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the
PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL

Advocating continuation of a Presbyterian Church loyal to Scripture and the Reformed faith

What You Believe Matters

A man becomes what he believes. Character is fashioned largely by belief. Right belief makes for a right life. Wrong belief makes for a wrong life.

Several years ago a business man sent out a letter to thousands of people. It had nothing to do with business, with stock market trends, or with any other related subject; it related to religion. This man deplored the modern day changes in the religious habits of people, and he was making a plea for people to return to church attendance, family worship, and observance of the Lord's Day.

He went on to say, "I am not defending the old time theology of my boyhood. I am only appealing for the old time religious habits."

What he had to say sounds awfully pious, but the mistake he made was enormous. He would have old-fashioned godliness without old-fashioned belief. But you can't have people sound in their life and sound in their practice until they are sound in what they believe regarding God and Christian truth.

—Bruce Wideman
(See p. 7)

S. S. LESSON AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 5

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ANOTHER ABOUT ANGELA

As a commissioner to the 183rd General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, held recently in Rochester, N. Y., I was one of those who voted with the solid majority to "convey to the Council on Church and Race (which had made the \$10,000 allocation to the Angela Davis defense fund) our serious questions concerning the propriety

of the allocation."

I think your readers should realize that this was in effect a rebuke to that Council. And moreover, it was the first time in perhaps 50 years that one of our Assemblies had administered such a slap on the wrist to one of its own committees.

Despite frenetic attempts by our moderator and stated clerk to whitewash the Council and to justify

its action, it is clear to the overwhelming majority of United Presbyterians that our Council on Church and Race goofed badly. And further, one of the "serious questions" in the minds of many of us commissioners is this: What kind of muddled thinking led to the decision to give \$10,000 of the Lord's money to the defense of a self-confessed Communist, who is therefore by definition an enemy of God as well as of our country?! It is that kind of thinking, and acting, on the part of some denominational leaders, that has led to a growing loss of confidence in them all across the Church.

Last year we had a net membership loss of 77,000 and again a decline in General Mission giving — predictions are being made that this year the net membership loss may exceed 100,000 and General Mission giving may be cut by as much as \$10 million! Some of us are wondering what it will take to make our denominational leaders wake up.

—(Rev.) William T. Strong
Los Angeles, Calif.

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THIS WEEK—

Vol. XXX, No. 16, August 18, 1971

Beliefs Do Matter	7
Salvation, as well as daily conduct, is determined by what one believes	By Bruce Wideman
Man In Tension	9
Christian and nonbeliever alike experience within them the pull and tug of right and wrong	By Robert Strong
Third Century Liberals	11
By Tertullian	
Departments—	
Editorials	12
A Layman and his Church	13
Sunday School Lesson, September 5	14
Youth Program, September 5	16
Book Reviews	17

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THIS AND THAT

The recent article by Walter R. Courtenay, "Getting Ready For the Unknown," was excellent. As an elected office holder in an urban area I can confirm the author's statement that Pandora's box has been reopened, and the forces which crippled men and shut up forever those which heal appear and have been released.

In addition, I can attest to his allegation that we create special programs for those who fail and thus in many cases irresponsibility without stressing positive characteristics such as integrity, industriousness, self-sacrifice, and dependability. America is in dire need of a spiritual and moral revival.

—Gary F. Stella
Peoria, Ill.

MINISTERS

Stephen E. Balogh, received from the United Church of Christ, to the Magyar church, Lakeland, Fla.
James Richard Blandau, former missionary to Taiwan, to the Mt. Pleasant church, Harrodsburg, Ky.
James B. Sherwood from Delray Beach, Fla., to the Westminster church, Atlanta, Ga., as assistant pastor.

JOHN CALVIN, ed. by John Dillenberger. Doubleday & Co., New York, N. Y. 590 pp. \$2.45. Reviewed by the Rev. William C. Robinson, Decatur, Ga.

First, the editor gives a clear account of Calvin's life. An interesting judgment here is that Calvin became pastor in Geneva "through some ceremony which qualified him as ordained." I incline toward this opinion, but most scholars leave unanswered the question of Calvin's ordination. Fundamental for Calvin are the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

Selections of Calvin's writings included are man and his life, reform, the Geneva Church, and the Institutes. In such examples of exposition there are always problems as to which to include and which to omit. I miss Calvin's magnificent summary of how we owe everything to Jesus Christ (from the second book) and his brief opening chapter of the third book of the Institutes on the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

By all means get this book, teach it to your young people, and let Calvin's clarity and conciseness lead the oncoming generation. ☐

THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF DEATH, by Gladys Hunt. Zondervan Publ. House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 117 pp. \$3.50. Reviewed by the Rev. R. Jefferson Coker Jr., pastor, Royal Oak Presbyterian Church, Marion, Va.

Here is a refreshing book based on the premise that "death, though never pleasant, can be triumphant for the Christian." Mrs. Hunt shares heartfelt convictions based on her own perceptive and understanding experience along with the experience of others.

She treats the subjects of triumph, deliverance, grief and sympathy as they relate to death. In a most unique way, this book helps to prepare one to meet death, whether it be his own or that of a loved one. The author stated the matter perfectly when she said, "The Christian way of death is linked up with the Christian way to live. Life and death are a package. The solution for the first is the grand hope for the second."

"Your reaction to death will be conditioned by your reaction to God. Those who are afraid of God are most fearful of death. Those who know Him well seem to welcome the opportunity of being with Him. That's the dimension that transforms death — knowing God."

This is a fresh treatment of a subject that has troubled man since the beginning of time. It is easy to read in style and vocabulary, and the contents will be encouraging and strengthening to the faith of every believer. ☐

BIOLOGY: A SEARCH FOR ORDER IN COMPLEXITY, by the Creation Research Society. Zondervan Publ. House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 576 pp. \$7.95. Reviewed by the Rev. R. Eugene Hunt, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, Ala.

This high school biology textbook was developed by The Creation Research Society, which has as its president a man well known in evangelical circles, Dr. Henry M. Morris.

Truly, this is an answer to the prayers of many people. Many Christians have been greatly disturbed over the fact that the majority of modern biologists prefer the evolutionary philosophy or origins as the explanation of the factual data of biology. In fact, many biologists today are so confident in this position that it is taught as a fact of science. This is seen in that

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