

SEARCHING *the* SCRIPTURES

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me"—John 5:39.



These were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"—Acts 17:11.

"Devoted to the Search for Divine Truth"

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THINK ON THESE THINGS

H. E. Phillips

P.O. Box 1631
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A Reflection

Where shall man find peace, happiness and security in this life? "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God" (Eccl. 2: 24).

Our years are as a tale told (Psalm 90: 9), as a shadow (Eccl. 6: 12), as a dream (Job 20: 8), as the grass that fades away (Psalm 103: 15, 16; 1 Peter 1: 24) and as vapor that vanishes after a little while (James 4: 14). This reality every person must encounter sooner or later.

Brother Adams asked me to write a brief historic review of my work with Searching The Scriptures, the purpose toward which we labored and the policy that governed the editorial work. Many things will have to remain unsaid because of the limitation of space. I am happy to record some of the highlights in the history of this paper as they appear to me.

With sadness and nostalgic reflection I begin to write what is to be my final article for Searching The Scriptures. Recollections of the early history of this journal and those associated with it stir my emotions to gratitude and to some measure of melancholy as I appraise the opportunities the grace of God has granted to us.

When the first issue of Searching The Scriptures was published on January, 1960, I did not think about how long it would live. That never entered my mind. I was concerned about how effective it would be in

accomplishing the goal James P. Miller and I had for this effort.

"Now In The Very Beginning... "

Those who knew James P. Miller and heard him preach will remember the above phrase. It was his usual beginning of his sermon. The history of Searching The Scriptures cannot be told without including James P. Miller. His work, advice and encouragement were invaluable from the beginning. A more detailed account of our relationship is found in Searching The Scriptures, March 1978, Page 41. Jim Miller gave his appraisal of our relationship in his editorial of May, 1967, pages 257, 258.

The Florida Newsletter in 1958, which became the Southeastern Newsletter in 1959, was the beginning of Searching The Scriptures. (More details about this in STS, May, 1973, pages 259, 260). I was grateful to God for this medium through which His word could be taught. My interest in and love for the paper have continued throughout its existence. The experience as editor has taught me lessons that I shall remember all of my life.

When a man puts his mind in print and sends it out into the world, it lives for many generations; it cannot be retrieved. It is like throwing a basket of feathers into a wind storm; you will never gather all the feathers together again. A man should make sure his heart is right with God, his motives are pure and his words are carefully chosen to speak only the truth of God's word.

In the editorial of April, 1960 issue we said: "When one takes his pen in hand, as we usually express it, to write something for the present and future generations, he should fully realize that he is about to declare what kind of man he is and what his ambitions and goals are. This fact alone should make one approach the task with a clear mind and a careful expression. So many writers, as well as speakers, express themselves without first taking into account the results of their statements: the good or evil that will follow. " I have always been more concerned about what God reads of my heart and attitude than what men will say.

Honor To Whom Honor

We received much opposition, some even antagonistic and baleful, but there were also many good men

and women: preachers, elders and deacons, their wives and faithful brethren who gave encouragement and help in many ways during those early days. Some of those good people have since laid aside the armor and answered the final call to close the earthly sojourn here and enter into their rest (Rev. 14: 13). Among them is the beloved James P. Miller who stood with me from the beginning.

I am so grateful to so many for so much. We owe an inexpressible debt of gratitude to those staff writers who came aboard in the following years, and to all who contributed articles from time to time. Thank you for your important contribution.

The pressures of editing a religious paper affect the editor's family. Members of my family have been supportive from the beginning. To Polly, my faithful wife of more than 57 years who supported me in my work with the paper from the beginning; to my three daughters and their husbands; to my mother and four brothers; to my grandchildren and their husbands/wives, I owe a debt of gratitude. To many faithful brethren across the country, I express to you my sincere thanks for your personal interest, support, and encouragement. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Phil. 1: 3).

Connie W. Adams Becomes Editor

I had no thought of ever disposing of Searching The Scriptures. Early in 1972 some health problems brought the entreaty of my family, my doctor, friends and concerned brethren to pass this work to another. It finally became obvious to me that I could not continue the load of work I was doing.

In the early spring of 1973 Connie Adams and I completed the agreement for the transfer of Searching The Scriptures to him. With the June, 1973 issue the paper passed from my hand to his. During the transition we spent several hours together in fervent prayers with tears as we contemplated the wonderful opportunity and enormous responsibility we were sharing at the changing of the guard.

In the final editorial before relinquishing the editorial duties to brother Adams, I said: "Somewhere around 1963 to 1965, during the Lecture Week at Florida College late one night, I drove Connie Adams to the place where he was staying after the last lecture that night. We spent almost an hour talking about **Searching The Scriptures** and its future, and the need for some continuing force to fight the invading evils of institutionalism and liberalism. It was on this night and under these circumstances that Connie W. Adams asked me to give him first opportunity to buy **Searching The Scriptures** if I ever sold it. At the time I had not thought of ever selling it. However, I gave him my word that I would contact him first under such circumstances, and through the years our verbal agreement has been honored by both of us" (Searching The Scriptures, May, 1973, page 261).

My intention was to allow this paper to cease and to bury it with honor and dignity. This decision would have eliminated the possibility of its reputation to be used by any other to propagate error. I found in Connie

(Continued on page 279)

Searching The Scriptures

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" QUOTE

**"The press is the best
instrument for enlightening
the mind of man. . ."**

—Thomas Jefferson

UNQUOTE "

Editorial

Connie W. Adams

P.O. Box 69
Brooks, Kentucky 40109



Putting To Rest A Labor Of Love

In May, 1973 Ed Byers and I brought the physical properties of SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES to Louisville in a U-Haul trailer. As we pulled out of the driveway of the residence of H. E. Phillips, both he and his dear wife, Polly, stood in the doorway weeping. We were both too choked with emotion to say anything for a long time. I wondered then how I would feel if I were bidding farewell to what had become such a vital part of his life. And now I know! As I write this last editorial for this paper, which ends thirty-three years of service to our readers, my mind is filled with memories and my heart is full to overflowing.

The Beginning

H. E. Phillips has given a history of this paper from its inception. My own involvement with it began with a gentlemen's agreement sometime in the mid-1960's when H. E. Phillips promised me that should it become necessary for him to give up his work on the paper, I would be given the opportunity to continue that work. The time came sooner than either of us expected. After major health problems brought pressure upon him from his doctors and family, he called me during the Florida College lectures in January, 1973. I went to his house where I found him struggling with the flu. He told me he could not go on with the paper and asked if I would take it and publish it. Over the years he had borrowed from his insurance to pay printing bills and that had accumulated to just under \$10, 000. We made arrangements to retire that amount over the first three years of our ownership of the paper. That freed his insurance. That was just one sample of the many sacrifices the Phillipses made in publishing this paper.

