

By Bessie Wilbon

# Sunday School Lesson



## LESSON BACKGROUND

Israel was a nation dead because of sin who's epitaph, could have read the same - "A nation dead because of sin." It was a dark day. God's chosen people were crushed, dispossessed, the laughingstock of the nations. Yet, it was a day illuminated with hope, even when it seemed all hope had fled.

With the passing of time, the attitude and spirit of the Jews in exile did undergo change. Many of them eventually realized that corruption had been their ruin. There was renewal of interest in the study of the Scriptures and a recognition of the need for repentance. All of this we recognize as due to the grace of the Lord. Yet God was working through persons, through individuals responsive to His leading. One such person was Ezekiel, who deserves much credit for his role in bringing about the reformation in Israel that would lead to their recovery.

The call did not go unheeded. Pointing the way, inspiring to hope, Ezekiel continued to plead with his countrymen to choose life and not death. Aware now that a new life was possible, they responded in faith and found that it was true. Such is the will of God for all.

## THE LESSON

God had promised great things to the descendants of Abraham, if they would walk in His ways. But look at them now! They were nothing, a derision among the heathen, who understood Judah's debased condition as evidence of the failure of their God.

"Now then, give the Israelites the message that I, the Sovereign Lord, have for them: What I am going to do is not for the sake of you Israelites, but for the sake of my Holy name, which you have disgraced in every country where you have gone. When I demonstrate to the nations the holiness of my great name - the name you disgraced among them - then they will know that I am the Lord. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken. I will use you to show the nations that I am holy. I will take you from every nation and country and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you and make you clean from all your idols and everything else that has defiled you. I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. I will put my spirit in you and will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors. You will be my people, and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 36:22-28).

Israel's fellowship with God had been intended to make her a holy nation, pure in heart and life. As such she would have been a light to all humanity. But Israel had failed, and God's name had been brought into disrepute. For His name's sake, therefore, God would yet renew and sanctify a people for Himself. Lives would be changed and raised to significance and honor.

There was, therefore, some hope even for these people who had slid back by a perpetual backsliding, "who held fast to" deceit and refused to return to God. But rebirth would not be due to any merit on their part. Far from having merit to claim favors from God, theirs was the guilt of having profaned His holy name. His name is a name for righteousness, decency, holiness, and love. They had dragged it in the mire. The restoration would be forthcoming, but not because they deserved a second chance. They deserved nothing but to suffer the consequences of their evil. But to vindicate His own name, God would act on their behalf.

Forgiveness for past sins and cleansing would be of small value unless one should be enabled to overcome his inclination to evil. For this reason God gives a new heart, mind, and spirit to those who accept His invitation to a new life. A new heart and spirit imply a new disposition. When God cleanses, He does not work from the outside, but from within the heart of man. Get the heart and mind right and the person will be right.

There are two elements to renewal. The first of these is cleansing, and this Israel desperately needed. Many persons are at least subconsciously aware of their own guilt and find it hard to live with. In view of the fact that all have sinned, all are in need of cleansing. God will provide this as we have seen.

Secondly, there must be a new mind, and a new spirit, and these God also provides. To those whom He has cleansed and renewed He says, "Ye shall be my people, and I will be your God." How earnestly we should strive to live up to this privilege.

## Vinroot: A Born Contributor

Continued From Page 5A

As a trial lawyer, Vinroot states that he tries such cases as owed money, construction work contract disputes, personal injuries at work, discrimination and labor-related work.

The pen strokes out that this attorney-politician enjoys his family time, especially since moments together are sometimes lacking due to his professions.

"My family and I just got back from Europe. We toured Amsterdam, Belgium, where we saw the wartime monuments and German concentration camps; Rhine Valley, Paris, Canterbury, England, and from London we flew home," he detailed.

"My pleasure is working in my yard and playing with my children."

