# THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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### THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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## MRS. PERLINE THOMPSON '72 Mother of The Year

By Miss B. Herbin

If flowers speak the sentiments of tender loving care, if they whisper the breath of fragrant purity, if flowers are synonomous with the delicacy in the epitome of motherhood, then all the tributes bequeathed Mrs. Perline Thompson, as the HONORARY MOTHER OF 1972, were most proper and fitting. In the MOTHER OF THE YEAR event, presented annually, by Mr. J. F. Johnson of THE FUTURE OUTLOOK, on Tuesday morning, May 9, in The Dudley High School Auditorium, Mrs. Thompson was Dudley High School Auditorium, Mrs. Thompson was over-come with tears of joy and surprise. It was following a quite lengthy introduction of the origin of this great occasion and a recapitulation of all the Honorees since 1968, its inception, that Mrs. Thompson learned that she was the chosen celebrity for 1972.

Mr. F. J. Brown, Principal of Dudley graciously hosted the fete, giving opening remarks in the praise of such a program, and in the cherished recognition of Mother. Remarks were made by The Reverend Robert Clifford, Father, St. Mary's Catholic Church, in which he amphasized the importance of good motherhood. Folhe emphasized the importance of good motherhood. Following this remark and prayer by Father Clifford, The Dudley Band under the direction of Mr. J. D. Morgan, and the Girl's Ensemble gave a selection.

By this time, Mr. Johnson, presiding, asked Miss Wanda Johnson, Miss Dudley High for 1972, to escort the honoree and her entire family to the stage. If tears could flow into rivers, it was then time to call in the Rescue Squad, for overwhelmed by such great recognition caused Mrs. Thompson to shed bushels of tears throughout the program. This is easy to understand because the speakers for this honorariam, Mrs. Angeline Smith, former Dudley teacher, whose inspiration as a well-prepared teacher, one conscientiously interested in the young people she was to direct, and Mr. N. K. Bynum, Supervisor of Welfare employees, for whom Mrs. Thompson works, in the Public Service Office, both sprinkled, no, poured newly fallen dew all over the garden of dreams and accomplishments Mrs. Thompson had made. These tributes paramounted the ideas of industriousness, love and concern for the honoree's family and for those others to whom she reached out to help in her job and in her community.

Said Mrs. Smith, Perline had come through trying years seeking what then was an impossible dream in light of limited freedoms because of race; yet, the speaker reiterated, that as a student at Dudley, Perline had vision, ability and drive of courage to pursue her course for happiness and success. At Dudley, Mrs. Thompson engaged in many enlightening activities, one which was her serving as Editor of The Panther's Claw, the school paper. Even then, she was concerned and troubled about social problems which instigated segregation and discrimination between black and white institutions in Greensboro. Still, these obstacles could not hold her back, for after receiving her degree in Journalism School in Jefferson City, Missouri, she later acquired a Master's Degree from Chapel Hill, in Health and Social Services. The latter, she undertook while taking care of her aged mother and family, her husband, Mr. Jasper A. Thompson, Trecia, age 15; Percy, 12; Tonia, 10 and Jasper, Jr., 4. This family was tight-lipped and gave no inkling of the surprise that

(Conttnued on Page 4)

# THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL | found the place where it was | ing prepared the way rather What is our concern?

A newsletter from the United Methodist Board of Evangelism contained the following editorial by Charles Whittle, a staff member of the board:

"Is the Church bankrupt? . . Are people really empty? . . .

"I may have read between the lines but a recent editorial in the Christian Advocate indicated that The United Methodist Church is bankrupt. We have exhausted our spiritual, financial and manpower reserves. If we are to continue to go into the world for mission, we must regain that spiritual dimension that empowers men for mission.

"Bishop Gerald Ensley says, 'All of the causes to which I have given my life are in serious trouble today because their supply of religious motivation is running dangerously thin.' Alan Walker in his book, Breakthrough, writes, 'The morale of the Christian Church has plummeted to its lowest level in this century.' E. Stanley Jones says, 'People are empty. This is a great time for evangelism because people are empty and looking for something to fill that emptiness.' A cameraman, filming the 'Woodstock Festival,' commented, 'Youth today are lost . . . terribly lost.'

