

## INSPIRATION Religion in the Home

### AN EDITORIAL

**DIVORCE**, childlessness and near-childlessness are major menaces to the modern home. But perhaps equally harmful are parents who profane the sacred character of the child. These are not merely the drunkards, the child-beaters, the ignorant or the vice-ridden. They are the parents who fail to make the home what it was meant primarily to be—a training center in morality and religion.

Included among such parents are fathers who forsake the fireside to spend evenings in the club and are virtual strangers to their children; and mothers who return from bridge teas in the afternoon only to rush off for more fun and relaxation, leaving Johnny and Mary in care of the maid.

Even in less well-to-do homes we find parents, who, though they may be around more, are completely indifferent to the need of guiding their children in spiritual ways and giving them the companionship and understanding to which they are entitled.

Historians assure us that the decline of the Roman Empire was preceded by the breakdown of the Roman home. Child authorities everywhere are now pointing to an alarming crisis in the American home.

Religious ideals which gave so much vigor and strength to the American pioneer home are defined as "old-fashioned." Godless education, materialistic social standards, the growth of personal selfishness, and the philosophy of "it's all right if you can get away with it" have marked the gradual ousting of religion as a basic factor in the nation's family life.

Many parents deliberately surround their children with influences that encourage worldliness and pride. The result is a growing number of Americans whose minds and souls are dwarfed and who never think of God.

America's wayward parents need education in the ABC's of parental responsibility. They must respect the sanctity of the home.

The above editorial and other material appearing in this column, was prepared by Religious News Service.



**BEATIFIED . . .** Blessed Maria de Matias, Italian nun who founded the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood, was beatified by Pope Pius XII in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

### Religion Question Box

**Q: Do Protestants practice infant baptism?**

**A:** Most Protestants practice infant baptism, although the Baptists and the Disciples of Christ believe that baptism should be deferred until it can be associated with a conscious profession of faith. In the case of other communions, the child of believing parents is baptized in infancy and is regarded as a member of the visible Church.

**Q: What was the first public synagogue opened in New York?**

**A:** In 1790.

**Q: What is the Rabat?**

**A:** Two rectangular pieces of white linen attached to the collar of the habit and falling on the chest, worn by Roman Catholic Christian Brothers. The French clergy wears a black rabat edged with white.

**Q: What are pastoral letters?**

**A:** Letters addressed by a bishop to the clergy or laity of his Diocese.

**Q: What is moral theology?**

**A:** A branch of theology which considers the character of actions not only in the light of the natural law, but also in the light of Christian revelation and of the positive law of the Church.

### Will Fly Missionaries Over Brazil Jungle

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.**—Wings will take missionaries over the jungles of Brazil.

The plane will be used for a missions post down there, to be piloted by Robert L. Fielden, of Route 7, Greenville, Tenn.

Mr. Fielden and his wife have been given the first appointment of its kind by the Southern Baptist foreign mission board, they say, enthusiastically.

### TYNDALL

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## Scott Summers

Raleigh, N. C. — The biennial show is underway and — despite some wishful thinking to the contrary — it looks as though it'll be a humdinger.

On the surface the big fight of the 1951 session of the General Assembly will be on increasing taxes and appropriations. But behind the scenes the real fight will be the brawl between liberal and conservative forces for the 1952 gubernatorial and control of the Democratic party for the coming four years.

You can expect the conservatives to use every trick in the book to try to discredit the Scott administration. And you can expect the liberal forces to try to consolidate their position and push through what they consider necessary legislation to provide adequate services for Tar Heels.

Conservatives already have sounded their battle cry — "no new taxes and no expanded appropriations." They point to the certainty of increased federal taxes, and solemnly vow that now is the time to stand pat and attempt nothing new.

The simple fact remains, however, that even to "stand pat" on services and not extend them will cost the state several millions of dollars more during the coming biennial than it has during this one. Personnel will be needed to man all those new buildings that were constructed under the \$150,000,000 permanent improvement program. More money will be asked to complete some of the buildings that were not started in time to be built on the money provided for them.

