

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

—for—
MAY 20, 1956

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A CHURCH WITH CONCERN

MEMORY SELECTION: "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."—Acts 20:35

LESSON TEXT: Acts 11:19-29.

It is interesting to note the opening statement of Luke in the scripture given for our consideration this week. It is a repetition of the statement he made in Acts 8:4, where he declared, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

The persecution which followed the martyrdom of Stephen caused the disciples to flee from Jerusalem. Some of them went to Antioch in Syria, and others went elsewhere. Antioch was the capital of the Roman province of Syria, and was situated on the river Orontes, about twenty miles from its mouth.

Antioch was several centuries old and followed Rome and Alexandria in importance to the world of its day. Its main street, which ran for five miles, was paved with marble and lined with a double colonnade. To Antioch came the trade-laden caravans from Persia and India. Yet, with its luxury, it was known also for its wickedness and corruption; so much so, that the Roman Juvenal—to signify the degradation of Rome—said that the "Syrian Orontes has flowed into the Tiber."

The Christians who fled from Jerusalem to Antioch first preached the doctrine of the new faith to Jews only. Then they took a forward step and began preaching to the Greeks who lived in Antioch.

The church at Antioch became widely known and attracted many visitors. To it came some Christians from Jerusalem, who were Jews. In the church at Antioch, these visitors found both Jews and Gentiles. Inevitably, the question arose, how were the laws of Moses and the customs of the Jews obligatory upon the new Gentile converts.

The Jewish Christians from Jerusalem naturally and quite humanly,

from their past experience and religious beliefs, insisted that the Gentiles had to accept the religious rites and ceremonies of the Jews. They were holding on to those olden forms along with the new faith in Jesus, and their recent acceptance of his teachings had not altered their ancient religious traditions and prejudices.

This issue provoked considerable discussion in the church at Antioch, where its determination was very important. As was to be expected, Paul and Barnabas, who had recently returned from their great missionary tour to the cities in Galatia, opposed the doctrines of the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem, contending that these ritualistic observances of the Jews were not essential to the Gentile Christians, who had accepted Christ and believed in him.

So, these two missionary leaders were sent to Jerusalem, in order that the problem could be considered there and some final decision be agreed upon. Paul and Barnabas received considerable attention as they journeyed to the city and, when they arrived there, they testified as to the great blessings which had rested upon their work. There were some Pharisees who had become believers in Christ, and, in keeping with their attitude in the Jewish church these insisted that the Gentile Christians obey the strict commands of the Law.

A conference was called of the members of the city, at which Paul and Barnabas were present. At this meeting the vexing and difficult issue was discussed. There was much said pro and con, but the argument was settled when Peter recounted to the council his experience at Caesarea, where God, in the vision, had declared his message for the Gentiles too, and Peter reminded them that the testimony of the Holy Spirit had been given to these Gentiles.

The final word was given by James, who appears to have been the head of the church and was the brother of Jesus, and it was reduced to writing. Judas and Silas were sent back to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas in order that the interest of the Jerusalem Christians might be manifested in the church at Antioch and that the message might be duly authenticated.

Word came to the church at Antioch of the suffering of the Christians at Jerusalem during a period of famine. The news so aroused the sympathy of the Antioch church that they collected funds for the relief of their brethren. Of the generosity of these early believers, Dr. George W. McDaniel declared: "Liberality thrives in an atmosphere of evangelism. The heart that is warm with the grace of God is generous toward every human need. Money flows freely from Christians in a state of revival. The financial prob-

RE-ENLISTS



CPL. J. C. CALDWELL

Camp Lejeune, N. C. (FHTNC)—Marine Cpl. J. C. Caldwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Caldwell of R-1, Hot Springs, reenlisted for three years April 10 at Camp Lejeune.

He is a squad leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment of the 2nd Marine Division.

Before entering the service in September 1953, he attended Spring Creek High School.

KEPT WIFE IN TRANCE?

