

Good news

JOHN PREPARED THE WAY

Matthew presented John the Baptist in his role of forerunner and herald of Christ, who boldly announced the presence of the King and the nearness of the kingdom of heaven. Concerning this remarkable preacher, who had such an effective ministry, three things are noteworthy.

His Preparation

In addition to the instruction which John the Baptist received in the godly home in which he was born and reared, he studied the Old Testament. Then he went into the wilderness where he lived an ascetic life and underwent a discipline which fitted him for the task which he was to perform.

Needing a man of strong physique, irreproachable character, genuine humility, firm will, absolute loyalty, and spiritual insight to be obedient to His will and to deliver for Him a flaming message of judgment, God prepared John the Baptist out there in the wilderness, far from politically decadent Rome and spiritually dead Jerusalem.

John the Baptist did not choose the ministry as a profession, or enter upon it as a means of earning a livelihood, but because he received a personal call from God to preach and to baptize.

God chose, equipped, called, and commissioned him for the important work of preparing the way for the coming Christ. In modern parlance, he was the advance man for the Messiah.

His Preaching

This striking preacher was heavily burdened on account of the prevailing wickedness of the people. His preaching attracted the multitudes, so he fearlessly denounced sin and rebuked sinners.

Instead of using honied words, he charged his hearers with being deceitful, hypocritical, and wicked. He called them "a generation of vipers."

Such positive and powerful preaching created an awareness of need on the part of many listeners, and they inquired as to how they might obtain the forgiveness of their sins.

He challenged his hearers to change their minds with respect to sin, to God, and to self. Upon their repentance, John the Baptist baptized them as an evidence of the fact that they had repented, and then taught them the importance of harmony between their profession and conduct.

His Prediction

The preaching of John the Baptist kindled afresh the Messianic hope in many. It is not strange that some began to wonder if the preacher himself were not the long-

expected Messiah.

As soon as he learned what they were thinking, with characteristic humility he at once disabused their minds of that idea by asserting that he was only the "voice of one crying in the wilderness."

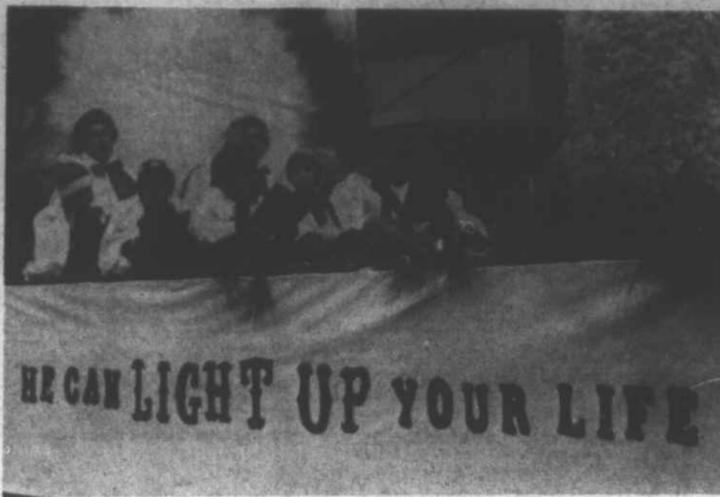
With commendable humility, John the Baptist acknowledged his insignificance in contrast with the Messiah. Whereas he had baptized many in the Jordan River as a symbol of a new life and a new allegiance, he predicted that Christ would baptize them with the Holy Spirit, and with a fire which would consume the worthless and leave the imperishable.

He boldly declared that Christ would be so superior to him that he would not even be worthy to perform the menial act of a slave in loosing the latchet of His shoes.

With great joy, John the Baptist spoke about the Christ Who would take away their sins and enable them to live righteously. He told them that as an oriental farmer separated the grain from the chaff, and burned the chaff, so in His ministry Christ would separate the good from the bad persons.

John the Baptist saw a finality in the judgment yet to come.

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The Piney Woods Friends Church won first place in the church-civic division for the

Piney Woods float

float they entered Christmas parade on Friday afternoon. Upriver Friends Church

placed second in the float competition.

Area obituaries

Brewer

HERTFORD — C. L. "Dick" Brewer, 55, died Saturday evening. A native of Northampton County, N.C., he resided at 106 Carolina Avenue.

He was the son of the late C. Lloyd and Ruby Parker Brewer and was the husband of Dorothy Corey Brewer.

He was the Superintendent of the Equipment Division of the N.C. Department of Transportation, 1st Division, and was pastor of Yeopim Baptist Church.

He was past president of the N.C. State Employees Association, past Master of Perquimans Lodge No. 106, past Patron of Hertford Chapter 137, Order of the Eastern Star.

He was past national director of Ruritan National and a moderator for the Chowan Baptist Association. He was instrumental in forming the Perquimans County Rescue Squad.

Besides his wife he is survived by his step-mother, Mrs. Ruth Brewer Boddie of Hickory, N.C.; one sister, Miss Ruth Brewer of Falls Church, Va. and one step-sister, Mrs. Flora Gibson of Ashboro, N.C.