It was not the best time for us to begin this work. We had agreed to go with a new work which was a peaceful "swarm" from the Manslick Road church in Louisville and we had to borrow money to build a house. At first it seemed impossible to do all that and take on the work of the paper. But my wife encouraged me to do it and offered to help in every way she could. She gave up her teaching job and took on the business operation of the paper.

With her faithful help and the continued work of the brethren who were writing, plus the support of readers we were able to keep it going.

In the May, 1973 issue, I wrote the following:

Those of us who write shall attempt to be clear, concise, candid and always scriptural. When differences arise, as surely they will, we will do our best to practice the Golden Rule. The editor does not expect to agree with every sentiment expressed by every writer on every subject. Each one bears responsibility for what he says. Divergent views will be given a hearing when offered in proper form and in good taste. We shall reserve the right to decide when enough has been said on a subject and to choose what is thought to be the most representative material on a topic on which several have offered articles. We are aware that our writings constitute a part of our preaching and that we shall be called to account for what we teach. Our highest ambition is to please God. We do not expect everybody to like everything we have to say and sincerely hope that the Devil and all his angels will be sorely displeased. "

At the close of that article we quoted the following from Ben Franklin as he began editing THE CHRISTIAN REVIEW: " This work is fully under our own control, and if it does not proceed with regularity, firmness and stability, the responsibility is OURS. "

With Sincere Gratitude

We owe a debt of gratitude to so many people. First, the writers who have contributed so generously of their time and knowledge to benefit our readers deserve a special word of thanks. Over the years, several writers have left to publish papers of their own. Special notice is given to the 25 years of service from Marshall E. Patton who during that span of time wrote our question column, Answers For Our Hope. The first twenty years of that column are now in a hardback book by that same title. It is a storehouse of rich help for Bible students and will remain a valuable tool as the years go by.

This work could not have been done without the patience and loving help of my family. The business work of the paper was ably handled by my wife, Bobbie, until about two weeks before her death in March, 1985. Our Wilson and Martin deserve a special word of appreciation. They helped in many ways to collate bound volumes, sort for mailing and other mundane chores. Wilson handled the news column for awhile and contributed many articles. Beyond that they endured the many demands on my time which often kept me from doing things with them. I do not recall ever hearing them complain, but I am sure there were times when they were tempted to view the paper as a rival for their father's time and attention.

We have been blessed with good office personnel. Fay King and Nola Snell helped in the early days. Joan Rader (and Donnie) came to our rescue when it became evident that Bobbie's time was growing short. Without them, we could not have kept the paper on schedule. When I married Bobby Hughes in March, 1986, she handled the business office until Jane Ashbrook came to work for us. This freed Bobby's time so she could travel with me in gospel meetings. Jane worked faithfully with us until after her father, A. C. Grider, died and then resigned to help take care of her mother. Karen Arbuckle then came to work for us and continues through this

final issue. Her work has been diligent and efficient.

From the beginning of our ownership of the paper, RELIGIOUS SUPPLY CENTER of Louisville has advertised in the paper. Our relationship with David Key and all those who work at the bookstore has been most pleasant. Their advertising with us enlarged their business and provided us with needed funds to keep the paper going. They are a major supply house for books, tracts, and general church supplies.

Through the years, H. E. Phillips has been a loyal friend and trusted adviser. He has never tried to second-guess me but has always been ready to listen and offer counsel when I have called upon him, and that has been often. It has been an honor to have his material on the front page of the paper. I am thankful that the relief he gained from turning over the paper to me has lengthened his days of faithful service to the Lord. Among my fondest memories are moments HE. Phillips and I have prayed together. There was the time when we met in Atlanta to finalize the business transactions of the paper. Then in a private corner at Kennedy Airport in New York before boarding a plane to Italy in 1976 to preach among brethren there, we besought the Lord for his protection over us and our families left behind. His prayer at the funeral home the day Bobbie was laid to rest helped give me strength for that day. Again, we prayed together when I met with him to seek his advice about laying this paper to rest and accepting the offer to write and work with the GUARDIAN OF TRUTH. Our association has been long and pleasant, but those moments were the most poignant of all.

Where do I begin to express my love and gratitude to Donnie V. Rader? Over the last few years he has come to my aid countless times. He had edited the paper through the summer for the last three years, including the special issues which enjoyed a wide circulation and brought forth so many words of appreciation from those into whose hands they have fallen. Then when back surgery hampered me again, Donnie extended his editorial work until the first of this year. He has continued through this year to do all the paste-up work. We have consulted many times about many things. He is an excellent preacher of the gospel, deeply committed to the truth and possessed of a considerate spirit which makes him all the more helpful to his hearers. The kingdom needs many more like him. He is like a son to me. The readers of this paper need to understand that without the faithful help of this good brother, we could not have met our schedule and would have found it necessary to close the paper much sooner. Donnie, keep you pen sharp, and continue to use your talent in both preaching and writing.

I am indebted to Bobby for her quiet support of all my work, including this paper. She is a devout Christian and a wise counselor whose input has been invaluable in all my work, including the editorship of SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES. She has had a keen sense of the importance of this work.

Thanks are in order to Mike Willis and all those connected with GUARDIAN OF TRUTH for their generosity in satisfying the unfulfilled subscriptions with

their excellent magazine and for working so thoughtfully and carefully in making this transition. The opportunity to write again in that magazine is appreciated and it is hoped that our readers will want to follow what we have to offer through that medium.

Looking Back

It is difficult to assess objectively what has been accomplished through this periodical. I am convinced that it played a significant role in the second wave of the conflict over the nature, organization and work of the church. Many are standing for the truth today because of these efforts. Others were encouraged who had endured much suffering in the jarring conflicts surrounding those issues.

But what of the last nineteen and a half years? We have tried to teach truth and oppose error on those questions while addressing a wide range of subject matter which, in our judgment, was needed by our readers. We have striven for balance. Every month when the paste-up was done, we have gone through the paper one more time to see how many different subjects were touched in that one issue. We have had our share of controversy. Some blunders in judgment have been made. But we have honestly tried to do what appeared at the time to be the wisest course of action. It has been impossible to please everyone and no attempt has been made to do that.

Over the years we have heard from many readers who have written, called or spoken to us during our travels to preach who have thanked us for our work and told us of something we printed which was especially helpful to them. We have received many letters from other countries from preachers who told us they have used many articles from SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES for sermon and class material. Our writers have heard from so many readers over the years. In 1975 in the Philippines I met two different men who told me that they had been denominational preachers and that they began learning the truth which led to their conversion from a copy of a special issue we did on "An Unchanging Kingdom in a Changing World."