Los Angeles, Cal.—Mrs. Lavinia Noyes, in asking a divorce from her husband, Roy Noyes, amateur hypnotist and wealthy property manager, testified that he kept her in a state of suspended animation and allowed her only 50 cents a day to run the household. She was given the divorce, \$5,000 property settlement and \$100 a month child support.

...of any church is fundamentally a spiritual problem. . . . Let us pray for a concern like that of Christ's for a hungry and needy world, and remember, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

News For Veterans

Veterans Administration released a progress report on its intensified program of providing protection against fire for sick and disabled veterans who are patients in VA hospitals.

Engaging in the most concerted "patient protection" program in the history of the agency, the VA in recent years has equipped or is now equipping hundreds of buildings in its older hospital plants with such protective features as automatic sprinkler systems, stairwell enclosures, fire escapes, fire doors, smoke barriers, and fire alarm systems.

By the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 1956), VA said it will have completed construction on 35 or more major protection projects, with an estimated construction cost of nearly \$2,000,000.

Construction is underway on another 53 projects estimated to cost a little more than \$4,000,000.

The construction costs involved in these projects exceed the total amounts expended for this type of "patient protection" in all the preceding years since the establishment of the VA. The VA program of automatic sprinkler installation in the current program is acknowledged by the sprinkler industry to be one of the largest of its kind in the history of the industry.

The matter of providing protection for patients is an integral part of VA's hospital replacement program whereby modern, fire-resistive structures have replaced older hospitals and temporary hospitals taken over from the Armed Forces after World War II.

About 31,000 beds have been provided in the 61 new VA hospitals placed in operation since the end of World War II. In addition to increasing the bed capacity in the VA hospital system, the erection of these modern fire-resistive hospitals has

CANDIDATE



ALONZO C. EDWARDS

Shown above is Alonzo C. Edwards, of Hookerton, who is a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the May 26 Democratic Primary.

RED-FACED NEWSBOY

London, Texas.—A newspaper delivery boy for The Press received three complaints in a row from one of its customers. He had failed to deliver the paper for three straight days.

Called the agency to inform it of the situation.

