

The Upward Trend of Crime in N. C.

The two recent slayings in the Hayti section of Durham are a stark reminder to all good citizens of this city the reality of the recent report of the FBI that crime is on the increase in North Carolina cities of over 100,000 population, which to name them are Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem. Durham might have been thrown in for good measure, although it does not quite qualify for the 100,000 category. From the standpoint of major crimes, however, it appears to more than qualify.

That both of the slayings in Durham occurred near or within the area of Hillside High School, probably has no significance other than to remind us all that the school is located in what might be considered one of Durham's most exclusive residential sections, and just a stone's throw from N. C. College. Thus it appears that perpetrators of even the most terrible offenses pick no special areas in which to operate.

Listed among the horrible crimes by the FBI are murder, theft, forcible rape, burglary and robbery. A review of Durham's record for 1968 will reveal that this city has had its share of most of the major horrible crimes as pointed out by the FBI. Latest information received from the FBI reveals that the slaying of 15-year-old Yvonne Baker was at the hands of Michael Butler, 20, who later took his own life on November 23. Capt. E. G. Atkins of the FBI, in the report said, "We are satisfied that he (Butler) is the one responsible for the girl's death." The FBI laboratory findings came from blood samples and clothing of both the young girl and Butler, according to Atkins, "along with the shotgun with which Butler shot himself." It thus appears that the young girl probably lost her life in an attempt to avoid being raped.

Add to the above crimes the break-in of the Durham Memorial Baptist Church on Holloway Street and the theft from the church of a small safe containing \$2600, a safe robbery at the Duke Indoor Stadium, Saturday night, the attempted safe robbery of St. Phillips Episcopal Church on Main Street, and you will readily see that crime in Durham has no racial or sectional barriers and no limitations.

To this newspaper it appears that the flagrant and often occurrence of serious crimes in our cities should be the concern of every minister of the gospel and Lay believer in Christianity. Certainly the robbery at one church and the attempted robbery at another, in this city within the space of one week, is prima facie evidence that the church, as an institution of righteousness, has lost the respect and reverence of thieves, bootleggers, drunkards, murderers, prostitutes, whoremongers, or should we say, the worst and most depraved of mankind.

Thus, instead of ranting and raving about better or more adequate police protection the lot of us, composed of ministers and members in our churches, would do well to examine closely our sincerity about our concern for the salvation of our fellowman. We might discover that the modern day so-called Christian church is actually more concerned about the amount of Sunday's collection, the pastors cadillac, and other evidence of the salvation of the almighty dollar, than the salvation of our fallen fellowmen.

So the report of the FBI that crimes showed a marked increase in almost every category is a most distressing indictment for the yuletide season of the celebration of the birth of Him who endeavored 2,000 years ago to teach mankind to love one another.

The Story of Christmas

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the

house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were come into the hold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt; and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

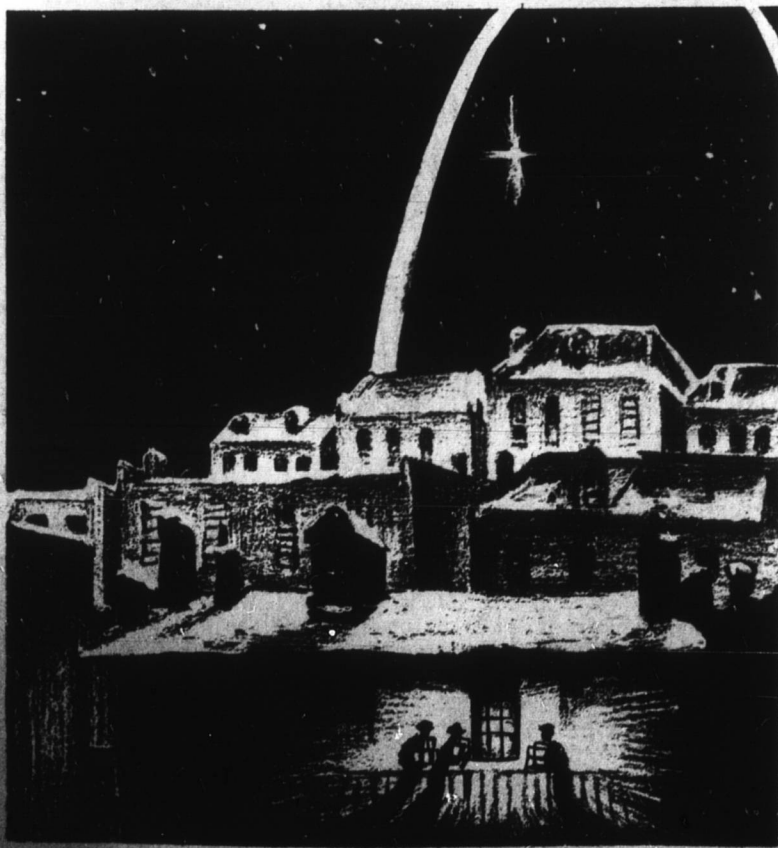
When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.

