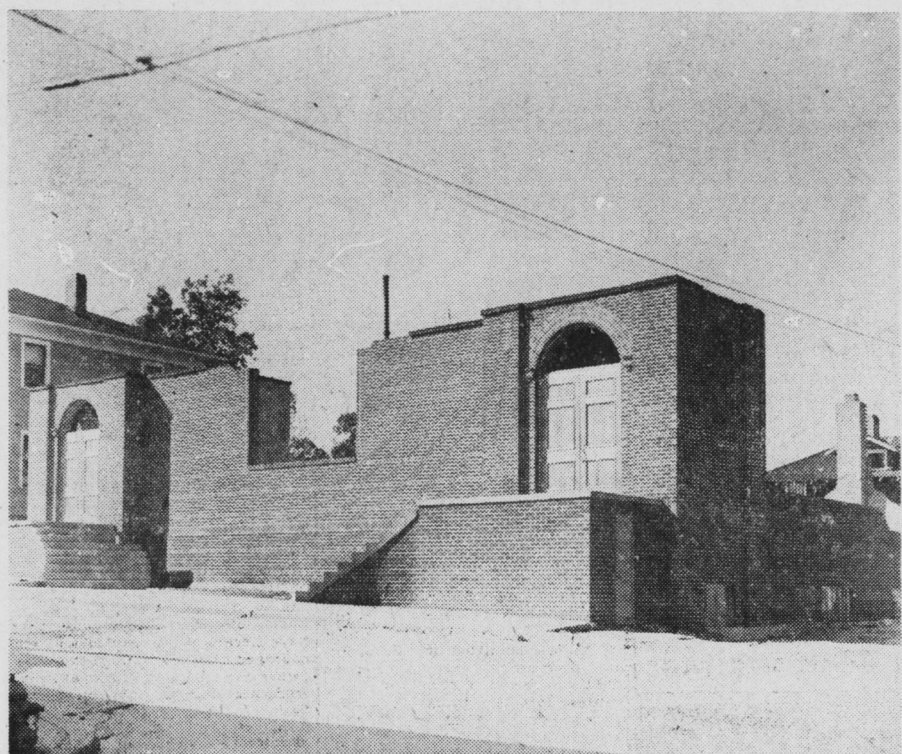


CHURCH ACTIVITIES



Many structures have been built as the instigation of the late E. W. Dixon. One of his dreams that is now materializing is the Hill St. Baptist Church which is at present partly completed as shown above.

Sunday School Lesson

AMOS THE PROPHET AND HIS PROGRAM

By REV. J. KENYON PARKER
International Sunday School Lesson for April 16, 1950. From The Southern Presbyterian Journal.

Scripture: Amos. Devotional Reading: Psalms 42:1-8. This prophet was a native of Tekoa, which is still called Tekoa, a town in Judah about six miles south of Bethlehem. He was a shepherd and dresser of sycamore trees. He was not a prophet by training, not trained in the regular prophetic schools. He said to his enemy, Amaziah the priest, that while he was not a professional prophet, and was not the son of a prophet, he was, nevertheless, divinely called to the prophetic office to deliver the message of Jehovah.

He was a native of Judah but prophesied for Israel. It was during the reign of Jeroboam II he was called to prophesy. Uzziah was then on the throne of Judah. His call occurred a few years after that of Joel, probably about 765 B.C. Under Uzziah and Jeroboam Judah and Israel enjoyed unusual prosperity. They were men of administrative ability, were able rulers. Under existing conditions the

predictions of Amos would meet with skeptical regard; he would be looked upon as an alarmist, a pessimist, but in less than fifty years his announcement of the doom of Israel was fulfilled. (Introduction in Analytical Bible).

"In this happy state of things, (their prosperity), what could be more improbable than the disasters to befall the nation announced by the prophet? It is always so when we take a superficial view of things, live in the present moment of peace and plenty and indulge ourselves. Amos foresaw the revival of Assyria coming out of her present weakness into great power, and that she should be the instrument in the fall of Israel as judgment upon her sin. He was one of the greatest of all the prophets, and by some is regarded as the greatest next to Isaiah and Jeremiah. He brought to Israel no prophetic credentials. Amaziah sneered and looked upon him as a pretentious and presumptuous upstart. But the prophet was not misled or deceived in knowing that he was divinely called to prophesy to Israel. How often the Lord has laid His hand upon earnest, responsive souls who had not the stamp, the training and credentials of the school, and commissioned them to go forth and speak His word. How greatly God has blessed the messages of these humble servants we know full well. Amos is an outstanding example of the possession of the great essential whether one be trained in the school of the prophets, or be called from the farm, store or bench, i.e. being filled with the Spirit of God. For that there can be no substitute." (Analytical Bible, Outstanding Facts).

