

# Minister Retiring After More Than Half Century

**By KERMIT TEAGUE**  
 A Baptist minister who has served for more than half a century in Western North Carolina will be retiring this summer.

Rev. R.W. Barber, pastor of the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Lenoir, will preach his last sermon as regular pastor the first Sunday in August.

The 70-year-old Barber has been a minister for at least 52 years. He's not sure just how long.

He began his ministerial career as a teenager at the New Damascus Baptist Church in Wilkes County, his old "stomping ground."

During more than half a century in the ministry, Barber estimates he has baptized more than a thousand people, married about that many, and buried an even larger number.

Barber was born and reared in Wilkes County and attended school in the area. Later, he attended Shaw University, and attended a special school for ministers for several years while serving as pastor at Damascus.

In those early years, Barber's church was "at least five miles from the nearest family that attended" and one of his first projects was to "get the church moved to the community where my congregation lived," he said.

"It was an old timey church with wooden benches and an old organ," he remembers.

"The people used to come on mules and wagons and on horseback.

"But I had this old Hudson back then, so I drove. Later I got a T-Model, but most people were still traveling in wagons.

"The ministry is much different today than it was back when I started preaching," Barber said.

"Back then there seemed to be much greater interest in the church. People seem to be losing interest today.

"Today people have become more involved in material things.

"Even the weddings seemed more sincere then. Today they're real modern, practically all are held in churches. Back in the early years they were simple ceremonies held mostly in the homes."

"Funerals today are about the same. But back then we had a hearse that was pulled by horses.

"An organization of farmers purchased the hearse and used it several years at funerals," Barber recalls.

"In those days when somebody died they were placed on a cooling board which was just some big wide boards and were measured for coffins. Then we had the funeral.

"During the week I worked in the Wilkes Tannery until it burned down.

"It burned during the 1916 flood. The tannery used rock lime and that stuff doesn't mix very well with water.

"The tannery was near the Yadkin River and we always crossed the river coming to work. But the water had risen

during the night and was all over the plant. When it reached that time the fire started.

"By daybreak the mill was flowing down the river in a big flaming wall at least a half-mile long. Everybody was coming out to see it. Those chemicals remained on top of the water and rode down the river in a giant flame.

"After that I raised chickens for another man and we shared the profits."

Electricity wasn't common back then, but Barber had to keep the chickens warm.

"I stayed up many a night keeping a fire going in that old brooder stove. It took plenty of wood to keep that fire burning all night and keep those 5,000 chickens warm," he explained.

"I tended to the chickens several years until the chicken houses got bad and went down."

"Meanwhile I was still preaching at New Damascus and at Boomer."

"I'd preach the 11 o'clock worship service at New Damascus, then hop in the T-Model and go to Boomer for another service."

"Then I resigned at New Damascus and went to Mount Olive in Newton for two years and also served Mount Siani Church in Catawba for 15 years."

"I was called to Mount Pilgrim about 1949 or 1950."

"I gave up the church in Newton but I continued to preach at the one in Catawba, traveling back and forth."

"But I was just preaching in Catawba every third Sunday. I'd have a substitute here on that third Sunday, preach over there, then return here and conduct the nighttime service."

"I just spend the week now studying the Bible, preparing myself," Barber said.

But he also works part-time as an orderly at Caldwell Memorial Hospital.

Since he came to Mount Pilgrim, Barber has undertaken a massive renovation of the church and did a lot of the work himself.

New windows and new pews have been added, and plans call for the construction of an educational wing.

Barber has conducted baptismal services in the old style—in a river—and by using a more common method today—a pool.

"Once we held a baptizing here at the church and I was in the pool and this fellow I was to baptize came down in the pool. But when I started to baptize him he held to the sides of the pool and wouldn't go down. We just stood there and I tried again but I couldn't get him down."

"Finally I just let him go back out. He was just scared and nervous," Barber remembered.

When Barber steps down in August it will be on his 22nd anniversary at the church. He plans to continue helping out as supply pastor there or somewhere, but doesn't plan to preach over twice a month.

He credits his success as a pastor to "God's help" and said that his wife, Mrs. Ruby Fairfield Barber, has stood by him during any troubles that have arisen through the years.