Swinging around Capitol Hill, here are just a few expensive items that will be sought by various departments:

School teachers, of course, will want a pay raise. If kept at the \$2,200 — \$3,100 range reached under the contingency raise provided last session this will cost seven to eight million dollars. If it is boosted more the cost, naturally, would be higher.

State-supported colleges and universities will seek more money, and it won't be a small sum, to meet rising costs caused by absence of GI's. They will need money to staff new departments, too. This will reach another several million dollars a year.

The welfare department will seek more funds to raise minimum payments to the aged and to dependent children. They, too, have expanded their program. This likely will cost another million if granted.

The agriculture department will ask another \$150,000 to finish its new wing. The health department will want a new site bought for its uncompleted building, because they don't want to stay where they are — too close to Raleigh's slums.

Another effort will be made to put through a stream sanitation program, and that will cost another piece of change if it carries.

An effort likely will be made to put city streets under the state's care and that would run close to \$10,000,000 a year.

The hospital program will cost another \$6,000,000, plus if it is continued.

The mental hospitals will be seeking more money to provide adequate care for patients.

An additional 107 new members of the highway patrol will be asked, and a bill will be introduced seeking to revive the motor vehicle inspection law.

All of which costs money — big money. Some of the requests will be refused, but some, of course, will be granted. Any way you look at it a \$150,000,000 a year general fund budget for the next biennium is a conservative estimate. It probably will be more, even of the legislature gets real economy minded and cut everything to the bone. The annual general fund budget will be nearer \$160,000,000 each year.

Estimated revenue likely will be near the \$150,000,000 mark for each of the upcoming two years. But unless the conservative forces can get in the saddle and stay there — which seems unlikely right now — it won't be enough.

That will leave the Legislature with the problem of finding more money somewhere. Governor Scott has indicated that he would not be unhappy if the General Assembly knocked out all exemptions from the sales tax. This will be fought, although it would bring in another twenty to twenty-five million, and if it looks like it will get through a substitute measure calling for a flat two percent sales tax will be offered. This latter measure would bring in about one to two million more — according to some estimates — than the current sales tax plan.

Administration opponents may again adopt the 1949 tactics of trying to run the budget so high that the biennium would end with a deficit. This was done last time, but revenues exceeded expectations — along with income from invested monies and savings in operations — to fool the boys and make it almost certain that the state will end this two years with a surplus in the kitty.

Aside from finances, the boys will have a chance to argue again over a state-wide referendum. Most observers believe there is little chance of such a bill ever reaching the floor of either the house or senate, much less being passed. And the prison system will come in for its share of attention, too, with a bill already being prepared to try and divorce prisons from the State Highway Commission.

All in all it should be quite a session. And if you toss in the question of redistricting and reassignment of legislators on the basis of the last census you'll have quite a scrap of it. It won't be peaceful, but it will be interesting.

And the boys will be lucky to get home by May 1.

The various state agencies have gone into their once-every-two-years news famine. Just before and during the General Assembly, a

## Conference; Official Schedule

ALL GAMES 8:00 P. M.

**JAN. 19, 1951**  
Burgaw at Chinquapin  
Atkinson at Wallace  
Kenansville at Magnolia

**JAN. 17, 1951**  
Atkinson at Burgaw  
Kenansville at Wallace  
Chinquapin at Magnolia

**JAN. 24, 1951**  
Burgaw at Wallace  
Magnolia at Atkinson  
Chinquapin at Kenansville

**JAN. 31, 1951**  
Kenansville at Burgaw  
Atkinson at Chinquapin  
Wallace at Magnolia

**FEB. 7, 1951**  
Burgaw at Magnolia  
Atkinson at Kenansville  
Chinquapin at Wallace

**FEB. 14, 1951**  
Chinquapin at Burgaw  
Wallace at Atkinson  
Magnolia at Kenansville

### TEAM MANAGERS

Burgaw - Fred Gaylor  
Atkinson - David DeVane (home address Watha, N. C.)  
Magnolia - Sam Carr  
Kenansville - Jones c/o Drug Store  
Chinquapin - O. J. Register  
Wallace - Robert Watson

news story out of a state department is a rare occasion. The folks seem to think that they'd better lie low, that anything they might say be held against them by the boys who are controlling the purse strings.

