

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER (Published Every Evening and Sunday) Editor and Publisher: Alton F. Baker...

Assembly, World Council of Churches

(Editor's Note: The following article is submitted by the Oregon Council of Churches and prepared by Robert S. Bilheimer, executive secretary of the Interseminary Movement, secretary of the U. S. ecumenical study committee for the Amsterdam Assembly of the World Council of Churches, and Presbyterian minister from Cedar Manor, New York.)

More than 1400 persons representing 142 Protestant and Greek Orthodox denominations from 42 countries of the world will gather together at Amsterdam, Holland, Sunday for a two weeks' assembly of the World Council of Churches.

Many persons who are qualified to know, feel that this meeting in Amsterdam will be one of the most important events in the history of the mighty Christian Church. Surely the bare facts of the meeting will not call for such an opinion. The meeting is small, it will not vote huge sums of money; it will make no political rearrangements; it may to many hardly seem relevant to the great issues which plague mankind. Yet the judgment is justified, for if God has His way with this first Assembly of the World Council of Churches, vast parts of the Christian Church in the world will be renewed and unified.

One of the powerful contributing factors to the effectiveness of the Assembly is the process of preparatory study which has preceded it. Thirty-seven authors have been chosen, and four volumes have been prepared, but behind these facts stands a long period of intense consultation among the leading minds of the Protestant and Orthodox churches—a consultation which has clarified issues, brought persons closer together, and prepared a solid spiritual and intellectual foundation for genuine advance at the meeting of the Assembly at Amsterdam.

This process has come to be known as that of ecumenical study: a kind of international school, carried on by conferences and correspondence, in which persons from different nations and churches advance a conviction, send it out in an article for criticism, and rewrite the original on the basis of constructive comments.

The ecumenical study leading up to the Assembly of the World Council of Churches has involved exactly this process, over a period of two years. Three meetings of leading Christian thinkers, drawn from different countries and churches, have been convened. First and second drafts, and in some cases third drafts, of the different chapters have been prepared, and subjected to the most intense criticism. In America alone, 500 people have been asked to comment—laymen, clergy, educators, theologians, church executives alike, so that a representative cross section of opinion might be gained.

The whole is thus far more than an interchange among professional theologians. It represents a genuine meeting of minds, not always in agreement, indeed sometimes in the sharpest disagreement. It is part, and a fundamental part, of the painful process by which the disunity with which we are beset is fashioned out into a recognizable unity.

Moreover, the process has helped greatly to clarify issues, and in some cases to locate answers, on the great themes with which the Assembly will be dealing. The general subject of the meeting is "Man's Disorder and God's Design," and the theme of each volume is as follows:

- The Universal Church in God's Design. God's Design and the Church's Witness. The Church and the Disorder of Society. The Church and International Affairs.

The first study—in which the participating Americans are Conrad Bergendoff, Clarence T. Craig, Bishop Angus Dun, Georgia Harkness, John A. Mackay, and H. Richard Niebuhr—goes directly to the Bible for the basis of our thinking about the church; and

though different interpretations appear, it is agreed that our unity is to be found in the Biblical message concerning the church. Moreover, it is clear, especially through the remarkable chapter on new life in the church, that there will be no unity without a great rebirth in the church's life. Beyond this, the ecumenical movement and its organizations, are treated in order to show their relationship to this renewal and this unity.

In the second volume, "God's Design and the Church's Witness," the subject of the evangelistic task of the church is viewed for the first time on a comprehensive, worldwide basis. The unequivocal position of the book is that evangelism, that is, the work of bringing the Gospel to life in the hearts of men the world over, is the first task of the church. The commission is a representative one, in which the Americans are Robert S. Bilheimer, Robert L. Calhoun, Walter M. Horton and Kenneth S. Latourette, and there are different views as to how this Gospel should be stated; but on the question of the evangelistic duty of the Christian there is no doubt. An impressive survey of effective evangelism is at once encouraging and disheartening: there is universal evidence of the hunger of people for faith in God, and in many places people are joining the church by thousands. Yet there is still to be discovered a really significant "break through" by the church into the hardened secularism of our time, nor is there evidence that the church is able to stem the tide of spiritual disintegration in western society which is so ably analyzed in one of the chapters.

The third study of "The Church and the Disorder of Society" is concerned almost exclusively with the prime problem of western society, namely the need to achieve a constructive balance between freedom and order or control in a society which has become almost wholly mechanized. Two brilliant analyses, one particularly indicating the consensus which exists among Christian and secular thinkers alike, states the problem clearly. How may the Christian Church contribute to the achievement of a truly responsible society, in which man is free, but in which the machine and all its benefits are controlled for the common good? A statement of the goal of Christians in this regard is followed by a statement of some of the strategies which may be followed by the church, the whole indicating the chief social issue which must continue to challenge the mind of the church until the key answer is found. These participating in the commission from America are Reinhold Niebuhr, John C. Bennett, F. Ernest Johnson and Bishop William Scarlett.

