

Good news

THE PROPHET HABBAKKUK

Like many today, Habbakkuk was greatly perplexed over the fact that God sometimes permits the wicked to prosper while the righteous suffer affliction and oppression.

Habbakkuk's Complaint

Habbakkuk 1:1-4
Chafing under what seemed to him the divine delay in doing something about the sinful deeds and ways of the people with whom he was associated, Habbakkuk went straight to God in earnest prayer with the problems, doubts and questions which were on his mind, made a full declaration of his bewilderments, introduced the interesting and vital subject of unanswered prayer, and requested of God an explanation as to why He was permitting such gross wickedness to go unchecked and unpunished.

Observing that prosperity and power were in the hands of the perverse, and that the way of evil appeared to be the way of success, the prophet asked God why He had not brought the people to their senses and caused them to turn from their sinful ways. Habbakkuk frequently wept over the condition and conduct of the people, and was deeply concerned that, thus far, seemingly God had not done anything to stop them from continuing in their disobedience. Wondering why the prophet besought God for an explanation.

Habbakkuk deserved commendation for not circulating his doubts and questions among the people, and for taking them directly to God for an answer or explanation.

Habbakkuk's Conviction

Habbakkuk 2:1-4

Convinced that God would do what was right and best, as well as make known His will in His own time and manner, Habbakkuk announced that he would take his position as a prayerful watchman and await the divine revelation. His faith stood the test for he said; "And the Lord answered me." God informed him that His vengeance would fall upon the people because of their sinfulness, but the prophet was shocked at the announcement that God intended to allow His disciplinary chastening to come through the wicked and cruel Chaldeans, who were far less righteous.

He came to understand that God is never contaminated by any of the instruments which He uses in the accomplishment of His purposes, so his faith triumphed.

Habbakkuk's Confidence

Habbakkuk 3:17-18
Aware of the terrible devastation that would be inflicted upon the country by the invading military forces, and the famine which would follow the destruction of the vineyards, orchards, and crops, along with the taking of the flocks and herds, Habbakkuk joyfully expressed his confidence and faith in God, and declared his complete dedication to the doing of His will.

He relied completely upon God for the strength which was needed to do His will in all of life's experiences, and that is exactly what God would have all of us to do. He will never disappoint those who do.

BASED ON COPY-RIGHTED OUTLINES PRODUCED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNIFORM SERIES AND USED BY PERMISSION.



Woodville Baptist

Woodville Baptist Church holds Sunday School each week at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship is at 11 a.m., and evening worship is at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Joseph H. Scalf is pastor. (Photo by PAT MANSFIELD)

Social issues key United Methodist conference

FAYETTEVILLE — Eleven social issues — more than usual — came up before the North Carolina United Methodist Conference, held June 2-5, at Methodist College. More than 1400 persons attended the annual business meeting for United Methodist in the eastern half of the state.

Members of churches in Goldsboro, Aberdeen and the Laurinburg area introduced a resolution asking the conference to commend the J. P. Stevens Company for its compliance with labor laws and to urge the denomination to call off its boycott of Stevens products. The conference refused to commend or denounce the textile company, voting instead to have the issue studied by the Division of Church and Society.

The Rev. Ralph Waters, Laurel Hill, who wrote the resolution, said the recent action of the United Methodist General (national) Conference in encouraging the Stevens boycott had upset Stevens employees in several churches. The J. P. Stevens company, which operates 27 plants in North Carolina, has been repeatedly cited for unfair labor practices.

Other positions adopted by the conference were support for the legal option of abortion, "only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration

with pastoral and other appropriate counsel," and a call for repeal of the North Carolina sales tax on food with revenue coming instead from increased taxes on alcoholic beverages.

By a slim margin of 19 votes, the conference supported the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. It turned down a resolution approved by the General Conference opposing the draft and registration in peacetime.

Bishop Robert M. Blackburn, Raleigh, presided over the meeting for the last time. Because of a church law limiting his tenure he will be reassigned to another area in the Southeast this summer. The bishop, who has become well known in eastern North Carolina during his eight years of leadership, was honored here with a \$15,000 love gift from United Methodists in the conference.

The clergy and laity of the annual conference nominated the Rev. Wallace H. Kirby, Raleigh, for one of three open positions for bishop in the Southeast. About 20 ministers are being endorsed for the posts, with election to come at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, July 15-20.

N. C. Conference delegates to the jurisdictional meeting

are also expected to support the Rev. Joseph B. Bethea, Rockingham, who is backed by black United Methodists in the Southeast. Though the conference will get a new bishop in September, it won't be Kirby or Bethea, even if they are elected, because a church rule prohibits bishops from returning to their home area for four years.

In other action the conference:

- approved the construction of a 100-bed, \$2.5 million retirement home in the Greenville area,

- asked conference leaders to

prepare a plan for appointments of ministers across racial lines, thus opening up more appointments to black and Native American ministers of the conference,

- heard that their recent evangelism campaign, "Proclaim the Word," netted 535 new members,

- ordained four women and 22 men elders — the second of two ordinations for United Methodist ministers,

- heard they raised \$1.5 million for ministers' pensions in the past 13 months,

- celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Sunday School.

Cook's corner



EDNA WOLVERTON

This delicious and light chocolate dessert is perfect for warm summer days. For chocolate lovers — it's a real treat.

Blend together:
2 squares unsweetened chocolate
½ cup sugar
¼ cup cold water
4 egg yolks

Cook in a double boiler until

thick like pudding, cool.

Mix together:
¼ cup butter
1 cup confectioners sugar
4 egg whites — beaten stiff
¼ cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla

Add above mixture to pudding. Line a pan with about 16 "lady fingers". Cover with pudding mixture. Chill. Serve with whipped cream.

This week

THURSDAY, JUNE 19 — Hert. Lions Club, 6:30; Hert. Fire Dept.; Hert. BPW Club; Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, Hert. United Meth. Church, 8 p.m.; Helen Gaither Home Ext. Club.
SATURDAY, JUNE 21 — Belvidere-Chappell Hill Fire Dept. Barbecue Chicken Supper, 5-8 p.m.
MONDAY, JUNE 23 — Perq. Co. Rescue Squad.
TUESDAY, JUNE 24 — Woodmen of the World; Belvidere Homemakers; Hert. Rotary Club, 6:30.

Religious events

First Baptist

Rev. J. H. London, pastor of First Baptist Church, has chosen "What Is True Religion?" as his topic for the morning worship service this Sunday. The text will be from Micah 6:8.

The Senior Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Mary L. James, will sing a musical program that evening in an effort sponsored by the church and the Perquimans County chapter of the NAACP to help finance a trip for Rev. London to the National NAACP

Convention in Miami, Florida. "Each church of the Perquimans County Fellowship Union will participate on the program," said Mrs. R. B. Gibbs, president of the Perquimans County NAACP.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church.

Sunday School is at 9:45 and the Morning Worship service begins at 11 a.m. every Sunday.

United Methodist

The United Methodist Women of Hertford United Methodist Church will honor the Reverend and Mrs. Irving

Cook with a reception on Sunday, June 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The public is invited to attend.

Jehovah's Witness

More than 100 district conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses will be held throughout the United States this summer. A large delegation from Eastern North Carolina will be attending one in Hampton, Va., July 10-13.

District Conventions in 66 cities.

Nonkes said the sessions are planned for all age groups and all meetings will be open to the public.

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Marion Swindell

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Thank you all who remembered us during the loss of our loved one through cards, flowers, visits, phone calls, food and prayers. Your concern was greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you.

Shelton and Ruby Bateman

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