If we have helped one soul to learn the truth and obey the gospel, if we have strengthened one Christian, if we have stabilized one soul on the brink of apostasy, if we have lifted up one despondent spirit, if we have illuminated one Bible student on some difficult passage, if we have promoted greater zeal and interest in the work of the gospel around the world, then these 33 years have not been in vain.

So then, with a heart filled with emotions, and with gentle hands, we commit SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES to the archives of history. "And now brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20: 32). "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all. Amen (Rev. 22: 21).

Bound Volume 33

This final year of SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES will be bound to match all previous bound volumes. GUARDIAN OF TRUTH has agreed to have this bound

and offered for sale to all those who desire a copy. This will probably be ready by sometime in February. You may contact GUARDIAN OF TRUTH BOOKSTORE, P. O. Box 9670, Bowling Green, KY 42102.

A Reminder To All Subscribers

As we pointed out in last month's paper, all unfulfilled subscriptions to SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES will be filled by GUARDIAN OF TRUTH on a one-for-one-and-a-half basis. GUARDIAN OF TRUTH is printed twice a month and contains 32 pages per issue. If you are still due six issues of STS you will receive 9 issues of GOT. Then when your subscription has expired, we urge all readers to renew with GUARDIAN OF TRUTH.

Thanks To EP Graphics

EP GRAPHICS (formerly ECONOMY PRINTING CONCERN) of Berne, Indiana has printed SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES from the time I became the owner and editor. We not only appreciate their work, but also the quality people who make up this business. They have become more like family than mere business people. We have found the management and personnel of this large printing concern to be among the most honest and dedicated people we have met. Thanks, folks.

ACCEPTED OF HIM
 (2 Cor. 5:9)
Donnie V. Rader
 P.O. Box 9
 Lexington, Alabama 35648



Searching The Scriptures An Overview

During the Florida College lectures in February, Connie called me to his motel room to tell me about the offer that the *Guardian of Truth Foundation* had made to buy *Searching the Scriptures* and put it to rest. I was surprised at first, but saw rather quickly that this would remove part of Connie's pressing work load. Though he had not decided whether to accept their offer or not, I knew that's what he would do.

Since that day I have thought many times about the paper, its beginning, its reputation, its editors, its writers, its policy, its accomplishments and those who have worked behind the scenes. In this final issue of STS I want to share with you some of those things that come to mind when I think about *Searching the Scriptures*.

H. E. Phillips

Launching a major journal is no easy task. Anyone can start a paper, but its another thing to get one off the ground and keep it going for many years. It takes a lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of wisdom and a lot of money. H. E. Phillips gave all of that and more to starting and publishing *Searching the Scriptures* from 1960 until 1973.

He and James P. Miller worked as co-editors in the early years of the paper. Someone rightfully gave Miller the title of "Mr. Outside" and Phillips the name "Mr. Inside." Brother Miller worked among the brethren across the country to help build and circulate the paper while brother Phillips did the desk work of writing, editing, proofing and putting the paper together.

H. E. Phillips sacrificed much for this paper. He spent many hours behind the typewriter or at the desk - all in addition to his local work. He worked until late in the night after spending a full day doing his local work. He has told me that there were many nights he would work all night long and then get a shower, eat breakfast and go at it again. Many readers may not realize that he started a bookstore, a tape business and produced the *Living Voice Bible tapes* (he directed the recording of the entire New Testament by a Shakespearean actor) all in an effort to have money to keep *Searching The Scriptures* going. He borrowed money (at times against his life insurance policy) to keep STS in the hands of his

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readers. Many of the readers in the early years of the paper received the paper because brother Phillips was paying for it himself. Not only that, but he sacrificed his health. After two heart attacks (1967 & 1971) his doctors and family urged that he reduce his work load.

Under the editorship of H. E. Phillips this paper enjoyed a large circulation, a good reputation and was respected as a paper that was set for the defense of the gospel.

Since the day he turned this work over to Connie W. Adams, he has faithfully contributed articles for practically every issue.

H. E. Phillips has been a friend and encouragement to many preachers, particularly young preachers, including this writer.

Thanks, brother Phillips. Without you thousands of readers would not have enjoyed *Searching the Scriptures* every month.

Connie W. Adams

Connie W. Adams became editor and owner of *Searching the Scriptures* in May 1973. He had carried the paper on the same steady path on which James P. Miller and H. E. Phillips placed it.

On numerous occasions Connie has expressed to me his view of what the paper was to him. He viewed it as a mere extension of his influence. He stated this in the May 1973 issue. "Then why do it? Every preacher wants to influence as many souls for good as he possibly can in his lifetime. Writing through such a medium as this affords such opportunity not only to teach truth now, but to put it in permanent form so that it may chance to have effect on generations to come.... This work is viewed as an opportunity to advance truth, as a challenge and as a fearful responsibility." Connie has never thought of this work as being a spokesman for the brotherhood. He never has viewed his editor's chair as a lofty throne. In fact, having worked closely with him for a while, I know the editor's chair is anything but that. At times it is a real hot seat.

Connie has sacrificed much as well. Other than his family, I have seen as much as any one what Connie has given to this paper. He has edited the paper longer than brother Phillips did. For nearly 20 years he has met two deadlines a month. First he had his editorial and news column to write and proof all the articles for the next month's issue by the first of the previous month. Then on the fifteenth of the month he received the typeset galleys from the printing plant and had a "paste-up" to do and then proofread the paste-up. All of that is just getting the paper in the mail. Daily there are incoming renewals that have to be posted in the books. Though he hired someone to do his office work on the paper he had the responsibility of overseeing that the bills were mailed by the 20th and the mailing list updated by the 25th of each month. Besides all of that, an editor receives a ton of mail. (I know - I have picked his mail up when he was out of town.)

In addition to all of the time he has put into the paper, he has worked hard keeping the paper operating on a business basis. He, like brother Phillips, has sacrificed his health in the process. When he first got the paper he

had it printed in Berne, Indiana which is about a four to five hour drive from Louisville. He would drive there every month to pick the papers up and brought them home to address and mail them. Hauling and lifting boxes upon boxes of paper wore out his station wagon, but worse, it wore out his back. In recent years he has had back surgery twice. He believes his problems go back to lifting all those papers.

I first met Connie in 1980 shortly after I moved to Louisville to work with the Manslick Road congregation. We soon developed a warm friendship. We have much in common. Our views on many questions and issues of the day are much alike. How we approached things are very similar. Besides our common love for the Lord and his word, we have a common interest in journalism and particularly *Searching The Scriptures*. Yet, there are many things that we don't have in common: He likes basketball (a diehard Kentucky fan); I don't care for sports at all. He can play a guitar or mandolin; I can't play anything. Children make him nervous; they don't bother me. I can do a few handy-man things; he can't drive a nail. But, we still have a lot in common.