The fourth study on "The Church and International Affairs" strikes at three points: the overwhelming tension between Russia and the United States; the fundamental importance of religious liberty, and the responsibility which the church has for exerting its ministry of reconciliation within the struggle of international power politics. It is too early yet to indicate the way in which this volume will state the problem, or the recommendations which will stand out from it. More of the process of ecumenical study is needed: drafting, criticism from many nations, redrafting, before the volume is ready for publication. The forthright attack of leading lay-people and clergy—from America John Foster Dulles, O. Frederick Nolde, Reinhold Niebuhr, Bishop Ashton Oldham, Bishop G. Bromley Oxman, F. W. Rennie and Mrs. Leslie E. Swain—on this problem however, particularly in an ecumenical setting, is a source of strong encouragement.

Even this cursory account of some of the major issues which have raised themselves in the total study, indicate that the recurring theme throughout the four books is the renewal and unity of the church. In each book there is a vigorous criticism of the present thought and life of the church; in each also repeated demand for radical renewal. This is undoubtedly the overarching question which the preparatory study will present to the Assembly: can that happen which will bring to the church the new and vigorous life which God is ready to give us?



REV. STERLING SIMONSON breaks ground for the first unit of the Springfield Lutheran parish house and church project at Fourteenth and J Streets. A public block structure is now being built at a cost of about \$20,000 on the 405 by 111-foot site.

Pastors Asked To Workshop

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—A two-day radio workshop for ministers and directors of religious youth centers has been scheduled for September 14 and 15 by KOAC, the state-owned radio station. Invitations have been sent by Rev. Gilbert Christian, executive secretary of the Oregon Council of Churches, to 250 ministers in Oregon towns where there are radio stations.

Dr. Marcotte Chooses Sunday Sermon Topic

Dr. Henry Marcotte, pastor at Central Presbyterian Church, will preach on "The Abundant Life" Sunday at 11 a. m. Patricia Hays will sing "With Verdure Clad" by Mendelssohn. The Genevas and Senior Highs will have a joint meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p. m. Topic, "What Does God Expect of Me?"—leader, Jacqueline Madigan.

Children's Story Hour Offered in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD—Church of God at Fourteenth and D St. has announced a vacation Bible story hour to be conducted for children from Aug. 23 to 27. The program will include singing from 9:30 a. m. to 11:30 a. m., along with learning scripture verses and participation in handicraft classes. Those in charge of the story hour will be Mrs. Herbert Sackett, Mrs. James Lewis, Mrs. Dwight Miller, Mrs. L. Fisher, Mrs. Tom B. Grey, Mrs. Lewis Mills, and Mrs. Richard Burgess. Children between the ages of three and 14 years are invited to attend.

First Congregational

Services at the Congregational Church will be at 11 a. m. Sunday. Rev. Wesley G. Nicholson will preach on "The Christian Individual." The summer girls' choir will sing "Prayer of the Norwegian Child," by Kountz. Joyce Davis, soprano, will sing "O Lord On High," by Mozart. A nursery will be provided for the children. There is no regular Sunday School during the month of August.

McCallums Return

Rev. and Mrs. Hugh McCallum were scheduled to return Saturday from Berkeley, Calif., where Mr. McCallum has been taking a two weeks' refresher course at the Baptist divinity school of religion. Rev. McCallum was to be back in the pulpit of First Christian Church here Sunday.

Emmaus Lutheran

Sunday School and Bible classes will be at 9:45 a. m.; morning worship at 11 a. m. Sermon topic: "Who is My Neighbor?" Sunday school teacher's meeting will be at the home of Andrew Anderson at 8 p. m.

Pioneer Speaks

JUNCTION CITY—Rev. J. J. Gillespie, pioneer evangelist from Salem, will speak at the 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. services of the Church of God here Aug. 22.

Dr. McCall is Guest At First Methodist

The guest minister at First Methodist Church Sunday morning will be Dr. Roy C. McCall, head of the speech department at the University of Oregon. The soloist is Miss Henriette Scholten, who has come to this country from Arnhem, Holland, where she was graduated from teachers' college. For the past year she has been a student at Valparaiso University in Indiana, and she plans to return there this fall. Miss Scholten has just completed work with the International Service Seminar in Eugene under auspices of the American Friends Service Committee.

