

Contact

Number 11

August, 1971

SETTLE CALLED TO LEAD PCU



REV. PAUL SETTLE

The Executive Committee of Presbyterian Churchmen United has called the Rev. Paul Settle to be its Executive Secretary. Mr. Settle has accepted and will assume the responsibility of the position Sept. 1, 1971. In welcoming him Dr. Donald Patterson, Chairman of the Committee said:

"Paul Settle needs no introduction to our friends in PCU. He has served effectively as a Minister of Christian Education and has had an enviable record as the pastor of Northside Presbyterian Church in Burlington, North Carolina.

"I am grateful that Paul has answered the call to work on our staff. The opportunities are overwhelming at this time as more and more people look to PCU for leadership. I am confident that Paul's enthusiasm and

commitment to Christ, along with his ability to communicate will stand him in good stead among our friends."

Mr. Settle was born in Charleston, W. Va., and calls St. Albans, W. Va. his hometown. He attended public schools, graduating from St. Albans High School in 1952.

He matriculated in the School of Pre-Medicine at West Virginia University. He transferred to Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C. and graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible. He attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, graduating in 1959 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.

During his college and seminary years, Mr. Settle served a number of churches in West Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama as student pastor and/or youth director.

From seminary he was called to become the Pastor of the Winfield and Pliny Presbyterian Churches in Winfield, and Pliny, West Virginia. He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in July, 1959, by Kanawha Presbytery.

In 1962, he answered the call to become Minister of Education of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, Alabama. Four years later, in 1966, he accepted a similar position at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He came to his present position in 1969.

Published writings include a four-year series "Children's Bible Studies," which appeared in The Presbyterian Journal. Another Journal series, "Catechism Studies," was later published as a paperback book. Settle wrote the Winter, 1969 Sunday School Lessons for the Journal, and has contributed numerous articles and editorials to the Journal, Teach magazine, and The Christian Observer. In September, 1970, The Christian Observer published a major review of the Covenant Life Curriculum done by Mr. Settle.

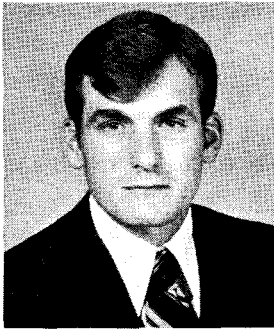
He taught Christian Education at the Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi, in the Winters of 1968 and 1969.

He is married to the former Georgia Lea Brown, of Kentucky, and is the father of two children, Paul David (11) and Jo Lynne (9).

The Future Is Bright

The future of the Church will rest in the hands of young men who have placed themselves under the command of Christ and His Word. We rejoice that a young minister, Mr. Settle, has accepted the executive leadership of PCU and that he is immediately assuming the responsibilities of this office. Statements by several other dynamic young men are published in this issue of "Contact."

—J. E. R.



MR. DAVID BRYSON

Mr. David Bryson completed his college work in 1971 and will begin his Seminary training this fall. He is already a signer of the Declaration of Commitment and a supporter of PCU.

Witness of a Seminarion

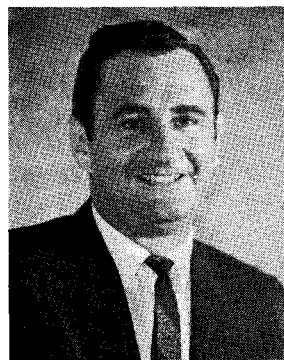
By DAVID BRYSON

Christ is the Head of the Church! Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of our lives! This is the testimony of believers concerning the Church of Jesus Christ. This is the testimony of a certain body of believers from a church in Atlanta, Georgia that attracted me to the claims of Jesus Christ. While growing up I had attended several churches which had no effect at all in changing my life. During this time I searched in most every walk of life to find something to which I could continuously cling. Everything that I tried was temporary and always changed for the worse. I was left in despair.

However, it was because of the testimony of this church that showed me the way. Jesus Christ was presented to me as a living person who could come into MY life as a living reality in every walk of life. Christ is real, and everything He says is true and His Life is evidence to those facts which can not be denied. A lying Jesus does not change lives and a dead Jesus does not live in men's lives.

I thank God for the testimony and stand that the church in Atlanta, Georgia made which changed my life completely. I have learned that the Pastor and Session of this church are signers of the "Declaration of Commitment" and ardent supporters of PCU. It is also my privilege to be a member. I pray God's blessings on churches and organizations such as Presbyterian Churchmen United which holds to the truth and reality of God's Word. It is from these truths that men see the Light.

Dr. D. James Kennedy is pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is one of the original signers of the Declaration of Commitment and in 1971 received 40 per cent of the votes for Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The printed statement is from the preface of his book, "Evangelism Explosion." He was ordained July 21, 1959.