When Bobbie (Connie's first wife) got sick, Joan (my wife) and I offered to help with the paper if needed. Within a week or two of that offer, Connie had put Joan to work. This began what has continued to be a close working relationship on the paper.

In December 1985 Connie came back to work with us at Manslick Road. While I did the local work, he taught special classes during December, January, and February. From March to November he was in full-time meeting work. We had an excellent working relationship. We never had a cross word one time. Some preachers may have trouble working together, but we never did. Having him in the audience was never an occasion for criticism. He always encouraged. He has an ability to deal with younger men as equals - at least he did with me. I learned much and still do from our association and friendship. When I left Manslick Road, I summed up our relationship by saying, "He is my Paul, and I am his Timothy."

I love Connie dearly and rejoice to know that his work load will be lighter. Connie is a "work-horse" who needs to slow down a little. If he did not, his usefulness in the kingdom would be shortened. May God bless you Connie with many more years of effectiveness in his service.

The Policy Of The Paper

The policy of the paper is one reason it has been well respected. Though there has been no written policy, it has been to be fair and teach the truth found in the Bible. Three things come to mind about the paper's policy. (1) *Balance*. There has been a good balance of milk and meat, positive and negative, controversial and non-controversial and reproof and exhortation. The paper has never been top-heavy with one subject. It has never run any subject or issue in the ground. (2) *Fair*. While no topic has been ridden until it was wore out, the editors have given every topic and issue a fair hearing. There has been no closed-door policy that would not allow a response. (3) *Exchanges had a limit*. Exchanges

and debates have been allowed in these pages. However, there was always a limit to how many articles there would be. The exchanges did not continue until the readers became weary.

The Paper's Reputation

Some papers develop an ugly name and carry a bad smell about them. But, not *Searching the Scriptures*. It has not been a one-issue paper. Personal axes have not been ground. It has been held as a paper of respect and dignity. I believe it was Jeff Kingry who told Connie a few years ago that if he had to draw a caricature of *Searching the Scriptures* he would put a coat and tie on it. That suggests dignity and honor. That kind of reputation makes me proud to be a part of the paper.

The Good It Has Done

Literally thousands have been taught and edified. Many have been led out of institutionalism. One such example is Mike Baggett of Water Valley, MS. He was working with a liberal congregation. One of the members was receiving STS and passing the copies on to Mike. It was here that Mike was challenged to think about the doctrines and practices of liberal churches. He then studied his way out and took his stand. The good reaches far beyond the United States. Brethren in Italy and in the Philippines have been helped more than most readers realize. Every major issue to arise among brethren since 1960 has been addressed in these pages.

Those Who Have Worked Behind The Scenes

The readers of any paper do not see what all it takes to get a paper in the mail and keep it going. Connie has not been able to do all this himself. Several have worked hard keeping the mailing list updated, keeping bills paid and mailing the monthly statements. There is a lot more to it than might appear. *Bobbie Adams* did all of this before STS had a computer, before the printing plant did the mailing and when every bill had to be typed

individually. Then *Joan Rader* worked for a while after *Bobbie's* death doing the same work the same way. Then *Bobby Adams* helped get all the bills and mailing list on computer and has done a lot of work on the paper in addition to those Connie has hired. When Joan had to quit, *Jane Ashbrook* (wife of Lee Ashbrook, an elder at Manslick Rd. and daughter of the late A. C. Grider) worked a few years. After Jane quit to help see to her mother, *Karen Arbuckle* has carried the load until now.

Without the work of these godly ladies, you would not have received your copy of STS every month.

I am saddened to see STS come to an end. But, that eventually happens to papers. As the years go on others will start and cease as well. For the time, we give our honor to this paper it's editors for a job well done.

Phyllis Key Passes

Phyllis Key, known to many of the readers of STS and most customers of Religious Supply Center died Nov. 19th after a battle with cancer. She was bookkeeper for RSC and helped her husband, David Key, manage the store.

Her funeral was conducted on Nov. 23 by Phillip Mullins and Dee Bowman with Connie W. Adams leading a prayer. Kenneth Chumbley spoke at the graveside (in Butler Co., KY) and Donnie V. Rader closed with prayer.

Our sympathy to her husband David, her daughter Wendy O'Banion and her sons, Mike and John. Phyllis was 54.

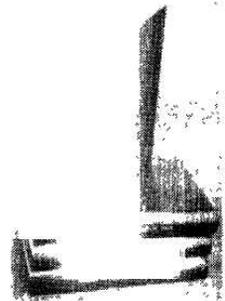
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Dear Dad

Wilson Adams

P. O. Box 185
Gambrills, MD 21054



Dear Dad:

I just want you to know that the assignment you have given me is one of the toughest I have ever undertaken (although I imagine that everyone else writing in this final issue shares those same sentiments). It's hard to be objective when you're so emotionally involved. I'll do my best.

Before I say anything else I want to express my deepest appreciation for your confidence in me with regard to the Paper; a confidence that was expressed early on. While other kids were getting their first jobs flipping burgers or bagging groceries, I was a part-time employee of a religious journal. It was back in the dark ages (before computers) that Mom and I would address, bag and mail the paper out of that little hole-in-the-wall office complex you rented next to the Beauty Shop in what was (and still is) the largest strip mall in Brooks, Kentucky (which isn't saying a whole lot!) And then there were all the trips we made together to Northern Indiana to pick up the Paper. Hey, remember the time my tennis shoes got too close to the heat vent on that old VW and we kept smelling smoke? That was on one of those trips.... We had a lot of laughs, good talks and great times. In its own way, *Searching The Scriptures* provided us with some quality and quantity family time. Thanks for the memories.

In April 1980 I took on the job of compiling and editing the news column. It was then I learned the fine art of condensation (which is another way of saying I took a red pen to a lot of excess verbiage). That lasted until January of 1984 when, because of time restraints, I asked to be relieved.

Most of all I've appreciated the opportunity to write and express my thoughts to a larger audience than otherwise would have been possible. It's been an honor, Dad, and I want you to know that. I'm very sorry that I haven't been able to write anything for the last couple of years but, as you know, I made the decision to focus all my energies on my family and my local work. It was a decision I do not regret. And it made me feel good to know that you understood. However, I will tell you this, with the encouragement of a wonderful wife and three great kids, I will begin to write again whenever opportunities are present. (Some things just stay in your blood!)

