

FOCUS ON WAKE FOREST

BY ELIZABETH ARCHER

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DAY IN BUNN

We have had quite a hectic time trying to put out two articles this week. The following is information that we promised to inform you of on a session held recently in Bunn. We'll try to be back with our regular column next week. See you!

A half-day session on substance (drug) abuse was held at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church Saturday, June 20. At 8:30 a.m., Dr. Joseph C. Paige greeted the participants, prior to his departure for Shaw University where he received the Rural Pastor of the Year award. In his greetings, he conveyed the commitment of Gethsemane Church along with his own personal efforts, to work diligently to rid the Bunn area of substance abuse, and to fulfill his role as pastor in the counseling/treatment process for those who have become victims of addiction.

Officer Matt Jones, chief of police, Bunn, assisted by Officer Dwayne Collins, investigator, Bunn Police Department, gave an update of the extent of substance abuse in the area. It is evident that Bunn is experiencing a serious problem with alcohol, marijuana and cocaine, especially "crack cocaine." Community residents were urged to call the police department with information on suspicious behavior that may indicate drug trafficking. The telephone number is 496-2782. This action is needed because "probable cause" and "sufficient evidence" are needed for police action.

The second session was a seminar on substance abuse prevention presented by Dr. Khalif Ramadan from the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, Raleigh. He pointed out risk factors that can be observed in youth, from the viewpoints of family, school, community and church. Emphasized among such factors were:

- Economic and social deprivation;
- Lack of employment for youth;
- Easy accessibility of alcohol and drugs;
- Norms that make drug use favorable;
- Inconsistent, harsh or lack of discipline in the home, as well as unclear expectations; and
- Academic failure, truancy and suspensions.

He concluded his presentation with a list of protective factors which were:

- Development needs met;
- Norms that support non-use;
- Access to resources; and
- Protective network that in-

volves youth in recreation and community service.

Families were urged to maintain close bonding, manage stress, spend quality time together, make expectations clear and promote shared responsibilities. Protective school factors were:

- Nurturing caretakers;
- Cooperative learning rather than competitive learning;
- Teachers trained in child development and involvement of parents; and
- Encouraging mastery in goal setting.

He recommended businesses, schools, churches, and ethnic groups pool resources, communicate, cooperate and collaborate to prevent chemical substance use among youths.

The third session was done by Terry Hinton, case manager for Treatment Alternative to Street Crimes of the Louisburg Mental Health Department. Her presentation started with the warning signs of drug (including alcohol) use.

Pointers were given on how to show "tough love" (the victim needs to hurt enough to want to change). The group viewed a videotape of a therapeutic confrontation and intervention. A wife, daughter, alcohol counselor and employer confronted the victim in a formal setting, letting him know how is drinking affected them, what they wanted from him and what they would do if he did not change (bottom line). Ms. Hinton gave information on available treatment resources in Franklin County, as well as the steps for an involuntary commitment for treatment.

Information packets were distributed to the congregation and community members for reading and study for a follow-up session. Deacon Eddie Anderson announced the ongoing substance abuse meetings at the church each Tuesday and Thursday nights, from 7-8 p.m. Open meetings will be held each Tuesday night. Referrals and new members are accepted each night or call 496-4308 or 6881.

Rev. Dazale Kearney, Franklin County School Board, gave concluding remarks and benediction. Refreshments were served.

This Awareness Day was sponsored by Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church with support from the N.C. Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, and collaboration with the Franklin County Mental Health Department.

Bahamas Leader, Clergy Hold Service

The governor general of the Bahamas and world church leaders will hold an ecumenical service at 7 p.m. on July 11 during the 44th

General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Orlando, Fla.

The ecumenical service will be

held at the Orange County Convention Center. Church leaders to be involved in the service will include clergy from throughout the world including Bishop John R. Bryant, Monrovia, Liberia; Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr., Cape Town, S.A.; Bishop Harold B. Senatle, Republic of South Africa; and Bishop Frederick Talbot of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Bishop Vinton Anderson of the Presidium of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Bass of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and Bishop Sigma Rhee of the Churches of Christ will represent their organizations during the solutions to be offered through the church.

Issues to be addressed will include economic empowerment and development, political involvement, homelessness, AIDS and outreach centers for drug control

and rehabilitation.

The 44th general conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church will be held through July 15 in Orlando. More than 25,000 people of African descent are expected to attend the conference which is held every four years. In addition to the ecumenical service of the world church leaders, the conference will present other outstanding speakers. Arkansas Gov. and presidential hopeful Bill Clinton spoke on Tuesday during a banquet; psychologist and Essence magazine columnist Dr. Gwendolyn Grant will speak during the Red Flare Luncheon and Fashion Show Saturday; a musical concert with choirs from California, Washington, Atlanta, Nashville, Philadelphia and New York will be held on Sunday; and motivational speaker attorney Patricia Russell McCloud will speak next Monday.

