Bishop Copeland dies

Ministry encompassed world, local levels

HOUSTON (UMN) — Bishop Kenneth W. Copeland, II, president of the Houston Area of the United Methodist Church in Texas-New Mexico area and chairman of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference; appointment of a retired bishop. His appointment to the ro Company that includes members of the Methodist Home, Methodist University, and Martha Memorial services were held Aug. 9 at the First United Methodist Church in Houston, with interment in San Antonio. Bishop Copeland was elected to the Methodist episcopacy in 1965 when he was 67 years old. He served as pastor of the Travis Park Church in that city for one and one-half years prior to his election.

Before coming to Houston in 1965 he served the Texas and Gulf Coast conferences, he was resident bishop of the Nebraska Area with headquarters in Lincoln.

Bishop Copeland was born in Batesville, Arkansas, ordained elder in the Methodist Protestant Church in 1931 and served as president of the Texas Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1938-39.

He held pastorates in Corvallis, Oregon, and Port Angeles, Washington, and then in Dallas, Wichita Falls, and Stillwater, Oklahoma. Bishop Copeland was a graduate of Eastern State University, Kansas, and Southern Methodist University, and Southern Methodist University, with a theological study at Garrett Theological Seminary, and honorary degrees from Southwestern University, Nebraska Wesleyan College, and Southern Methodist University.

In response to questions about the hostility that had been developing across the church toward actions taken by the national boards and agencies, Bishop Copeland expressed concern in his reply: "We're going to have to accept the realities of this hostility and work through it creatively and positively. I have no blueprint for a solution. I do know that we are going to have to improve our system of communication with more explanation, better interpretation, and a freer flow of information. And we must increase the role of laymen, both young and old, in the decision-making processes of the church."

Houston cleric strived to 'become a good leader'

Ten years after his election in 1965 to the Methodist episcopacy, Bishop Kenneth W. Copeland reflected upon his role as bishop and the role of the church in an interview with UMN editor Spurgeon M. Dunniam, III.

The 1970 interview revealed Bishop Copeland to be a man of persuasion actively involved with the issues facing an annual conference with one of the largest geographical areas in Methodism and the issues facing the church at large.

When asked whether he viewed his appointment to such a large conference as an advantage or disadvantage, Bishop Copeland replied: "Any bishop who has
Persuasion and dedication. As the immediate past president of attending
he was preaching—which he was in great demand—or
were first of all pastoral and secondly administrative. Whether Kenneth W. Copeland lived by a philosophy that his duties
in his role as resident bishop of the Houston area, Bishop
 enjoys the intimate fellowship with a family of
preachers and the contact with large numbers of laymen. He disliked
when asked whether he viewed his appointment to such a large conference
an advantage or disadvantage, Bishop Copeland replied: "Any bishop today has
about all he can handle regardless of the size of the conference. If a large
conference is properly staffed and has a
strong cabinet, then it has some opportuni ties not available to a small
colference. On the other hand, it is
difficult to get around to as many
colchures in a large conference. What is
important is how the conference un
stands and goes about fulfilling its
mission as a part of the church."
Not unlike persons in other professions,
Bishop Copeland enjoyed some aspects of
his job more than others. He explained
that the pulpit ministry was his favorite
part of being bishop. "This office opens
up vast opportunities to preach. I like the
worldwide contacts. And I enjoy the
multiplicity of desk details which must
be cared for, but which I enjoy the least."
When the interview turned to the
problems of diversity and division in the
colchur, Bishop Copeland offered
the opinion that diversity is healthy, and
division is sin. Asked if he was saying that
he was against individual self-
determination he answered: "If by self-
determination you mean that everyone
in the church 'does his own thing' without
regard for the larger whole, I reject it. If
by it you mean that each group makes its
own contribution to the church's total
witness, then you have what I have called
'group determination.'
"I believe that there are two kinds of
bishops: drivers and leaders. The driver
of man sometimes gets the job done more
quickly, but I think the leader of men gets
the job done more securely. Men follow a
leader out of love for him and the cause
he represents. I sustain the hope that I
might become a good leader."
Bishop Copeland revealed himself as a
man with a positive and far-sighted atti
dude toward breaking down the barriers
of race within the church. "As a bishop in
the church, I would certainly hope that
the appointment of ministers can be
based positively on their ability to fill a
certain need in a certain set of cir
cumstances at a certain time." He
further explained this meant that he
would send a black pastor to a
predominantly white congregation or a
white pastor to a predominantly black
colchure.
Preaching and pastoring were the two
highest priorities for an effective
minister, he believed. Next in line was a
minister's ability to relate to people
through administration.
Of his own role as bishop, he explained
that he accepted the philosophy that the
role of the bishop is first of all pastoral
and secondly administrative. He enjoyed
his appointment-making function. "It is
not easy. It takes a lot out of me. But final
decisions are never easy. In this respect,
the bishop's position is a lonely spot to be
in.
"I believe there are two kinds of
bishops: drivers and leaders. The driver
of man sometimes gets the job done more
quickly, but I think the leader of men gets
the job done more securely. Men follow a
leader out of love for him and the cause
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might become a good leader."
In his role as resident bishop of the Houston area, Bishop Kenneth W. Copeland lived by a philosophy that his duties were first of all pastoral and secondly administrative. Whether he was preaching—for which he was in great demand—or attending to desk work, he proved himself to be a man of persuasion and dedication. As the immediate past president of the World Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, he was deeply interested in the mission program in 21 countries throughout the world. Above middle, he presents his Churchman of the Year award to astronaut Alan Bean for his accomplishments as "the first United Methodist on the moon."
Throughout its 25-year history, the World Council of Churches has been involved in relief and rehabilitation programs. Beginning in the rubble of post-World War II Europe, the Council first tackled the problem of thousands of displaced persons. It has since gone on to aid those affected by ensuing wars, as well as helping victims of natural disasters, providing aid to the economically poor, creating health and education programs. A few examples of the World Council’s quarter century of giving are illustrated here.