Searching the Scriptures has long enjoyed a good reputation among a lot of brethren. Its soundness has

never been questioned. Its fairness has been one of its trademarks. Words like "balance," "even-handed," and "reasonable" have often been used when others describe the Paper. I have never heard STS spoken of in the same derogatory spirit as some of the other papers. I think that says something. I think that says a lot.

In my opinion your editorials have been some of the best material available the last twenty years. Your ability to take a difficult subject or controversy and simplify it for the common man has helped make *Searching the Scriptures* what it is. Frankly, there are times I read after some writers and wonder if I'm the only fellow who can't understand what they are talking about. I doubt it.

I read again Solomon's words in Ecc. 12: 9 where he noted that he carefully "pondered," "searched out," and "arranged" the words he wanted to use. I know you can identify with that task. Every writer can. And the reason it is so important to find just the right words when writing is given in the next verse - "*The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.*" I believe Solomon is saying that a preacher's job (whether communicating orally or in written form) is to use words that are easy to grasp and readily applied. Words that cannot be understood are not "delightful" words. Thanks for speaking clearly, Dad. Thanks for your diligence in presenting the truth correctly. Thanks for writing to say something rather than just finding something to say. And thanks for the warmth and humor you have added and allowed others to add in this paper. It's one thing to present the truth. It's another to present the truth with a human touch. There are several men who seemingly don't know how to do that.

What I'm trying to say is that I believe you have done an excellent job with a very difficult assignment. Anyone who thinks editing a paper is an easy job has obviously never done it. It takes a lot of patience, it takes a lot of wisdom, and it eventually takes its toll. Solomon was right when he warned, "the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body." The same can be said for editing a paper.

I've noticed that what had been your labor of love for so long had become a labor of hardship. The time restraints, deadlines and work that went into STS became mentally and physically draining. The enthusiasm was gone. Maybe I'm off base with this observation but I felt you lost some of the spark for the Paper when Mom died. Sometimes I felt like *Searching the Scriptures* was as much a part of her as it was a part of you. And although the Paper has continued on since her death it has never been quite the same.

I have hoped for some time that you would let STS die rather than passing it on to another. Obviously, I made it clear that I didn't want the pressures that accompanied the job. (I think a lot of people assumed you would eventually hand it down to me. They were wrong. *Searching the Scriptures* is not a family heirloom. You never offered it and I never wanted it). I have also made my feelings clear that it should not be given to anyone else. For one reason, *you* would always feel the weight

of responsibility for everything that would happen in the future. I know you. I know, because in many ways, I'm just like you. (Now there is a scary thought!)

I'm glad you have decided to let it die. *Searching the Scriptures* comes to an end at a time when it has a good name and has meant so much to so many. The timing is right.

And... it wouldn't hurt you to cut back a little. (I'm treading softly here...) I know that you will always be on the go as long as you live. Your preaching is much needed in meeting work where bland mediocrity has often taken the place of emotional exhortation. Your writing will continue to have an impact through your relation with *Guardian of Truth*. (I look for you to bring to that paper the same balance, simplicity and warmth that has been a trademark of STS). Your contribution will only enhance and help G. O. T. But it will be good for you to climb out from under some of the energy draining pressures and time-consuming demands that go with the editor's chair. And you know, Dad, there are five precious grand-kids that think you're the best thing to come along since micro-wave popcorn. Maybe now you'll have the time to stay an extra day or spend an extra moment with them. That's certainly no criticism of the past. It's just a fact that you had to meet the deadlines of the Paper. We all knew that and appreciated the way that you faithfully honored your commitments. But sometimes its good to experience a change of scenery and gain a fresh direction. Enjoy.

I hope I haven't rambled too much. I love you, Dad, and want only what is best for you. You have asked for my opinion and I've given it the best I know how. I think you have made a wise decision. Others may not agree but, then again, its not their decision. Thanks for allowing me to have a part for all these years. Thanks for your constant love and encouragement. And a special thanks for always being there when I needed you. May God bless you and Bobby in the days ahead with good health, warm memories and many years of productivity in His service.

In appreciation for a job well done, Wilson

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Remembering: Carrying In One's Thoughts

Martin W. Adams

495 Brook Ridge Circle
Cordova, Tennessee 38018

As parents, we never know what will be our children's lasting impressions of their early years. We strive to instill values and ground them in truth and often it is the intangible which clings to the soul through life. Many things today flood me with memories that to someone else would mean little. Such as artificial lures with triple hooks (you know, the kind that the tail wiggles when reeled through the water). Brother "Uncle" Weldon Warnock borrowed my brand new one when I was a kid with my Dad on a meeting and caught a 5 lb Bass on the first cast; and Yoo-Hoo Chocolate drink - my great-grandfather used to buy them for us when we would visit the store with him. Little things perhaps, but these memories will always be with me. Let me share another memory which to long time readers of *Searching the Scriptures* may have some meaning. A memory of a young boy trying his best not to fidget around while his father and mother talked with Brother and Sister H. E. Phillips in their Tampa, FL home. *Searching the Scriptures* was coming to Louisville, KY and into my life.

As with any small family run business, *Searching the Scriptures* became a focal point of our family. New terms came to have meaning; paste-up, galleys, bundles, and stencils. An opportunity to earn a little extra money by addressing the papers, doing some typing, or compiling bound volumes became available. There were trips to Berne, IN to the printer to pick up the papers each month. These trips were special times with Dad (except for the loading and unloading). Once when our station wagon was not big enough to carry a special issue we rented a U-Haul van only to have it break down ten miles north of Louisville on the way home. You know, in frustrating situations you find out what kind of person one's father really is. Dad taught me so many things through *Searching the Scriptures* business. It was on these trips to Berne that Dad taught me to drive. The work taught me about deadlines. It taught me the value and potency of the printed word. The few articles I've had printed in *Searching the Scriptures*, including this one, have left me each time with the same feeling as when Dad pulled the car over and gave me a chance to learn. So to all the subscribers during the years, thank you for your patience with a father instructing his son in the lesson that a thing is not always as easy as it looks.

Being an editor is not an easy thing. It can be consuming. It consumes your time, your family, your finances, your peace of mind, and at times your common sense. Rocket engines can operate in a vacuum, publications

cannot. Searching the Scriptures revolved around my Dad's desk, our kitchen table, and sometimes the ping pong table in the basement where bound volumes were compiled. I grew up thinking phone calls late at night (J. T. Smith, are you listening?) and during supper, **always** during supper, were normal. You don't know how many times Dad missed events when a deadline had to be met. So before you are too quick to react to an article remember the legitimate sacrifices these men make in order to write what they believe. Sometimes I think people forget about that. From our family's perspective, as I'm sure it was with the Phillips family, it has been a labor of love. At times the paper was treated almost as a member of the family; one with which I admit to having some sibling rivalry. But from an early age, it gave me a sense of involvement in a special work. No one has benefited any more from Searching the Scriptures over the last twenty years than I. It has served me as a source of information about other Christians in other places, as a source of study material, and as a link with home while away in college.