## I LOOKED AND I SAW

By REV. C. R. STONE

"Light is Greater Than Darkness"

Most of us have heard for many years that there are at least two sides to be considered for every story. Even children learn at an early age many of their limitations with respect to right and wrong. Very often one may find that both children and adults seemingly love the easily acquired pleasant things of life rather than those acquired through the sweat of the brow. For example, one may find that he has developed a kind of eating habit that is contrary to the will of his physician. Also, one knows that he is subjected to difficulties at a later point in life but he refuses to break the habit that causes the pain.

If a believer in Jesus Christ lives by the eternal Word of God, he is of light, but he who rejects the eternal word of God by walking contrary to His will travels the path of darkness.

One of the best ways to describe Jesus Christ is by using the word "light." He is referred to as being this dark world's light. Jesus is the true light that can bring understanding to everyone who really seeks understanding through believing. If one does not believe that Christ is the true light,



his disbelief does not dimish at all the fact that the true light still shineth. The true light that Jesus represents is greater than any light. The light shineth in darkness and darkness cannot prevent his shining. The light shall never cease to shine inspite of darkness that surrounds it. Even with respect to secular lights, if one walks into the darkest room with all things ready and turns on the light, darkness shall disappear. Darkness cannot exist in the midst of light no more than ice can exist in the midst of heat.

He who hath ears to hear—Let him hear.

## Sewing Seeds

By Donald Love

Sewing anything, pertaining to grain is called sewing or broadcasting. When one is to sew seeds, he takes a hand full at a time and begins at a given place then walks in a straight line as much as possible then flings his arm in a circular motion parallel with the ground. Personally, I find sewing is an art. Everybody cannot. When sewing grass seeds, I find it very difficult to do the job as it should be done.

Sewing is not the only method. Planting is another way of getting the seeds into the ground. The purpose of sewing or planting is the reproduction of it. You sow a few rows of seeds or plant a few rows of seeds to look for an abundant amount from the few you have planted.

Another point of interest concerning planting or sewing seeds, whatever kind of seed that has been sown or planted that is what you will get. You do not put string bean seeds in the ground then look for butter beans. You will either get what was planted or nothing.

Man has become very smart about planting seeds. There are certain times of the year when planting can be done and cannot be done. There are those who are moon watchers. They will not plant certain things if the moon does not speak to them. What I mean by that is, the moon grows or begins its growing from a very narrow strip. This is called the new moon. There are certain times when man is anxious to get some seeds planted. The moon grows from this narrow to a full and bright silvery moon. In between this position of the moon, man strives to get seeds into the earth. Then the moon begins to decrease by growing into a dark moon or dark nights. Man also uses planting advantages.

When Christ came to man, He used as illustrations, seed planting or sewing. He only demonstrated or used for examples, the things man was familiar with.

If you notice the art of Christ's dealing with man, getting him to catch on quickly. The way was, deal with man on his level then man understood. Our trouble today is how we deal with mankind. Our intellectual ability causes us to rise over and above our fellowman. It has been said, a ladder is not any stronger than it's weakest round and a chain is not any stronger than it's weakest link. Christian religion is not any stronger than it's weakest member. Our talks should be so the very simplest can understand. To be a Christian is only being just like Christ. This is very much so when we deal with God's children. All of us are God's children. Some of us are lost due to some of us. We are lost but we will not be satisfied unless we can carry

somebody with us.

When Christ talked with His own pertaining to sewing seeds, He used them and us as the soil. Some of us have weeds and briars dominating us. When seeds are thrown into them, the seeds are choked out by these weeds and briars and die. He also said, some of us are just like a rocky area, seeds fall into this area, the roots can not get deep rooted due to the rocks and they die also. Then there is the good soil, nothing to prevent the coming-up of the seeds and they get deep rooted and the yield is something beautiful. So we have a question to ask ourselves, what kind of soil am I?

It is very important for us to clean all the under brush, get the weeds out by the roots. Keep working with yourself until you are satisfied. You know about yourself better than others, so start digging my brother. You who are dominated by stones and rocks, get yourselves a wheelbarrow, roll it into the stoney area, dig down first for the big rocks that prevent seed roots from finding their depth so they can get out of the danger of the sun.

The seeds of Adam caused us to be born in sin before we were born. This is how we lived all through the years. We had no way at that time out of the mess Adam had put us in. God had worked it out for us even before it happened. Another seed had to be sown and that seed was the seed of Jesus Christ or the seed that Christ planted.

