

MARKED COPY

P 112

THE WATCHMAN EXAMINER

A National Baptist Paper

PROCLAMATION—BAPTIST YEAR OF JUBILEE, 1964

S FRESH WINDS stir smoldering fire into flame, so God's Spirit swept through Baptist churches in North America one hundred and fifty years ago to stir Baptist people to a world encircling mission. Through two men, Luther Rice and Adoniram Judson, the Holy Spirit spoke to the churches.

Luther Rice was the apostle of united support for the missionaries. On horseback he forded streams, on foot he walked to frontier settlements, on ships he sailed to seacoast cities, persuading isolated and free-spirited Baptist churches that true freedom in Christ must be expressed in duties that are shared with others. This servant of God called the churches together in Philadelphia in 1814 to form the first national organization among Baptists of America, the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States of America for Foreign Missions, to support missionaries and to act as a responsible national church body.

Adoniram Judson was the first evangelist of salvation in Jesus Christ from the new world to the Far East. He signalled the start of the stream of missionaries who have preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ and who have served people in His name on every continent.

To worthily celebrate the victories that Baptists of North America have enjoyed in their worldwide purpose to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, we have engaged for five years in a Baptist Jubilee Advance. We have listened anew to the word God is speaking to us in the Scriptures and in world events. We have sought to deepen our daily experience of life in Christ. We have engaged with new understanding in our ministry of witness in the world. We have invited many people to come and follow Christ. We have enjoyed Christian fellowship without barriers of race, nation, or denomination, looking toward the 150th anniversary year in 1964.

Therefore, we proclaim the year 1964 a Baptist Year of Jubilee among Baptists in North America, when we shall give thanks for the fellowship we share in the mission God has given us. We shall examine ourselves and confess and repent of those faults within us that cause the light of life to burn fitfully in this gusty world. We shall pray that the Holy Spirit, whose fire burned in Rice and Judson, may give us the light that will light every man in the world. We urge the Baptists of North America to join in the Jubilee Celebration in Atlantic City, New Jersey, May 22-24, 1964.

February 13, 1964