

"IN OUR TIME"



by Rev. R.M. White

Excerpts from "THE DAY CHRIST DIED" by JIM BISHOP

"He begged them not to grieve, and his penetrating glance at John warned the apostle to shield his Mother from as much of what lay ahead as possible. John nodded through eyes dimmed. Mary wanted to remain at the side of her only child, but John led her a few feet away with the others. In the remaining minutes of the life of Jesus--about 180--John tried to shield Mary from the heart-rending sight of her divine son's death.

"The centurion consulted with the executioner, and ordered the crucifixion of Jesus first. One of the thieves was arguing loudly that he was not a robber, but a politician. Some of the soldiers chuckled and one suggested that the robber talk about it to Jesus, who was a king. The other thief seemed frightened. He had no friend or kin in the crowd, and he folded his hands in prayer. The crowd jeered.

"The time was a few minutes after noon. The sun was high and warm. Below the big bald rock, the leaves of the olive trees and the wild flowers shimmered in a soft breeze. Coveys of little swiftness darted across the rock and down into the garden below, there to peck for food and to keep a wary eye on man. At the first murmur from the crowd, they took flight.

"The executioner laid the crossbeam behind Jesus and brought him to the ground quickly by grasping his arm and pulling him backward. As soon as Jesus fell, the beam was fitted under the back of his neck and, on each side, soldiers quickly knelt on the inside of the elbows. Jesus gave no resistance and said nothing, but he groaned as he fell on the back of his head and the thorns pressed against his torn scalp.

"Once begun, the matter was done quickly and efficiently. The executioner wore an apron with pockets. He placed two five-inch nails between his teeth and, hammer in hand, knelt beside the right arm. The soldier whose knee rested on the inside of the elbow held the forearm flat to the board. With his right hand, the executioner probed the wrist of Jesus to find the little hollow spot. When he found it, he took one of the square-cut iron nails from his teeth and held it against the spot, directly behind where the so-called life line ends. Then he raised the hammer over the nail head and brought it down with force.

"At the foot of the hill, John held Mary's head against his bosom--both to comfort and so that she could not see. Among the spectators many turned away. Some cried. Some prayed aloud. Some walked away toward the Gennath Gate.

"The executioner jumped across the body to the other wrist....

"As soon as he was satisfied that the condemned man could not, in struggling, pull himself loose and perhaps fall forward off the cross, he brought both of his arms upward rapidly. This was the signal to life the crossbeam.

"Two soldiers grabbed each side of the crossbeam and lifted. As they pulled up, they dragged Jesus by the wrists. With every breath, he groaned. When the soldiers reached the upright, the four of them began to lift the crossbeam higher until the feet of Jesus were off the ground. The body must have writhed with pain.

"The four men pushed upward until the mortise hole was over the upright. The two thieves, who had been watching, looked away. The silent one found his voice again and began to pray in murmurs. The other one cried, and appealed to the four guards around him that this was all a mistake as far as he was concerned. One high priest looked at another and said that this was a very poor example of a Messiah; in his time, he had seen better.

"When the crossbeam was set firmly, the executioner reached up and set the board which listed the name of the prisoner and the crime. Then he knelt before the cross. Two soldiers hurried to help, and each one took hold of a leg at the calf. The ritual was to nail the right foot over the left, and this was probably the most difficult part of the work. If the feet were pulled downward, and nailed close to the foot of the cross, the prisoner always died quickly. Over the years, the Romans learned to push the feet upward on the cross, so that the condemned man could lean on the nails and stretch himself upward.

"Jesus was crucified. He faced the Holy City for the last time."

CHURCH SUBSCRIPTION SALES "FUND RAISING DRIVE"

CHURCH NAME	CITY	SALES THIS WEEK	SALES TO DATE
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN	GREENSBORO	2	18
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST	HIGH POINT	1	1

Bennett Forms Southeast Alumnae Regional

GREENSBORO - Bennett College alumnae from chapters in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama recently met in Charlotte, North Carolina to lay the foundations for the Southeast Alumnae Region.

"This is the fifth regional organizational structure for Bennett's National Alumnae Association," explained Mrs. Ellease R. Browning, Director of Alumnae Affairs.

"It is our feeling that such a structure affords more control over the alumnae giving program, while also improving the channels of communications between alumnae and Bennett."

She added that the regional structure would stimulate well planned support programs and draw the chapters in the seven regions of the country closer together to work for common goals.

Bennett's president, Dr. Isaac H. Miller addressed the group of women at Charlotte's Downtowner Motor Inn. He discussed the colleges projected plans as based on its receiving of a \$1.5 million grant under the Advanced Institutional Development Program. He cited the priority areas of development included the improving of institutional management; upgrading and innovating of the curriculum and added advancement options; and improving of the student services program.

Among the concerns of alumnae attending the one-day organizational meeting were alumnae recruitment programs, alumnae involvement in the community, training of more qualified black educators, the establishment of a continuing education program, and the importance of alumnae annual giving.

During a period of interaction, Dr. Miller urged the alumnae to become more involved in publicizing the success stories of the black college

and universities. He stated that support meant more than just "writing a check."

