

U.S. Church Tax Exemptions Questioned by Church Official

United Press International Washington (UPI)—Should U. S. churches voluntarily give up some of the tax exemptions they now enjoy? The very idea may sound like heresy to hard-pressed church boards struggling with red-ink budgets. But the question has been raised by a man who can hardly be called irreligious or unspiritual.

He is the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian church and past president of the National Council of Churches.

Writing in the Protestant journal *Christianity Today*, Dr. Blake warns that American churches will jeopardize their future effectiveness if they cling indefinitely to their present tax exemptions.

Tax Degree Bothers

He does not argue—as some people do—that any special tax treatment of churches is a violation of the constitutional principle which forbids an establishment of religion. On the contrary, he points out that the courts have often upheld the government's legal right to encourage "socially desirable undertakings" through tax policies favorable to such institutions as hospitals, schools and churches.

It is the degree of tax exemption now accorded to churches that bothers Dr. Blake.

"Tax exemptions which are proper when churches are small, poor and weak may have highly unfortunate results to the churches and to society when the churches have grown large and rich," he says.

U. S. churches are now exempt from all property and income taxes. A recent act of Congress exempts them from paying federal excise taxes on purchases. Moreover—and this is of particular concern to Dr. Blake—churches may own and operate profit-making businesses without having to pay the 52 per cent corporate income tax levied on private firms.

Fears Ecclesiastical Control

If churches exploit all of these tax advantages to the full, Dr. Blake says, "it is not unreasonable to prophesy"

Interim Pastor to Give Final Sermon

The Rev. Walter C. Morris, interim pastor at First Church of the Nazarene, 520 North Holly st., will be giving his final sermons for his term Sunday.

The morning message, which is broadcast over station KDOV, will be "The Pattern of Faith." The evening message, a missionary sermon, will be "The Three Cries of India."

Mr. and Mrs. Morris spent many years in India as missionaries before returning to the United States as pastors in a number of churches here. Mr. Morris has served as assistant pastor at First Church for the past two summers, and serving as interim pastor the past six weeks.

The Rev. Harold M. Sanner will arrive to serve as pastor of First Church on Sept. 6.

Pastor Continues Series of Messages

The Rev. James Neely, pastor of First Baptist church, will continue in a series of messages from the book of I John at the 11 a. m. worship service Sunday.

He will also deliver the message at the 7:45 a. m. gospel hour. Music will be included at both services with Miss Sonja Peterson playing a piano selection for the offertory at the morning worship hour.

Young people of the high school Baptist League under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Olive Smith will have charge of the service at the First Baptist church, Ashland, Sunday at 7:30 p. m. A play and gospel message will be presented.

St. Luke's Church Plans Sunday Dinner

"Where Mirth Comes to Birth" is to be the topic of the sermon preached by the Rev. Melvin Dixon, pastor at St. Luke's Methodist church, 2940 Siskiyou blvd. Both the morning worship service and Sunday school classes for children and youth divisions are held at 9:30 a. m. and will continue on this schedule through Sept. 14.

The public is invited to all its services.

Sunday noon, the congregation of St. Luke's will hold a potluck dinner at the south portion of Hawthorne park. Participants are to take their own tableware, a hot dish, salad or dessert.

that a large portion of the nation's wealth could come under ecclesiastical control with their next century.

Least any churchman feel complacent about this prospect, Dr. Blake cites the clear lesson of history:

"A government with mounting tax problems cannot be expected to keep its hands off the wealth of a rich church forever."

But the long-range danger of government expropriation is not the only reason why

American churches should be leery of accumulating too much wealth. As European churches have learned to their sorrow, it is very difficult "to make a poor man love a rich church."

"I suggest that already in the United States there are discernible signs of a growing anti-church feeling, not yet developed into full blown anti-clericalism, which will increase rather than decrease as the years go on," Dr. Blake said.

Valley Presbyterians Tell Sunday Speakers, Events

Ross Kinsler, summer student assistant from Princeton Theological Seminary, will preach at both the 9:30 and 11 a. m. services at the First Presbyterian church Sunday.