So, about the only news you need expect out of Raleigh until after the legislature goes home will be about legislative and political doings.

The Two meetings were held recently — one in Forsyth County and one in Wilkes county — lining up people to support Bill Umstead of Durham for governor in 1952.

During the recent election tour, by State Democratic Party bigwigs, Umstead was shoved to the front by the conservative boys. His backers apparently are bent on defying the east-west tradition and believe that the early bird gets the worm.

They should talk to Charley Johnson about that.

A bill is being prepared asking that the \$8,500-plus deducted from the Hackney Brothers firm of Wilson be paid to the outfit.

That amount was charged the Wilson firm when 100 buses had to be transferred to another firm in order to get them built as soon as possible. Hackney had not fulfilled its contract with the State and was liable for the difference in cost.

It's a minor amount, when you get to talking in terms of millions, but that bill could start one of the

biggest explosions seen around the legislative halls in many a day.

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**Jesus' New Year**  
Lesson for January 7, 1951  
SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-8  
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 41:1-4  
THERE is no room in this one column for a commentary on the whole Sunday school lesson each week. If the reader is interested, as it is hoped he will be, he will first study the Bible passages themselves, with whatever aids his own denomination furnishes him. The Sunday school teacher or Bible student who wishes to do really thorough work will need a Bible Dictionary and at least a one-volume commentary on the entire Bible. (Dummelow's [Macmillan Co.] and the Abingdon Commentary [Abingdon Press] are among the best of these.) As a background for the studies of the next three months, the student should read one or more good "Lives" of Christ. Write to your own church bookstore for suggestions.

**When Is New Year's Day?**  
EVERY day is a New Year's Day for somebody. The legal holiday that goes by that name seldom comes at a real turning-point in any one's life.

The real occasion is when some momentous change occurs, so that after that day life never flows in its old channels. In this sense, a very important New Year's Day for Jesus was the day when he was baptized in the Jordan river.

Before that day he lived as a carpenter in one village after that day, as a public man, indeed THE public Man of all times. The pattern of his life completely changed.

**Decisions**  
NEW YEAR'S is a good time to review three things: your decisions, your life's work, and your friendships.

Have you put off a decision for a long time? Now is the time to face it. Have you been making "unfortunate" decisions, choices you regret? Now is a good time to look into these and see why you have been taking the wrong road too often. Have you any bad-rock friendships on which you base all your decisions? — Jesus' New Year was marked by certain decisions made once and for all.

To begin with, there was his baptism. One thing it surely meant: Jesus that day decided deliberately to be counted among those who need repentance rather than among those who think they don't. Not everybody came down to the Jordan to be baptized. Some came only to criticize. Jesus sided with the sinners, not the critics. It was a life-long decision. He became known as the "Friend of sinners."

There were also the further decisions in the wild country where he went through his temptations. Each temptation faced Jesus with a choice; each time his choice was on God's side.

**Life's Work**  
THERE is a great thrill in setting out on the work one is going to do for the rest of one's natural life. Out of the harbor traffic on to the open sea Jesus now became a preacher, and this was his work for the rest of his life. His country has long since moldered to dust, his preaching and teaching immortal.

But suppose Jesus had been a shipyard, inefficient, careless carpenter? Would he have become a great teacher and preacher? It is quite true, the products of his shop have vanished, but there was something taking shape in that shop that did not vanish; his character.

Your choice about your future and final life's work may still be in the future; your best work may not yet have been begun. But the way you do what you have to do, that will help set the pattern for your choice and every work in your life.

**Friendships**  
NEXT after Jesus' life-work was his choice of friends. He should have had known Simon and Andrew before, and Mark simply mentions in his abrupt way the climax of a long story, in telling how Jesus "called" them.

We cannot imagine Jesus without his disciples. If it had been given to say that from the Son of God would have been a failure, as a man, had he chosen no friends. There would have been no Christian religion if Jesus had had no friends.

Around New Year's time it is well to ask oneself the question: Am I as careful in selecting my friends as Jesus was in selecting his?

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