The aftermath of the seed of Adam compared to the seed of Christ. The seed of Adam today is fighting to hold on to it. They will not go. It is being accepted into our Christian faith by some and rejected by some. My advice to all of you who are more confused than you believe, learn more about Christ and His purpose and you will find yourself losing Adam's ideas.

Christ is the way, the truth and the light. We need today that seed of light Christ established. Peter talked about it, Stevens, talked and died for it. St. Paul was an Adam seed believer but was converted and now is a Christ seed believer. Ask around you, see your Christ seed believers? It is real, try it.

**BLACK PROPERTY OWNERS DENIED A HEARING**

Washington — The Supreme Court refused last week to hear an appeal by black property owners from Edwards, Miss., who claimed local retaliation for demonstrations and a black boycott of white merchants. In so doing, the court left standing a decision



**CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY**—The S. P. Perry Builders Club of St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church celebrated its Anniversary Sunday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Grady Davis was the main

speaker and the Union Baptist Church shared that service with their pastor. During that service the members of the S. P. Perry Builders Club presented \$1,000.00 to the church. A portion of the money was given to purchase church property. Mrs. Jessie Bonds is presenting the check to Rev. Miller for the church. Mrs. Amanda Wallace is president of the S. P. Perry Builders Club.

## CHURCH NEWS

### FLOWERS UNLIMITED

### THE HISTORY OF EASTER

To the earliest Christians, Easter—not Christmas—was the all-important holiday. Relatively little notice was taken of the anniversary of Christ's birth; as far as the Gospels are concerned, Jesus commanded men to remember not His birth but His death. Therefore Easter is considered the most ancient and most important festival of the Christian year.

One of the great disputes throughout history has been the setting of a fixed date for Easter. Early Christians celebrated Easter at the same time as the Jewish Passover feast, since Christ's death fell upon the day of the feast of Passover—the 14th day of the month of Nisan (first month of the Jewish religious calendar, corresponding to March-April).

Easter has not always been celebrated on Sunday. Early in the history of the Church, a dispute arose between the Jewish and the Gentile Christians. The Jewish Christians maintained that Easter should be observed, like *Pesach* (Hebrew word for Passover), on the 14th of Nisan—regardless of the day of the week upon which it fell. On the other hand, Christians of Gentile descent insisted that the holy day be observed on Sunday, since it was on that day of the week that the resurrection had occurred. The dispute persisted into the 4th century, the western churches generally celebrating Easter on Sunday and the eastern churches following the Jewish tradition.

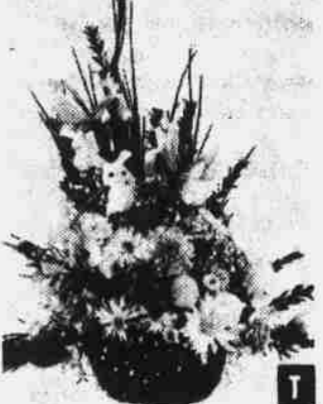
In the year 325, the Emperor Constantine convened the Nicean Council, where the decision was made that Easter should be observed by all on the same Sunday. But the problem was still not solved because of differences in the systems of chronology followed in various places. Moreover, the Gregorian correction of the calendar in 1582 introduced still further discrepancies. Throughout Western Christendom the corrected calendar is now universally accepted, and Easter is solemnized on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox.

The tradition of rising with the sun on Easter morn comes from an ancient peasant belief that those who witnessed sun-up on a certain day in spring would be blessed with good fortune, good health and fair crops.

Today, gayly colored eggs still imply new life and are given as gifts to celebrate the day.

Interpreting the season's modern mood and spirit, FTD florists have created the HappyNest, a special basket bouquet of colorful spring flowers. The fresh floral arrangement, which also features brightly colored eggs and a traditional "bunny" in its design, is a delightful gift that can be sent almost anywhere in the U.S. and Canada, via local FTD florists, throughout the week preceding Easter.

It's a wonderful way of adding a flourish to Easter.



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### IT'S A RECORD

The fastest growing tree is the Eucalyptus saligna, which has been known to grow 45 feet in two years in central Africa. (Bamboo grows even faster but is technically a wood grass, not a tree.)

Among standard game birds, the fastest is the spur-winged goose. It has been clocked at 88 m.p.h. in level flight. The fastest recorded wing beat among all birds belongs to a male hummingbird: 80 beats per second.

