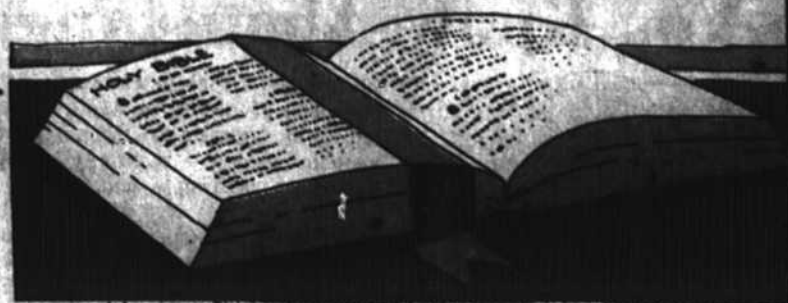


# VIEW FROM THE PULPIT



The Views Expressed In This Article Are The Opinions Of The Writer.

## What Challenges Are There In Today's Church?

By Rev. R. H. Leak, Pastor  
New St. John Baptist Church  
Matthew 16:18: And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
Matthew 19: And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.



Rev. Robert Leak

Every since these words were spoken by Jesus, the church has been the power and the center of the Christian Religion of this world. In this article I would like to challenge your thoughts and your mind about the church of today—as I see it; with topics such as: A. How to work in the church, B. The chronological age of the church, C. Working around the church, D. Organizing and planning the work of the church, and E. Traits in Christian experienced leaders.

The church was in the heart of God since the beginning of time. Israel was God's chosen representative for His church. They organized and did function for the master Jesus Christ. The nature of a church is: 1. A spiritual organism; 2. A creation; 3. A community of Faith, Hope, and a fellowship of Love; 4. A hospital, but Christ being the head of the body.

An active church life is the most beautiful and satisfying life one can live in this modern civilization of ours. Anyone actively engaged in the development of life through church activities will enjoy the highest esteem and respect of his fellow people with whom he is associated. Church work can be pleasing and helpful when one loves his work and seeks to carry on an intelligent program in every respect of the church. Church work is not always done big things; but it's doing little things in a big way. One must know how to do the work that is to be done.

Our purpose today is to help people young and old to develop and instill more interest and enthusiasm for their church work. A lack of interest is sometimes caused by those in charge failing to organize programs with enough interest to hold the attention of those involved. The life of any church is good teaching to young people and old people alike. They must be kept engaged in promoting activities of the overall church program.

In areas such as worshipping, teaching, witnessing, educating, and singing, the church should be the leading resource in the community

in reaching people for Christ. The minister is always looked to as the leader of the total church programs. However, that doesn't mean that he knows more about everything than anyone else. But it does mean that he must stay on top of his work, and select qualified people to his staff. This could be done better if all programs and/or activities were planned with a purpose and a goal in mind.

Some do's and don't's to be aware of when selecting people to work: 1. Don't select people just because you like them; 2. Don't select people because they are your friend or your uncle or aunt, sister, mother or

brother; 3. Don't continue to select the same people for the job, you might be overlooking your best talent. Do try to select people who are best suited for the job, and who can do a job well. It is unfair to have people do a job and they have no knowledge of what they are doing.

To conclude, I believe the total program of the church is important for those who are in leadership roles for the year 1987. WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF BRINGING OTHERS TO CHRIST. This includes the deacons, trustees, SS Superintendents, and all church auxiliary heads—must accept responsibility to work, to learn and to produce.

I believe more profoundly in the church every hour that I live. A man can make his testimony go further through the church than any independent movements. He can make his money, his testimony, and all his work go further. He can do more constructive work through the church than any other way in the world. That is my deepest conviction. I have watched all kinds of independent movements, and my conviction steadily deepens that a Christian is doing the wisest thing possible when he links his life with the church.

At New St. John in 1987, we plan to be growing a better church; knowing and believing that if we "Seek ye first the kingdom of Heaven, all things shall be added unto us."

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

American Heart Association

## Operation Care, Share Combats Hunger

Raleigh - Human Resources Secretary P. H. Kirk Jr. recently announced that the N.C. Division of Aging will take part in President Reagan's unique nationwide hunger initiative called Operation Care and Share.

He added that North Carolina senior centers, Triple AAA's, and local Councils on Aging will join other community organizations and concerned citizens across the nation in the battle to help end the hunger in America.