Sunday School Has Membership Drive

THURSTON — A membership drive between the "Win One Class" and the "Bible Class" of the Thurston Christian Church was begun the past Sunday and is scheduled to run until the annual church "rally day" which is always held during October. Both classes are organizing plans to enlist their community friends, and new people who have recently moved to this area. Leaders of the respective classes state that some type of entertainment is in store for the winning group, but as yet no announcement of the nature of the affair has been given. Sunday School is held each Sunday at 10 a. m., in the Thurston Grade School. Church services, under the direction of Rev. Harold Richards, follow at 11 a. m.

Lutherans to Hear Sermon on Faith

In the Sunday service at Grace Lutheran, which will begin at 11 a. m., the pastor, Rev. W. B. Mier, will speak on the subject, "Salvation by Faith, Not by Works." William O'Leary will sing a special selection. The Lutheran Hour will be broadcast over KORE at 9:30 a. m. Sunday school, with Bible classes for young people and adults, will convene at 9:45 a. m. The Lutheran Laymen's League will meet on Sunday evening, beginning at 8, in the church parlor. Henry Dodge will preside.

Grove Lutheran

COTTAGE GROVE—The Lutheran Church of Cottage Grove will meet for worship at 11 a. m. Sunday. Sunday school will begin at 9:45 a. m. Beginning this Sunday, Aug. 22, services will be held regularly at these hours. Formerly services have been held at 9 a. m. and 10:15 respectively. Services are held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, located on the corner of West Main and North M Streets. The Rev. Richard E. Gross, who was installed as resident pastor during a special service last Sunday, will preach his first sermon as minister of the congregation.

Monroe-Methodist

MONROE—Mrs. Thurman Gordon, the pastor's wife, will have special stories for the children at the Free Methodist Chapel, Carson Hall, this Sunday, Aug. 22, 10 a. m. Rev. Gordon will speak at 11 a. m., and again in the evening at 7:45. Prayer meeting is Thursday evening. The hour has been changed to 8 p. m.

Unity Church

Rev. Cleoda Dawson will speak Sunday morning on the topic "Subconscious Power." Donald Johnson will sing "Benediction" "Lord's Prayer" and "Benediction" by Brown. Mrs. A. F. Holmer will play a selected group of piano numbers.

Church Gets New Pastor

SPRINGFIELD — Rev. Wesley Graves, pastor of the Methodist Church at Willamina, Ore. the past five years, is the new pastor of the Springfield Free Methodist Church.

The new Springfield minister replaces Rev. C. B. Starkey, who has been transferred to the Cottage Grove Methodist Church. Rev. Graves will speak at 11 a. m. Sunday on the sermon theme: "Finding Yourself." Visiting the church this weekend will be the Rev. J. R. Stewart of Salem, conference superintendent of the Oregon Free Methodist Churches. It will be his first visit to Springfield since his recent election as superintendent for the state of Oregon. Rev. Stewart will speak at 7:45 p. m. Sunday.

Meal Features Foreign Food

A typical Guatemalan dinner will spark a missionary-minded evening program planned by members and friends of the Church of the Nazarene, Aug. 26, at 7 p. m., in the Colin Kelly School. The meal will be prepared by a former missionary, Mrs. Eugenia Coates, of Dallas, assisted by two natives, Teresa Castro Juarez and Guillermo Pau. Following the dinner the visitors, dressed in native costume, will present a program of Guatemalan life. The evening will be sponsored jointly by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Teen-Age Missionary Society of the local church.

Baptists to Hear Speakers, Quartet

At the 11 a. m. service, Dr. Vance H. Webster, pastor of First Baptist Church, will bring a message on "Man's Disorder and God's Design," the theme of the World Council of Churches meeting in Amsterdam. This service will be broadcast over radio station KASH. At the 8 p. m. service, Rev. George Hardy, pastor of the Highland Baptist Church in Portland, will be guest speaker. His theme will be "Does God Forgive?" There will be a baptismal service.

Lighthouse Temple

Pastor W. Crawford Jones of Lighthouse Temple will begin a series of sermons Sunday on the general theme "The Holy Spirit." Youth fellowship groups will meet at 6 p. m., and in the evening service at 7:30 the pastor will speak on the subject "Up and Down." At 7:30 p. m. Tuesday he will continue Bible studies on the subject of what God is to His People." The Overcomers, young people's group, will conduct the service Friday evening, and at 2:30 p. m. Saturday the boys' and girls' gospel hour will be held.

MEETING AT HOME

The Willagillespie Baptist Sunday school will meet in the garden of the Truman Chase home during the remaining Sundays in August.

HARD OF HEARING

Come In and See It! NEW MINIATURE SONOTONE "900" Finest "all-in-one" hearing aid ever made. Easy to wear as a wrist watch... Powerful—natural—far more economical.

