



GOD'S SPECIALTY

Lesson for January 28, 1979

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 1 through 4; John 15:1-17; Devotional Reading: Philippians 2:1-11.

When I was a teenager in youth camp, we used to sing a simple, yet beautiful song that goes like this: Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?



Rev. Althouse when I have run up against "things thought impossible," I've remembered that this is God's specialty and realized that with God nothing is impossible. Come, Let Us Build! This is what Nehemiah reminded the people of Jerusalem.

The city had been destroyed by the Babylonians and much of the population had been carried away into captivity. Even though the Babylonians had later been conquered by the Persians, there seemed little cause for optimism. The city was still a shambles, the temple in ruins, the protective walls were still piles of rubble.

And that's the way it remained until Nehemiah came upon the scene. A Jewish exile who had risen to a prominent position in the service of Cyrus, the Persian king, Nehemiah had secured permission to return to Jerusalem to try and restore the once-great city. Having fully inspected the ruined walls, Nehemiah called together the people and put to them what must have seemed an impossible challenge: "Come let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer disgrace" (Nehemiah 2:17). Nehemiah reminded them that God would be with them in this task and the people responded with an enthusiasm that must have surprised themselves: "Let us rise

up and build" (2:18).

The Mind To Work

To be sure, there were obstacles. Their neighbors laughed at them and plotted to harass them. The task was monstrous and the work force seemed too small. But Nehemiah persuaded each group to tackle one portion of the total task and thus the "impossible" task became possible. When harassed by enemies, Nehemiah met the challenge by getting the Jerusalemites to co-operate and take turns in guarding and rebuilding. Nehemiah made the most of what was available and by the power of God, it was enough! "So we built the wall...For the people had a mind to work" (3:6).

Pianist Arthur Rubenstein, when invited to attend church one weekend in New York City, replied: "Yes, if you will take me to hear a preacher who will tempt me to do the impossible!" That is what the church must do with us, for the "impossible" is still God's specialty.

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The Public Speaking

(Continued From Page 1-B)

and if there is a printed public record of Mr. Seawell's opposition to the ABC store in Carthage, where his home and law office was located, I apologize to Mr. Seawell and The Pilot readers for wasting their time in reading this letter.

Helen V. Turner Sanford

Chicago, Chicago

To the Editor: This is a follow-up to my letter of December 8 concerning the copying by The Pilot of an editorial entitled "Endangered English" that appeared in the Times of London.

Chicago was the only American place mentioned and then with Oxford. I wondered why. I recalled that a few years back Queen Elizabeth 2d came specially to Chicago in her royal yacht, reaching the city through the St. Lawrence Waterway, Welland Canal and the Great Lakes, Ontario, Erie, Huron and Michigan. Then more recently her son, the Prince of Wales, flew directly from London to Chicago in his visit to the United States. There is non-stop air service between Chicago and London.

It has to be something more than this. It could be the recognition by the British that Chicago is a real center of culture and education, a place where the common language will best be preserved in the western world.

The City of Chicago is protecting the nation's culture and learning with its world famous Art Institute, Adler Planetarium, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Civic Opera, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Shedd Aquarium. Chicago has six universities with five class "A" medical schools, three class "A" dental schools and six class "A" law schools.

As a further bulwark against any erosion of culture and learning is the fact that it is the home of such sources of knowledge as Encyclopedia Britannica, Great Books of the Western World and World Book Encyclopedia. Chicago is the home of American Library Association and the American Association of Law Libraries.

When the three important professions locate their headquarters in Chicago, there must be a reason. The homes of the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association and the American Dental Association are found there. Also a number of medical and dental association satellites have their home in Chicago. A few of them are American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American College of Thoracic Surgeons, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Academy of Pedodontics, American Academy of Periodontology, American Academy of Anesthesiologists and American Hospital Association.