The fastest selling record of all time is "John Fitzgerald Kennedy—A Memorial Album." It sold four million copies at 99¢ in six days.

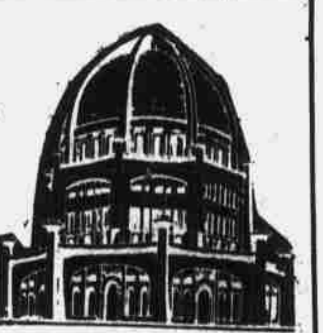
The fastest passenger elevators in America are probably those in the 100-story, 1,107-foot-tall John Hancock Building in Chicago. They run at a speed of 1,600 feet per minute!



RECEIVING PEN OF PEACE

Rev. L. O. Saunders, pastor of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church Hickory, N.C. and former pastor of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Durham, North Carolina is seen receiving one of the twelve pens used in signing the South Vietnamese agreement preliminary to the Paris peace pact. Presenting the pen to Rev. Saunders is Col. Calvin A. Watts right of Hickey. He is a native who has spent 32 years in the Army and is one of the seven senior officers in 00 No. 170 South Vietnam.

Col. Watts stated to the congregation of Mt. Pisgah that when he was a visitor in October he was impressed with the service and especially with the Rev. Saunders after he called the church to pray for peace in South Vietnam. He also stated that he was happy to present Rev. Saunders the pen. Rev. Saunders expressed gratitude for the presentation and called it a momentous occasion.



**WORDS FOR THE WORLD**  
 THE INTELLECTUAL POWER of the world of nature is a power of investigation . . . but the heavenly intellectual power . . . is the special attribute of the Holy Manifestation . . . a ray of this light falls upon the mirrors of the hearts of the righteous, and a portion . . . of this power comes to them.

—BAHAI WRITING

## Members of Durham's Baha'is Join in Observance of New Year

Members of the Baha'i Community of Durham joined with millions of Baha'is around the world in observing Naw-Ruz, the Baha'i New Year, on March 21. Naw-Ruz translated means New Day.

Local Baha'is and their guests observed Naw-Ruz at a dinner gathering at the Holiday Inn West. The occasion was highlighted by a speech by Paul Lang of Operation Break-through, focusing on the significance of the occasion and on the cycles of religion ushered in by Manifestations of God. Another feature of the program was a guitar duo by Linda and Debbi Eckert.

The Baha'i Faith, which originated in Iran (Persia) in 1844, has a calendar of its own. The Baha'i Calendar is based on the solar year, consists of 19 months each with 19 days, with the New Year falling on the vernal equinox (March 21). The Solar year is equalized by 4 (5 in leap year) intercalary days preceding the last Baha'i month. The years, months, and days are named after the attributes of God, as Splendor, Beauty, Sovereignty, etc.

Prior to Naw-Ruz, Baha'is around the world observe a 19-day period of fasting from sunrise to sunset to refresh and reinvigorate the spiritual forces latent in each individual. The Baha'i New Year coincides with the advent of Spring, a time which mankind naturally associates with renewal and rebirth.

On the Baha'i calendar, this is the year 10. The Baha'i era, or calendar, commenced with the year of the bab's Declaration of His mission, which is the year 1844 A.D., according to the Christian calendar. The Bab was the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith and lived in Iran from 1819 to 1850. He was followed by the Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah (Glory to God who lived much of His life in the Holy Land until His Ascension in 1892).

In its 130 years, the Baha'i Faith has spread to 333 countries and territories, including 4,800 localities in the United States.

**BRIDAL CHESTS**

By the thirteenth century the keeping of bridal chests was already an established custom. Brides of the period brought their trousseaus to their new husbands in one or more chests, depending on the wealth of the family. The chest was more than traveling luggage. It served as table, chair and depository for valuables in the bride's new home, observes Wilma Scott, extension house furnishings specialist, North Carolina State University.

"Congress and the Presidency are more at odds than at any time in recent years."

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**White Rock Baptist Church**

Lorenzo A. Lynch, Minister  
 3400 FAYETTEVILLE STREET

Sunday, April 1, 1973

9:30 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL  
 10:55 A.M. WORSHIP

SERMON: "Yes, Watch Our Use Of Pronouns!" (Isiah 6:5, 8)

The Senior Choir Leading the Singing  
 Mr. John H. Gattis, Director

5:00 P.M. Conference on Extending the Ministry of Our Congregation Beyond Its Church Walls