He will be assisted by Dick Corum and Norman Gallucci who will read the scripture selections and lead the responsive reading. Both of these young men are preparing for the Christian ministry. The subject of Mr. Kinsler's sermon will be "The Mission of the Church."

The Geneva choir will sing, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," words by Charles Wesley, at both services and Linda Jo Waltermire, soprano, will sing, "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains."

Junior High Fellowship will meet at the church Sunday at 5 p. m. for a filmstrip and discussion on "What is the Mission of our Church?" led by Joel Gregory. There will be recreation and worship preceding the program. Refreshments will be served.

Westminster Fellowship for senior high young people will meet at the church at 7 p. m. Sunday for worship and a program, "Do You Think for Yourself?" The program will be led by Dr. Roland H. Mayer. Fireside will follow at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Leonard B. Mayfield, 1 Black Oak dr.

WF Youth night will be held at the church Wednesday at 8 p. m. There will be a potluck supper, Bible study—beginning Paul's letter to the Romans—and choir practice at 7:15 p. m.

Geneva Fellowship welcomes the graduated high school seniors into their group Sunday at 7 p. m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Flanagan. There will be recreation, fellowship, refreshments. The topic for discussion will be, "Are You Fit to Be Tied?" led by Billie Wood and Ross Kinsler.

Thursday Geneva Fellowship continues the study of the Gospel of John after a potluck supper at 6:30 p. m.

Dr. West will continue the discussion of the Gospel of Mark at the Wednesday Prayer Fellowship at 7:30 p. m.

Jacksonville—Saturday at 6:30 p. m. church fellowship night will be held by members of First Presbyterian church, Jacksonville, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Keaveny, Duener lane. A potluck picnic dinner will be served and all friends of the church are invited to attend.

Sunday the Rev. Robert T. Bridge, former pastor of the church, will be guest speaker in the absence of the pastor. His sermon topic will be "The Greatest of All Issues."

He will also speak Sept. 13. During these two weeks Mrs. Bridge will teach the adult Bible class in the sanctuary.

The junior choir will sing "The Lord's Prayer" Sunday as their final selection for the summer.

Thursday at 6:30 p. m. the Westminster Fellowship will meet at the church for its second summer social. From there they will travel to the new Rowl Ann Bowling lanes to bow. The evening will conclude by returning to Jacksonville for refreshments.

Central Point—"Make Up Your Mind," will be the sermon topic of the Rev. Bruce J. Weber, pastor, Sunday at the 11 a. m. worship service at First Presbyterian church, Central Point. Mr. Weber and family returned this week from a month's vacation.

New Members Join Jacksonville Church

Jacksonville—Sunday at 11 a. m. service, new members will be received into the church. A brief report of the business meeting will be given and the new officers will be introduced.

Pastor W. E. Irby will speak on the subject "The Two Ways." At 7:30 p. m. Sunday favorite hymns will be sung. A time of testimonies will be held and a message by the pastor.

Adventist Youth Study Nature During Meeting

Fred D. Wilbur, Rogue River Academy principal, will be guest speaker at the Eagle Point Seventh-day Adventist church during the 11 a. m. worship service Saturday. His subject will be "Take Heed That No Man Deceive You."

F. E. Beverly will speak in the Medford church, and Pastor John Trude will conduct the services at the Valley View church.

Valley Presbyterians Tell Sunday Speakers, Events

Young people from the Medford, Eagle Point and Valley View churches met together in Tou Velle park last Saturday afternoon for Missionary Volunteer services. Under the direction of Mrs. William Lea, Valley View MV leader, the group sang a number of gospel melodies.

Various members of the group read passages of scripture from the Book of Psalms dealing with objects of nature, beginning with the 1st Psalm and ending with the 14th. Following this, Mrs. Lea called upon different ones to point out objects they could see about them, and correlate them with Bible texts. Those present then separated into small groups to look for and identify ten trees, five flowers, five insects, and five birds. They met again to compare their lists, and sing "This is My Father's World" before the benediction, closing an afternoon of learning to know God better through the things of His creation.

There will be no Missionary Volunteer meeting tomorrow.

First Christian Announces Topic

"Are We Responsible For What We Believe," is the title of the sermon which the Rev. William C. Piper will preach at both services at the First Christian church Sunday morning. Mrs. Steven J. Dodge will sing "The Lord Is My Light" at both services.

