



**PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE**—Among those who participated with Rev. George H. Cooke, right, in services at Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church Sunday were, from left: Jessie Harrell, Carey Hollowell, W. Jennings Bunch and M. L. Bateman.

### Ballard's Bridge Holds Dedication Service

Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church held dedication services Sunday upon completion of an extensive renovation program. During the service, conducted by Rev. George H. Cooke, a harvest offering was received and a total of \$6,388 was given. Church officials were quite elated with the amount of the offering.

Those who also participated in the service along with the trustees included, Ralph Hollowell, M. L. Bateman,

chairman, W. Jennings Bunch, Carey Hollowell, Jessie Harrell, David T. Bateman, chairman of deacons and Gordon Boyce.

The historic Ballard's Bridge Church, organized in 1781, completed its renovation program which consisted of a new front, complete bricking, general repairs and painting inside and out. Haywood Jones Construction Company did the renovation work.

The church also observed homecoming and dinner on the

grounds Sunday. A large crowd was in attendance with members, former members and friends from the community and Chowan County attended.

"A wonderful day of worship and fellowship was enjoyed by all," reported Mr. Cooke.

There's too much argument about religion and not enough practice of it.

### Wayside Pulpit

D. E. EARNHARDT

TEXT: "Train up a child in the way he should go." Prov. 22:6

What can I do with my boy? Let him alone all you can afford to and he will grow up.

How can I make him respect his mother? Tell her and grandmother to stop squeezing black-heads out of his neck and picking strings off his collar and calling him darling in company.

How can I make him shine his shoes and comb his hair? Just rock along six months till he falls in love with little "Cutie" whose hair hangs down in ringlets.

How can I make him stop fighting? Just rock along till he meets his match. Even Daddy stops fighting the boy when the boy gets big as Daddy.

How can I make him stay for church? Have the preacher for dinner and he will make close friends with the little boy and the boy will discover that the preachers love little boys as they love little chickens.

### Williford

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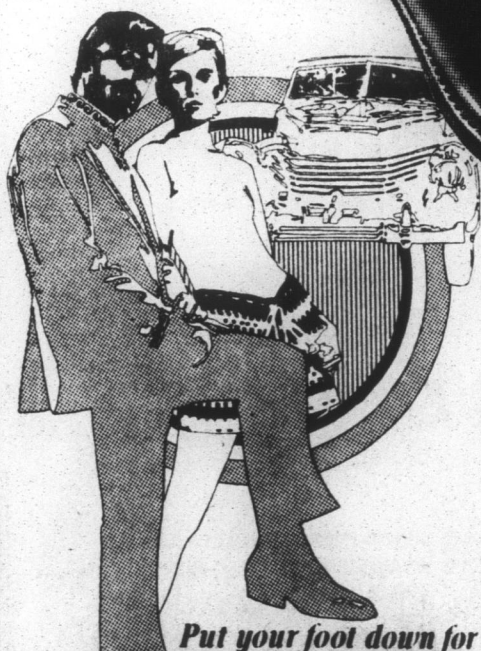
Dear Friends:

A century ago, funerals went to the extremes of show and display. Accounts of such funerals mention many details that would be offensive to any right-thinking person today.

We are glad to say that public preference now is for simpler tastes. The ornate trappings of decades ago are discarded. Quiet dignity and respect for the dead prevails. This should be gratifying to all.

Respectfully,

*H. B. Williford*



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# MAKE CHURCH - GOING . . . A HABIT

## A NATION AGAINST GOD

International Sunday School Lesson for December 10, 1972

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 2:1-19; 3:6 to 5:31

Continuing our studies of the Prophets, today we are aware of a nation against God... Israel's transgressions towards Him, her ignoring of His warnings, and of His appeals to repent—all of which had fallen on deaf ears. Consequently, God had visited upon Israel conquest and exile. Of this the people of Judah were acutely aware...but still they did not mend their ways.

History is intimately interwoven with the affairs of man. Those nations which go against God's holy ordinances inevitably find themselves in deep trouble! So it was in Biblical times; so it is today in our modern world!

Those of us who have lived through the nightmare of World War II will not easily forget the bombings, the destruction, the loss of lives that were a natural consequence of man's inhumanity towards man. Certain it is that the once proud German nation will not easily overcome the horrors of Dachau and Buchenwald. To them it has become apparent that national pride—usually a desirable and admirable attribute—in the hands of power-hungry individuals can become a destructive liability, casting a shadow on innocent generations to come.

History is ever the judge; what happened to both Israel and Judah has been preserved, for countless generations, in the pages of the Bible, as a warning. We cannot afford to forget the ultimate fate of nations which defy God.

Israel, being delivered from bondage, forgot her Deliverer, and gave herself to rejoicing and revelry, ignoring her commitment to the Almighty God...breaking His commandments, with no regard whatever for her debt. And God—ever merciful, ever loving, repeatedly warned her of the outcome, through the voices of His chosen spokesmen...but all to no avail.