Chicago and a suburb are also the headquarters of such world famous service organizations as Rotary International, Kiwanis International and International Association of Lions Clubs. The Times of London is not the only paper that recognizes Chicago. Last July 24 Henry Fairlie of the Washington Post-Los Angeles Times News Service wrote a three column syndicated article in which he extolled Chicago.

Surely with this wealth of Chicago credentials, The Times of London must be fully aware of them and the Times must feel that if any city in the U.S.A. is close to its renowned Oxford, it is Chicago.

Joseph W. Grady Whispering Pines

Protest On Nixon

To the Editor: The following letter has been sent to President Jimmy Carter: Though this communication is probably only a squandered stamp, I must nonetheless voice an outraged and thoroughly heart-sickened protest against your specific invitation extending the hospitality of the White House (and hence the American people) to the one individual who came so frighteningly close to totally destroying the ethical concepts which comprise our Constitution's foundations.

Richard M. Nixon is a self-admitted liar and malleasant, whose sole interest in the office of the Presidency was to further his self interests while feathering

his assorted nests at the expense of the American taxpayers. You may feed him, as your predecessor pardoned him, upon your own initiative, not mine. I do not care two flying frogs in what high esteem he is held by the Chinese government, he wrought nigh-lethal damage to the fabric of freedom in American life (and the full extent of his misuse and arrogant abuse of Executive power is not likely to be totally calculated within the next two centuries).

The vernacular holds politicians make strange bed-fellows; if the same tenet extends to breaking bread, my initial fury at such conspicuous homage being paid to our foremost paragon of amorality likewise extends to yourself. I am writing you directly because I have had an over-sufficiency of pragmatism, of bankbook diplomacy, and sleazy two-faced, double-tongued politicians speaking my mind, trumpeting my opinion forth from every church steeple and tree stump.

The White House is your home (until the next election) and you have the right of all citizens to entertain whom you choose, but I question the wisdom of some of your guests lists and feel such an invitation should be on a purely personal basis, from Jimmy Carter to Dick Nixon, rather than under the auspices of an invitation at large from the citizenry. I would also suggest that you make a close count of the silverware at the festivities' close.

With much consternation at your blatant betrayal of the trust bestowed upon you in the last Presidential election, I remain, Your infuriated constituent, Virginia L. Rudder Hurdle Mills, Rt. 2.

Weymouth And Sandhills

To the Editor: In sixty years as a working journalist on weekly and daily newspapers, national magazine—I have never written a "letter to the editor." But I feel compelled to do so now to express my own views on a matter of interest to many people in the area.

The officials of the Sandhills College Foundation, and others connected with Sandhills Community College, sincerely hope that the Friends of Weymouth will succeed in the campaign to purchase the estate of the late Katharine Boyd which was willed to the Foundation for the benefit of the college on her death in 1974. The intensive publicity to raise the money for the purchase of the property and to finance elaborate plans for its renovation and use, should be effective.

However, that publicity has made no mention of several important factors. The Sandhills College Foundation, of which Katharine Boyd was an original member, considered the sale of Weymouth because of lack of funds for needed renovation and maintenance. The Foundation hoped to interest a suitable buyer—perhaps the Episcopal Diocese would want to add property adjacent to the site of the Penick Home which had been given to the church by Mrs. Boyd.

The Foundation never suggested or implied that Weymouth would be sold for a "real estate development."

The publicity for the Friends of Weymouth has never even hinted of appreciation for the fact that the Sandhills College Foundation offered the property to the organization for \$700,000—four hundred thousand dollars under the appraised value of the estate. Nor have the Friends expressed appreciation for the two extensions of the option to buy Weymouth—with no penalty attached. When options to purchase are extended there are usually forfeitures for more time to complete the purchase agreement.

Such facts withheld from the public by promotional materials written by and for the Friends of Weymouth have aroused criticism of the Foundation and of Sandhills Community College, an institution to which Katharine Boyd was personally dedicated. Always interested in the importance of education, she told several people, including me, that the "establishment of a community college here was one of the finest things that had ever happened to Moore County."

