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he PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL

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

Listen to Faith Speak

Faith listens neither to despair, nor to cowardice, nor to precipitancy, nor to presumption, but it hears God say, "Stand still," and immovable as a rock it stands. Stand still, keep the posture of an upright man, ready and prepared for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice. It will not be long—maybe tomorrow, or next month, or next year—before God shall say to us, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "Go forward." Dear brothers in Christ, then we shall march forward toward God's destiny for us, clothed with His blessing and armed with His power.

—W. Jack Williamson
(See p. 7)

S. S. LESSON AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 8

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MAILBAG

WE MISS OUR SHARE

Regarding John S. Jennings' article, "The Silent Majority," (July 26 *Journal*) I agree with the motivating content of his article but not with every point of his theology.

He says because we are silent, "thousands upon thousands of people are dying without Christ." He also says, "1,424 Presbyterian US

congregations did not receive a single person on profession of faith."

Shame on our Church for sure! But let's not be un-Biblical and confine to hell all the folks we did not witness to. Let's just say the Presbyterians missed their share of the harvest. That's why the Baptists have 13 million members and we have one million. That's why God

has raised up the likes of Campus Crusade, Young Life, Navigators, the Billy Graham organization, and others, to reap the harvest of this generation.

God is still sovereign. Ephesians 1 is still in effect. God's will will be done on earth as 'tis in heaven. If Presbyterians won't do it, God will find somebody else who will. But those who are ordained to eternal life will find it!

It's just a shame we missed our share, though!

—(Rev.) Michael G. DiPalma
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

the PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL

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OFF THE SINKING SHIP

The editorial, "Parable of a Sinking Ship," in the August 23 *Journal*, is a masterpiece of wisdom. But may I venture a few words of corroboration from my 50 years of churchmanship?

Launching the lifeboats is going to take a while. In the meantime, if you are now in a liberal church jump overboard—even in shark-infested waters!

Beware of a liberal minister who says in his first message to a new charge (or at any other time):

"I do not believe in the virgin birth; I do not believe in angels. Jesus, by his own admission, was a social drinker; an angel did not remove Peter from prison, a courageous man did it; I do not believe there was an angel Gabriel; the resurrection cannot be proved."

That minister is not going to change with the passing years, but you are going to become sick and angry if you stay with him.

Angry with yourself because you did not jump overboard, even in shark-infested waters.

—Wilbert Edwards
Tyler, Texas

THIS AND THAT

I have just finished reading Mr. M. P. Niven's article (*Journal*, August 2) in reply to Dr. Albert Winn's speech before the General Assembly on Vietnam.

I would like to thank Mr. Niven for speaking out in behalf of our leaders who are trying for peace with honor, in bringing this Vietnam War to an end.

It is very unfortunate that we have folks like Dr. Winn, Jane Fonda and others giving encouragement to Hanoi.

—Mrs. Edmond V. Johnston
Huntington, W. Va.

The Living God Is the Blessed Trinity



THE LAYMAN AND HIS CHURCH

In His gracious intervention for our salvation, the living God revealed himself as the Father who hears, the Son who shares, and the Spirit who cares for us. The apostolic benediction pronounces a three-fold blessing: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (II Cor. 13-14).

In one of the most solemn of His recorded utterances, our Lord commissioned His disciples to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). In creed, catechism and confession, His Church has constantly professed the triune God. In doxology and gloria patri, the Church has worshiped "God in three persons, blessed Trinity."

The mystery of the Trinity presupposes an eternal life of love in the being of God. To share this fellowship of love, the Son became the man for others in His life of loving obedience, in His death for our sins, in His resurrection for our justification, in His ascension for our intercession. The Holy Spirit was given to shed abroad the love of God in our hearts.

In *The Doctrine of the Trinity*, Professor Leonard Hodgson phrased the matter thus: "The Trinity of God's self-revelation is no impersonal system of relations between hypostases in an essence; it is the living, loving communion of Father, Son and Spirit into which we are adopted in Christ."

Calvin declared that three marks distinguish the idea of the one only, living and true God from the mere figments of human imagination or speculation. These are His spirituality, His immensity, and His triunity. Thornwell proposed to revise our definition of God so that it would begin, "God is a tripersonal spirit."

A Church committed to a non-trinitarian confession is likely to become a non-trinitarian Church. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will revive in our Church the faith into which we have been baptized. — WILLIAM C. ROBINSON. ☐

• • •
Evangelism has been our shibboleth, whereas it should be our passion. — LEIGHTON FORD.

The Blood Poisoning of Sin

Every human being since Adam has had blood poisoning. Peter, James and John, Paul and Luke, John Wesley and Martin Luther all inherited this poisoned blood, but it killed none of them.

Our catechisms sum up the Biblical teachings about this poisoned blood which is called original sin:

Question: What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind?

Answer: All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.

Question: What is that sinful nature which we inherit from Adam called?

Answer: Original sin.

Only one antitoxin is powerful enough to overcome this poison, although many patent medicines have been offered by modern religionists who claim to have found the cure.

The ointment of humanism was first tried and for a while, this salve covered the poison. Some modernists declared that this was the long sought cure. Everyone felt better when he did whatever he wanted to do.

Then, there was the capsule of the anti-supernaturalists. This drug actually caused blindness which others, because they could not see the truth, claimed cured the blood poison. Finally, some cure-all injections were introduced by the radical ecumenists. Their claim is, as I understand it, "Let everybody get together in one hospital and then nobody will realize anybody is sick."

Satan, the inventor of original sin, was pleased to see all these efforts because he knew that none of them attacked his poison at its weak point. When Adam sinned, he represented all mankind and the only hope was for a second Adam to come along and find a cure. The Lord God provided the second Adam in the person of His Son, Jesus, who was miraculously conceived and, therefore, did not inherit the poisoned blood. His shed blood is so pure

that it can wash away all the poison that original sin produces.

But Satan, assisted by the efforts of humanists, anti-supernaturalists, and radical ecumenists, was able to hide this cure from most men. Through the years, however, a few men have found their way to the house of Dr. Evangelist, an expert in diseases of the blood. This doctor claims he has actually cured blood poisoning. He explains his treatment in this manner:

Instead of the salve called humanism, Dr. Evangelist first applies an old fashioned mustard plaster known as justification. As this "act of God's free grace" soaks into the skin, a war begins inside the patient. The poisoned blood is repelled as "He pardoneth all our sins" enters the veins. "He accepteth us as righteous in His sight" finds its way to the heart, which sends out pure blood to the lungs. The heart is cleansed by "only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone."

The process of healing has started. The second prescription Dr. Evangelist uses, instead of the capsules of anti-supernaturalists, is the miracle drug called adoption. The brain and nervous system are cleared as the war inside continues. "We are received into the number . . . of the Sons of God" is circulated into the capillaries and dissolves the poison deposited there by original sin.

The battle is won but the war goes on. Dr. Evangelist knows the need for preventive medicine so he prescribes a continuing medication called sanctification. This "work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed . . . after the image of God" is a powerful drug which prevents the poisoning of our blood again. It enables us to "die unto sin and live unto righteousness." Our minds and hearts are cleared and cleansed and the most powerful ally in or out of the world comes to join our internal war.

God's Holy Spirit provides us with power. He gives us the capa-

The author of this week's Layman column is John H. Hunter Jr., an elder of York, S. C.

(Continued on p. 18, col. 3)