

# The Franklin Press

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# The Highlands Maconian

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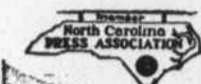
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### BIBLE THOUGHT

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.  
—St. John 1:b. 5.

### A Christmas Thought For All

If we can kneel as did those men of old,  
Who laid their frankincense and myrrh and gold  
Before the Christ-child's feet;  
If we can bring our gift, a grateful heart,  
Where unkind thoughts and envy have no part,  
And love dwells true and deep;  
Then in Christ's birthday we may fully share,  
And feel His presence with us, everywhere.

### A Christmas Message To Our Men In The Armed Forces

NO matter where you, our boys, are, when this message reaches you, we know the blessed bond of Christmas brings us close together as we all kneel, with the shepherds, before the Babe of Bethlehem.

As we miss you from home this year, we wish to convey to you our gratitude for all you are giving and will give in the days to come. We know, deep in our hearts, while we long for your presence, that the Christmas message is closer to fulfillment because you are there instead of here, dwelling in a false security. For it is against the Herods of this modern world who fear all that the Prince of Peace symbolizes, that you are fighting this war.

Yes, it is for the same "peace and good will" of the angel's song that you are offering and giving your all today. The same star that led the wise men of old is leading the wise men of today to journey to distant places to plan for a better world.

The presence of the Savior of mankind who brought a message of hope to a despairing world will give you strength for the task ahead. When a better day comes for all it is you who have helped to bring it.

### Congress Fiddles

IN his Sunday evening broadcast, William L. Shirer quoted Charles E. Wilson's comment on some of the politicians in Washington as "caring more for their own victories than for the victory the boys are fighting for." Shirer scored Congress for pettiness in being oblivious to the inflationary crisis facing the nation. He called attention to the fact that the Allies had only reached the outer defenses of this war, that the only ally who has encountered the main body of the German forces is Russia. On the outer defenses of the Pacific front he pointed out the 4,000 dead or wounded American Marines on Tarawa.

Then this gentle but brave soldier on the news front, who was one of the last Americans to get out of Germany and has been closer to the war than Congressmen, told them in no uncertain terms what a mess they were making of the soldiers' vote bill.

"Ofcourse it is expected of youth to die when their country is fighting a war," he said. "They are good enough to die, but not good enough to vote." With clarity he showed up the impossibility of the states directing the soldier vote, and the whole miserable cowardice of the Congressmen who have virtually disfranchised them.

He called attention to the fact that this war has already lasted longer than World War I, and the end is not yet in sight.

There must have been many listening in who have boys in this war who were grateful to the speaker for voicing their sentiments concerning the failure of our Congress to act with courage and fairness in the face of crisis.

### Press Comment

#### Surplus Fades By Comparison

Many North Carolinians, having heard and read so much in recent months about the surplus in the state treasury, may be surprised at some figures presented in the current issue of "We, the People," the magazine published by North Carolina Citizens Association, Inc.

The magazine goes somewhat into detail discussion of the finances of all the states, comparing surplus or deficit, bonded debt and net debt. After making due allowances for different methods of bookkeeping, and in full recognition of the special status of highway and agricultural funds in this state, the showing isn't particularly favorable to North Carolina.

Although we have an overall surplus in excess of \$78,000,000, including some book credits of federal highway funds, the bonded debt of the state is so large this surplus, even if available for the purpose, would not pay two-thirds of it.

Reduced to per capita basis, the state surplus amounts to \$21.20 per person, the state debt amounts to \$34.54 each, leaving a net debt for each individual citizen \$13.34.

Eleven states have an actual net credit since the treasury surplus is more than enough to pay off the total state debt. Washington is in the best position of all states, with a per capita surplus of \$35.90, and a per capita debt of \$9.31—which means that the state could pay all it owes and distribute \$26.59 to each person living there out of the surplus. Even Virginians would have 33 cents apiece left after paying off the entire debt out of accumulated surplus.

Nine other states would owe less net less than would North Carolina if the surplus were applied to debt retirement. Louisiana is worst off with a deficit in the treasury and a per capita indebtedness of \$77.81. Missouri also reports a deficit, but the debt is not so big, being only \$24.08 for each person.