Dad has always said that all papers have a life. Things change. There is no denying it. For personal computers now, one can buy a multimedia cassette disk containing 16 different Bible versions, 2 Bible dictionaries, Strong's Concordance, 2 full sets of commentaries, and Greek and Hebrew texts all cross-indexed for \$300-\$500. All this placed on an object the size of a cool-whip bowl lid. It is amazing. I do not know the future for our "brotherhood" papers. They may change and avail themselves of new technology or they may not, but I do know this; that the **need** for a sound, balanced approach to scripture will still be present. No doubt others will continue working to fulfill that need. So whether they're published on an electronic bulletin board medium or printed and addressed by hand, the help will be there for us to use in our searching of the scriptures.

With Mixed Emotions

Bobby Adams

I had been a reader of Searching the Scriptures many years before Connie and I were married and had always loved and appreciated its' stand for truth. However, after I came to work in the office seven years ago, my interest increased considerably. As I worked with subscriptions, I came to think of each of you readers as friends. It was delightful to be able to meet some of you in our gospel meetings or at lectures. The subs then had faces. I will miss each of you. I have enjoyed working with Joan Rader, Jane Ashbrook and Karen Arbuckle these past seven years. A grateful "thanks" to each.

So it is with mixed emotions that I view the closing of the paper. The very thought brings me to tears because I know the deep love Connie has for it. I have seen him agonize over various issues, always desiring, first and foremost, that God be pleased with his decisions. I have seen him fearful that he was not giving his **very** best to both his readers and to his preaching. So it will be somewhat a relief to have the deadlines removed so he can devote all of his time to his first love, preaching the Word, (and perhaps seeing our children and grandchildren a little more often).

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It has been said that all good things have to come to an end. Whether or not this axiom is absolutely true, it is certainly true of many things. I believe that *Searching the Scriptures* has been a good thing and now it is going to come to an end. However, the impact it has had for good will continue on.

About The paper And Its Editor

According to my records, Connie W. Adams became the editor of *Searching the Scriptures* in June, 1973. The paper began in January, 1960 by two highly respected gospel preachers, James P. Miller and H. E. Phillips. Two years later brother Phillips became the sole editor until Connie W. Adams purchased the paper from him in 1973.

It is my considered opinion that the paper has had a terrific influence for good over the years. Like all human endeavors, no claim has ever been made for perfection. But it has been steady, fair, kind, but never soft in dealing with issues of the day. It has reached a lot of people all over the world for good.

Connie, my brother in Christ and in the flesh, has done an excellent job in the editorial chair. I write this to some degree with prejudice. He has kept things steady even during some times of turbulence and unrest among the brethren. His obvious efforts to exercise restraint under pressure is most admirable. And I do admire my brother in so many ways but especially for what I know him to be as a faithful gospel preacher and a Christian who has always been dedicated to serving the Lord. Compromise of truth has never entered his mind. This is very apparent in his editorship of *Searching the Scriptures* as well as his pulpit and Bible class work.

I want to take this means, as the paper is phased out, to express my appreciation, not only for Connie and *Searching the Scriptures* but also for having been extended the privilege of writing articles in this journal from time to time. Although I have not been as prolific a writer as some others, I consider it a signal honor to have been given this opportunity.

Congratulations, Connie, for a job well done and may God bless you in your future journalistic efforts in a different area. I wish to conclude my remarks with a passage from the masthead of *Searching the Scriptures*.

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me" (John 5: 39).

A Stalwart Paper For Truth

Religious journals can have a tremendous import for good or evil. Their influence toward the development of wholesome or unwholesome attitudes among brethren is unquestionable and undeniable. Doctrinal and moral positions are embraced and espoused by many individual Christians and multiple congregations because of the power of the printed page.

For example, the state of Kentucky (my home state) was split several years ago almost right down the middle of the state over the divisive issues of the missionary society and instrumental music in worship. Churches of Christ in western Kentucky resisted, by and large, these human innovations because of the influence of the Gospel Advocate under the capable and courageous leadership of David Lipscomb. However, eastern Kentucky was another story. Isaac Errett and his Christian Standard journal, published in Cincinnati, Ohio, captured the minds of most of the brethren in that part of the state. They became known as the Christian Church. Some kept the name, "Church of Christ."

This issue of *Searching the Scriptures* brings to a close the publication of a paper with a long and lustrous past. Only Almighty God could know the good that STS has contributed to the lives of thousands of people since the day of its inception. Having begun in Florida under the dedicated editorship of H. E. Phillips, it was later sold to Connie Adams, where he, as editor, has maintained the same devotion and commitment to truth and right as its founder. These men are to be highly commended for their tireless efforts in disseminating the word of God through religious journalism. They used a tool, which, in the wrong hands, could be lethal, spiritually, but they took it and used it for the Cause of truth. It has had a great positive influence in the brotherhood.

Searching the Scriptures has been a balanced paper, free of hobbyism, radicalism and liberalism. It has not been a one-issue paper that sounded like a broken record every time you read it. Neither did it have an ax to grind or a vendetta to carry out toward other brethren. The paper had one main objective and that was to teach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

The militancy of STS has been appreciated by a great

number of brethren, myself included, because sin and error cannot be dealt with, using a powder puff. The sword of the Spirit is our offensive weapon and writers for this paper have used it effectively. The editorial policy has reflected the spirit of New Testament preachers who manifested the spirit of the greatest preacher of all time, Jesus Christ. Brethren, a paper that our Lord could not fully express himself in has no biblical justification for its existence. Thank God STS did not adopt the Robert Schuller approach for its editorial policy.

It has been my privilege to have been a Staff Writer for STS since back in the 70's. Beginning with the January, 1985 issue I have written the Question Column under the caption, "What Saith the Scripture"? I express my appreciation to all those who have sent their questions for my consideration.

We close our few remarks by stating our sincere thanks to H. E. Phillips and Connie Adams for their work of faith and labor of love in keeping an excellent monthly religious paper coming into our homes for lo, these many years. It will be missed!

T. G. O'Neal
P.O. Box 723
Bessemer, Alabama 35021



Asleep With Dignity At Age 33

In the fall of 1959, fifteen brethren, including five preachers, met in Orlando, Florida, and with brethren H. E. Phillips and James P. Miller as co-editors, *Searching the Scriptures* was given birth.

