

# The Sunday School Lesson

A Ministry of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association

By Claude A. Sampson  
Cornelius, A Gentle Convert

The lesson for today is taken from the 10th Chapter of Acts. The focal point or lesson text has to do with at least three sections of the Chapter, Verses 1-2; 30-35; and 44-48. The memory verse is Acts 10:35, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

**Introduction:** Am I a person or a thing? Am I an "I" or an "it"? Am I property to be used? Or am I a person with powers of perception, private opinions, potentials of divine dignity? Anything that dehumanizes me makes me less

than the divine image.

That is why the gospel is for "every creature" in all the world. God loves people! Christ came to save, not property but people. He liberates people from being "nobodies" to "somebodies."

If race, nationality, color, or economy determine fellowship within the Church, then that fellowship partial, divisive, fragmented, sectarian, evil. It is Godless, without divine cohesion.

Jesus was a Jew, the Old Testament was God's word for his people. Jesus studied scripture in a synagogue and worshiped in the Temple. His disciples were Jews and most of his ministry was to Jewish people. Although he led a samaritan to acknowledge

him as the Messiah, healed the servant of a Roman Centurion, and welcomed the inquiry of the Greeks. Although Jesus never renounced his ancestry, he knew his father was concerned for all people. Some of the prophets said that and he made it very clear in his teaching. He had chosen his followers for a purpose—that purpose was to so live for God before others that they would accept him as their God. That purpose was climaxed in Jesus, some of his followers took the message to the Gentiles.

Cornelius, a Roman Captain, was stationed with his soldiers in Caesarea. He was loyal to Rome yet he had forsaken Roman paganism. One afternoon about three o'clock he was suddenly frightened by an appearance of an angel. After he realized who it was, the angel said, "God is pleased with your prayers and works of charity, and is ready to answer you." He instructed him to send to Joppa, for a man named Simon Peter.

As the men of Cornelius were on their way, Peter, had a vision in which God rebuked him for his prejudice. Peter was assured by the spirit that he should go with the visitors and take other believers with him.

Cornelius was sure that Peter would come and he invited his kinsmen and friends to meet the apostle. Peter remarked about Jewish regulations about contact with other nations, but that God had shown him that he shouldn't call any man common or unclean. Then Cornelius told the story of his own vision and asked Peter to relate or say all things that are commanded of these from God.

Then Peter began with a remarkable declaration: "God is no respecter of persons" God shows no partiality or God looks at all men on the same level. Of course nothing but the spirit of God could lead a Jew to say such a thing at that time. Then Peter told the story of Jesus' earthly ministry, his Crucifixion, and resurrection and instructed

his followers, to preach forgiveness of sin in his name.

Peter was saying that through Christ whoever believed would be forgiven. Peter and his companions were reminded of the pentecostal experience and were amazed that the spirit had come upon Gentile believers. Their faith having been proven, Peter asked if they could not be baptized. Baptism was an outward symbol of an inner experience.

We learned that God has no favorite among persons and nations. Even good persons should make a commitment to Christ.

"A man has not seen a thing who has not felt it."  
Henry David Thoreau



Americans eat more bananas than any other fruit—18 pounds per year for every man, woman and child—and all of it is imported.

## Fairgrove Class Reunion Planned

Fairgrove High School class of 1957, 1958, and 1959 plans a reunion. Attempts are being made to contact members of Fairgrove High School's Class of 1957, 1958 and 1959 in preparation for a class reunion on August 8, 1982. All members are urged to contact Lena Gray Oxendine, 205 Sunnyvale Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403.

