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Years have passed since Dr. Charles L. Allen held a series of services at New Bern's Centenary Methodist church, but the impact of his soft-sell messages is still felt there.

Unlike many other evangelists, some of them successful, the widely beloved Atlanta pastor passes up the gusty sort of delivery aimed at shouting sinners into repentance. He talks quietly and earnestly, in much the same manner that Jesus of Galilee must have spoken to those around Him.

Allen's columns for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the best of them now in book form, are as simply done as his sermons. They reflect the personality of the man, who has been credited with combining the qualities of Edgar A. Guest, Dwight L. Moody, Will Rogers and St. Francis.

A fellow columnist describes him rather accurately as a "tall, angular, country-looking fellow with a lot of Abraham Lincoln's whimsicality and wit." Here is writing that is both humble and spiritual, as piercing as a sunbeam in a darkened room.

In "Roads To Radiant Living" Dr. Allen says, "One of the most thrilling and glorious facts of life is that you existed in the mind of God before you were born. No person is here by accident and it ought to flatter you to realize that, as God thought of all the people He wanted to be on this earth. He decided that He wanted you. So He made you."

"Everything God has made has its own personal identity. There are billions of leaves but no two have ever been alike. No two raindrops ever have been identical. And no other person has ever been made or will ever be made exactly like you. The print of your finger is different; you think differently, and you look different from any other person that ever lived."

"One day a sixth-grade teacher asked her class, 'What is here in the world today that was not here fifteen years ago?' She expected the class to tell her of some of the new inventions and discoveries. One little boy held up his hand. 'All right Johnny,' she said, 'what is here that was not here fifteen years ago?' He said, 'Me.'"

"That was a wonderful answer. When the boy was born something brand new came into the world. It should lift any one of us to a new sense of importance to know that, among all the billions of people, there has been but one of me or of you. Each of us can do some things that no other person has ever been able to do. Each can make some special contribution to the life of the world."

"Robert Louis Stevenson once said to be what we are, and to be what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life. Jesus put it this way: As my Father has sent me, even so send I you. (John 20:21). That is, there is a purpose for your life. Each one has something special to live for."

"Stamp that thought firmly in your mind and it will drive

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SUCH IS THE KINGDOM—Each year it brings us delight to publish a class picture of the latest Christ Church kindergarten group. As always the beloved teachers, Celia Ferebee and Anna Gillikin, had them smiling their cutest when they posed for John R. Baxter, whose role as cameraman for the youngsters is a tradition. First row, left to right, are Barrie Henderson, Reid Sharp, Tracy Teachey, Michelle Parrott, Michael Glover, Brad Allen, Lisa Mallard, Jay Huff and Karen Tripp. Second row, Karen Haddock, Greg Leister, Jimmy Petrakis, Grace Wall, Elizabeth Elam, Lori Ann Stephens, Celia Hearren, Becky Foss, Maria Oates, Mollie Byrd, and Katey Proctor. Third row,

Burton, Brad Latham, Lavon Ainsworth, Joyce Sandlin, Woody Boyd, Floyd Gaskins, Tay Koonce, Jeff Bell, and Johnny Walston. Fourth row, Michele Creelman, Gray Ballard, Susan Clark, Paul Sumrell, Debbie Woodruff, Greg Nelson, Brenda Phipps, Franklin M. Grady, III, June Venters, Martha Rankin, Elizabeth Evans and Todd Phillips. It is a matter of record that graduates of the kindergarten usually do well later in school, and a number of those who were members of past classes have achieved distinction in college. Like Tennyson's brook, it promises to go on and on, and with Celia and Anna at the helm, we can't think of a nicer setting for happy childhood.