"I am pleased that North Carolina can be a part of the President's commitment to provide food and assistance to needy citizens," Kirk emphasized. "Great Americans Care and Share" is a very appropriate theme for this special cooperative effort. Although our first involvement will focus on needy older adults, I hope that the project can be expanded in the future to include all North Carolinians who are poor and hungry."

President Reagan, in cooperation with the White House Office of Private Sector Initiatives, as well as numerous national volunteer, church, and civic groups, has suggested the holiday season to kick off the Operation Care and Share drive, but the programs will be a year-round effort, Kirk said.

Elaine Stoops, assistant secretary of aging, explained that Operation Care and Share in North Carolina is designed to increase public awareness and understanding of local food programs; stimulate new or existing local efforts to support food pro-

grams through food collections, cash donations, and volunteer involvement; and strengthen cooperation with local food programs such as soup kitchens, food distribution projects, food banks, meals on wheels, charities, and volunteer agencies.

"Many older North Carolinians live in poverty, and suffer from the problems of hunger, malnutrition, and improper diet," Stoops said. "I strongly believe that Operation

Care and Share can make a real difference in helping our needy older adults."

Stoops encouraged communities and concerned citizens to get involved in this special cooperative hunger drive. For more information contact Wayne White, N. C. Division of Aging, Kirby Building, 1985 Umstead Dr., Raleigh, NC 27603, 99-733-3983, or call CARE-LINE, toll free from anywhere in NC. at 1-800-662-7030.

**MEL JACKSON TAX SERVICE**

VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION FOR Competitive Rates on BOOKKEEPING SERVICES for Small and Large Businesses

FREE PARKING Complete Income Tax Preparation for both Individuals & Businesses

Serving Charlotte For Over 40 Years  
**377-5209**  
201 S. KINGS DR.  
ACROSS FROM CINEMA THEATER BETWEEN 3RD ST. & INDEPENDENCE

*Alexander*  
**Funeral Home Inc.**  
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CHARLOTTE FOR OVER 70 YEARS  
Continuing To Provide Faithful Service To Our Community

Offering  
PRE-ARRANGED FUNERALS  
CREMATION ARRANGEMENTS  
LIFE INSURANCE  
OUT-OF-TOWN ARRANGEMENTS

**333-1167**

112 North Irwin Avenue

Alfred Louis Alexander  
President

"Thank you Charlotte for standing with us...we are eternally grateful for your support."

**Charlotte Post Business REVIEW**

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL

**THE CHARLOTTE POST**

For Only \$1.76

Call 376-0496

For Details

Things are HOPPIN' At The POST!  
Don't Miss Out.  
Subscribe Today!  
Call 376-0496

**FERGUSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES  
Calvin L. Ferguson, Jr.

P.O. Box 6441 • Charlotte, N.C. 28225 • 704/563-2687

**REAL ESTATE & CONTRACTORS**

Office (704) 333-6171 Residence 331-6196

Offers you one  
**COMPETITIVE MARKET ANALYSIS**  
of your residential property at no cost or obligation.  
save this valuable certificate with your household documents  
Your Touchberry Representative is  
**SHERRY C. DOUGLASS**  
Realtor / Sales Associate

We're In "Your" Neighborhood  
**DJ's**  
Records & Tapes

Metrolina's First Choice In Music  
Darryl McClain General Manager Tony McClain & Clifford Young Associates  
3123 Beatties Ford Road University Park Plaza  
393-1946

**DISTINCTIVE SPECIALTIES**  
"SPECIALIZING IN PERSONALIZING"

- JACKETS
- JOGGING SUITS
- CAPS
- SHIRTS
- SWEATERS
- TEAM UNIFORMS
- BABY BLANKETS

**EMBROIDERY & MONOGRAMMING**  
**596-3119**  
JOHN CANNON VERNON HAYES SHEDRICK WILLIAMS  
5547-C.N. Tryon St.  
Across From the Hickory House Bar-B-Que

**NATURALIZER**

**SEMI-ANNUAL SHOE SALE**

**FALL AND WINTER STYLES**  
*Reduced For Clearance!*  
All from regular stock!  
Not Every Size in Every Color... But Something For Everyone!

**Hard to Find Sizes**  
AAAA-AAA-AA-B-C  
Slims-narrows, mediums and wide **5-11**

**Reductions of**  
**25% TO 50%**

**NATURALIZER**  
2 LOCATIONS IN CHARLOTTE  
**EASTLAND/SOUTHPARK shoes**