

Religious Viewpoint

By CLYDE DUPIN

The United States is facing a moral and ethical crisis due to a lack of Bible standards. The Word of God has been neglected by many pastors and church leaders. The church no longer speaks with a voice of authority on moral issues.

A recent Gallup Poll suggests that we need to find spiritual answers to deal with the moral decline in America. George Gallup, Jr. said, "At all levels of society we are seeing the corrupting power of money and material success."

Gallup said the remedies needed include learning to witness to one's faith. As examples of the moral decline, he cited wide-spread cheating on taxes which cost the government about \$100 billion a year, extra-marital affairs of "epidemic proportions," fraudulent telephone charges, pilferage costing department stores more than \$4 billion a year.

There were many reasons cited for this decline in morality and ethics. Gallup said the main reason for the problem is the "deep spiritual malaise." He noted that it is shocking that church attendance makes little difference in a person's ethical views and moral behavior.

It is no time for churches to be soft on homosexuality, premarital sex, and abortions. Every pastor has a responsibility to speak out against the evils of our society and call lying, cheating, and sexual misconduct sin. The Bible is the absolute book of authority and needs to be preached to save both our souls and our nation.

NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS PERMANENT EXCEPT GOD'S LOVE

We all make the mistake of assuming that anything on this earth will go on forever, and building our lives upon it; for this is simply not true. The tides of business can turn, and even long-established companies may suddenly go under. Whole towns can be leveled by earthquakes or tornadoes. Mountains rise and fall; shorelines advance and recede. Even the stars change positions, however imperceptibly, during our lifetimes. The lives of human beings are in a constant state of change, with the passage of time. The only thing in this world that remains unchanged is the love of God. We should thank Him for it and realize that it may cause even some of these tragedies to be blessings in disguise. It's all in His universal plan, and you are a part of it.

Missionary To Speak At Church

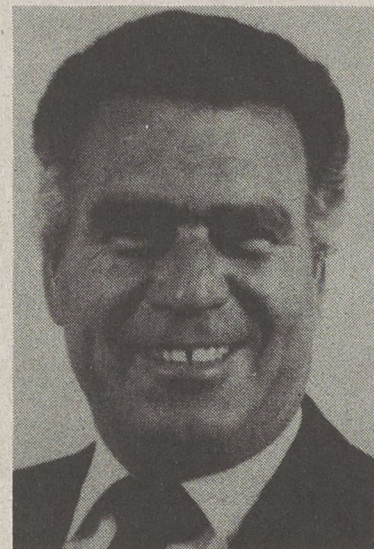
Reverend Mitchell Cotrone, a missionary of the Wesleyan Church to Colombia South America will speak at 7 p.m., Friday, February 5th at East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, 610 East Gold Street.

A graduate of Vennard College, University Park, Iowa and an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church. Cotrone has been a missionary to Colombia for the past 20 years. He has served as manager of the Tipografia Union (Press which publishes and distributes Gospel literature to Colombia and the Spanish speaking world, and Libreria Union Cristiana (bookstore), traveling professor of the Extension Bi-

ble Institute Program (TEE), professor in the Wesleyan Bible Institute, director of the mission's Gospel film ministry, mission coordinator pioneer pastor and builder of the North Bogota Wesleyan Church and member of the National Church District Board of Administration.

Cotrone lives in Medellin, Colombia with the wife, Ella, and two children Tony (12 years) and Rosella (9 years). Their oldest son, Greg, graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1986 and is an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church.

Reverend Cotrone will share interesting facts about



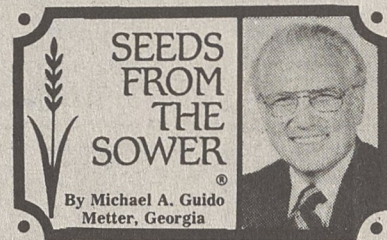
MITCHELL COTRONE

the country, people, and progress of the work in the coun-

try where he has served.