TOP LEFT - A little girl is fed at a resettlement center in Europe following World War II. The World Council assisted more than 100,000 displaced persons in migrating to new homes and finding self-sustaining employment in the post-war years. TOP CENTER - Medicines are packed for shipment to Indochina. The war-ravaged countries of Southeast Asia were and are assisted by WCC programs.

BOTTOM CENTER - Construction of a permanent homes sponsored Ecumenical center in the South is provided by the World Council. Negotiating the end of the strife, a Bangladesh child is Pakistan in late 1970.
Superman coming out on the side of Superstars? Will Dick Tracy down his badge and head the security operations for Billy Graham rallies? Probably not.

But Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead - and the other eternal teenagers created by Allen Hartley - are into religion.

"Archie's One Way" is one of a series of "Christian Comics" published by the Spire Division of Fleming H. Revell Company here.

Churches have used comic book art before, hoping to cash in on the appeal the format has held for kids. But never before has a cast of established comic book characters been so totally preempted into evangelistic purposes.

Archie has always been a kid with problems. The amusive Reggie out-classed him on dates, his jellycapped friends dashed every other plan. Heartaches were his daily lot as he was alternately spurred and discouraged by Betty or the curvy Veronica. His pal Jughead regularly humbled the two of them into treble. The new Archie still has a rough time. But now the freckle-faced teen and his friends are finding spiritual solutions to their adolescent problems.


**Sermon Book Illustrates Love's Meaning**


By WILLIAM C. STRICKLAND

Staff Writer

In treating one of the high points in the Bible - 1 Corinthians 13 - Charles Allen may also have reached a peak in his writing career with "The Miracle of Love." In this series of sermons, the prominent United Methodist pastor describes both the principles and experiences of love. Each chapter has the distinct Allen flavor of timely illustration and compelling feeling.

Love becomes for many described in this small volume a miracle-building new bridges in family relationships, shallow a caring concern in personal dealings - revealing a strong case for the life-giving love that offers completeness to one's being. In each sermon Dr. Allen demonstrates his unique way of aspiring, moving and winning others to a deeper involvement in the Christian faith.

In the later part of the book he offers source material from his own book which centers on the great writings of and about love.

This book continues the style for which Charles Allen has become noted after many previous literary efforts. It is succinct, to the point and well illustrated. It's a good book for family reading, sermon source material or general interest on the subject about which there is often too much talk and too little living.

This book points a way for any who would seek a greater understanding of love, replays the coffeehouse worker, "Jesus said the food of this world would never really satisfy." And the witnessing is underway.

