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THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD, KINGS MOUNTAIN, N. C.

Barrett: Visit To Holy Land Was Highlight Of His Ministry

Editor's Note: The following testimony has been offered by a former Cleveland County man, the Rev. Wray G. Barrett, who is now pastor at Springs Road Baptist church in Hickory. The Rev. Barrett explains in the following the great impact his visits to the Holy Land have had on his life. Barrett hopes one day to do mission work in Israel.

REV. WRAY G. BARRETT
I was born June 9, 1916 about half-way between Kings Mountain and Shelby, N. C. My parents, Ben and Lillie Harmon Barrett, were devout Christians. They took me to church from birth. In fact, I cannot remember when I did not go to church. I can thank and praise my parents for many things, but, most of all, for their Christian example and influence. They are both in Heaven now;

but, they still live within my heart and life.

In the year of 1934, I was married to Irene McMurtry. The Lord has blessed me with a fine Christian wife, and four Christian children, Elizabeth, Jack, Thomas, Wanda and six grandchildren.

I accepted Christ at the age of twelve and joined Pleasant Hill Baptist Church between Shelby and Grover, N. C. I remained faithful to Pleasant Hill until I surrendered to the gospel ministry in 1954 at the age of 38. This was the hardest decision of my life. The Lord had blessed me with two farms and adequate equipment to do a good job farming. I felt that God was being unfair to call me away from farming, my first love as a vocation; however, I learned, after yielding to God's call, that it takes more

than houses, land, and new tractors, etc., to satisfy the longings of the human heart. It takes being in the will of Jesus Christ, and I learned that the hard way.

Because of my stand for the Right and Christ, I have lost some whom I thought to be my friends along the way. It is not easy, in these trying days, to be a preacher and pastor of a church.

I have pastored four wonderful churches since 1954, Victory Baptist, Grover, Allen Memorial Baptist, Grover, Antioch Baptist Church, Lincolnton, and Springs Road Baptist Church, Hickory. I am now in my ninth year at Springs Road.

My dream of a life time came true, Oct. 28, 1969. From childhood, I had dreamed of going to the Bible Lands, and it became a reality in 1969. When we made a tour of Israel and Greece, it was hard for me to believe that it was really taking place. The tour proved to be more exciting,

more helpful, more uplifting, and more of everything else than I had ever dreamed. I was reminded of what the Queen of Sheba said about Solomon, "The half was not told me."

Our tour arrangements were the very best. We flew the newest, biggest, best and safest planes made. The hotels were of the best and food in abundance wherever we went. We toured in the best air conditioned buses, had well trained guides, and expert drivers. We were well taken care of from the time we left Charlotte until our return. It is amazing how far you can go and how much you can see in just 10 days.

Arriving in Jerusalem, Israel for the first time was an unforgettable experience. Driving through Jerusalem showed us at once that we were in a country bustling with activity. Modern buildings, heavy traffic lights, almost made us forget where we were until we approached the wall around the city of Old Jerusalem.

Some of the unforgettable highlights linger in my mind. We were able to walk through the old and new cities of Jerusalem, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, stand on the Mount of Olives, sing from Mount Zion, gaze upon Jericho Road, visit Jericho one of the worlds oldest cities, wade in the Dead Sea, swim in the Sea of Galilee, captize in Jordan River, drink water from Jacob's well, worship on Mount of Beatitudes, drive through valley of Armageddon, continue to Megiddo and see Solomon's Stables, go by Mt. Carmel, Caesarea by the Sea, built by Herod the Great in 22 B.C. Here in Caesarea, Paul was imprisoned for 2 years, visit Mary's Spring and Joseph's carpentry shop at Nazareth, tour Bethlehem, Bethany, Hebron, Ashkelon, birthplace of Herod the Great and the place where Samson lived. This is only a part of the many highlights in Israel, it is an unforgettable highlight ever more you make and every step you take.

As you tour Israel, you see Biblical prophecy unfolding before your eyes. The state of Israel itself is a fulfillment of prophecy. The Jews are back in their homeland. The parable of the fig-tree seems to be flourishing. (Matt. 21:32). Jerusalem is back in the hands of the Jews for the first time in over two thousand years. (Luke 21:24). The desert is in blossom as the rose. (Isaiah 35:1). This is made possible by irrigation. The wilderness like Eden has come alive. (Isaiah 51:13). Some Bible scholars believe God is in the process of fulfilling the promise made to Abraham of old.

