HARRIS, BISHOP MARQUIS LAFAYETTE

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BISHOP M. LAFAYETTE HARRIS DIES

On Friday, October 7, after an extended illness, the late Bishop M. Lafayette Harris of the Atlantic Coast Area died in Atlanta at St. Joseph Hospital where he had been a patient for several times in recent weeks.

Bishop Harris was born near Tuskegee, Alabama on March 8, 1907. He was a graduate of Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He earned his Masters Degree at Boston University and his Ph.D., at Ohio State University.

He was one of Methodism's most brilliant educators, an able administrator, a hard worker at all his several tasks and responsibilities and a person of deep presonal devotion and commitment to the Christian faith. We shall miss his dynamic leadership, his contagious zeal for excellence and his indomitable will to achieve. In all his efforts for the many years many of us have known him, his faithful and attentive wife has been by his side with an abiding strength on which he relied in all his efforts to serve the people to whom he was assigned as President and Chief pastor.

Bishop Harris Dies

Bishop Marquis Lafayette Harris of the Atlantic Coast Area died in Atlanta, Ga., on Oct. 7. He was 59 years old. His death came after several years of declining



Bishop Harris

health and just one week after the Central Jurisdictional College of Bishops had granted him release from his administrative responsibilities—it had been hoped on a temporary basis.

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Among his many leadership roles, Bishop Harris was

chairman of the Committee on The Methodist Story within the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation. In addition to being a member of the commission, he was a member of the Coordinating Council at the time of his death. Previously he had served on the Board of Education and Board of Lay Activities.

Shortly after his ordination, the future bishop became a professor of philosophy at Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Ark, He became president in 1936, serving during a period of great development until 1960, when he was elected bishop. IN ATLANTA CALLOZANA CO. Bishop Harris Dies Col 20,1966

Bishop Marquis Lafayette Harris, 59, one of three active Central Jurisdiction bishops and episcopal leader of the At-



Bishop Harris

lantic Coast Area, died October 7 in Atlanta following an extended illness. Bishop Harris' consecration in 1960 followed 24 years as president of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark. In addition to many community and academic activities, he

was a member of the Methodist Co-ordinating Council and other major national denominational boards and agencies as well as the General Board, National Council of Churches.

Bishop Harris' nearly 40 years in the ministry were marked by a particular interest in youth work, dating from his All-American athletic career in college. Among his degrees was a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He was a graduate of Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary, both in Atlanta.

He is survived by his wife and a 23year-old son. lives, to enrich our experiences, to deepen our faith in God, and our confidence in you.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, we would again remind ourselves of the tremendous challenge to the Christian Church to make manifest in its life and witness the constant presence of our Lord of redemption, reconciliation and renewal. This is not only a time for taking stock of that for which we should be thankful, but it is a time for recapturing the spirit and meaning of God's gift of his son to the world, that through him the world might be reconciled to the Father of us all.

Let this Christmas be a new beginning in depth Christian witnessing for each of us. Let us move beyond the mere exchange of gifts and cards to our friends to the sharing of our lives with those to whom God has not as yet been made manifest. Through us and our witness—God may yet come alive for those who because of their estrangement and separation from the Christian faith may otherwise assume that God is either dead or indifferent to what goes on in the world.

Let this be a new Christmas for God's new world and for all the peoples of the earth.

We wish for each of you a most meaningful Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Permit me to use this means of expressing my deep appreciation to the pastors and Churches of the Area for the tremendous advance in Churchmanship performance achieved in the last year and a half.

The growing awareness of "being in Mission" on the part of local congregations in our several conferences has been a source of inspiration to our whole Area.

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Nashville, Tenn. Permit No. 1375 nominations other than the Methodists. The Rev. H. D. Bollinger, director, Department of College and University Religious Life of the Division of Higher Education, participated in the organizational meeting of the University Christian Movement.