Vinroot was born in Charlotte in 1941 and received his B.S. in business administration (1963) and law degree (1966) from UNC-Chapel Hill. He served in the U.S. Army for two years and was awarded the Bronze Star for service in Vietnam in 1968. This Charlotte contributor serves on the board of directors of Charlotte YMCA, Spirit Square, Mint Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill General Alumni Association; president of Spirit Square, 1984-85; vice chairman, UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Visitors, and member of Mecklenburg County Republican Party.

The final strokes forms the Vinroot family: Richard Jr. 16, Laura 13, Katy eight, and wife Judy. He attends Myers Park Presbyterian Church, where he served as senior high Sunday School teacher.

## Rev. Burrell Brooks To Speak

The Pastor's Aide of Salem Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its fifth anniversary on Sunday, August 3, at 2:30 p.m.

Rev. Burrell Brooks, pastor of New Providence Baptist Church, Mt. Holly, N.C., will be guest speaker. He will be accompanied by his choir and congregation.

The officers of Salem's Pastor's Aide are: president, Bettye Anderson; first vice president, Melgie Criswell; second vice president, Laura Perry; secretary, Louise White; assistant secretary, Elizabeth McFadden; financial secretary, Mable Perry; treasurer, Sallie Allgood; chaplain, Louise Galloway; uniform coordinator, Brenda Criswell; and program coordinator, Vinnon Cathey.

This year the organization will honor their most loyal and dedicated member, Louise Alexander Galloway. Mrs. Galloway has been a member and officer of the Pastor's Aide from the beginning. Her commitment is unsurpassed. Married to Bro. Pleas Galloway, she is the mother of 14 children.

The public is urged to attend the anniversary celebration at Salem Baptist this Sunday.

The church is located at 5318 Salem Church Rd. Rev. Anthony Jinwright is pastor.

### NEW ST. JOHN

Taken from the Bible texts of Amos and Deuteronomy, Rev. Robert Leak's 11 a.m. sermon this Sunday at New St. John will be, "The Danger of Ignoring God and Doing Too Well."

Rev. Leak believes the drought affecting the Southeast is just one indication of what happens when people ignore God and take His blessings for granted. "We can overcome such things if we listen to God through his word and talk to Him through prayer," Rev. Leak suggests.

At 6 p.m., the Combined Choirs of New St. John will be in concert. At which time, they will render a new selection of inspired song. Other outstanding guest choirs will be presented during intermission.

In gratitude for the success of his 20th anniversary celebration last Sunday, Rev. Leak offers thanks to the Charlotte Post, Rev. William Lee Jr., pastor of Silver Mount Baptist Church, and Rev. Don Steger, pastor of Reeder Memorial Baptist Church, and all other guests who took part.

On Sunday, August 10, Larry Jones, associate pastor at New St. John, will deliver the Morning



Rev. Anthony L. Jinwright  
...Salem Baptist, pastor



Rev. Robert Leak  
...New St. John's pastor

### Worship sermon.

You are always welcome at New St. John Baptist Church.

The church is located at 2000 St. John Rd. in the Hickory Grove area. Rev. Leak is pastor.

### BAPTIST STATE

Roy J. Smith, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and President Bill Poe are requesting all North Carolina Baptist churches to observe August 3 and 10 as "Days of

Prayer" for the drought-stricken families in North Carolina.

Smith stated that the drought gripping North Carolina and the Southeast not only affects farm families in the 2,434 churches located in the rural areas, but our entire state and economy suffers during such times of adversity.

"We are calling on our Baptist members and all Christians to entreat God to end the drought and to care for those who suffer loss," Smith and Poe said.

## Mercy Health Services Offers Mammography

Mercy Health Services will offer low-cost mammography examinations on a self-referral basis beginning Monday, August 4. A portion of the Urgent Care Center in the Mercy Medical Park has been converted into the Mercy Mammography Center, a facility specializing in low-dose X-ray tests to detect breast cancer. Testing at the Mammography Center at N.C. 51 and Park Road, Pineville, will be available seven days a week.