—Matthew 2:1-14

The above story of the birth and early life of Jesus, nearly 2,000 years ago, creates a joyous feeling in the heart of every believer in Christianity. Surely, on Christmas morning when we awaken and our thoughts turn to the story as told by Matthew, we rejoice that the birth of Jesus gives hope to all mankind that, whatever the lot, salvation is free and within the reach of the humblest and most depraved of mankind.

So, in the spirit of the yuletide season we extend to all of our fellowmen our sincerest hope for a Merry Christmas and a happy yuletide season.

Let's be Wise Men—Not Wise guys



Challenge To Black Leadership



"THE FINAL TABULATIONS GAVE WALLACE 12% OF THE POPULAR VOTE, 7% IN THE EAST, 8% IN THE MIDWEST, 8% IN THE WEST, AND 30% IN THE SOUTH. THUS SHOWING THE DEPTH OF ACTIVE WHITE RACISM IN AMERICA."



To Be EQUAL

By WHITNEY M. YOUNG

Building Ghetto Power

LAST WEEK'S announcement by the National Urban League that it was starting new action programs in 21 black communities has led many people to ask just what we mean when we call such programs "ghetto power."

Ghetto Power means the creation of economic, political, and social strengths within the black community to enable it to compete and to take its equal place in an open society.

When the Urban League says it's for ghetto power, it means that it intends to place its know-how and its professional expertise at the disposal of black people locked into the racial ghettos of America.

That does not mean telling people what they want or what they ought to want. On the contrary, it means that the Urban League will first find out what the community itself says it needs and wants, and then the League will help it to develop the resources and leadership to achieve its own goals. We're not imposing our own will on the community, we're helping the black community to speak more effectively for itself.

Make Its Own Voice Heard

This approach has nothing in common with separatism, nationalism, or any other "ism." The legitimate needs and aspirations of the ghetto are all too often subordinated to someone else's ideological goals, or even to headline-grabbing activity. In this case, however, the black ghetto will be able to use the Urban League's professional experts in planning, education, housing, welfare, and other fields to make its own voice heard and to change ghetto conditions through mobilization of the strengths of the black community.

The action program covers a lot of ground. Here's how we are going about it. Armed with grants from foundations who are serious and sincere, and private donations, we asked all of our 93 affiliates to find out what their community's main concerns were, and to devise action programs to deal with them. The proposals poured into our headquarters — proposals for economic development, housing rehabilitation, community and non-partisan political organization, decentralization, police relations, and a host of others.

Leaders Anxious To Serve All

One is in Hancock County, Georgia. This is a rural county in which four out of five residents are black. But it wasn't until this Fall that blacks gained political control. Unlike their predecessors, the newly-elected leaders are anxious to serve all, both blacks and whites. They asked for help in planning for community organization and for drafting programs to help relieve the grinding poverty that afflicts the people of this county. Hopefully, we'll help the people of Hancock County to make it a model for the rest of the country — a demonstration of what poor people in the rural South can do to help themselves. A similar effort will take place in Alabama — statewide — to mobilize the political and economic power of the black people there.

Most of the new programs, however, will take place in cities like Rochester. There, the Urban League will attempt to build a network of tenant organizations and parent groups; developing the community leadership and political influence to bring to black people a measure of control over their own destinies.

I'm hopeful we will get the support that allows us to expand this first wave of action programs to all cities with Urban Leagues. This is a time of crisis, a time when actions, not words, are called for. We will roll up our sleeves and do the hard work that has to be done, leaving the shouting to others.

Yes, We All Talk

By Marcus H. Boulware, Ph.D.

The Ideal Chairman

One of my readers has just been elected president of one of her clubs, and she has asked me to discuss the main characteristics of a good presiding officer. I suggested these:

1. The chairman must be fair, tactful, and firm, one who is not afraid to make decisions even if they ruffle the members but are best for the whole organization.

2. He must have a clear and strong voice.

3. He must have a command of good parliamentary procedure.

4. He must be reasonably deliberate.

He must insist upon a good secretary, a short agenda, start meetings on time, and close them at the end of one hour, or one hour and a half.

ONE OF THE best ways to kill interest in a meeting is to hold it too long.

READERS: For my Parliamentary Motions Chart, send 30 cents to defray the cost of production and postage to M. H. Boulware, Florida A&M University, Box 310-A, Tallahassee, Florida

Sunday School Lesson

—For December 22, 1968

By Courtesy—Louis J. Baptista, Editor, Dept. of Church School Literature AMEZ Church

A HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Background Scripture: 1 John 1:1-4; Revelation 15:3b, 4; 11:15b. (In this order)

Scripture: 1 John 1:1-4; Revelation 15:3b, 4; 11:15b (in this order) Devotional Reading: John 1:1-14

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2. For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;

3. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5b. Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty.

4. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

15b. And there were great voices in heaven,

GOLDEN TEXT: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS: December 16-22. M. Universal Praise. Psalms 150. T. "The Song of the Lamb." Revelation 15: 1-8. W. Promise to Mary. Luke 1:26-38. T. Mary's Song. Luke 1:46-55. F. Zachariah's Song. Luke 1:67-79. S. No. Place in the Inn. Luke 2:1-7; S. Shepherds Worship the Child. Luke 2:8-20.

