

One-Sentence Sermonette

People who are late are often so much sicker than the people who have to wait for them.

E. W. Lucas

What's Happening in Your Church This Week

September 15, 1955 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC Page 7

Continental Tour Ends; Pastor Goes To London Conclave

By THE REV. EMIL KONTZ, D.D., Pastor, First Baptist Church

Previous articles in this series reviewed the planning phase of the trip and reported the first stages of the journey. In quick succession the itinerary led through New York, Paris, Geneva, Rome, Naples and Florence, Italy. The story continues now from that point.

Reluctantly we left lovely Florence where the train sped on eastward to the fairy city of Venice or Venezia. We were quite unprepared for the unexpected development which awaited us after we passed through the spacious, modern station.

We headed as usual toward our customary lobbies or cabs. What a delightful surprise to be led down the steps of the station platform to our waiting gondolas! There they were, bobbing up and down on the Grand Canal. People and baggage piled on the gracefully weaving black boats were packed, seemingly effortlessly, through narrow canals to our exclusive hotel.

VENICE IS one of the most unique cities of the world, built over a hundred islands surrounding a vast lagoon just off the northeast coast of Italy. Centuries ago the Venetian merchants and arcades; its stone houses and shops were erected along its 150 canal canals by over 400 bridges.

Being literally out of the sea, it became one of the most powerful maritime republics in the Mediterranean. By gondola we did not consider sightseeing around this fascinating city, and a good deal of walking in the narrow streets behind the canals.

Vivid scenes are those of St. Mark's Square with its graceful cathedral and lofty tower, not to forget its thousands of lame pigeons on the wall at the end of the colorful opera house, conducted by Antal Dorati of Minneapolis; visits to the glassblowers' shops with their extensive display of exquisite crystal creations; evening serenades on the torchlighted Rialto of festooned gondolas; by costumed singers and musicians; out on a broad level of the Grand Canal.

ALL TOO SOON, our train was speeding through the fertile agricultural region of the Po river valley in northern Italy. A brief stopover in Milan afforded us every interesting observation.

This city, rather heavily damaged during the bombings of the late war, has made a remarkable recovery. It is a large, progressive industrial city with a growing number of real skyscrapers, tallest in Europe. It has a bustling downtown area now being rebuilt into a modern metropolitan center.

We visited several of the noted features of the town, the world famous La Scala Opera, with its huge but acoustically perfect auditorium; the anti-spired cathedral of a vast square in the heart of the city. Then we drove to a six-story and topped by a little chapel, almost bombed out during the war, the Chapel della Grazie on the wall at the end of the low chapel one confronts perhaps the most highly treasured masterpiece of art in all the world. The last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci. A hushed silence fell over us as we viewed this faded but still colorful scene of the Upper Room. It recalled the meaningful dictum of Scripture: "He loved His own. He loved them unto the end."

SOON WE WERE on our way again. Evening shadows gathered as we drew into lovely Lucerne, just across the border in Switzerland. Next day we boarded a spacious, glass-topped bus for the "Grand Alpine Express" in Grindelwald. We drove up the majestic, snow-topped Alps, an impressive and humbling experience. On steep, narrow, serpentine roads we wove our way up, then through, and finally down the Furka and Grimm passes. Nearly two miles up in

SUNDAY SERMON TOPICS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

Unity Association
Will hold its first service in its new location, the Birmingham YMCA building, 409 E. Lincoln at 11 a.m. Frank Glabach will speak on "Your Son-of-God Self."

Community Congregational
Dual services begin with worship at 9:30 and 11 a.m., with church school meeting simultaneously. The Rev. John D. Rose is to speak on "The Spirit of Liberty," his text from 1st Corinthians 13: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

First Methodist
The Rev. Arnold F. Runkel, D.D., will speak at both services, his topic being "Ernest Pitches."

Redeemer Lutheran
At the 9:30 and 10:45 services the Rev. Theodore Wagner will speak on "This is the Life," taking his text from John 1:13.