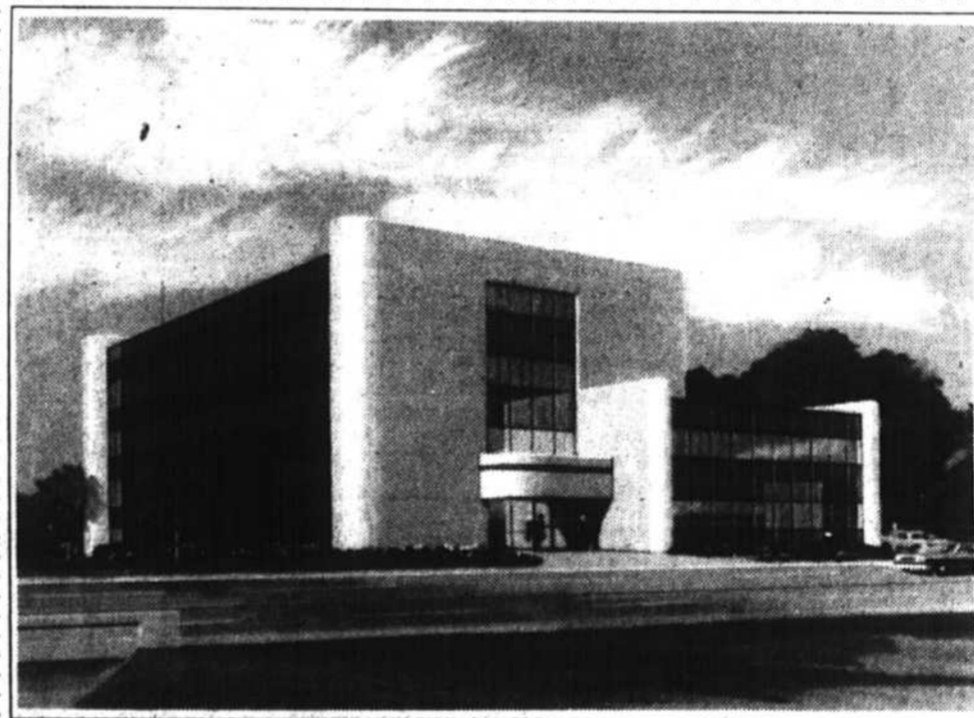
"Low-cost, low-dose mammography gives a woman an excellent chance to take charge of her own health," said Gerald Zimmerman, M.D., chairman of Mercy's radiology department. "Any woman who has a family history of breast cancer shouldn't take any chances, especially when the procedure is so simple."

Mammography screening for

breast cancer has been a useful diagnostic tool for several years, but has gained acceptance more recently, because technology now allows for very low-dose radiation tests. A mammogram can find a tumor before it can be felt, and when it's more curable.

The American Cancer society recommends a baseline mammogram for women between the ages of 35 and 40 who do not have a history of breast cancer or any perceptible lumps. A woman who has a family history of breast cancer should consult a physician before age 35.

Female technicians administer the test at the Mercy Mammography Center in a new facility that has been designed with the patient's comfort and privacy uppermost in mind. Call 542-6544 to schedule a procedure.



Cablevision has moved uptown! Our new location is 316 East Morehead St. This central location consolidates all operations, providing our installation and repair crews with direct access to all sections of the city.

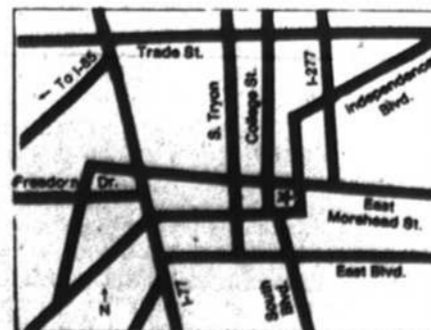
Our new phone numbers are:

Customer Service/Billing 377-9600 (8:15 am-8:00 pm)  
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The move to a more centralized location plus the recent addition of our customer service centers in Freedom & Eastland Malls are part of Cablevision's continuing commitment to providing the best customer service to our customers.



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