Funeral Services were held Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Swindell Funeral Home by Rev. Larry McClure and Rev. George Cooke.

Burial followed in Cedarwood Cemetery.

Trueblood

TYNER — Mrs. Lucile

Hurdle Trueblood, 80, of Tyner, formerly of Route 3, Hertford, died Friday in Chowan Hospital.

A native of Perquimans County, she was the widow of William Alonza Trueblood and the daughter of the late William and Mrs. Sallie Raper Hurdle. She was the owner and operator of Trueblood's Home for the Aged for 25 years.

She was a member of the New Hope Methodist Church.

Surviving are four sons, William A. Trueblood, Jr., of Chesapeake, Va., Thomas E. Trueblood of Lewisville, Tx., James C. Trueblood of Durants Neck and Matthew Trueblood of Virginia Beach, Va.; seven daughters, Mrs. Hazel Byrum of Tyner, Mrs. Rebecca Godfrey and Mrs. Lucy Gaitley, both of Chesapeake, Va., Mrs. Sallie Monds and Mrs. Stella Dunn, both of Virginia Beach, Va., Mrs. Onella Morton of Durants Neck, Mrs. Betty Lou Tuttle of Gretna, Va.; two brothers, Quinton Hurdle of Virginia Beach, Va., and Theodore Hurdle of Chesapeake, Va.; four sisters, Mrs. Eliza Hoskins of Tyner, Mrs. Etta Turner, Mrs. Sarah Baker and Mrs. Bill Caddy, all of Durants Neck; 28 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in New

Hope Methodist Church with Rev. Ray Wittman and Rev. Gilbert Chappell officiating. Burial followed in Perry Cemetery, New Hope.

Willford-Barham Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Webb

EDENTON — Leon Douglas

Webb, Sr., 76, of Route 2, Edenton, died Nov. 28 in Chowan Hospital.

A native of Chowan County, he was the husband of Mrs. Elender Chambers Webb and son of the late Joseph A. and Elizabeth Creecy Webb.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Miss Linda Sue Webb of Edenton;

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Shape dough into marble-sized balls and place 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes. Yield: 4 doz.

SUBSTITUTE: Use 1 vanilla extract for coconut. Roll dough into logs — refrigerate. Slice thinly. Dough may also be frozen!

Many people have the mistaken notion that the potato is fattening. The fact is that a medium-size potato is surprisingly low in calories — about 90 — the same as an apple or banana.

Use greased muffin pans as molds when baking stuffed green peppers.

A dear friend of mine introduced me to this delightful recipe that she had discovered on the back of Martha White Spudflakes (instant mashed potatoes!) My family is not fond of coconut, so I took liberties with the recipe. Here are both versions (easily doubled) for your holiday collection.

Coco "Not" Cookies

1-third c. butter
1 c. sugar
1 t. coconut extract
1 egg
1 pkg. "Bixmix"
1 pkg. "Spudflakes"
Cream together the butter, sugar and coconut extract. Add egg and beat. Stir in Bixmix and Spudflakes. Chill for 1 hour.

Church notes

New Hope Methodist

The New Hope United Methodist Church will have a Christmas Revival from Dec. 13-18.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, "New Song" will sing, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sunday through

Thursday, Revival Services will be held each evening at 7:30 p.m. Various visiting choirs will sing each night.

Monday through Thursday, a 10 a.m. Bible Study will be

conducted by John Hobbs, Evangelist.

The public is invited to attend both morning prayer services and night services. Ray Wittman is host pastor.

Woman's Aglow sets meet

The Elizabeth City Chapter of Woman's Aglow will meet Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Tuck's in Elizabeth City.

The guest speaker will be Barbara Johnson of

Chesapeake, Va. Ms. Johnson is personal secretary to Dr. Pat Robertson, the founder and president of CBN. She is also active in child evangelism, and a member

and adult teacher at Cedar Road Assembly of God.

She is a graduate of Southeastern College. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Social services can help

With the holiday season fast approaching, Mrs. Mattie Jones is more carefully than ever watching the family budget.

The \$210 AFDC (Aid for Families with Dependent Children) check doesn't go very far with three children but she is thankful to have it. Several months ago, when the unemployment checks ran out, Mrs. Jones applied for AFDC, and the County

Department of Social Services also informed her of the availability and benefits of the food stamp program. She completed the food stamp application and was found eligible, and within 30 days received her food stamps.

Mrs. Jones said, "Food stamps have made all the difference to my family.

Mrs. Jones' family is fictitious — but the story could

hold true for many families in North Carolina. The food stamp program is designed to help low-income households buy the food they need for good health. For more information, contact the Perquimans County Department of Social Services or call 426-7373.



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For Your Information

Dear friends,

There is much talk of developing a 'healthy' attitude toward death. Is a healthy attitude possible to a non-believer in life after death? To the atheist, death must be the greatest personal tragedy. To them we would recommend a recent book — FROM MY WORLD TO YOURS — a young man's account of the Afterlife — published by Walker & Co., 720 Fifth Ave., New York.

Manson Schindell

SWINDELL FUNERAL HOME

Hertford, N.C.

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