LESSON OUTLINE: I. Fellowship with Christ. Vss. 1-4. II. Divine Justice. Vss. 3b-4. III. Christ's Kingdom. Vss. 15b.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Divine life can only be manifested to man by taking the form of Man. Jesus as a man, showed man what he can become, and by God's grace must become.

COMMENTS ON LESSON: 1. Fellowship With Christ: The Advent season stresses the coming of Christ; but His life and times show with great emphasis, the potential for man's becoming. As Christians, we have an exalted human communion, but more, John says, "our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." Our heavenly Father, in infinite condescension, admits Christian believers into vital and intimate communion with himself and His beloved Son. This is our Christian heritage through Christ. We cannot define this strange life; but we must believe that "he came that we might have life. And that we might have it more abundantly." "His life was the light of men."

own culture is superior); prejudice) poverty, paternalism, racism, oppression, bigotry, lawlessness, evil deeds, miscegenation."

Medicaid

Continued from front page

State program started in 1966 that provides medical assistance to eligible low income people unable to pay for it. Nine-and-a-half million people in 42 states and jurisdictions are expected to receive medical assistance during the current fiscal year.

"We now have almost three years of Medicaid experience behind us," HEW Secretary Wilbur J. Cohen said. "This is a good time to review this experience, to examine the program closely with a view toward making it more efficient, economical, and responsive."

HEW hopes to get a full range of opinion on Medicaid from representatives of national organizations, local health care groups, providers of health services, hospital officials, medical societies, and particularly the people serviced by the program.

Interested individuals and organizations desiring to present their views to the hearing committee personally or in writing can arrange to do so by contacting John Guppenhoff, Director, Office of Field Co-

ordination, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D. C. 20201.

Dates and places of other hearings on Medicaid are: Boston, December 30; New York City, December 23 and 27; Atlanta, December 20; Chicago, December 30; Columbus, Ohio, December 30; Dallas, December 27; New Orleans, Louisiana, December 27; and San Francisco, December 27.

A primary requisite to essential fellowship with the Father and to true joy, is a right relationship to Him. We who have transgressed his laws for our life and living, must seek reconciliation to Him and trust in him must become facts, which shape the patterns of our life and conduct. This season of the year, is a good time for us to put forth extra efforts to seek spiritual renewal through penitence and prayer.

II. Divine Justice: Praise is the creature's becoming ascription to Almighty God. His supremacy, and His justice in the government of human affairs. His wisdom and power, His goodness and beneficence—every attribute which the human mind is able, even dimly, to trace, it is the duty of the human heart to praise, "to lift every voice and sing," to unite with enthusiasm in singing the songs of Moses and the Lamb, to peel forth with the Hallelujah Chorus, in ascribing honor, glory, dominion and power to our heavenly Father who has come to us, and condescended to abide with us in the power of His Holy Spirit.

It is little that the individual can offer, or the creature can give to the Creator. One's best service is his true, lowly, reverent, sincere praise. "He that offereth praise glorifieth God;" Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion." So, as the glory of the Divine Name shines upon the human soul, that soul grows up into filial, obedient confidence in God. The song of praise stirs the sleepy spirit.

III. Christ's Kingdom: If we are to be a part of Christ's kingdom which He has asked us to pray for, and to work toward, we then must fully meet the standard and ideal he has so gloriously set before us—justice, mercy and love. We could ask ourselves the question: "How do we measure up to these three fundamental, Christ-like virtues?"

Christ is the ideal Man, and therefore called "the Son of man." He did in all things so answer to his Father's intent that he was the "joyful Son in whom "God was well pleased." That is the standard to which we are to look, and by which we are to regulate our lives. Christ's kingdom of love, righteousness and benignity will ultimately be victorious. We must continue to pray and work for the coming of the "Kingdom," because it can only come as men will make room in their hearts to receive it. This is the message of the Advent. "And He shall reign forever and ever."

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Augusta Savage, sculptress, was commissioned by the New York World's Fair Committee in 1937 to create a piece symbolizing the contribution of Negroes to music.

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Dec. 20 — Moshesh, builder of the Bestuto nation in Africa, defeated the Boers in the Battle of Beres Mountain in 1852.

Dec. 21 — This Week In Negro History

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The Carolina Times

Published every Saturday at Durham, N. C.

by United Publishers, Inc.

L. E. AUSTIN, Publisher

SAMUEL L. BRIGGS, Managing Editor

J. ELWOOD CARTER, Advertising Manager

Second Class Postage Paid at Durham, N. C. 27708

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$6.00 per year plus (15¢ tax in N. C.) anywhere in the U.S., and Canada and to servicemen Overseas.

Foreign, \$7.50 per year, Single copy 50¢.

PERSONAL OFFICE LOCATED AT 430 E. FAYETTEVILLE BLVD., DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27705