In another story, Archie picks up a hitch-hiker who is running away from home. Betty lays a load of Bible verses on him and soon Archie's jealousy takes the youth home again. At a beach party, Betty exercises "to keep my body in shape." Archie, who has always been eager to notice such things, comments (with hearts and stars swirling around his head), "You're doing a great job, Betty, really fantastic!"

"Archie's One Way" hews closely to the comic book line. There is the same splashy page headed "Free Gift Order," on which we used to find promises of secret signal rings and miniature cameras if we would only send in a two-year subscription. This time, however, the "free-gift" is "eternal life given to those who believe in God and guaranteed in his holy word the Bible." And no magazine subscriptions are required.

The familiar page of optical illusions still appears, just as it has in hundreds of comic books in the past. But there's a kicker to the page: "The Bible tells us that the really important things in life can only be seen spiritually! For a new perspective, read the book of John!"

Even some of the adults in the strip are changed by religion. In past years, Veronica's father would blow his stack at Archie at least once a week. So the kid naturally expects the worst when his jellycrash results into the living room. "But Daddy's a changed man," Veronica explains. "He's been reading the Bible," and...well, the rest is obvious.

The religion in "Archie's One Way" is the kind usually labeled conservative and evangelical. It emphasizes personal conversion, takes a literalistic view of the Bible, and tends to withdraw from worldly" malizes.

There is an almost nostalgia, 1950s atmosphere to the 34-page comic book. Betty still says "natch" and "cool." Long hair remains a female characteristic. Veronica is shown with a stack of Pat Boone records. The kids quote an epigram dating back to billy Sunday: "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going into a garage makes you a car."

The Archie comic strip is still syndicated in Sunday newspapers around the country. But the explicitly religious angle will not appear in the Sunday comic sections, according to a spokesman for Mr. Hartley.

**Methodist Historians Meet**

Bristol, R.I. - Some of the most prominent Methodist historians of the United States, Britain and Europe met at Wesley College here for the first regional meeting of the World Methodist Historical Society.

The five-day conference was presided over by Dr. Frederick H. Maier, executive secretary of the society which traces its origins to the organization in 1913 of the "Methodist Historical Union," later called the "Ecumenical Methodist Historical Union" and eventually "The Task of the Methodist Historical Society."

Altogether, 60 historians attended the conference and discussed Methodist in its cultural and evangelical context. Several papers were read by top scholars.

Observers said that not the least valuable aspect of the conference, the first of its kind, was the series of informal discussions between sessions and the interest shown in the college's valuable collection of Wesleyana and the world famous John Michael Williams's portrait of John Wesley.

The opening keynote address, "The Task of the Methodist Historical Society," was given by Dr. Maier, who acted as conference chairman in the absence of

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HOUSTON, Aug. 8 (AP) — Bishop Kenneth W. Copeland, resident Bishop for the Houston Area of the United Methodist Church, died yesterday in Methodist Hospital, apparently of a heart attack. He was 61 years old.

Bishop Copeland became ill while attending a World of Methodism meeting in Mexico City on Sunday, returning here Monday night to be admitted to the hospital. The former Bishop of the Nebraska Area of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, he was appointed Bishop of the Houston Area and the Gulf Coast Conference in 1968.

Bishop Copeland was a past president of the world division of the General Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church and was in charge of United Methodist missions in 30 countries.
et of
the lake, where
the Susquehanna begins. And the other landmarks, too, are just where they are supposed to be: the hills, Mount Vision and the Sleeping Lion, and the marsh in the middle of the lake whereatty Bumppo, the woodsman hero of the frontier
August 8, 1973

To Board of Managers and Members At Large
All Personnel

From Tracey K. Jones, Jr.
General Secretary

Bishop Kenneth W. Copeland, bishop of the Houston Area, Texas Conference, and a former president of the World Division and the Education and Cultivation Division died on Tuesday, August 7 at the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. In his honor a service will be held in the First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas on Thursday, August 9 at eleven o'clock. Dr. John F. Schaefer and Bishop Paul A. Washburn will be representing the Board. Internment will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Messages of condolence may be sent to:

       Mrs. Catherine Copeland
       10 Broad Oaks
       Houston, Texas 77027

Two daughters, both of whom are married, reside in Texas.

JFS/1ah