## to be Guest Speaker

The Rev. Kelly Sanderson will be the guest speaker on Sunday, July 18 at the Burnt Swamp Baptist Church, Rt. 4, Lumberton, NC at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

## TO WED SEPT. 5

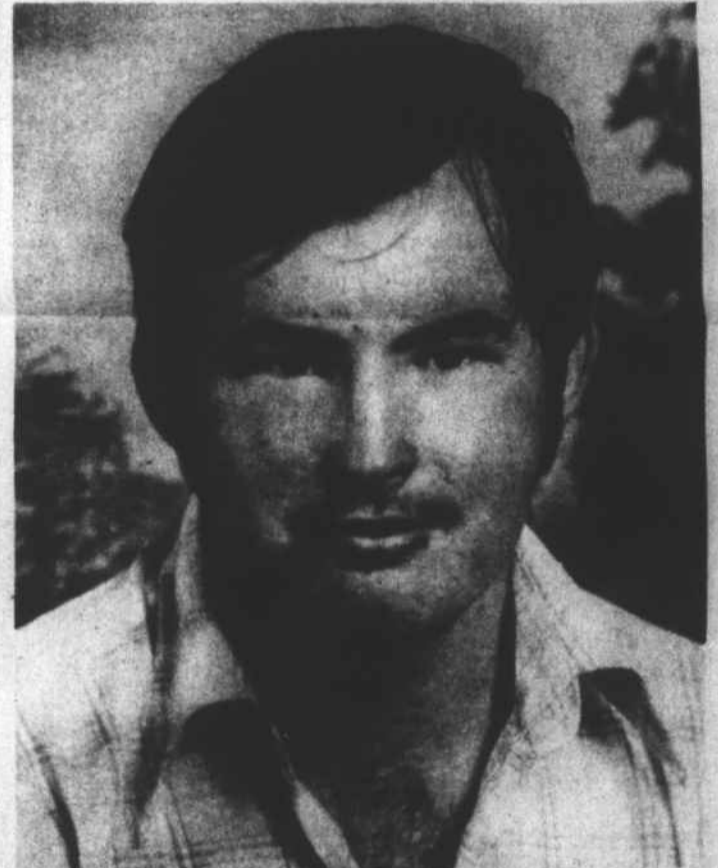


Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dial of Red Springs announce the engagement of their daughter Jan to Phillip Smith, also of Red Springs. Their marriage will take place on September 5, 1982 at 4:00 p.m. at Mt. Elm Baptist Church, Route 1, Red Springs.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Hoke County High School and Pembroke State University with a B.S. degree in elementary education. She is employed by Hoke County as an Intake and Court Counselor and Sandhills Community College as GED instructor. She is presently working on her master's degree in Criminal Justice at Fort Bragg, NC.

The bridegroom-elect graduated from Red Springs High School. He is presently employed by the Town of Red Springs as a Water Plant Operator.

## CELEBRATES 18TH BIRTHDAY



Ricky Johnson celebrated his 18th birthday on Friday, July 9, 1982. Ricky is the son of Annis and Winfred Johnson of Maxton. He attends Maxton High School and is a faithful member of the Gospel of Grace Baptist Church, Elm Street, Maxton. Happy birthday, Ricky!!!

## VBS at Green Pine very Uplifting

"Come, follow Jesus" was the theme of the Vacation Bible School held at Green Pine Freewill Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Pembroke, NC June 7-11. Each night became an enjoyable and inspiring evening.

To encourage attendance, each night those who brought a newcomer received an "I Brought One" sticker to wear. On Friday Bibles with names engraved were given to Tracey Locklear, Sandy Mercer and Vardell Jacobs as first and second place tie winners for having brought the most newcomers to V.B.S. Also, group pictures from the Nursery to the Adult Classes were taken. Each participant in the V.B.S. wore his/her decal T-shirt depicting the theme and picture, "Come, Follow Jesus." Miss Bernice Bray-

boy, with the assistance of her mother Mrs. Ruth Brayboy, made and donated forty of the T-shirts used.

Other culmination activities on Friday included the presentation of attendance and appreciation certificates, the completion of Bible study and Craft sessions and a hot dog party, for the 151 who attended.

As part of the following Sunday Morning Worship service, a program of songs, a display of crafts and comments relative to V.B.S. was presented to the congregation.

Teachers and helpers were encouraged by the enthusiasm evident throughout the week.