Sonotone of Portland

RAY VAN LOON, Mgr. 321 Falling Building BE 2611 C. R. ROGERS, Mgr. Eugene Office 309 Hampton Bldg. Eugene Phone 3628

Advertisement for Lighthouse Temple featuring the text 'YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND' and 'LIGHTHOUSE TEMPLE 12th and OLIVE ST. W. CRAWFORD JONES, Pastor'. It lists various services including Sunday School, Morning Worship, and Youth Meetings.



Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, elected a general superintendent of the Methodist Church at the recent conference in Seattle, has been assigned to the Portland area which includes Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Bishop Kennedy will take up his residence in Portland about Oct. 1, after filling a number of speaking engagements in the east and midwest.

Rev. U'Renn Speaks At Dexter Sunday

Rev. P. Crowle-U'Renn will fill the pulpit at the Dexter Baptist Church Sunday, Aug. 22 in the absence of the pastor, Rev. Frank Dobra. Rev. Crowle-U'Renn will preach a sermon entitled, "The Dying Embers on the Hearth," at the morning service.

Monroe-Alpine

MONROE—Theme of meditation for the sermon Sunday, Aug. 22, at the Monroe and Alpine Methodist Churches will be "The Value of the Kingdom of God" (Mat. 13: 44, 45). Worship service at Alpine will be at 11 a. m.; and at Monroe at 8 p. m. Sunday schools meet at 10 a. m. Rev. H. G. Herrmann is the pastor.

Advertisement for VACATION BIBLE STORY HOUR CHURCH OF GOD, 14th and D, Springfield, August 23 Thru 27. It lists singing, moving pictures, and no admission charge.

Advertisement for First Baptist Church, Broadway at High, 11 A. M. Dr. Vance H. Webster will speak on "Man's Disorder and God's Design" (Broadcast over KASH) 8 P. M. Hear Rev. George Hardy of Portland, Oregon speak on "Does God Forgive?" There will be a Baptismal Service 9:45 Bible School 7 P. M. Fellowship Center

Large advertisement for THE UNFAITHFUL SERVANT, a sound motion picture. It features a cartoon character and the text 'IT'S A DATE ON SATURDAY NIGHT' and 'LET'S GO!'.

Oregon Day is Observed at Washington Cathedral Sunday

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The State of Oregon will be honored at Washington Cathedral here Sunday, Aug. 22, when prayers will be offered for the government and the people and particularly for all Oregon men and women who served the nation in time of war. The Very Rev. John W. Suter, dean of the cathedral, indicated many Oregonians would share in the observance of Oregon Day this Sunday. Each state in the union is honored annually at Washington Cathedral in the nation's capital as part of the campaign seeking contributions to complete and maintain the cathedral. In Oregon, Mrs. William Horsfall of Coos Bay is chairman of the cathedral committee. Rev. Suter said completion of the majestic Gothic edifice crowning Mount Saint Alban, highest point in Washington, is dependent upon the support and continuing interest of all the people. He said more persons are becoming associated with Washington Cathedral daily as they submit the names and war records of their servicemen and women for enrollment on its National Roll of Honor.

Bethesda Lutheran

At Bethesda Lutheran Church Sunday school and Bible classes for all ages is at 9:45 a. m. Divine worship with Holy Communion is at 11 a. m. The pastor's sermon theme will be: "The Divine Assurance of Forgiveness." Mr. Carl Petersen will sing a solo. The Luther League will meet in the church parlors at 8 p. m.

Springfield Lutheran

"The Perfection of God" is the title of Pastor Sterling Simonson's sermon Sunday, Aug. 22, with services being temporarily held in the VFW Hall at Springfield. The young married couples' club will meet at 5:30 p. m. Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, 1335 B St., for a potluck supper.

First Christian

The First Christian Church service will be at 11 a. m. Sunday. Pastor Hugh N. McCallum will bring a message on the theme "What Place Has Jesus in Life?" Barbara and Janice Warner will sing the processional hymn, "Under His Wing." Robert Fulton will sing a solo "All's Well" by Del Riego.

At the evening service at 8 Mr. McCallum will speak on the theme "Who Gains the Election?" A trio will be sung by Miriam McCallum Fulton, Vera and Marybeth McCallum.

Sunday school is at 9:45 a. m. for all age groups. Nursery service is provided for both morning services. Junior High Christian Endeavor meets at 6 p. m. at the church with Peter Webster leading the group; High School Endeavor will meet in the annex at 8:30 p. m. and the Town and Campus group meets in the White Room at 8:30 p. m. Mid-week service is Wednesday at 7:45 in the White Room, continuing the study of the prophets.