DR. D. JAMES KENNEDY

Evangelism Explosion

By D. JAMES KENNEDY

There is something new in the life of the Christian Church today! It is the "Evangelism Explosion."

In recent years we have heard much about the "population explosion"—the burgeoning of masses of people

at rates hitherto undreamed of. The population has been increasing at a far greater rate than the church. The reason for this is simple. While the world has been multiplying we have been making "additions to the church." It is patently obvious that if the church is adding while the world is multiplying there is no hope of our ever catching up.

The only answer to this dilemma, humanly speaking, is "spiritual multiplication." This involves the laity. In fact, it involves everyone who names the name of Christ.

The Evangelism Explosion is God's answer to the population explosion. Thousands of laymen and ministers, trained and equipped to graciously present the Gospel of Christ, provides the fissionable material. The Holy Spirit working, through the Gospel, which is the dynamite or "dynamite" of God, provides the explosive power, and the result is not chaos but the creation of a vast host of new Christians who are in turn being trained to carry on this spiritual chain reaction.



REV. JOHN OLIVER

The Rev. John Oliver is pastor of the historic First Presbyterian Church of Augusta, Georgia (the PCUS was organized in this church where the first Assembly met). Mr. Oliver is one of the early signers of the Declaration of Commitment and a loyal supporter of PCU. He was ordained August 19, 1962.

Ordination Vows

By JOHN OLIVER

It is the sense of seriousness of our ordination vows that has made many of us ministers in the Presbyterian Church, U. S. sign the Declaration of Commitment and become publicly identified with Presbyterian Churchmen United. With alarming acceptance, new definitions of old words and doctrines are being disseminated today. The historic concept of the resurrection and the atonement, for example, are used both in preaching and writing in ways incongruous with the traditional and scriptural meaning. While our church must always be alert to effective and changing means of communicating the truth of the Gospel, it must nonetheless be unshakeable in its loyalty to the faith once delivered.

The PCU is our concerted testimony of continuing loyalty to the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures and reflected in the Westminster Standards. It is not an archaic or static church that we seek, but one whose power and presentation is apostolic.

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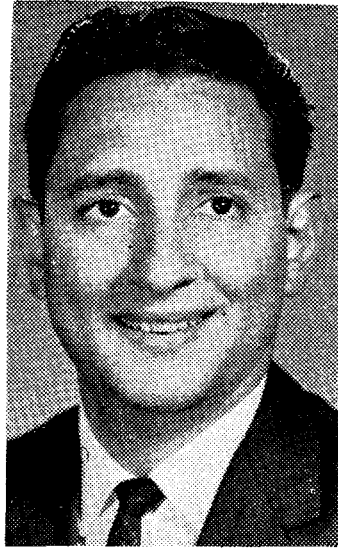
Comments on Separation and Christian Ethics

By MICHAEL BOLUS

The following comments are made as the result of several factors: The Lord's dealings with me on living in an ethic not based on human rationalizations, but on God's Word; the questions which come to me ministering in a time when there is such rampant error in the teachings and practices of the Presbyterian Church; the questions which come to me as a minister from people seeking counsel on how to live pleasing to the Lord in the midst of many complex situations in church, home, community, and business life.

I am quick to note that the following views are not totally crystalized, as the Holy Spirit is always showing me places where I have been in error, places where I have been shallow, places where I have seen but could not verbalize, and places where I have seen aright but need to see more deeply and clearly.

1. I am quick to affirm that God's Word rules the situation, rather than the situation ruling the situation. It seems incontrovertibly true that in Holy Scripture we have been given God's infallible and objective message of authority over our means at arriving upon decisions and acting upon those decisions in a manner which is pleasing to Him.
2. While in this world it is impossible for any believer to escape totally the corruption of sin which infests and affects and influences all strata of society from the home to the government. If one were to withdraw to an island, where no one else lives, one would there immediately have to come to terms with one's own sin.
3. We are admonished of the Lord to maintain a godly witness in the midst of this ungodly world ("be ye holy as I am holy"). We are told be "in the world, yet not of the world" . . . that is, not to be personal participants with the world outside of Christ in its sinful ways of life. This may be through means of omission and commission.
4. It seems that the overall teaching of Scripture is that "separation from ungodliness" does not mean (in every case) an actual physical separation, but chiefly concerns itself with that spiritual separation of life, which may oftentimes then lead to a physical separation. But to make the two synonymous is, I believe, to prove misleading.
5. We are taught of God to maintain a godly personal life, living in daily communication by Bible reading and prayer with Him, thus building the power of the "armor of God" within us to withstand the temptations to spiritual infidelity.
6. While the governments of the world are far from pure, but are in fact, ridden with corruption, we do not turn our back on all power of government. Why? Because God teaches us that governments and their power are ordained of Him . . . that is, they fall under His sovereign Creatorship and Sovereignty. This was spoken of even with reference to the greatly corrupt and evil Roman Empire of Paul's day. We are given a principle which will show us how to live in a society of business and government which denies many of the very ethical standards by which we personally live as servants of Christ.