Congregational
The Rev. Robert D. Dewey has for his 11 a.m. topic, "Frees man from the idiom of materialism" will be shown in the sermon "Materialism," his text is I Corinthians 10:14, "My dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."

Christian Science
The fact that understanding the "inner" of man, frees man from the idiom of materialism will be shown in the sermon "Materialism," his text is I Corinthians 10:14, "My dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."

Science Churches Sponsor TV Service
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Birmingham, joins others throughout the country in sponsoring a weekly Christian Science television program.

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11:00 A.M. Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. Sunday Evening Service
7:30 P.M. Wednesday Evening Bible Study
"THE HERALD OF TRUTH"
WXYZ—Each Sunday 1:00-1:30 P.M.

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Sunday Morning Service 9:45 and 11:30
Sunday School 9:45 and 11:30
Infants' Room (in Reading Room) 9:30 and 11:15
Wednesday Evening Meeting 8:15
READING ROOM, 385 East Maple Ave.
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Baptist Groups Open 1955-'56 Schedules

First Baptist women open their fall program with the Mission Circle group meeting Sept. 22. The customary white service will be at 12:30 p.m., and afternoon program.

First Presbyterian
The Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph.D., has chosen to speak on "Religion that Means Business," taking his text from Romans 12:1, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

St. James Resuming Sunday School Hour
A coffee and tea hour is scheduled to follow morning services at St. James Episcopal church each Sunday except the first of the month.

Congo Church Plans First Fall Dinner
First of the all-church dinners and business meetings of Birmingham Congregational church will be held at 11 a.m. in classroom Sept. 22. Dinner at 6:45 p.m. will be served by the Women's Fellowship.

India Experiences Related for Guilds
First Presbyterian church Spain and Elizabeth Trovbridge guilds meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 20, in the social hall.

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Church Units Have Mutual Topic List

Women's Fellowship Circles of Birmingham Congregational church open their fall meetings with Sept. 20-21 programs.

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A coffee and tea hour is scheduled to follow morning services at St. James Episcopal church each Sunday except the first of the month.

Camp Talahi Site Of Youth Retreat
A three-day retreat for junior and senior high members of Birmingham Congregational church is set for Sept. 16-18 at Camp Talahi, near Brighton.

Card Party to Open Fall Social Program
St. Michael's guild, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, card party will be at 8:30 p.m. Sept. 22 in the social hall.

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WSCS Evening Units Cranbrook Church Will Meet Sept. 20

Evening groups of First Methodist Women's Society for Christian Service have set Sept. 20 to open fall activities. All meet at 8 p.m.

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Franklin Community Church

26109 German Mill Road
1 Block East of Franklin Rd.
IDENTICAL MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES - 9:30 and 11:00 A.M.
9:30 a.m. Church School, Grades 4-8
10:45 a.m. Church School Nursery through 3rd Grade
Robert J. Searls, Minister

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE lines

THIS IS THE FIRST in a series of columns written to keep you posted on new and interesting telephone items. Almost every day technical inventions appear on the scene and unusual stories about telephone service come along. We'd like to tell you about them. And then, too, we'd like you to get to know us better and the things we do to make sure that you get the best telephone service in the world.

HAVE YOU HEARD about the new "hands-free" Speakerphone? You can hear and talk to the person at the other end of the line without lifting the handset. It's done with a small microphone and a pint-sized speaker. This isn't just an experimental model. Hundreds of these telephones are in use in offices, hospitals and in homes, too. It only costs \$6.60 a month extra, including federal tax.

HERE'S A QUIZ to try on your family. It's been found that most people guess too high when asked about Long Distance rates. What would you say the rate would be for a three-minute station-to-station call after 6 at night to Indianapolis, Toledo, Chicago, New York, San Francisco? Here's a clue: Did you know that you can call any place in the United States for \$2 or less?

Answers: Indianapolis 70c Toledo 10c Chicago 65c New York \$1.00 San Francisco \$1.90 plus 10% federal tax

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