Mrs. Boyd was especially interested in the addition of a landscape gardening program to the curriculum of Sandhills Community College in 1968. She offered the flower beds and vegetable garden area of Weymouth for the training of the landscape gardening students in planting, propagation and

cultivation. After the estate was left for the benefit of Sandhills Community College, the main house and the stable were used for countless classes offered by the division of continuing education.

For Sandhills Community College to continue using the estate there would have had to be extensive improvements to the main house—a new furnace, new electrical wiring, new plumbing, floors refinished, the plaster of walls and ceilings repaired—not to mention professional work on the grounds. To use Weymouth as an educational conference center, which was one idea considered by the Sandhills College Foundation, a resident manager to schedule events, maids and other personnel would have had to be hired. There was just no money for such an undertaking.

The Sandhills College Foundation and Sandhills Community College are and always have been committed to providing educational and cultural opportunities to a select few—but for all people, regardless of race, creed, age or sex. The college is fulfilling that mission not only on the campus on Airport Road, but in a score of communities in Moore and Hoke counties.

Proceeds from the sale of Weymouth will provide Sandhills Community College the wherewithal to expand its influence and improve its service.

Leone Hart Koster Southern Pines

Word Of Sanity

The Durham Sun Hats off to Mrs. Josephine Clements for saying something needed said by a woman for a long time.

In taking a stand against being called a "chairperson," the new chairman of the City Board of Education made more sense than a lot of pronouncements that have come out of that and other local governing boards in quite a spell.

After some references to her as "chairperson" or "madame chairperson," she interrupted the meeting in mid-stream to say "let's stop right here." She said "chairman" is all right, a perfectly good word—just as it appears in the dictionaries.

Mrs. Clements said she is a supporter of the women's liberation movement "but some things are worth fighting for and some things are not."

She could have added: particularly those in the "ridiculous" category.

WILDLIFE FILM Award-winning photographer John Wilson will present and narrate his color movies about the wildlife of the Galapagos Islands on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. in 100 Hamilton Hall. Wilson's presentation is part of the New Hope Audubon Society's spring film series. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for youths through high school and are available at the door.

Library, Bookstore Agree On Most Popular Books

The Southern Pines Library mentions a list of their most popular books, also on the N.Y. bestsellers list, and Cad Benedict, owner of the Country Bookshop, on 190 W. Penn. Ave., in Southern Pines, gives us proof.

The books are "War and Remembrance," Herman Wouk; "Chesapeake," James A. Michener; "The Far Pavillion," M.M. Kae; "Fools Die," Mario Puzo; and "Bright Flows the River," Taylor Caldwell (fiction); "Mommy Dearest," Christina Crawford; "Gnomes," Wil Huygen (for which the Bookshop has also carried "Gnome" wrapping paper, note paper, jigsaw puzzles, and put-together houses); "If Life is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?," Erma Bombeck; "A Distant Mirror," Barbara Tuchman; and "American Caesar," Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Almost all of these books were sold out in the Bookshop before Christmas, but Benedict said "they should be coming in again soon."

Other bestsellers of the Bookshop, most of which are still in stock, are "Overload," Arthur Hailey; "In Search of History," Theodore H. White; "He Was One of Us," a story of Christ, by Rien Poortvliet, also the illustrator of "Gnomes"; "Outer Banks Mysteries and Seaside Stories," the most recent in a collection by Judge Charles Harry Wheedbee; and "Mules and Memories," Pamela Barefoot, about tobacco farming in the South. All of the pictures in this book were taken in North Carolina.

Benedict commented, "We try to pay a lot of attention to North Carolina books."

Benedict chose "War and Remembrance" as his most recent favorite fiction book. "I felt like I knew the people from Wouk's previous book, 'Winds of War,'" he said. "It's about World War II, and carries you all the way through." Benedict believes this book to be the most outstanding seller at Christmas. "In Search of History" is his most recent favorite nonfiction book.—CHRISTIE THOMPSON.