Newly elected officers of the Southeast Regional are Mrs. Betty McCain, Charlotte, N.C., president; Mrs. Carrie Mayfield, Winston Salem, N.C., vice president; Miss Myra Davis, Greensboro, N.C., secretary; Miss Doris Bowman, Charlotte, N.C., assistant secretary; Mrs. Shirley Kennedy, Charlotte, N.C., Business Manager; and Mrs. Estelle Miller, Gastonia, N.C., treasurer.

The regional officers will be meeting on the Greensboro campus of Bennett College to formulate

Medical School

Continued From Page 5. LEXINGTON Mrs. Pearl Brown of Route 3, Lexington, expired at the Haven Rest Home. Funeral services were held at Buncombe Baptist Church with Rev. S. W. Mack officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. MORRISON-STUDEVENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS WERE IN CHARGE OF ALL SERVICES AND ARRANGEMENTS.

It is exceptional when a college junior is able to compete successfully with the thousands of college graduates for space in a medical school. Lee was accepted to the Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee also.

Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lee, Sr. of Dunn, N.C. He is an honor graduate of Dunn High School.

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RELIGION

Laurinburg District, Zion Hosts Meet

BY REBECCA E. CHEEK RAEFORD - The first missionary mass meeting, Laurinburg District, Central North Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church was held Saturday, March 8, at the Mountain Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Raeford. Mrs. Cohidia Lyons, pastor, Dr. S. J. Farrar, presiding elder, Mrs. Leonia Farrar, president, Rt. Rev. W. A. Hillard, presiding bishop and Mrs. Edra Mae Hillard, Episcopal supervisor.

At 10:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Mrs. Leonia Farrar, president. The processional followed with the missionary ladies in white and their stoles, and the Buds of Promise and their supervisors dressed in their proper uniforms, caps and capes. The processional song was We're Marching To Zion. The scripture lesson was read by Mrs.

Lynell Cromartie, from I Corinthians 13. Prayer was offered by Rev. Lawrence Turner, followed by another song by the choir, On Christ The Solid Rock I Stand. After the singing of the hymn, Mrs. Leonia Farrar presented Elder S. J. Farrar. The missionary queen for year 1974-75, Mrs. Ethel Mae Williams, was crowned to reign over the meeting by the secretary of the Young Women's Missionary Society, Miss Rebecca E. Black, accompanied by Mrs. S. J. Farrar. Elder S. J. Farrar presented the speaker of the hour, Rev. M. H. Williams, pastor, McLaughlin Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. Music was furnished by the McLaughlin Chapel choir.

The inspirational song was He Touched Me. Rev. Williams used as his text, Joshua 11:15 and his subject was The Sins Of

Omission. Truly he delivered a well-prepared and heart-warming sermon, which ended with the presence of the Holy Ghost evident. The choir sang God Is Able To Carry You Through. The invitation to christian membership was extended by Elder Farrar. Many surrounded the altar for rededication services. The young and old were touched by the powerful services.

The dedication prayer was offered by Rev. Miss E. V. McIver, followed by the singing of The Lord Is Blessing Me. Missionary offering was collected.

Following the morning worship, Mrs. Leonia Farrar declared the mass meeting open for the transaction of business at hand.

The district officers were presented, followed by the collection of the budget. Life member stoles were presented to Mrs. Doretha McEachin, Mrs. Marie G. Wilkins, Mrs. Georgianna Kelly, Mrs. Sarah Lilly and life matron stole was presented to Mrs. Gloria Jean Williams. The following persons became life members: Mrs. Fannie Powell, Mrs. Madie Elliott, Mrs. Cora Hicks and Mrs. Lillian Kelly.

Special recognition was paid by the Buds of Promise to the youngest life matron known in the church, Little Miss Glenrice Mechelle Williams. The election of delegate to the W. H. and F. M. Convention was next on the agenda.

By two-thirds vote, Miss Rolene McCall was voted to represent the district at the convention in Los Angeles, Calif., in August and Mrs. Shirley Ferguson as alternate.

Resolution Of Church Women United Of NC

Editor's Note: The following resolution was passed by the Church Women United of North Carolina who went on record recently as supporting the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, scheduled to be voted on by the Legislature of the State.

A RESOLUTION Equal Rights Amendment WHEREAS, the legal rights of women has become an urgent and primary concern of the part of a large segment of the American people, and

WHEREAS, women have through preparation and study prepared themselves to assume and occupy roles of prominence in politics, business, religion and education while remaining dutiful mothers, and

WHEREAS, women have demonstrated their abilities and commitment to the furtherance of our society by their participation in all areas of our society, and

WHEREAS, 33 states in our union of 50 states have endorsed and passed the Equal Rights Amendment, to legally insure the equal participation of women in all areas of our society (passage by 38 states

necessary for ratification) and WHEREAS, the Church has long believed and taught that all people, both males and females, are equal in the sight of Almighty God and are deserving of equal and fair treatment in the ordering of our society;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Church Women United in North Carolina go on record as supporting the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by the 1975 General Assembly;

AND, be it further resolved that Church Women United in North Carolina actively pursue the passage of said legislation during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly by conveying to their elected officials this resolution acted upon and passed by the Board of Managers on this the 12th day of November 1974.

A federal appeals court has supported the U. S. Dept. of Labor's claim that a department store must pay seamstresses the same rates as tailors and women's clothing salespersons the same rates as those who sell men's clothing under the Equal Pay Act.



James Baker

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