A note of thanks to all those who helped and participated in making the week of V.B.S. both enjoyable and spiritually uplifting.

## Gospel Sing Planned

The Burnt Swamp Baptist Association will hold its anniversary singing Sunday, July 18, 1982 at 2 p.m. The singing will take place at Mt. Airy Baptist Church, located on Highway 72. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## Beekeepers Meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Robeson County Beekeepers Association will be held Tuesday, July 20, 1982 at the O.P. Owens Agriculture Building. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

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<p><b>Wesson OIL</b></p> <p>48 OZ. <b>1.88</b></p>	<p><b>Gatorade</b></p> <p>32 OZ. <b>58¢</b></p>	<p><b>Tuna</b></p> <p>6 OZ. <b>75¢</b></p>	<p><b>Napkins</b></p> <p>140 CT. <b>69¢</b></p>	<p><b>PEANUT BUTTER</b></p> <p>18 OZ. <b>1.29</b></p>	<p><b>APPLE SAUCE</b></p> <p>303 SIZE <b>3/1.09</b></p>
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<p><b>Swift's Premium Beef!</b></p> <p><b>CUBE STEAK</b></p> <p><b>2.59</b> LB.</p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY BACON</b></p> <p><b>1.09</b> 12 OZ. PACKAGE</p>
<p><b>BONELESS RUMP OR BOTTOM ROUND ROAST</b></p> <p><b>2.19</b> LB.</p>	<p><b>WHOLE Fryers</b></p> <p><b>49¢</b> LB.</p>
<p><b>GROUND BEEF</b></p> <p>5 LBS. OR MORE <b>1.19</b> LB.</p>	<p><b>FRANKS</b>.....12 OZ. <b>1.19</b></p> <p><b>BOLOGNA</b>.....LB. <b>1.59</b></p> <p><b>SAUSAGE</b>.....12 OZ. <b>1.39</b></p>
<p><b>WHOLE BONELESS 20-25 LB. AVE. BOTTOM ROUNDS</b> LB. <b>1.69</b></p> <p><b>BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND STEAK</b> LB. <b>2.29</b></p> <p><b>BONELESS Eye of Round Steak</b> LB. <b>2.79</b></p>	<p><b>PRODUCE</b></p> <p><b>White Potatoes</b> <b>1.49</b> 10 LB. BAG</p> <p><b>LOCAL Blueberries</b> <b>99¢</b> PT.</p>

<p><b>MAOLA Sour Cream</b></p> <p>8 OZ. <b>59¢</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Bread</b></p> <p>3 FOR <b>95¢</b></p>	<p><b>MAOLA TRIM OR GREAT SHAPE Milk</b></p> <p>1/2 GAL. <b>1.09</b></p>	<p><b>Ice Cream</b></p> <p><b>1.09</b></p>	<p><b>TOWELS</b></p> <p><b>2/1.00</b></p>	<p><b>TISSUE</b></p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>
<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY CORN MUFFIN MIX</b></p> <p>7 OZ. <b>5.100</b></p>	<p><b>DRINKS</b></p> <p><b>5/1.00</b></p>	<p><b>MAOLA Margarine</b></p> <p><b>3/1.00</b></p>	<p><b>ESKIMO PIES</b></p> <p>8 PK. <b>1.09</b></p>	<p><b>TREND</b></p> <p><b>88¢</b></p>	<p><b>BISCUITS</b></p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>

<p><b>Downy</b></p> <p><b>2.19</b> 64 OZ.</p>	<p><b>FRYER LEG</b></p> <p>QUARTERS BOX <b>1.95</b></p>	<p><b>SUNBEAM Cinnamon Buns</b></p> <p>8 PK. <b>79¢</b></p>
<p><b>Faygo</b></p> <p><b>3/1.00</b> 18 OZ.</p>	<p><b>KETCHUP</b></p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p><b>Mayonnaise</b></p> <p><b>69¢</b></p>

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