"The UCM," he said, "is a new expression of the ecumenical movement on American university campuses. It has developed out of the former National Student Christian Federation, but the Protestant and Anglican communions within that federation have now been joined by the two major Roman Catholic student organizations and by the Eastern Orthodox Campus Commission."

Joins Evangelism Staff

Robert E. Bell of Nashville, Tenn., joined the staff of the Board of Evangelism as director of accounting operations effective Sept. 1.

He has been a staff accountant for the public accounting firm of Paty and Foster in Nashville for the past 11 years.

In the newly created position, Mr. Bell has the responsibility for all accounting operations of the board, including The Upper Room and Tidings. He is in the Section of Business, headed by Harold L. Hermann, treasurer and business manager of the board.

SPECIAL REPORT

Decision for the

Overriding opposition by Mississippi churchmen, Methodism has plunked down \$130,000 to help rescue the ailing Delta Ministry of the National Council of Churches.

Two divisions of the Methodist Board of Missions approved major grants at executive sessions in New York City in late September. The Woman's Division voted \$60,000 over a two-year period, and the National Division followed with a \$70,000 appropriation — \$40,000 of which will help erase the Delta Ministry's accumulated debt.

Methodism thus becomes the chief supporter of the Mississippi project which has drawn heavy criticism for its militant methods in behalf of Negro education, employment, housing, and voter registration. Until recently, Methodist backing was limited to about \$4,000 from local congregations and conferences and a \$5,000 grant from the Board of Christian Social Concerns in August.

The New York meetings were expected to bring a hotly-debated showdown between Mississippi Methodists and denominational leaders pressing for DM support. Bishop Edward J. Pendergrass of the Jackson Area appeared and there was a polite exchange of the period but nobady really lit the fuse

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Bishop Harris died at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he had been a patient several times in recent weeks. Funeral services Oct. 9 at Central Methodist Church were conducted by Bishop Charles F. Golden of Nashville. Bishop Noah W. Moore, Jr., of Houston, Tex., gave the eulogy. Other participants were retired Bishops Willis J. King of New Orleans, Edgar A. Love of Baltimore and Matthew W. Clair, Jr., of St. Louis, Mo., and the Rev. A. S. Dickerson, pastor.

Burial was in South View Cemetery, Atlanta.

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Merry Christmas to all,

Good Olight!

cal experiment in charen icnewal." An examination of the effort, however, reveals that it is in direct opposition to all modern concepts of Christian mission. The Delta Ministry program is primarily one of political action.

Part of the commission to the Delta Ministry was a program of direct relief to the poor. This has been interpreted by the staff to mean only direct relief by political action or by governmental action. With the exception of one private program of food distribution, the activities of the staff have been directed toward huilding the "-

competent personner acces a support was voted.

There is no adequate way for me to express to you the sweeping nature of these changes without seeming to be an official spokesman for the National Council of Churches. However, I have been officially informed that formal notice of these changes will soon be forthcoming from the offices of the National Council of Churches.

We greatly respect and admire the heroic manner in which the people of your area confront the heart breaking needs of our time and together with all of you we pray for the methods and procedures that will bring us all together to do God's will in Christian ways.

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FROM THE STAFF OF WORLD OUTLOOK xetenam added.

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Merry
Christmas to all,
and to all,
Good
Might!

FROM THE STAFF OF WORLD OUTLOOK

and the World Council of Churches."

Bishop Mathews stressed the importance of Church Union as "the world is being turned upside down so that we can stand right side up."

He said that he is getting impatient with those who are always talking about the death of God when it seems that today especially God is extending His hand to all Mankind for the renewal of the church and laity.

The table grace was by Raymond A. Harsha, lay leader. The welcome was

Thanks to your director for the courteen which the campaign was conducted. along with raising the funds. Rev. Hor I nited Chawam, "Your director . . not only led us but generosity in giving we hardly dared to bel "Our Church has experienced a deepenm new and higher sense of the meaning of financial needs while levels of stewardship a training of the sense of the meaning of the sense of the sense of the meaning of the sense of stewardship a training of the sense of the se



Bishop Harris— A Noble Workman Passes

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

These were carefully chosen biblical words which the eulogist used to describe the life and work of a noble churchman, whose career as an educator and bishop of The Methodist Church had reached its end.