On November 20, 1959,, my beloved friend, Jim Miller, wrote asking that I assist in getting this paper "off the ground" and write for it. I have paid subscriptions for someone else with every issue of the paper, from the first issue to this the last issue. My first article was in the second issue and I count it an honor that Connie Adams has ask that I submit an article for this the final issue.

In late December, 1959, as brother H. E. Phillips was putting the first issue of the paper together, his beloved wife was involved in a serious automobile accident in South Georgia and was confined to the hospital in Tallahassee, Florida, for several weeks. It was from here that Elwood put together the first issue of *Searching the Scriptures*.

From January, 1960, until May, 1973, Elwood edited the paper. After two years, arrangements were made for financial and editorial responsibility to rest solely with Elwood. However, James P. Miller was listed as co-editor for the first ten years. The heavy load of editorship and financial responsibility took its toll on Elwood's health and he edited his last issue in May, 1973.

During the Florida College Lectures of 1973, he told me of the verbal agreement he had with Connie Adams to give him the first opportunity at *Searching the Scriptures* should he ever decide to give it up. Elwood asked me to ask Connie to contact him while he was in Tampa for the lectures, which I did. Later that spring, Connie asked me to go with him to Atlanta to meet Elwood in order to work out arrangements for the transfer of the paper to him, which I did.

Beginning in June, 1973, Connie began to edit the paper and has until now. Again the editorship and financial responsibility has taken its toll and Connie has decided to close the paper down. While I do not intend to speak for anyone else, those who have been directly involved with the paper over the years would rather see it close down than to see it fall into the hands of those who would take it beyond "that which is written" (1 Cor.

A Message From Religious Supply Center

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4: 6) and "the doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9-11). Thus, after 33 years of publication, *Searching the Scriptures* is being put to bed to sleep with the same dignity that has characterized her for all these years.

While Elwood edited the paper, he was assisted by many whose names have never seen the light of print. Among those are special people like his beloved wife, Polly, his daughters, Carolyn, Juanita and Elaine.

When Connie became editor, his Bobbie was his right arm, until her death, putting the paper in the black. At this time Joan Rader took the enormous task of sorting out what only Bobbie knew and helped Connie keep the paper doing. During the last several years Donnie Rader has done an outstanding job of editing the paper and giving Connie some relief from time to time. Connie has been blessed with another Bobby to share his life and help him in his life's work.

When Jim Miller wrote me that he and brother H. E. Phillips were starting *Searching the Scriptures*, I had no idea who H. E. Phillips was. Throughout the years of our association together, I have come to regard Polly and Elwood as two of the finest Christians I have ever known. To me they are second parents.

At the time *Searching the Scriptures* was started Connie and I already knew each other. Over the years our relationship has developed to the point, I regard him as the brother I never had. Together we have traveled, visited, preached, debated and cried in times of sorrow. Many have not understood our relationship. But we have always understood each other. That is all that matters. No one will talk about him in my presence and get away with it!

Elwood and Connie, thanks for the opportunity you have given me to teach the truth through the pages of *Searching the Scriptures*. Brethren owe a debt of gratitude to you for giving us a paper that has been true to the Book, fought the good fight of faith with dignity and honor. May God keep you and yours and give you the crown at the end of the road.

**SIMPLICITY
IN
CHRIST**



P. J. Casebolt
Rt. 1 Box 210
Middlebourne, WV 26149

"Search The Scriptures"

"Search the scriptures... " (Jno. 5: 39) - in three words, Jesus gives the key which would solve all of our problems and reveal all of our opportunities.

The Jews failed to identify the Christ, and rejected him as their king, because they failed to search the scriptures. When the Jews required a sign (cf. 1 Cor. 1; 22), the only sign given to them was "the sign of the prophet Jonas" (Mt. 12: 39ff). Jesus told Jerusalem that it would not be prepared for its impending destruction "because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Lk. 19: 44).

Searching the scriptures is so indispensable to the truth that Abraham said concerning the five brethren of the rich man, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Lk. 16: 31). And I am persuaded that in our time, under "a better covenant" (Heb. 8: 6), that searching the scriptures is still the key to all of our religious problems and opportunities.

No matter what the Bible says about creation, the plan of salvation, the identity/mission/organization/work/worship of the church, marriage/divorce/remarriage, or any other subject - if you cannot persuade people to "search the scriptures, " they will never arrive at or accept the truth on any of these subjects.

If you want to carry on a spiritual conversation with one who is not a member of the Lord's church, or with one who is a member, the first question to be resolved is, "What shall we use for a source of knowledge and authority?" Until this matter is resolved, you may as well save your breath. Or use the time in an effort to establish the all-sufficiency of the scriptures.

We sometimes forget the different attitudes toward the truth as set forth in "the parable of the sower" (Mt. 13: 18ff). Every effort to sow the seed of the kingdom will find its counterpart somewhere in this parable. In one chapter (Acts 17), we can find three different attitudes toward the truth.

At Thessalonica (vv. 1-9), Paul "reasoned with them out of the scriptures" (v. 2). And in spite of hostility and persecution from the unbelieving Jews, many received the truth "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1 Thes. 2: 13).

At Berea (vv. 10-14), we find a people "more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (v. 11). And, as is always the case where you find such an attitude, "Therefore many of them believe..." (v. 12).

At Athens (vv. 15-34), Paul found a general attitude of indifference among the philosophers, and among "all the Athenians and strangers" (v. 21). And in my own experience, this latter attitude is the most difficult with which to deal. Generally, it is seed down "by the way side" (Lk. 8: 12).

It is imperative that the seed sown be incorruptible (1 Pet. 1: 23). It is also necessary that the one sowing the seed be faithful in such efforts (Jno. 4: 35-38). But we should not become discouraged, either with the seed or our own faithful efforts, if the results are not as they

could and should be. For the primary hindrance to fruitful labors in an affluent and immoral society is the failure of hearers (in or out of the church), to "search the scriptures."

Evidence to support this conclusion is found in the Philippines, Africa, India, Europe, and other parts of the world. The difference between being converted or not being converted is the difference between searching or not searching the scriptures.

Brethren, even if your efforts appear to be fruitless, don't give up (Gal. 6: 9). Even if your work suffers loss, don't look for another work or another vineyard (1 Cor. 3: 13-15). And even if people reject the scriptures, they are rejecting God, the truth, and eternal life, not you (1 Sam. 8: 7; Acts 13: 46).

I personally appreciate the efforts of those who have used the publication called *Searching the Scriptures* to provoke people to do just that - "search the scriptures."

I appreciate the opportunity which it has afforded me to tell of the "simplicity which is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11: 3).

Let us not cease to "search the scriptures" or encourage others to do the same, for the time will come when those same scriptures will search our hearts in judgment.