Church Resolutions Say Parole Wetzel, Hatcher

On June 24, the Criminal Justice Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches passed resolutions supporting paroles for Eddie Hatcher and Frank Wetzel.

The resolution supporting parole for Hatcher claims that he has served more than an adequate amount of time of his sentence to be eligible for parole. It also says that Hatcher has been a model prisoner and desires to return to his family and community and to resume his life and work.

The resolution supporting parole for Wetzel is based on the fact that he has served 34 years in prison and at the age of 70 should be released for humanitarian reasons. It also notes the fact that Wetzel is willing to be released to a probationary status of another state and

that the state of Florida has evidenced a willingness to cooperate with this effort.

Both Hatcher and Wetzel have been denied parole several times. The council maintains that to deny them parole is unjustified, and says that any further delay in granting them paroles will contribute to existing accusations that they are being kept in prison for political reasons.

The resolutions have been sent to Louis R. Colombo, chairperson of the North Carolina Parole Commission, and to Gov. James E. Martin.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is an ecumenical organization comprising 25 denominational bodies, plus six individual congregations.

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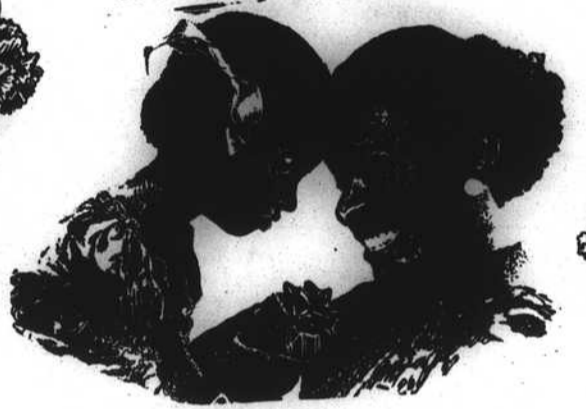
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TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS E. STAM, PRES.
SERVIAN BIBLE SOCIETY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635



"HAVE YOU HEARD?"

"...If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward..." (Eph. 3:2).

Could it be that those to whom Paul addressed his Ephesian letter had not yet heard that God had committed to him "the dispensation of grace"?

Next to the death and resurrection of Christ, the conversion of Paul and his commission to proclaim "the gospel of the grace of God" was the greatest event in history.

The apostles at Jerusalem had recognized the importance of Paul's part in the divine program. They themselves had at first been sent by Christ into "all the world," yet in Galatians 2:9 we find James, Peter, and John publicly shaking hands with Paul in a solemn agreement that he should henceforth be the apostle to the nations.

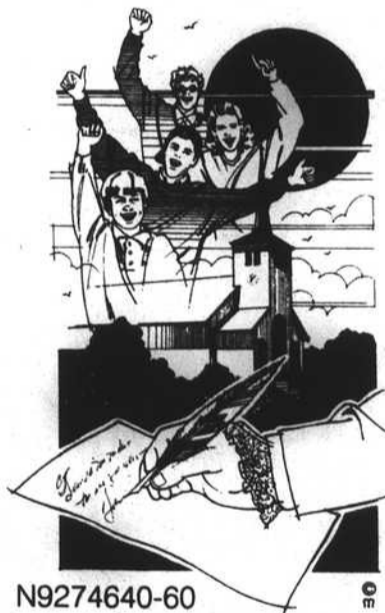
Could it be that some twelve years later, when he wrote the Ephesians letter, there were any who professed the name of Christ who had not heard

of Paul's special place in the program of God as the apostle of grace? Little wonder his words, "if ye have heard", carry with them a touch of sarcasm and reproach.

It is possible, of course, that there were some among them, but recently brought into the Church, who had not heard, but what seems almost impossible is that there should be even one believer at this late date who has not heard that after Christ and His Kingdom were rejected and the world was ripe for prophesied judgment to fall, God intervened, saving Saul, His chief enemy on earth, and sent him forth with "the good news of the grace of God".

This good news is based, of course, upon the fact that since Christ was the spotless Lamb of God, His death is accepted by God as full satisfaction for the sinner.

Thus Paul, by divine inspiration, declares that believers are "justified freely by His [God's] grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).



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THEIR LEGACY WAS THE FREEDOM OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY

Let's celebrate, but not forget We owe them a tremendous debt: Those men who risked their all and signed That piece of paper which defined The reasons for their great demand For independence of our land. This document for all to see Forever lives in history; And yet, the freedom that we gained Must be eternally maintained, With our alertness as the cost, So what they gave us won't be lost. The lessons of our faith portray The gratitude we should convey; To thank them for their legacy: Our precious land of liberty.

— Gloria Nowak

God grants liberty only to those who are always ready to guard and defend it. — Daniel Webster

"Proclaim liberty... throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." — Leviticus 25:10



So long as we love, we serve. — Robert Louis Stevenson

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