



Reverend Stephen W. Brown; speaker for Christian Encounter Week at Brevard College.

Christian Encounter Week Is Observed At Brevard

Brevard, N. C. — Christian Encounter Week is now being observed at Brevard College through March 3. This period of special study and personal rededication is sponsored each year by the Brevard College Christian Council. That student group works throughout the school year with College Chaplain C. Edward Roy to coordinate the activities of the several religious organizations on campus.

The Reverend Stephen W. Brown, Pastor of the Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church at Key Biscayne, Florida, has been selected as the keynote speaker and resource director for the week. Mr. Brown recently wrote Brevard College Chaplain C. Edward Roy that he was very much looking forward to being in Brevard the first week in March. A native of Asheville, his first two college years were at Brevard. After graduation here in 1960 he went on to receive the B.A. degree in Philosophy and Religion from High Point College and the S.T.B. degree from Boston University School of Theology.

Before his present assignment with the Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church in Florida, Reverend Brown was minister of churches on Cap Cod and Quincy Massachusetts, for a time was disc jockey and newsman at radio stations in Boston and North Carolina, and traveled extensively throughout the United States conducting preaching missions and as a keynote speaker and Bible teacher. Mr. Brown has authored two books: *Where The Action Is* (1971) and *So Now You Are A Christian* (1972).

Of Mr. Brown and his writing, Publisher Fleming H. Revell gives the following account. "He is young. He is deeply committed. He has unlimited enthusiasm. What better qualifications are needed to make a topnotch minister of the Gospel? Stephen W. Brown is all these things, and more. He is a preacher of today, for today. He is spreading the Word with a vitality and honesty that are refreshing and dynamic. His God is not dead; his Church is not dying. He has discovered something real and wonderful in Jesus and feels inspired, compelled, to confess his faith and explain exactly what the ministry means to him . . ."

Mr. Brown and his wife, Anna Louise Williamson Brown, met

while both were students at Brevard College.

Sophomore Bill Haire, co-president of the Brevard College Christian Council, released the following schedule today for Christian Encounter Week activities:

Tuesday, March 2: Informal lecture by Reverend Mr. Brown, *Citizens Of The Kingdom*, Student Union, 6:30 p.m. Brevard College students only.

Wednesday, March 3: Breakfast-lecture. Reverend Mr. Brown will speak on *The Growth Of The Kingdom*. A. G. Myers Dining Hall, 8:00 a.m. Brevard College students only.

Setting aside a period each year for special religious emphasis has long been practiced in communities throughout the nation. The designation given these observances has varied over the years and from place-to-place. Perhaps that name most frequently heard has been Religious Emphasis Week. Several years ago students at Brevard College chose to call their observance Christian Encounter Week.

Brevard College has been especially privileged for the past several years to have the assistance of the Thomas F. Staley Foundation in bringing to the campus eminent churchmen to lead study and services during Christian Encounter Week. Since 1972, Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecturers at Brevard College have included such personages as Methodist Bishop Ole E. Borgen, Episcopal leader of some 43,000 United Methodists in Northern Europe; Dr. John A. Huffman, Jr., pastor of the historic First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and many others.

By 1972 the Staley program has become active on more than 125 college campuses in 41 of 50 states. An article from the bulletin of King College in his native Bristol, Tennessee, told of Mr. Staley using drawing pins and a map in his Delray Beach, Florida office to mark the development of the program as it expands across the nation. Although chairman of the board of one of the largest investment firms in the country, he once remembered to an interviewer, "Wall Street is my avocation these days — my vocation is the Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lectures Program."

Through widely observed, knowledge of exactly how and where the idea of an "emphasis week" began may be lost in history. In discussing this, Dr. Robert G. Tuttle of the First United Methodist Church of Brevard made the following observations on religious life in America. "The first spiritual 'great awakening' in America began among the Dutch Reformed in the Middle Colonies in the 1720's and, shortly after, in New England with the revitalization of Calvinism under Jonathan Edwards. The 'awakening' then spread rapidly throughout the colonies and many thousands came to accept the living experience of a judging, redeeming God, with a lessened emphasis on the importance of the traditional denominations. The impetus given religious life during that early time was to have a great impact and give character to the early institutional life of our country. By having an influence on the original documents of our nation it gave a high moral tone to the development of our early institutions."

"After some generations of ebb in religious fervor in America, a second 'great awakening' came as Americans began to emerge from the rough life of the frontier into a more comfortable condition. The imprint of this religious resurgence was to remain on our national life and lead to the advancement of our schools and colleges."

"In frontier days, after the harvest, farmers were often able to take some time for rest. Then, there would be time for more activity in the churches and for revival meetings. One of the expressions of this was the annual 'camp meeting' where farm families would come together for a week or more for camping and preaching. Eventually this way spread to churches in towns and cities. For a week or longer special preachers would be called to come into the community to lead services during this time of rethinking and rededication."

Dr. Tuttle said that observers believe there has been a wane in the religious life of the country over the past half-century, but that there has also been seen, coming out of the almost total materialism of recent years, a hunger in young people for a first-hand encounter with God. He feels this might come to be of the magnitude of the third 'great awakening' which could bring new direction to the nation.

College To Participate In Bicentennial Forums

Bicentennial forums and discussion on America Past, Present, and Future will be held three Tuesday evenings in March at Transylvania Court House. Meetings will begin at 8:00 p.m. There will be no admission charge.

A committee headed by George T. Spicer, President of the Friends of Library, has recruited interested Transylvania County citizens and members of the Brevard College community to serve as moderators and panelists.

Subjects and speakers include:

March 2 - "The Idea of America" with Dr. Richard Reed of UNC-A as speaker and Colonel Pual B. Welch (retired), as moderator. Mildred Webber, a student at Brevard College will serve as a member of the panel.

March 9 - "The American Reality" with Dr. Max Williams of Western Carolina University as speaker and Mr. J. E. Driscoll

as moderator. Mr. Burger, a member of the Brevard College faculty, will participate as a member of this panel.

March 16 - "An American Agenda for the Beginning of our Third Century." Dr. Michael Gillum of UNC-A will be the speaker. Moderator will be the Reverend C. E. Roy of Brevard College. Panel members will be individuals from the community.

All three forums are planned to encourage audience participation. Audience questions and or comments on all three topics will be answered by either the speakers and or the panelists.

The forums are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Transylvania County Library in conjunction with the North Carolina Bicentennial and the North Carolina Humanities Committees.

Brevard College faculty and students are urged to attend these sessions . . .