Those who knew the diligence and conscientiousness with which the late Bishop M. L. Harris applied himself in the performance of the tasks of the several phases of his life would almost invariably agree that his belief in work as one of the essentials to success was deep and firm.

Because of his strict adherence to this basic philosophy, the contributions which he made to the church and society were numerous and noteworthy.

Before being elected to the episcopacy of The Methodist Church, this man whose intellectual ability greatly excelled the ordinary, had distinguished himself both as a scholar and college administrator.

Under his leadership as president, Philander Smith College at Little Rock, Ark., was developed through a number of significant stages of improvement as necessary requirements for achieveing full accreditation by the educational standardizing agencies of its region.

He planned and implemented a program of progressive education which made Philander Smith an institution of quality to which any young person may be attracted to seek admission for training.

The administrative techniques which he used in promoting the cause of Christian higher education were transferred to his work of episcopal supervision of the Atlantic Coast Area to which he was assigned as a bishop in 1960.

In this office the bishop motivated preachers and laymen to set large goals to be accomplished in such aspects of the Methodist program as: Christian extension, lay activities, Christian education, stewardship, evangelism, and ministerial recruitment.

He led people to work in these areas of concern primarily by his own labors which were unstinted and assiduous even until he met the end of life on the earth

The church recognizes the loss of strength which it suffers in the passing of this worthy son who has "ceased from his work and entered into his rest."

NOVEMBER 1, 1966

ks...to Our Day

"ILLIS J. KING

d the Christian Community

2. The disciples, themselves, led by Peter, attributed their changed attitude and the new dynamic, to their faith in the "Risen Lord."

One of the most amazing incidents in the religious history of mankind is the narrative told in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles of that small group of the disciples of Jesus who, after waiting for days in the "upper room" in Jerusalem, suddenly became convinced of the presence of the Holy Spirit among them whom they recognized as the representative of their "Living Lord," whom he had promised to send to guide them in the work he had committed to them to proclaim his gospel to the nations. It was under this conviction that Peter preached his great sermon, on the day of Pentecost, and the Christian community was born in Jerusalem.

3. It was the belief in the "Risen Christ" that made the Christian community such a powerful force in the Roman Empire, during the first three centuries of its history.

Peter's great sermon brought hope to many discouraged people among his own nation. He linked Jesus and his ministry with the greatest of their prophetic leaders. These men had predicted that God would pour out his spirit upon them and would send the Messiah, the Anointed One to save them from their sins. This he had done in Jesus Christ whom they did not receive, but delivered him up to be crucified, but God had raised him from the dead. He asserted, without equivocation, that this Jesus, whom they had crucified, had become both Lord and Christ.

When those who heard the message of Peter and the other apostles, asked what shall we do, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children": and then followed words exceedingly strange coming from a Jewish nationalist, "and to all that are far off everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." This was the new note in the gospel; it was to be all-inclusive, not only to Jews but to all men. It was this emphasis which was advanced to major proportions by the apostle Paul, in his Gospel to the gentiles which made it possible for Christianity to become a world religion.

It was Paul who made the doctrine of the Resurrection an unequivocal part of Christian faith. In the letter to the church at Corinth, to which we have already referred, the apostle wrote: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain." He then added, "But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). (Continued on page 10)

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

COMMISSION ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND

Methodist Information

ARTHUR WEST GENERAL SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR 777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, ROOM 7D NEW YORK N Y 10017 TELEPHONE 661 2547

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THE GENERAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

1 1.00 WASHINGTON OFFICE WINSTON H TAYLOR DIRECTOR 100 MARYLAND AVE N E WASHINGTON D C 20002 TELEPHONE 543-5038

For Immediate Release

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bishop harris--2

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