So much for the prophet and the times in which he lived.

For His Program, let us consider the special verses selected for our study and some of the context.

1. His Tactful and Arresting Approach: Chapters 1-2. Notice these frequently repeated words: "For three transgression and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof." This phrase, coming with what might seem a somewhat monotonous regularity is an interesting study in both oratory and psychology. The prophet with his country common sense, knew that if he came to Israel from Judah and began in an abrupt and tactless manner his chances of being listened to, not to say heeded, would be slim indeed. Of course, he was also guided by the Spirit. So he gets his audiences interested, and then drives home the special application.

He begins by citing the nations around Israel and telling of their coming judgment. Damascus, standing for Syria, which was an enemy of Israel is to be severely punished. "I will send a fire into the house of Hazael—I will break the bar of Damascus." To the people of Israel this was welcome news, and they were ready to give a hearty, "Amen," to this severe condemnation of a nation they hated and feared.

Then he turns his eyes south to

Gaza: "I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza—I will cut off the inhabitant of Ashdod." From Gaza he goes to Tyros, Edom, Ammon, Moab, and to his own country of Judah: "I will send a fire upon Judah." So far his message would awaken interest and approval. Israel was only too glad to hear about the sins and judgments of these surrounding countries, even this sister-nation, Judah.

All this is only introductory, however, to the real message of the prophet. He had been sent to Israel, and all this preliminary matter was but leading up to what he had been sent to proclaim. We will take up this message in our other lessons; we are only concerned at present with the "Program" of the prophet. He had a great deal of common sense and a real knowledge of the workings of the human mind, even though he had never taken a course in "spechology." The Spirit of God, Who was controlling the mind of the prophet, knows all about the workings of the minds of men.

His task was a most difficult one. We in this country know that even this far removed from our "War between the States" there still exists prejudices in many people's hearts. For a preacher, a reformer, or politician to go from the land of "Dixie" to "Yankee Land," or vice versa, and try to make an impression is almost impossible. The North and South are still inclined to look askance at visitors from either side who tell the other what to do. The land of Israel had had this "Civil War," this "Rebellion," and for a prophet from the South to go to the North and proclaim the word of the Lord was as unwelcome as Dr. Dabney would have been right after our war in the New England States, or Dr. Beecher in Virginia or the Carolinas.

But Amos makes it clear to the people of Israel that God is no respecter of Nations; that even His own country of Israel is to feel the weight of severe judgment. This approach ought to have made them ready to listen and heed, if any method, or program could, but we see that even with this kind of appeal his reception was anything but cordial.

II. His Reception by the people of Judah 7:7-15.

1. The Vision of the Plumbline: 7:7-9. As was the case with many of the prophets, Amos' message was illustrated by very vivid word pictures. In these verses we have the vision of the plumbline. The of character and conduct. The Lord is testing Israel and He finds that her whole national life is crooked; judgment is coming upon them for their sin: "And the high places of Israel shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

2. The Reaction of Amaziah the priest of Bethel: 10-14. He charges Amos with conspiracy and says the land is not able to bear it. He advises Amos to flee to his own country—to go back home—and not prophesy in the king's chapel and court.

3. The Reply of Amos: 14-15. It is brief and to the point. He had not come "on his own": "The Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel." This ought to have been sufficient. Amos proceeds to pronounce judgment on the priest, Amaziah. We see the courage of the prophet in these words. He was sent of God, and he must carry out his program for it was the program of God.

Would that we had today a preacher, or prophet, with the courage and the commission of Amos! Our land is prosperous. We have won two wars. We have not suffered as many other nations have suffered. In our prosperity we seem to have forgotten God. We are engaging in a drunken "spree." Crimes of the most unusual and revolting nature are daily occurrences, and our people seem to take it all without feeling any shame or contrition.

RALEIGH ROUNDUP

By EULA NIXON GREENWOOD

MOVING? . . . R. D. Beam, red-headed, known as "Red," and a Cleveland County native, a few weeks ago resigned as executive of the Dairy Foundation at State College to become head of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association here. Prior to going with the Foundation, he held a responsible position with the Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. He went to the Wachovia from an executive position with the State School Commission.

He will likely be replaced by L. L. Ray, Alamance County native who for the past several years has done a wonderful job with the N. C. Dairy Products Association. It is known that Ray has been offered the job with the Dairy Foundation. He is expected to take it. You should see an announcement about this in the papers very shortly, if you haven't already. Before going with the Dairy Products folks (Coble, Southern Dairies, Biltmore, etc.) Ray was with the Duke Power Co.

