



Photo by Gary Stewart

PASTOR HONORED - Rev. Kenneth Looney, pastor of the Kings Mountain Church of God, has money pinned to him during the church's Pastor Appreciation Day Sunday. Rev. and Mrs. Looney were presented with a boutineer and corsage before the service and children of the church participated by making posters

and cards for him and by singing a special song to him. Each Sunday School Class presented him with a gift and at the end of the service he was "pinned" with a love offering. Following the service, members enjoyed a meal in the fellowship hall.

Man Unable To Live A Christ-Like Life

By
REV. TIM TAYLOR
CANAANITE EVANGELICAL
MINISTRIES

Do you face barriers in the achievement of your spiritual commitment? In the effort to serve Christ our Saviour, to truly be a Christian, I learned very early and very quickly that - Man is unable to live a Christ-like life of himself.

First, he was a conflict with nature. In Psalms, the 104th chapter, we are told that "God appointed the moon for seasons and the sun goeth down." Then in Acts, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons,

which the Father has put in his own power."

Consider the terrible earthquakes, the volcanic eruptions, the destructive storms, man would change these if he only had the power to do so. If we had things our way, the storms such as were recently endured by the people of areas neighboring us, would not have occurred. No individual, as to my thought, would want another to suffer the destruction, the loss, the hurt of injury and death such as were suffered by these our neighbors. The truth remains, however, the control of nature lies only in the hands and power of God.

Secondly, man has a conflict with man. This was evident from the very beginning, the first family, that of Adam. Cain and Abel presented their sacrifices to God and Abel's sacrifice was favored of God. In his conflict and jealousy, Cain arose and slew his brother, Abel.

In Phillipians, the third chapter, we are told - "Many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose God is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."

There is no doubt, we can and do witness this every day in this journey of life. Many who walk with us would drag us down with them into the pits of sin, preventing Christian maturity in our lives, diverting our attentions from the living God and his will for us. In our spiritual weakness, many fall by the way and chase after the enticement of physical attractions that seem to dominate the goals and high ideals that are so skillfully hammered into the minds of today's youth.

Thirdly, more so than any other, man has a conflict with himself. In Romans, the seventh chapter, Paul tells us - "For that which I do allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do. 16 - If then I do that which I would not; I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 - Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 24 - O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

There are so many conflicts with self because of our desires to supply the wants of the flesh that so often crowd the will of God and the person of the Holy Spirit from us. How can we fall prisoner or slave to our own wordly desires? May God forbid this.

In all these conflicts, we find they are all conflicts with God and his will for us. Romans 6:16 asks us a most pertinent question. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Is it then a total loss? God forbid, "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open unto their cry," Psalms 34:15. David also prayed to God in the 28th Psalm - "Be not silent to me." Before he finished that prayer he blessed God for "he was helped." His prayer was answered that quickly.

Let us not allow these many conflicts to drown out the voice of God as he speaks words of comfort, guidance and strength to us for our daily needs. Pray now that he will protect you with his ever-present defense and help you to overcome your conflicts and commit the physical being into the control of the Holy Spirit.

Macedonia Plans Musical

The Music Makers Choir of Macedonia Baptist Church, Grover Road, Kings Mountain, North Carolina, composed of children in grades one through three, will present a musical called Papa John's Musical Garden, Sunday evening at 7 p.m. during the evening worship service of the church.

Papa John's Musical Garden is a spiritual growing place for kids ... a place to learn important spiritual truths about God's love.

Choir members include: Matt Shockley-Papa John; Michael Smith-Andrew; Julie Keenum-Susan; Jason Trammell-Ernie Earthworm; Dawn Davis-Melanie Butterfly; Leanne Farris-Christie Bird; Marcus

Hanks-Everett Ant; Chad Huntsinger-Foster Box; Michael Keenum-Buzz the Bee; Angela Crotts, Todd Huntsinger, Allison Kiser, David