"People are turning to the stars (astrology), to the dead (spiritualism), to the cults and drugs. In the Church thousands are turning to the small groups in search of spiritual reality. People are looking for some good news, for some certainty."

Then Whittle describes two churches. "One Church is nearly empty on Sunday. The other Church overflows with people. What makes the difference? The pastor of the nearly empty Church 'tells it like it is.' In essence he says, "This is a tough world, and the Christian life is a hard life, but we must struggle on.' Bad news. The pastor of the overflowing Church 'tells it like it is' but he also 'tells it like it can be.' In essence he says, 'Sure, it's a tough world, but God is with us. . . . God can give new life through you. . . .' Good News!"

Our concern in this lesson is how we can make this gospel (good news) known.

### Searching the Scripture

The Scripture for this lesson is Luke 4:16-21; Romans 10:14-18; Ephesians 3:7-13. Selected verses are printed below. Luke 4:16-21

16 And he came to Nazareth. where he had been brought up; came the chief concern. and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; 17 and there was given to him the book of the prophet he could only point to it, never

written.

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Romans 10:14-18

14 But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? 15 And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" 16 But they have not all heeded the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17 So faith comes from what is heard. and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.

18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

Memory Selection: I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

-Romans 1:16 What the Scripture says to us

Preaching is proclamation. In the church, that which is proclaimed is the good news of Jesus Christ. Of all the world's religions, only Christianity has made preaching its chief means of expression. Only Christianity has had a saving message to proclaim.

Preaching is hardly mentioned in the Old Testament. Jonah was commanded to preach to the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:2, King James Version), and Isaiah spoke of the proclaiming (preaching) of the coming "year of the Lord" (61:2, KJV); but the prophets were not described as preachers. Their role was to exhort the community to be faithful to the law, and exhortation is not preaching. Only after the coming of Jesus was there something to preach; and for those who followed him, the proclamation of that gospel be-

John came preaching repentance in preparation for the coming Kingdom. He was the first herald of the good news; but Isaiah. He opened the book and actually proclaim it. His preach-

than proclaimed the Savior.

Jesus also preached. His message built upon John's. "The time is fulfilled," he said, "and the kingdom of God is at hand." (Mark 1:15) Later, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus outlined the nature of the Kingdom for those who were to be prepared for it. But his preaching was more like teaching, for he himself was to be the subject of the proclamation of the church.

Preaching in its true form was born on the day of Pentecost when Peter stood before the multitude and proclaimed that God had fulfilled the promise of the Old Testament and had brought salvation to his people. Having been made Lord and Christ, the Jesus who had been crucified was "exalted at the right hand of God" and had poured out his Spirit upon them. (Acts 2:33) The true preacher was the herald of the fact that redemption had been accomplished.

#### Proclamation Teday

Christ's command to proclaim the Word is as relevant today as when he gave it. If preaching is to be an important element of worship, we shall need to continue to perfect its forms.

The sermon should set forth the gospel of redemption. In New Testament terms we must preach "Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2) The moral lecture teaches but does not convert. Only the proclamation of Christ leads to reborn men.

Like all witness, the sermon is a sharing of the inner illumination by Christ. Telling the good news is possible only when it has been experienced by the teller. Many ways can be devised for enlarging the vision of the hearers, but they must all begin with a prior vision in the preacher.

The sermon should be clearly biblical, both in content and imagery. The Bible speaks in metaphors (one thing is lickened to another), and the sermon should be metaphorical in illustrating the nature of the new life.

Most important, the sermon should be an affirmation. Pulpits should not be the source of anxiety-producing guilt feelings. Rather, they should give marvelous expression to the difference the presence of Christ can make in human lives.

## The Role of the Congregation

In a sense all Christians proclaim the gospel. Every man's expression of his relationship to Christ is a proclamation. No Christian church can survive if its spiritual food is limited to a twenty-minute oration once or twice a week.

The congregation proclaims

(Continued on Page 8)