I plan to spend some time in Israel doing mission work upon retirement. In my four tours there, I have made many friends. One is Rev. Atif Himadeh, pastor of First Baptist Bible Church, Jerusalem, Israel. Atif has talked to me about the need in Israel, and I plan to go there some day and work with him in The School of the Prophets or in a mission. His church has recently opened up a mission in Bethlehem. Atif writes and prints his own materials for his church and school. He is intelligent, well educated, a Bible scholar, with a deep insight in Bible prophecy. He understands what is taking place in Israel.

He was born in Beirut, Lebanon and studied to be a scientist there. His wife is from Amman, Jordan. They are both very fine Christians, and doing a great work for the Lord in Jerusalem.

It is my firm conviction that God is making it possible for multitudes to tour Israel, in these maybe last days before Jesus returns. Every Christian should make at least one tour of Israel if possible. Some cannot go because of health and financial reasons; but, most people that really want to go can. It cost less than some of the better color TV sets and less than the first year depreciation on some new cars. Many churches have sent their pastors to the Holy Land. This is something that most churches can afford to do for God's servants. I know by experience, that this meant more to me than any Bible course ever taken. You can only evaluate a tour of Israel once you have gone. Many that can afford it go back again and again.

I will be making my fifth tour to Israel Feb. 27, 1973. I have used my vacation time to make a tour for the past four years and plan to do it again. We have included Egypt in this tour. The price is only \$699.00, for 10 days from New York. This includes flight, food, (3 meals a day) hotels, transfers, port tour operators. The price, of this tour, is less than a round trip flight to Tel Aviv, Israel and back on a regular flight. If interested, contact Rev. Wray G. Barrett, Rt. 2, Box 175, Hickory, N. C. 28601. Telephone 256-8572 or 256-5340.

Rev. Barrett has a good choice selection of slides made on previous tours. He will be glad to set up for a showing at churches, clubs, etc., if it does not interfere with his line of duties in his church.

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CONSIDER THESE POINTS IN SELECTING YULE TREE

By M. E. GARDNER
N. C. State University

What do you look for when selecting a Christmas tree? Which species do you like best? Do you prefer a North Carolina grown tree or an imported one? First, what do you look for when selecting a tree? Perhaps the first thing you should look for is freshness. Many trees are cut too soon and transported long distances to market. Frequently the leaves have dried out and are shedding before you buy it. Such handling lowers both the quality and color of the plant. Fragrance is also reduced.

Which species do you like best? The Red Cedar has been a favorite for many, many years and still is. It can be grown from the Coastal Plains through the Piedmont. Due to the natural compact habit of growth, it requires little or no shearing. It should be used fresh as it has a tendency to dry quickly after cutting—probably best adapted for local retail sales.

Other species adapted to North Carolina are: Fraser Fir, White Pine, Scotch Pine, and Norway Spruce. Of these species, Fraser Fir and White Pine are presently the most important for commercial production in the mountains of Western Carolina.

Fraser Fir has good color, pleasing fragrance, strong branches and excellent needle holding ability. It likes the cool environment provided by the higher elevations and prefers a moist soil.

White Pine is a rapid grower, has good shape and flexible branches. It requires proper shearing to produce a compact tree. The color is good and the popularity of this species is on the increase.

The growing of Christmas trees in North Carolina has developed into a full-fledged enterprise backed by a lively Christmas Tree Association. While the industry is small, in comparison, it has an excellent potential and will grow as our people support it.

Approximately one million trees are used in North Carolina homes each year, with about 75 percent of this number imported from Maine and other producing areas.

So you can see the opportunity

Private Costner Completes Basic

FT. JACKSON, S.C. (AHTNC) — Army Private Dennis J. Costner, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Costner, Route 1, Bessemer City, recently completed eight weeks of basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C.

He received instruction in Drill and Ceremonies, Weapons, Map Reading, Com at Tactics, Military Courtesy, Military Justice, First Aid, and Army History and Traditions.

The 1970 graduate of Bessemer City high school received his training in Company B, 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade.

His wife, Wanda, also lives on Route 1.

The earliest authenticated strike of workers in the United States in a single trade occurred when Philadelphia printers gained a minimum wage of \$6 a week in 1786.

SWEATER ACT
Men's wear has joined the "sweater act" with layered looks in geometrics, argyles and sport motifs. The popular classic v-necks and sweaters are reappearing.

Cardigans, sweater vests and bulky pullovers will also pay a big role in men's fashions this fall, observes Harriet Tutterow, extension clothing specialist, N. C. State University.

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Second, we've had some rate increases which add to the cost of electric service. And another increase is being studied by your state commission.

But even if that increase is granted, a dollar will still buy more electricity than in 1950.

So electricity is still one of today's biggest bargains.

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