Christian Minutemen'

To make self-government perfect, those in positions of power must ever be mindful of their need to live by religious principles and shun at all times even the appearance of evil. They need character, plus ability and understanding for the needs of those they serve.

To improve governmental functions men in business and spokesmen for labor must put aside thoughts of using men in politics for personal or business advantages so often harmful to the majority of those entitled to maximum benefits of self-government.

Some elected to political offices today encounter obstacles which are frustrating to such a degree their earlier campaign promises become meaningless. These frustrations sometimes can be traced to men in business and in politics.

To make certain democracy is preserved, church-minded citizens need to take their responsibilities more seriously. They must live up to the expectations of the founding fathers who gave us a constitution so closely linked to the Ten Commandments entrusted to Moses on Mount Sinai.

### 'Eternal Vigilance, The Price Of Liberty'

The Constitution of the United States is a foundation from which freedom loving people can and must always be vigilant if we are to preserve democracy as envisioned by the founding fathers. Complacency was not contemplated when the Constitution was drafted.

Recent deplorable experiences in government might never have been plotted and executed if we as citizens and churchmen had been meeting our responsibilities as minutemen for good government.

This nation needs modern Paul Reveres to ride again to alert all of us, who at times are prone to become complacent.

This bicentennial of democracy is an excellent time for every stalwart American to pledge anew his allegiance to a flag which flies high. It also is a time for religious rededication. The fathers of democracy expected that our faithfulness as Christians would last forever and add strength to the principles of self-government.

†