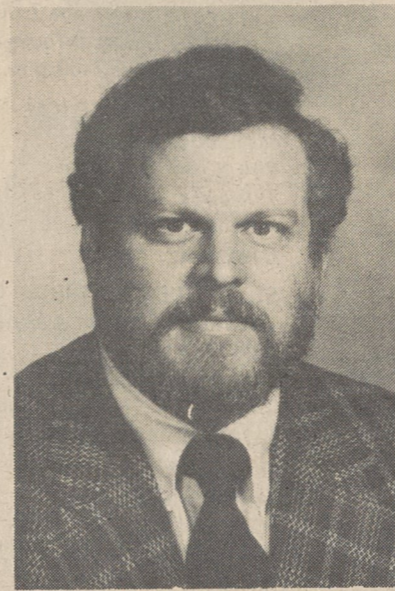
Nicholson--Yellow Jackets; Rachel Boheler, J.D. Lightsey, Jessie Lightsey, William Lightsey and Niki Ware. The public is invited to attend.

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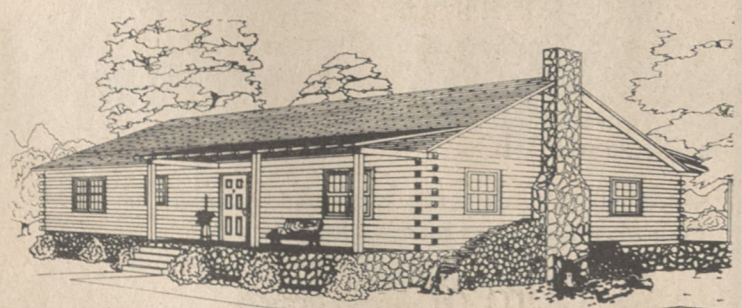
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-Former Gaston College English instructor and Learning Lab Coordinator; former director of Language Arts Enrichment Program.

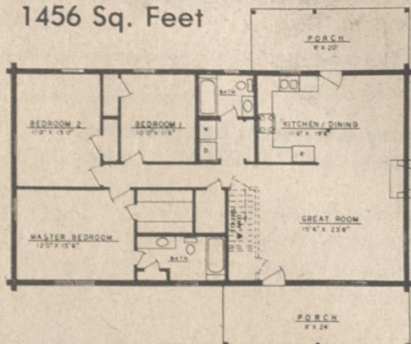
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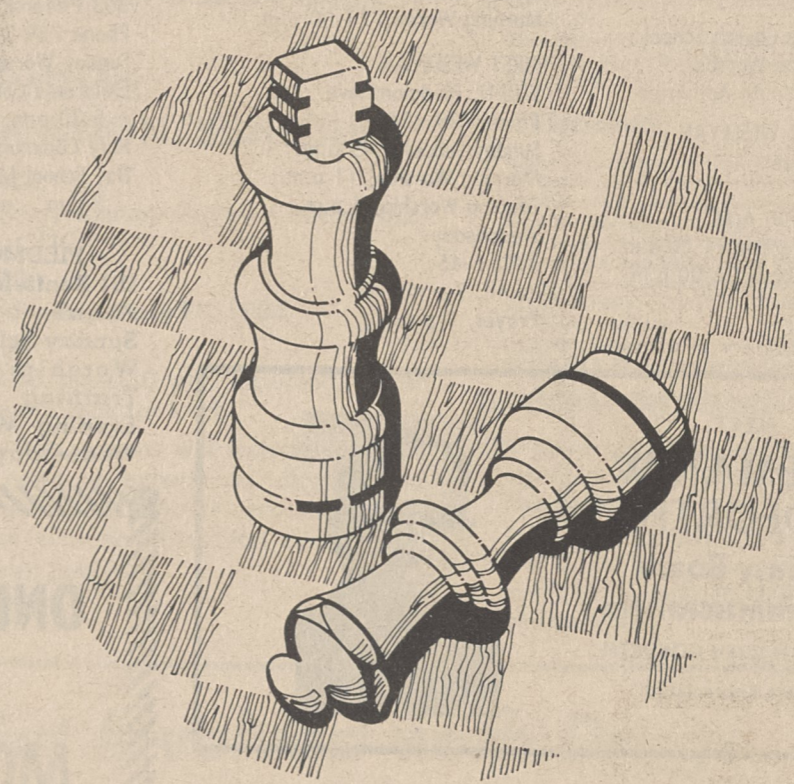
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