COLLEGE BOYS . . . Last Friday afternoon as University Chancellor Bob House and Acting President Billy Carmichael were introducing new School of Administration Dean Tom Carroll to directors of the N. C. Business Foundation and to officials of the State Merchants Association, Len Broughton Smithy—from a good Wilkes County family—walked into George L. Bennett's room two blocks off the campus and shot Bennett, killing him. A few minutes later Smithy, 30-year-old war veteran, killed himself with the same pistol he had used to end the life of the 22-year-old Wadesboro senior. Meantime, students were scattering from the campus for an Easter week-end at home. The killings in Chapel Hill came as the trial of 23-year-old Raymond D. Hair of Fayetteville, up for first degree murder in the death of Roy Coble, another Wake Forest student, last December, was coming to a conclusion in Raleigh. Neither Coble nor Smithy was an enrolled student.

Just as President Thurman Kitchen's Christmas was ruined by a campus murder on the eve of the holidays, so was Easter a black day this year for Chancellor House and Acting President Carmichael. College officials are constantly working to improve not only their physical plants, but the mental attitudes of the students, and the Christmas and Easter killings at Wake Forest and Carolina will cause them to devote even more attention to the mental habits of their flocks. Parents can help.

WAR TALK . . . Visitors from North Carolina in the Nation's capital last week were astounded at the amount of war talk heard in Washington. While we get good doses of this type of conversation via the press and radio here in the Old North State, it certainly isn't the main topic of conversation. We still have the weather, Kerr Scott, the Senate race, and what the preacher said last Sunday. In Washington, Desease, nothing else seems to matter. You hear it from drivers of taxicabs and right on up the line to U. S. Senators and various members of the Cabinet.

If the war atmosphere hangs as heavily over Moscow as over Washington, then some kind of shooting war seems to be just around the corner. It is to be hoped that this is the same corner around which prosperity sat in 1930-31.

INSIDE DOPE . . . In strictly off-the-record discussion—with nobody willing to be quoted—the inside information is that the U. S. is prepared to go to war with Russia in the event Joe Stalin's armies march into Europe, and this may include an invasion of Yugoslavia by the Russians. Question seems to be if this country would attack Russia if she sent her legions into Tito's territory or wait until she moved deeper into Europe.

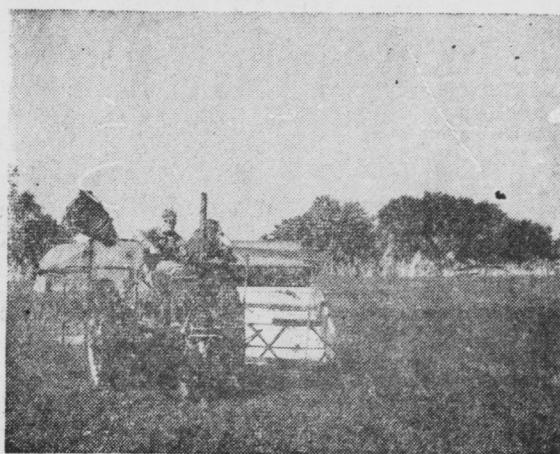
You can hear in Washington on good authority that Uncle Sam is preparing to take over the operation of the English Government and use England as a base of war if there is a European invasion by Russia.

CRISIS GOVERNMENT . . . This column certainly doesn't make a habit of delving into national and international affairs. Nevertheless, we seem to be more world-minded than a decade ago in this State and we are certainly much closer to Washington.

Now it is difficult to decide whether all this war talk is being pushed at this time as a part of the crisis-upon-crisis approach to which we are becoming more or less accustomed or whether the danger of war is really as close to us as the operators of our National Government would have us believe. A lot of it may subside after the elections this fall. When there is war or danger of war, the Government is free to spend and spend and is master of the people . . . and the voters, being fearful, go along. In days of peace, with no immediate prospect of war, the people object to extravagance in Government. After the Congress has passed the appropriations, you may see a lessening of the war talk.

REPORT 17,000 MORE HIRED WORKERS ON SOUTHERN FARMS

GRASS SEED NEEDED



To conserve the land and balance production, millions of acres are coming out of wheat, cotton, corn and other crops in the next few years. But to conserve the land it must be seeded to grasses and legumes, and not enough seed is being harvested. Here a farmer is harvesting grass seed. Practices to stimulate grass and legume seed production are being stressed in the 1950 Agricultural Conservation Program.