The Chi Rho Fellowship will meet in the annex at 7 p. m. for study and worship. The Christian Youth Fellowship will meet at 7 p. m. Study leader will be Miss Lynn Ann Latham on the subject "We Are A Christian Fellowship."

High Priest Is Medford Speaker

Elder Jack L. Verhei, a high priest from Portland, will be the speaker Sunday at the 11 a. m. worship service at the Re-Organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Tenth and Ivy sts.

Elder Verhei is a past district president of the northern district for more than 25 years which included the southern district until it was organized in 1952. Due to illness he had to leave this position but has remained active in district work.

Evening Services at Gold Hill Church

Gold Hill—Worship service will be held each week at the Gold Hill Community Methodist church beginning Sunday, at 7:30 p. m.

The regular morning worship service will be held at the usual time, 11 a. m.

The Rev. James F. Eubanks will give both sermons. Mr. Eubanks and his family are attending pastor's school, Stockton, Calif., where he had been attending pastor's school, Allen Hill, Central Point was guest speaker at the local church during the absence of Mr. Eubanks the past four Sundays.

Guest Speaker at Community Church

Wimer—Leonard Eilers, former Wyoming cowboy, will speak Sunday evening at Wimer Community church. He will also speak each evening at the church through Sept. 5.

Mr. Eilers, who also appeared in movies, conducts meetings featuring his educated ropes and favorite hymns which he plays on harmonica and guitar.

The public is invited to attend.

Associate Minister To Speak Sunday

John Heberling, associate minister of Santa Rosa Christian church, will be the speaker at Central Avenue Church of Christ, 608 North Central ave., Sunday. Mr. Heberling is a former resident of the Rogue River valley and a graduate of San Jose Bible college.

The sermon topic for the morning service will be "The Church—What's It For, and Will It Work?"

Mrs. Harry Hansen and Mrs. Carl Hoover will sing "Have I Done My Best for Jesus?"

The sermon topic for Sunday evangelistic service at 7:15 p. m., will be "The God of Challenge."

SERMON TOPIC

"A Remarkable Scene" will be the sermon topic Sunday at Ascension Lutheran church at 10:30 a. m. The speaker will be the Rev. Elvin S. Tollefson.

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2 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Friday, Aug. 28, 1959

1957 Award of Merit Winner

CHURCH NEWS

National Religious Publicity Council

Klamath Stake Conference Scheduled This Week End

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will head addresses by two prominent church leaders at the Klamath Stake conference Sunday, Aug. 30, at the Medford High school auditorium.

Each of the nearly 300 stakes or regional divisions of the church, holds a conference four times yearly. Speakers will report on the expanding missions of the church here and abroad, and give counsel concerning the youth program, priesthood quorums, relief society and welfare programs.

Also scheduled during the conference is a meeting of Stake Mutual Improvement Association, the church youth, which will be held Sunday at 5:30 p. m. at the local church, 648 South Ivy st.

General conference for the church will be held in Salt Lake City's historic Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 9 through 11.

Ashland Minister To Wyoming Church

Ashland—The Rev. Fred Plocher, Ashland, has accepted a call to the pastorate of Union Congregational church, Green River, Wyo.

Aug. 30 will be Mr. Plocher's last Sunday as minister of the Congregational church, Ashland, concluding a pastorate begun more than seven years ago on June 1, 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. Plocher and children, Deborah, David and Sarah, will move to Wyoming next week, after a brief visit in Portland with Mrs. Plocher's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Braun.

Rogue Valley Christian School To Open Sept. 8

Ashland—The Rogue Valley Christian school will open Sept. 8 in Ashland at the Faith Tabernacle. Registration will be held Sept. 4.

School sessions are held daily from 9 a. m. until 3:30 p. m. for grades kindergarten through ninth. The interdenominational school is a member of the national association of Christian schools.

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SPEAKER—Capt. De Vere, Baker, who crossed the Pacific Ocean on the raft Lehi IV, will speak tonight at 8 o'clock at the Medford High school auditorium.

Captain Baker will explain the object and results of his voyage. The talk is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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