

Aug/Sept 1986



SALEM SPEAKS

PROPERTY OF
URBANA FREE LIBRARY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
by: Rev. Claude E. Shelby, Sr.



I would like to share a few words with you about our recently convened Baptist General State Convention which met in its Annual Session, June 2-6, 1986, with the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Joliet, Illinois. Dr. Clayborn Salter is president and Dr. Isaac Singleton was host pastor. The Convention theme was, "Developing Christian Leaders For Contemporary Times," based on Ephesians 4:11-15.

Dr. Salter is attempting to lead our convention to higher heights through spiritual and economic means. He is a strong believer in progress. In a recent article on "Climbing Out of the Trenches of Tradition," Dr. Salter made it very clear to us that he is determined to press forward toward that end. He stated that:

(continued)

1. Climbing signifies effort, even sacrifice, determination on the part of the climber. Also climbing means one is going somewhere. It further implies the climber is dissatisfied with the status quo.

2. Out means getting away from the center, making progress, leaving the normal to the above normal.

3. Trenches mean fenced in by the narrow channels of circumstances and myths of many of our predecessors who would have us to believe that this is the way things have to be and we have adjusted to the state of complacency and become satisfied with things as they are, and not as they can be. No child of God needs to be satisfied with less than the best.

4. Tradition is the passing down of those elements of culture from generation to generation, a body of unwritten religious precepts and practices of those who preceded us. Traditions are not always a threat to progress, but only when they are outmoded or have become obsolete. We must be wise enough to examine them (traditions) in the light of the times in which we live and discard those that retard our progress and hold on to those that help us to reach our goals.

It is not necessary to crawl when you can walk, or beg when you can buy. I realize that to climb is costly and calls for the best that is in us. Always remember that things of value usually are costly. It is easy to settle down to the life of the trenches and be satisfied, but if you fail to try, you may lose your ability to climb. Sure it is not always easy to free ones self from the shackles of tradition, but if we as a Convention would reach our potential, we must climb out of the trenches of tradition and move on up the highway of greatness."

(continued - page 3)

YOUTH

SALEM'S ANNUAL YOUTH DAY

Salem's youth department celebrated their day with the theme: "Youth On the Move For Christ." The guest speaker for the morning worship service was Glen Perkins, an associate minister at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Champaign. Perkins delivered an inspirational message directed at the youth, encouraging them to "always come home," using as an example the parable of the prodigal son.

The youth did an excellent job, being in charge of the worship service; and returned in the afternoon for a well-planned and uplifting celebration in song. They used as their theme song, "Walk Not After The Flesh;" and were joined by youth from Freewill Baptist Church, and Northside Church of Christ. Overall, it was a glorious day for the young people, as well as the adults in attendance.

YOUTH AT THE CROSSROAD

(dedicated to our youth)

He stood at the crossroad all alone, the sun rose in his face; he had little hope of a world unknown, he was set for a manly race.

But the road stretched east and the road stretched west; and the youth didn't know which road was best. So, he took the wrong road and went down, down, down. He lost the race and the victor's crown; because no one stood at the crossroad there to show him a better road.

Another day, in the self-same place, a youth with high hope stood. He, too, was set for a noble race, and sought the things that are good. But, one was there who the road did know, and kindly showed him the way to go. Today he walks the highway fair, because someone stood at the crossroad there to show him a better road.

Please submit your favorite Bible verses, poems, quotes, or writings of your own to Jeanette Goines, editor, throughout the year. These items will be printed as space permits. Thank you.

"We love him,
because he first loved us"
(1 John 4:19).

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

(submitted by: L.T. Tinsley)

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago, when I saw a sign that read: "Heaven's Grocery Store". As I got a little closer the door came open wide, and when I came to myself, I was standing inside. I saw a host of Angels; they were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket, and said, "My child, shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store, and all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.

First, I got some patience, and love was in the same row, and on further down was understanding, you need that everywhere you go.

So, I got a box of wisdom and a bag or two of faith; and I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, for it was all over the place.

I shopped to get some strength and courage, to help me run this race. By then, my basket was getting full, but I remembered that I needed some grace. I didn't forget salvation, for salvation there was free, so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought that I had everything to do my Master's will; but as I went on up the aisle, I happened to see prayer. I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside I would run right back into sin!