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EXPECT GREATER TOURIST INFUX IN GREAT SMOKIES

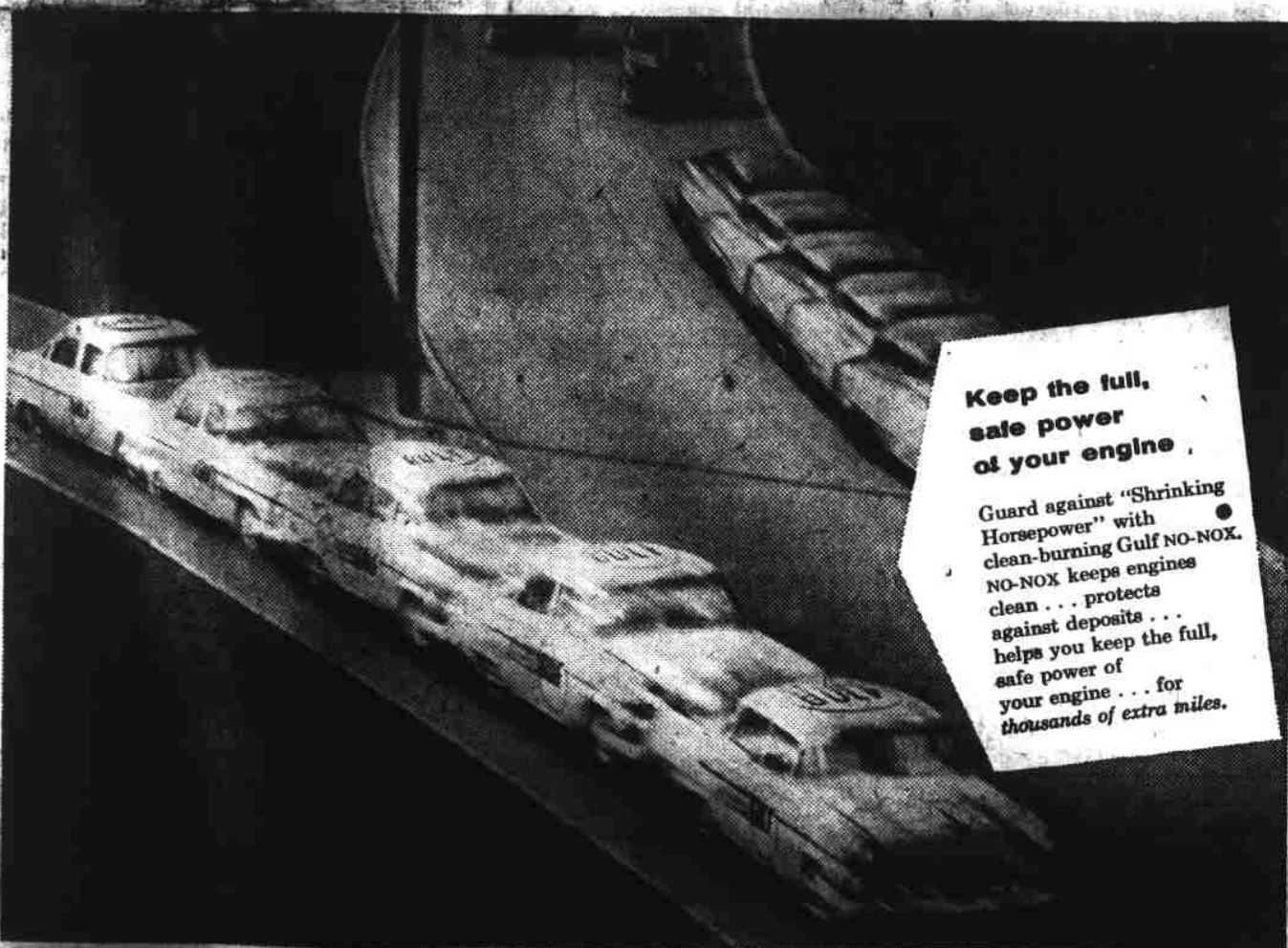
North Carolinians are warned to expect a greater influx of tourists than ever before in the Great Smokies this summer, for the current (June) issue of Holiday Magazine tells the nation how four wonderful vacation days can be spent in the Smokies for only \$50.

Calling the Smokies "America's most popular national park," the magazine maps out a comprehensive "Thrift Tour" of the mountains, including all famous Smokey landmarks and tourist attractions in both North Carolina and Tennessee, and costing only \$50 for transportation, food, and sight-seeing fees. Hotel costs are excluded, but the magazine points out that, along with pleasant and inexpensive lodgings available in the Smokies, there are many supervised campsites where overnight logging is free.

George MacMillan, author of the magazine article, suggests three principal junkets for the four-day tour, including a visit to the Gatlinburg-Knox area and wandering widely through the ranges of North Carolina and Tennessee. With the authority of one well-versed in the special charms of the Smokies, he cites famous landmarks, ongoing houses, camp restaurants, ranches and community centers and a wide variety of Smokey tourist spots as the "must-see" spots. He also mentions the Cherokee Indian Village, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. These spots, he says, are well worth a visit. He also mentions the location of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, which he says is a "must-see" spot. He also mentions the location of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, which he says is a "must-see" spot.

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* PROOF: See how the left-hand plate is blackened by the "dirty-burning tail-end" of gasoline... while NO-NOX leaves the plate on the right clean. That's because Gulf refines out the "dirty-burning tail-end" of gasoline, in making New NO-NOX.



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The better plant foods in V-C Fertilizer are carefully selected and proportioned to become available according to the feeding schedule of the crop. That's why a V-C crop gets off to an early start of rapid growth... and then stays on the job, green and growing, vigorous and productive.

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