Today, with the "new morality" practiced by our rising generation (the leaders, tomorrow, of our mighty nation) perplexing the adults of our times, we need to pay special heed to this Lesson. For the abandonment of moral standards always comes under Divine judgment!

We live in an affluent country—and a permissive society. We set great store by our earthly possessions; more and more the working classes are upgrading the degrees of comfort and luxury of their day-to-day living standards. Few among us can fail to name a dozen of our acquaintances who possess cars, boats, campers, vacation homes! This is good, in that personal industry is rewarded; but there lurks a hidden danger! In our pursuit of the pleasure these possessions afford us, we tend to turn more and more to our pleasurable pursuits, instead of finding spiritual renewal in God's House on the Sabbath. The resulting decline in church attendance must, inevitably, take its toll on the spiritual life of the nation. Our sensitivities become blunted, and, in our concern for self, we lose that concern for others less fortunate...a concern evidenced daily by Christ, Himself, as He went His way among the sick, the poor, the oppressed, during the few short years of His life.

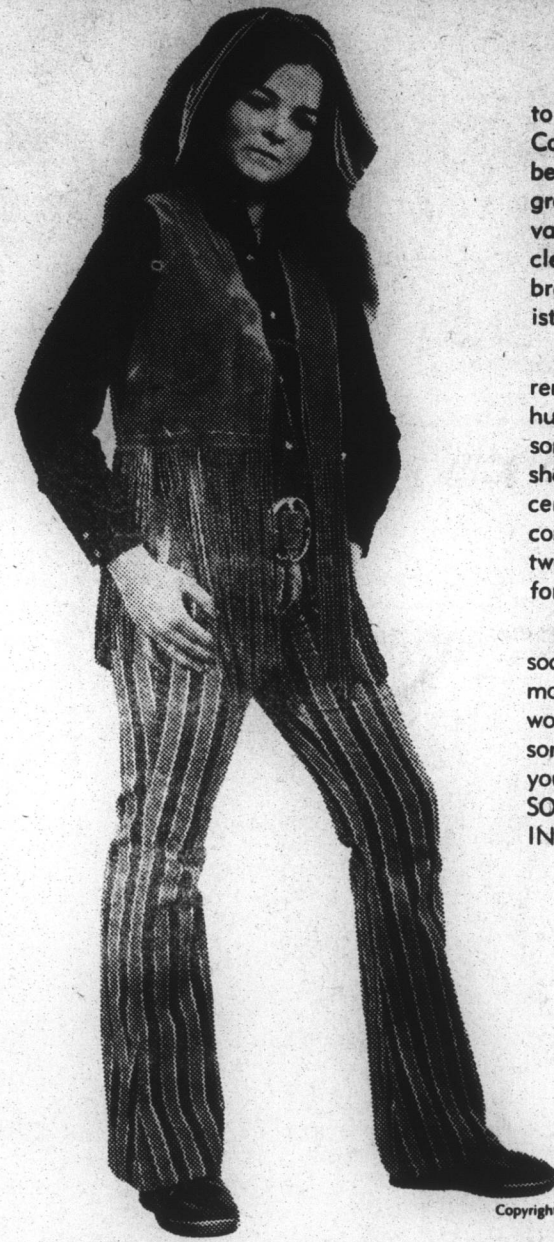
Citizenship in the Christian community is a privilege, indeed. But, like all privileges, it carries its own responsibilities...to God, to our fellow men—and to our own immortal souls.

We must conduct ourselves, always, in accordance with God's laws—even when those laws come in conflict with the laws and ways of natural man. For He is the Supreme Being who watches, weighs, and judges.

He sees what is in our hearts; He goes behind the facade we present to the outside world...and sometimes to ourselves!

Total commitment is not easily won...nor should it be held lightly. God's people have been made a promise of redemption in return for devotion to the Christian life; as a person, and as a nation, we have too much to lose when we give God second place in our lives instead of the first, as He so justly deserves!

## Connie, The Conformist



The last thing Connie intended to be was a conformist. So one day Connie resolved in dead earnest to be a nonconformist. She joined the group. She learned their views, their values, their life-style. Soon the cycle was complete—Connie had embraced the way of the nonconformist... had conformed to it.

The adventure of Connie is a reminder that conformity is part of human nature. We all conform to something. And the seemingly sharp differences apparent between certain life-styles merely reflect the contrasts and contradictions between the things to which men conform.

The role of the Church in our society is to provide spiritual and moral values that enrich life. In a world in which all men conform to something, the Church's aim with youth and adults is to give them SOMETHING WORTH CONFORMING TO.



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Scriptures selected by the American Bible Society

Sunday Colossians 1:12-23	Monday Genesis 9:8-17	Tuesday Deuteronomy 33:26-29	Wednesday Ezekiel 37:21-28	Thursday Zachariah 9:9-17	Friday Romans 8:24-39	Saturday Hebrews 11:1-16
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