Peace and joy was plentiful, they were on the last shelf. Songs and praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself. Then I said to the Angel, "how much do I owe?" He just smiled and said; "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I looked at him and said: "How much do I really owe?" He smiled at me again and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

We can see that President Salter means business, and is determined to move ahead with our new direction.

I believe that we as a church could benefit from those things shared with us by Dr. Salter. For, we too can get bogged down in tradition and fail to move forward as our Christian responsibility demands.

I was awestruck by the imposing new structure that was built mostly by the members of Mt. Zion church. This beautiful new education and all-purpose building is something to behold. I have asked that our building committee and our brotherhood plan a trip to Joliet. Not that we are desiring to build what they have built, but for us to see what great things can be done by collective efforts of a congregation.

WHY I GIVE THROUGH THE CHURCH

BECAUSE everything I have comes from God, and by giving a tithe of my income to Him, I thus acknowledge His ownership and my stewardship;

BECAUSE the church is the best institution I know through which my money can most profitably be used to extend Christ's kingdom.

BECAUSE when I joined the church, I promised to support it, and I want to make that promise good;

BECAUSE making a pledge and fulfilling it regularly reminds me constantly that I have a definite and important share in the ministry of Christ;

BECAUSE the missionary, relief, and educational agencies of my church have no source of support other than the gifts of church members;

BECAUSE I am not willing to accept the benefits of the church without contributing to its work; and

BECAUSE tithing my income helps me keep from growing selfish and indifferent.

Share the Vision

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will; when the road you're trudging seems all up-hill; when the funds are low and the debts are high; and you want to smile, but you have to sigh; when care is pressing you down a bit; rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns, as every one of us sometimes learns; and many a failure turns about, when he might have won had he stuck it out.

Don't give up, though the pace seems slow, you may succeed with another blow. Success is failure turned inside-out — the silver tint of the clouds of doubt; and you never can tell just how close you are. It may be near when it seems so far.

So, stick to the fight, when you are hardest hit; it's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



"OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN"

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in. As much as possible, we should visit, call, and send cards, to help cheer those who are unable to join us in our worship service. Above all, pray; God is a healer, and He does answer prayer!

Bro. George Bigham - 310 E. Park, Champaign

Bro. Theotto Bowles - 411 W. Maple, Champaign

Sis. Luvata Bowles - 411 W. Maple, Champaign

Sis. Alberta Crenshaw - 1101 N. Sixth, Champaign

Bro. Frank Hendricks - 1908 Joanne Lane, Champaign

Sis. Rosie Williams - 1210 Crispus Drive, Champaign

Sis. Mary McKinley - Nursing Health Care Center, Urbana

Sis. Louise McKinley - Nursing Health Care Center, Urbana

Sis. Edna Johnson - Greenbrier Nursing Center, Champaign



SALEM'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Listed below are a few events coming up at Salem. Watch your weekly bulletin for more details.

Salem's Annual Church Picnic - Saturday, August 30, 1986. The picnic will be held at the Lake of the Woods, Mahomet.

Trip to St. Louis - Pastor Shelby, choirs and congregation have been invited to worship at the New Sunny Mount Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO, Sunday, September 21st at 3:30 p.m. If you are planning to go, please give your name to Deacon Herrington, as soon as possible. The cost for the trip is \$15 per person.

Pastor Shelby's 6th Anniversary - Salem will celebrate our Pastor's anniversary, Sunday, September 28, 1986. Dr. E. Stanley Howlett, St. Louis, will be our guest.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The important thing in the olympic games is not to win, but to take part. The most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to conquer, but to have fought well."

(from the Olympic Creed)

by: Baron Pierre de Coubertin

IN MEMORY OF

(submitted by: Lydia Wilson)

Madge C. Jones Upshaw, 96, of Metropolis, formerly of Champaign, died April 28, 1986. She was the wife of Salem's former pastor, Rev. Dabney Jones. Funeral services were held at the First Missionary Baptist Church, Metropolis, the Rev. A.E. Hollin officiating; burial was at the Masonic Cemetery, Metropolis. Mrs. Upshaw was born in 1889, at Salem, Kentucky, a daughter of William and India Litton Pippin.

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor

Claude E. Shelby, Sr.
Jeanette Goines

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
500 East Park Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
PERMIT NO. 802

Urbana Free Library
201 South Race Street
Urbana, IL 61801

disc