REV. MICHAEL BOLUS

The Rev. Michael Bolus is the pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Johnson City, Tennessee. The ministry at this church is active and Biblical. Mr. Bolus is a signer of the Declaration of Commitment and a contact leader for PCU. He was ordained July 25, 1965.

7. Sometimes we can confuse our dealings in life in the conflict which exists between the world of "worldly affairs and business" and the world of which we are a part in the Church as the body of Christ. We can erroneously expect the world to order itself by the standards of conduct possible only to those born anew of the Spirit and rightly seen in reality only in the Church. The truth is that those outside of Christ cannot (even through Pharisaism) maintain the same ethical standards, for their foundation and motivation for life does not originate wherein ours does, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. We must realize that there always have been and always will be different standards of conduct for believers in Christ Jesus and non-Christians. It is this very difference shown in our daily personal, social, and business lives which does prove a living witness and is used of God for His glory.
9. Continuing the example of corruption in all areas of government (which is factual, not hypothetical): It is our part as believers to maintain our personal integrity in all dealings, and to uphold that part which is right and good and fight against that which is ungodly. The Holy Spirit is given to us whereby we are equipped to enter this warfare in the reality of prayer, faith, and unimpeachable character. Ours is not just to be a so-called "silent witness," but one which is open, warm, steadfast, and dependable, clearly seen for what it is: a life under the Lordship of Christ. Where attempts are made to touch us personally in corrupt ways, we are to give a testimony for Christ and speak against such efforts, making it clear that we know ourselves first of all answerable to God Almighty whom we know and love and serve.
10. Let us take, for example, the situation of unbelief and ungodly living within the very life of the Church. We are told of God not to look over open sin in the Church (that is, not to give it the approval of silence or inaction). Also, we are cautioned not to be those so foolish as to think we can go into the Church and rid it of all its corruption brought about by unbelief. The Church isn't perfect in this world (that is, it is

not free from the presence of sin). The Lord says that one day in His Judgment He will be the One, and the only One, who will finally separate the "wheat from the chaff." We see through a glass darkly and imperfectly now, but (praise God) we will see perfectly ourselves and others when we see our Savior in heaven.

11. Where the Bible makes it plain, proceed on its authority. Where the Bible does not make it plain, proceed very carefully lest we miss where the final authority lies—with God Himself!
12. If we were to say, "I won't have anything to do with a Church where we have known sin," what we would be doing is to disobey God who commands us to bind ourselves to the visible Church as an evidence of our being joined invisibly by the Spirit to the Lord of the Church. While we are to stand against sin in and out of the Church, we are also to realize that Scripture teaches and experience confirms that there is no perfect body of believers anywhere this side of heaven.
13. I, as a minister of the Gospel, must seek to minister through an imperfect life to imperfect people of a perfect Lord Jesus Christ who promises to declare us perfect in standing now and present us perfect in heaven.
14. I cannot say that I have the right under my calling to remove myself from my congregation or my denomination because there are officers and members who are living in a way which is displeasing to God. To the contrary, this is one of the reasons why God has called me to preach and teach God's Word, trusting the Holy Spirit to take that Word and save the lost and nurture the saved!
15. We must not affiliate ourselves with ungodly alliances, and on the other hand, our refusal to be participants ought not take on itself the character of the old error of monasticism.
16. There is a ground of Spirit-led balance in these situations, and wherein we are led of the Spirit our decisions will produce certain results. All our decisions may not be identical, but they will all produce the

result of gloryfying the Lord of the Church and building our own faith in Him in a manner to be seen in our lives.

17. Where God's Word declares, "Thou Shalt Not," or "Thou Shalt," that is what it means and we had better do it.
 - Thou shalt not steal.
 - Thou shalt not bear false witness.
 - Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all heart, mind, and strength and thy neighbor as thyself.
 - Be filled with the Spirit.
 - You are your brother's keeper.
 - Love your enemies; do good to those who would spitefully use you.
 - Etc.
18. The right ethical decision will:
 - Agree with the teaching of Scripture.
 - Honor the name of Jesus Christ.
 - Be useful in enabling Christ to rule in the totality of one's life.
 - Be useful in witnessing to others of the person of Christ and His claims on our lives.
 - Be useful in edifying the Church, the body of Christ.
19. I can, therefore, ask myself: Will this glorify my Lord both in the vertical dimension of my relationship to Him, and in the horizontal dimension of my relationship (In Him) to others?

Colossians 1:9-13 . . . "For this cause we also, since the day we heard, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joy-fulness; giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us worthy to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His Dear Son!"

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