

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

A Ministry of the

Burnt Swamp Association

A SPECIAL KIND OF PEOPLE
 Rev. Christopher L. Hunt, Pastor, Mt. Olive Baptist Church.
 Background scriptures: Exodus 3:1 to 6:13. Focus on Exodus 5:22 to 6:9, 13.
 Today's lesson addresses the origin of God's people. An affirmation often repeated in the Christian community is, "The Church is the people and not the building." It is correct that the Church is the people, and this points to its essentially human character. However, it must go beyond this because the Church is not just "people." It is a certain kind of people; a special people. The Church is appropriately identified as

the "people of God." This suggests a depth and significance that differentiates them from people in general.
 A brief look at the origin of God's people will clarify this. This means going back to the time of Abraham. The beginning of the people of God originated with God's call to Abraham. God said to him, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." (Genesis 12:1-2) God established a covenant with Abraham which continued through Isaac, Jacob, and the sons of Jacob. Abraham's

descendants became the Israel of God. When Israel was enslaved in Egypt God delivered them through the leadership of Moses and His covenant was renewed with Israel. This is found in the focal verse for today: "I am the Lord, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment, and I will take you for my people, and I will be your God." (Exodus 6:6) The Exodus becomes central in the creation of the "people of God."
 Unfortunately, Israel failed to remain faithful to the covenant relationship. A casual reading of the Old Testament prophets will verify this. Israel's history is a story of repeated failures, betrayals, backslidings and loss of faith. Israel failed primarily because they misunderstood God's reason for calling them in the first place. They were called to be a special people. Above all, they were called for a specific responsibility. Israel was set apart to be the instrument of God's redemp-

tion; to help restore humanity back into a proper relationship with the Creator. They were to make the love of God known to every nation, tribe, tongue and people.
 The idea of privilege is not absent in God's calling of Israel, however, this idea is secondary. Their call involves primarily one of service. This is stated in Exodus 19:5-6a, "Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests." Israel was to serve as a channel whereby all people would be redeemed.
 Due to Israel's unfaithfulness God sought a remnant, a few that would remain faithful to His covenant (Isa. 10:20-23; Jeremiah 31:31-34). Even the remnant became unfaithful leaving a remnant of the remnant. According to Christian interpretation this remnant narrowed down to a single representative- Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus alone remained true to Israel's

covenant with God, obedient even to death. All that God intended for Israel was ultimately realized in the redemptive work of Christ Jesus. Jesus became the true Israel. He was faithful to the mission which God intended for Israel, and it was through him that God's love would truly be revealed.
 This is where the Christian Church (the people of God) comes into the picture. As followers of Christ, we are to continue his ministry in the world today. The true identity of the Church is realized when God's people are actively engaged in making His love known to a lost world. The Church is more than just people. It is a very important people, on a very important mission.
 The Liberty Bell cracked in 1835 while tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.

SPAIC releases Indian Economic Booklet

Dr. H. L. Martin, Chief Executive of the Society for the Preservation of American Indian Culture has edited a beginning manual entitled "American Indian Economic Development." The book is designed to offer plans and suggestions for helping Indian tribes become economically self-sufficient. The manual also lists sources of help.
 SPAIC will conduct regional workshops on Economic development and will make available consultants for Indian groups.
 The manual is available to Indians at no charge. Please contact SPAIC, P.O. Box 76073, Mountain Brook, AL 35253.

PEMBROKE KIWANIS OFFICERS INSTALLED

Pembroke Kiwanis met at the Town and Country Restaurant on Tuesday evening with newly elected President Lankford Godwin presiding. President Godwin read a letter from John T. Roberts, President of Kiwanis International announcing the theme of Kiwanis for 1982-83 "Helping Underprivileged Children Throughout the World."
 Lt. Governor Bernard Lowry of District 4 welcomed the ladies at this special installation meeting and paid tribute to the excellent work of retiring Club President John L. Carter.
 Officers installed by Lt. Governor Lowry were: President-John Lankford Godwin; Vice President-Alvin R. Lowry; Secretary-Marshall Locklear; Treasurer-Albert C. Hunt.

Directors installed were: John L. Carter, Theodore Maynor, Kenneth Johnson, Adolph Dial, W.L. Oxendine, Alvin Ray Lowry.
 Committee Chairmen are: Vocational Guidance-Arnold Locklear; Church and Spiritual Aims-Adolph L. Dial; Rules and Regulations-J. Garth Locklear; Publicity-Kenneth Johnson; Club Development-Jim Paul; Inter-Club-Theodore Maynor; Membership-W.L. Oxendine; Finance-Albert C. Hunt; Health-Darrel Garner; Agriculture-Alvin

Ray Lowry; Program-Ira Fats Lowry; Circle K-John Rimborg; Key Club-Henry W. Oxendine; Boys & Girls-Ed Teets.

Program Chairman Ed Teets introduced Arnold Richardson of Halifax in Warren County who was the guest speaker for the meeting. Mr. Richardson is a graduate of Temple University and UCLA and in 1977 was the recipient of the National Indian Sculpture Award for Indian Culture. Mr. Richardson is presently at the Resource Center at Robeson Technical College and has recently published a book dealing with Native American Cultures. Professor Adolph Dial also participated in the writing of this book.

Mr. Richardson exhibited various Indian artifacts, describing the uses of each. Among those shown were the adz-a type of ax used in hollowing out logs for canoes and also for making shingles; a crooked knife wrapped and held together with rawhide used in carving; a stone sculpture depicting the legend of corn harvesting. Mr. Richardson will be giving lectures on Indian Art at Robeson Technical College and is available for lectures. Visitors at the meeting were Elisha Locklear and Sgt. Stewart who is stationed in Lumberton and is responsible for Army recruiting in this area.



For a new decor, enamel shabby wastebaskets and paste on calendar pictures. Shellac over the pictures.



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