WASHINGTON — There were 17,000 more hired workers on farms of the South during the latter part of November than during the same period a year ago, says the farm labor report issued last week by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The gain was shown in the West South Central states — Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas—where 286,000 hired workers were employed. Cotton picking in the region was about over, except in the western part of Oklahoma and Texas, flax seeding and truck crop operation were on schedule.

In Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee, farmers were finishing up their harvest of cotton and corn. Considerable farm labor was employed in Tennessee and Kentucky to strip and market tobacco.

Twenty-two Virginia colored 4H boys and girls won awards this year in the State wide Home or Market Garden and Truck Crop contest, reports Ross W. Newsome, State agent of Extension Service.

The top winners were: Elvora M. Williams of Greenville county and George D. Scott of Caroline county. Each will receive a \$25 U. S. Savings Bond during the 1950 State Course at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.

New Book On South's Relations Written By Mobile Minister

New York. — The South is at the crossroads, politically economically and socially, and battle lines are forming in the struggle for a new era, according to the Rev. C. C. Coleman of Mobile, Ala., author of a new book on race relations. Entitled, "Patterns of Race Relations in the South," and just published by the Exposition Press of New York, Dr. Coleman's work is a forthright examination of the complex problems of racial discrimination in the South and the solutions to it.

Written informally rather than as a sociological study, "Patterns of Race Relations in the South" represents the opinions and judgments of an able observer, a native of the South, a Negro, who has spent his life battling against

the myth of racial superiority. His book gives provocative insight into the nature of the color line and the sanctions leveled against each other reciprocally by blacks and whites.

"Patterns of Race Relations in the South" concerns itself with analyzing the paternalistic technique and "keeping the Negro in his place"; "Uncle Toms" and Jim Crows; race baiting and race purity.

Dr. Coleman also examines the role of unionism in race relations and economic survival. He covers the mounting tensions in the South, the segregated social order, the factors of education and religion, Southern politics and States' Rightism.

MAKEUP SHOULD NEVER BE PUT ON AN UNWASHED FACE

By HELEN JAMESON

Though old-timers—the ancients and honorables among us—may glorify the good old days of the past, they are willing to acknowledge that wrinkles now come later in life, that the complexion of fine texture is more common than when they were young ladies. Well, why shouldn't it be? We have learned a lot about the effect of nutrition on the skin, the need of the balanced diet. Women have taken up outdoor sports. Physical education is a popular and an interesting subject. The daily bath has become an institution. All these matters contribute toward health, and health is the foundation upon which the temple of beauty is built.

Cosmetics have played an important part. We know that beauty magic doesn't come in jars and bottles, that an old face cannot be rejuvenated over night. But we realize that soothing creams keep the skin soft, smooth, free of certain blemishes. Nature provides sebaceous glands for the purpose of lubricating the epidermal covering, but these glands often go on strike—due usually to lack of fat in the diet—so oily toiletries supply the need. They should be applied freely, especially in the winter season when cold winds bring a chapped condition.

No matter whether the skin is dry or oily, powder, rouge and lipstick should be removed with a thin cream. After that the face should have a thorough renovating with warm water and a bland soap. A few quick swishes with a wash-cloth are not enough.

There should be rinsing with warm water, and every bit of lather must be removed. A cold rinsing following the warm one will bring a pleasing reaction of the blood streams that is good for the functioning of the glands, and keeps tissues from softening. It will contract enlarged pores if they are present. Drying should be gentle, a soft towel being used in preference to a coarse one.

As an insurance against wrinkles—and premature ones may come early if the skin is thin and delicate—a heavy massage cream should be used after the bedtime

SIGNIFICANT . . . Crisis Government or not, it is significant that North Carolina and other states last week started laying plans for a civilian defense program against atomic attack. Several members of the Council of State, including Attorney General Harry McMullan, State Auditor Henry L. Bridges, and Secretary of State Thad Eure were in Washington last Wednesday and Thursday getting advice on civilian defense plans which will be carried forward on a voluntary basis until the Legislature can make further provision next year.

laying. These toiletries are different from ordinary cold cream that offers no resistance to the manipulations of the fingertips. Nearly all contain lanoline, which is soothing and healing.

It is not necessary to use soap in the morning. By that time the flesh has lapped up the cream. A tepid or cold rinse will suffice. If the skin is inclined to be dry, rub in an oily cosmetic, remove it with tissues and you are ready to play with the make-up kit.

Make-up should never be put on an unwashed skin surface. That practice breeds blackheads.

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