Governing With Mirrors

The News and Observer Governor Hunt and legislators are playing with mirrors when they move to reduce state taxes and at the same time call for a constitutional amendment for a balanced federal budget. They say they want such an amendment to rein in federal spending.

Yet, federal funds constitute about one-fourth of the state budget Hunt has proposed. One out of every four dollars the General Assembly will appropriate will come from taxes collected by Washington rather than by the state. The federal money builds highways, pays for treatment of Medicare and Medicaid recipients, provides cash and services to families on welfare and finances some instruction and projects in the public schools and universities.

To some extent, state legislators can discuss cutting taxes only because the in-flow of federal funds has been growing significantly. In 10 years, federal aid to North Carolina's state

government has tripled. When Gov. Robert W. Scott introduced the 1969-71 biennial budget, he projected spending \$802 million in federal money—18.7 percent of all state expenditures. Now, in the 1979-81 biennial budget, Hunt proposes spending \$2.51 billion in federal funds—about 25 percent of all appropriations.

All told, federal grants-in-aid to state and local government amount to \$85 billion annually. That money is an inviting target for budget-cutters. If the federal budget is pared the way the budget-balancers say they want it pared, state legislators are likely to have much less money from Washington to spend. And if there is less federal money around, the state budget is in for a painful squeeze.

It is a deceptive game of images the governor and legislators are playing. They want political mileage out of supporting a balanced budget and cutting state taxes, while simultaneously seeking and spending huge portions of federal funds. They simply can't have it both ways.

Sandhills Assembly. A Contemporary Christian Center providing... SPIRIT-FILLED worship, teaching, Children's ministry, youth, family life fellowship, and missionary concerns. David L. Hicks, Minister. temporarily meeting at Holiday Inn. Sundays, 9:30-11 a.m.

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Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Senior Choir, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Mid Week Prayer Service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Methodist Women, 2nd Thursday each month, 7:30 p.m. THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON). U.S. Highway 1 South. Phone 692-3152. Priesthood Meeting, 8:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m. Sacrament Service, 11:45 a.m. Children's Primary, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Young Men, Young Women 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Relief Society, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. ABERDEEN PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS. Hwy. 211 East 1/2 Mile. Horace E. Warwick, Pastor. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship 7:00 p.m. Midweek Prayer Service 7:30 p.m. Wed. COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Everette & Kelly Rds. Pinehurst. Robert F. Field, Pastor. Church School, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Youth Fellowship, 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Thurs., 7:30 p.m. SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH. Culdee Road. Father Ray Donahue. 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Sunday School, 10 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m. Family Training Hour, Sun. 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Wed. Children's Church 7:00 p.m. AT THE CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION. Bishop Penick Home. Morning Prayer, Daily 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion, Thurs. 9:30 a.m. BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH (Presbyterian). May St. at Ind. Ave. Harold E. Hyde, Jr., Pastor. Willard W. Olney II, Assoc. Pastor. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Chancel Choir (Adults) Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 p.m. Junior Choir (3-6 grades) Thursdays 3:10-4:10 p.m. Youth Choir (7-12 grades) Sundays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Youth Handbells, Mondays 3:30-4:30 p.m. Junior Handbells, Thursdays 4:15-5:00 p.m. WELLS TABERNACLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST. 450 S. Stephens Street. Elder James H. Turner, Pastor. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:45 a.m. YPWV 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Bible Band, Tues. Eve. Prayer Night, Wed. Eve. Pastoral Night, Fri. Eve. REVIVALS FOR JESUS CHURCH. U.S. Highway 1 North. Bishop Charles Johnson, Pastor. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 12:15 p.m. Evening Worship 8:00 p.m. WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. West End, N.C. D. Burke Karr, Pastor. Church School, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m. FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. 1355 W. Michigan Avenue. Rev. Thomas E. Flowers, Pastor. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Prayer and Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday. HARRINGTON CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. 144 S. Carlisle St. Rev. L. G. Black, Pastor. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Midweek Prayer Service, Wed., 7:00 p.m.

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