In any discussion about disposition of the North Carolina surplus it must be kept in mind that the agriculture fund and the highway fund are earmarked for specific purposes. In fact, much of the \$33,000,000 misallied a "surplus" in the highway fund represents accrued federal credits for road construction if and when it is matched with state money.

The \$39,000,000 in the general fund can properly be used for retiring and general fund debt or for post-war re-habilitation or tax reduction. Twenty millions of it has already been set aside as a nest egg. Despite declines a few tax schedules revenue reports for recent months indicate that the general fund surplus is increasing and may eventually reach the \$60,000,000 predicted by some optimistic members of the last general assembly.

There is a growing sentiment to earmark the whole amount for debt retirement, thus contributing to tax reduction by cutting out interest payments and regular installments on bonds, rather than to apply it directly to tax reduction by using it for current purposes in lieu of current tax collections.

Whatever happens, the state surplus may well be one of the controlling issues in the next state campaign and a main topic for discussion by the next legislature.

—The Reidsville Review.

#### ENCOURAGING

Last January the United States expected to spend \$100,000,000 in the prosecution of the war during the fiscal year that ends June 30.

Now, Harold D. Smith, Budget Director, says that this sum will be reduced \$8,000,000,000. In addition, revenue will be \$3,000,000,000 more than estimated.

The upshot is that the prospective deficit has declined from \$68,000,000,000 to \$57,000,000,000.

—Marion Progress.

#### RIGHT KIND OF MISTAKES

When the war is over and the average American settles down to a peacetime struggle with the high cost of living there will be stories of wasteful expenditures and unnecessary use of public funds during the present war.

This is inevitable but it is much better to expect such revelation than to look forward to narratives concerning "not enough" of the weapons and stuff of war.

If mistakes of production must occur, let them involve over-production and over-preparation. They save lives.

—Marion Progress.

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### Church Services

December 19, 1943

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. F. Marchman  
10:00 a.m.—Bible school.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning worship.  
7:30 p.m.—P. T. U.  
8:30 p.m.—Preaching service.  
8:00 p.m.—Wednesday, Prayer Service.

**FRANKLIN METHODIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. L. Stokes, II.  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service.  
6:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship.  
7:30 p.m.—Service.

**CARSON'S CHAPEL**  
10:00 a.m.—Service.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. R. E. McClure  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11:00 a.m.—Services.  
5:00 p.m.—Christian Endeavor.

**ST. AGNES EPISCOPAL**  
Rev. A. Rufus Morgan  
3rd Sunday:

10:00 a.m.—Church School.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer and sermon.

**MACON METHODIST CHURCH**  
Rev. V. M. Allen

3rd Sunday:  
11:00 a.m.—Asbury.  
2:00 p.m.—Mulberry.  
3:00 p.m.—Drpman's.  
7:30 p.m.—Union.

**FRANKLIN METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. C. W. Judy

3rd Sunday:  
10:00 a.m.—Salem.  
11:00 a.m.—Clark's Chapel.  
3:00 p.m.—Louisa.  
p.m.—Bethel.

**SUGARFORK and NEWMAN'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Robert Williams

3rd Sunday:  
11:00 a. m.—Newman's Chapel.

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH**  
Rev. Fred N. Sorrels

Cullasaja:  
10:15 a.m.—Church school.  
11:15 a.m.—Worship service.  
7:30 p.m.—Worship service.

Mt. Sinai:  
10:00 a.m.—Church school.  
2:30 p.m.—Preaching.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES**

8:00 a.m.—Mass, Dec. 12 and 26, at home of John Wasilik, Orlando Apartments.

10:00 a.m.—Christ-mass Dec. 25, American Legion Hall.

### Angel Hospital To Care For Service Men's Wives And Babies

The Angel Hospital, Inc., has been approved by the North Carolina State Board of Health and the Children's Bureau, for the care of Service Men's wives for Maternity and Pediatric cases since May 13, 1943.

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