The Wesleyan Church serves in 34 countries, including Canada, Great Britain and the United States. While the major emphasis in the overseas outreach of the church is placed on gospel evangelism, an extensive medical and educational program has been carried on by the denomination in several areas of this worldwide gospel enterprise. Bible colleges and training schools are given major emphasis in the effort to prepare nationals for the ministry and other leadership positions.

The pastor cordially invites all in the community to hear Reverend Cotrone.



Little Mary had been sent to the store to get some fly paper, but she tarried. Worried, her mother went to the porch to look for her. When she spied her, she called, "Mary, do you have the fly paper?"

"No, mother," she answered; "it's got me."

What a picture of sin. It charms, but it chains; it delights, but it destroys; it enchants, but it enslaves. The Bible says, "Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin."

But the Lord is stronger than Satan and sin. There's no habit that He can't break, no sin that He can't forgive, no soul that He can't save.

There's victory for you - in the Lord. Accept the Victor, and you'll have the victory.

Gospel Songfest Set

The Gospel Choir of Gardner-Webb College will sponsor their third annual Gospel Songfest on Friday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dover Theatre.

Featured on the program will be choirs from surrounding areas, including The Cleveland County Mass Choir, Gospel Choir of Gardner-Webb College, Old Ellis Chapel Baptist Church young adult choir and the Isothermal Community College Choir. Our special guest will be "COMPANY" in concert.

The program is scheduled for 7 p.m. and the public is invited to attend. There is no

admissions charge. For additional information contact Carolyn B. McKin-

ney. ...do not squander Time, for that's the stuff Life is made of.

—Benjamin Franklin

Eddie Bridges will MC the program.

"We should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world."

—Titus 2:12

NOTICE

The annual shareholders meeting of Home Federal Savings and Loan Association will be held on February 9, 1988 at 700 West King Street, Kings Mountain, North Carolina at 2:00 p.m.

Nancy S. Scism, Sr. VP/Secretary

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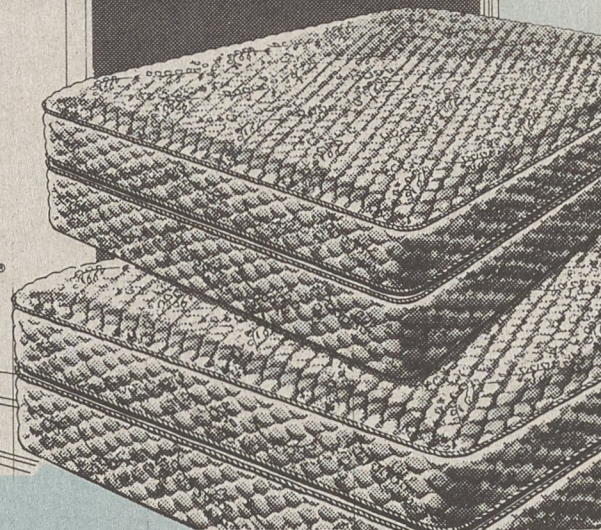
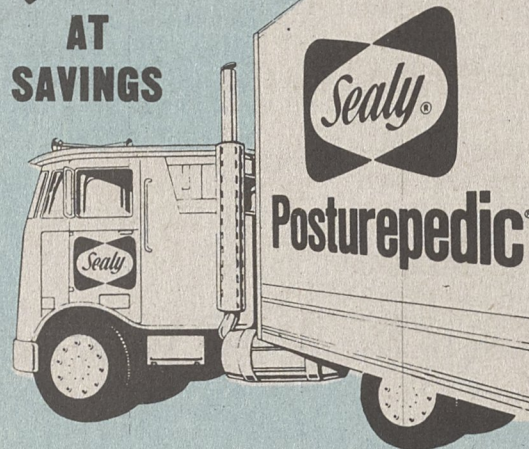
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