The Guardian of Truth Welcomes Subscribers of Searching The Scriptures

Mike Willis

27 Kings Court
Danville, Indiana 46122

With the rest of the readers of this journal, I view with a degree of sadness the publication of this final issue of *Searching the Scriptures*. For thirty-three years, this paper has been used in service to Christ Jesus our Lord. Its garments have not been stained by the sin of promoting and defending false doctrine; the reputations of its editors have not been marred by immoralities. It has an unblemished record in its propagation and defense of the truth, which deserves our laurels of commendation. The names of both H. E. Phillips and Connie W. Adams were respected and loved when I began preaching the gospel in 1966. They had already earned the respect of brethren who loved and obeyed the truth. I have been privileged to get to know both of these brethren personally and have learned to love them for the truth's sake. The bond we share in Christ has been precious to me.

Inasmuch as brother Adams has decided to discontinue publishing *Searching the Scriptures*, I am delighted that he has chosen *Guardian of Truth* to fulfill his obligations to his readers to provide them a paper for

the full term of their subscription. Through the years, *Searching the Scriptures* and *Guardian of Truth* (formerly known as *Truth Magazine* and *Gospel Guardian*) have shared a common commitment to the same principles of truth. Before becoming editor of *Searching the Scriptures*, brother Adams was a staff writer for *Truth Magazine* during the years it was edited by my bother, Cecil Willis. He was added as an Associate Editor in January 1966 and served until June 1973 when he became editor of *Searching the Scriptures*. Announcing Connie's leaving, Cecil wrote of brother Phillip's selection of Connie as editor saying, "I don't know whom they might have chosen that would have been better qualified in ability and disposition than Connie Adams.... Connie Adams has been one to whom I very frequently turned for advice regarding some of the difficult decisions which every editor must make." He continued to explain that Connie had been a fellow soldier in every aspect of their work.

Now brother Adams' work through *Searching the Scriptures* is over. He has done his work well, as evidenced by the high regard in which this paper is held among brethren. We join the host of brethren who congratulate him and his staff of writers for a job well done.

But brother Adams will continue to write. We are delighted to announce the brother Adams has agreed to resume his position as Associate Editor of *Guardian of Truth*. Those of you who have appreciated the good work he has done through the years with *Searching the Scriptures* will want to know that you can continue to read his good writings in *Guardian of Truth*. Therefore, as we fill the subscription obligations of *Searching the Scriptures*, we hope to introduce you to another paper which you will learn to appreciate just as much as you have *Searching the Scriptures*.

As editor of *Guardian of Truth*, I welcome each person who is a new subscriber to *Guardian of Truth*. We hope to continue to serve you in the same exemplary manner as you have grown accustomed to in the past. We welcome your comments, news items, preacher needed ads, church ads, etc. We desire to serve God's people; we have no desire to be served, become a lord over God's people, or otherwise harm the body of Christ. We welcome you to our mailing list.

The first issue of February will be a special issue of *Guardian Truth* edited by Connie Adams. Its theme is: "In Remembrance of These Things." Many of the writers of this special issue will be men whom you have been accustomed to reading in *Searching the Scriptures*. You won't want to miss an issue.

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(Continued from page 266 H. E. Phillips)

W. Adams the fidelity to divine truth and the ability and experience to fill the editor's chair. I believed he would do so with a firm resolve to hold this paper to its original purpose of preaching and defending the gospel. This prompted me to sell the paper to him.

Brother Adams has justified the faith and confidence I had in him by his diligent work as editor of *Searching The Scriptures* for nearly twenty years. I do not know anyone who could have done a better job as editor than Connie W. Adams.

Brother Adam has honored me upon several occasions. He offered me the front page of the paper to write whatever I thought was necessary, for as long as I wanted to write. That has been gratifying to me and I express to him my sincere appreciation.

I do not remember that Connie Adams and I ever had an angry word or a moment of dissension through the years. We have spent many hours talking together about the paper and various issues that confronted the church. We have exchanged many letters and talked many times by phone. I understand his emotions as he prepares to lay to rest this paper that has claimed so many hours of his valuable time and demanded such a sacrifice of labor and funds. Editorial and publication deadlines are a pressure that only those who have done it understand. I express to Connie my personal appreciation for his work well done. Only eternity will reveal the good he has accomplished by the printed page over these twenty years.

The Editorial Policy From The Beginning

The opening words of the editorial in that first issue were: "*Truth and truth alone can make men free.* Our Master taught this lesson to the Jews that believed on him in John 8: 32. With this issue of *SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES* you hold in your hand a new paper that is born to do just that. The truth has a right to be heard from the pulpit, over the airwaves, on the television screen, and on the printed page. This is one purpose of *SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES*." "... The pages of *SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES* will be open to men of good faith. We will allow anyone who has something worthwhile to say to speak his mind. We will not, however, allow propagandists to sow seeds of discord. This paper will not be devoted to unfair controversy and personal sarcasm..."

The last paragraph of this editorial says in part: "We have no policy but to be scriptural, fair, sincere, and faithful in our work as editors of this paper. We know nothing more that could be asked of us in presenting this paper for your edification..."

In the editorial of August, 1972, page 115 we wrote: "From the beginning we have earnestly sought to use the printed page to study the word of God with all who will read and study with us. We belong to no man or group. We strive to serve no special human interest. We are not for sale to any man for any price, because our own salvation and the salvation of others is in the balance."

This policy has been followed to the present time. Brother Adams has diligently pursued the principles of truth and fairness in his labors as editor, as we endeavored to do from the beginning. He has admirably steered this publication in the direction we believe it should go.

The Honorable Demise Of Searching The Scriptures

About a year ago brother Adams asked me to consider with him the destiny of *Searching The Scriptures*. He felt that he was unable to continue much longer with the paper because of his health and pressing deadlines. In the environment of deep emotions we considered the options that were available. With tears and fervent prayers to God, he decided to lay this labor of love to rest and leave its influence enshrined in the archives of history. Undoubtedly generations yet unborn will read its pages when we sleep with our fathers. As we are borne along by the tide of time toward eternity, we shall live in peace with the knowledge that no man or group can destroy its influence and use the name to propagate error.

I concur with his decision to bring this faithful labor of thirty-three years to a close with the December, 1992 issue. I empathize with him in his judgment and decision to end the paper; and commend his sense of responsibility to the readers of this religious magazine over the course of its history from 1960. It was not an easy decision to make. A combination of factors merge to make the decision essential.

In my editorial for the final issue of *Searching The Scriptures* before turning the helm to brother Connie Adams, I described some brief facts that led to the birth of *Searching The Scriptures*. As I now look back to the beginning, I see in the heart of a young man a yearning for the victory of truth over error and the determination to spread the gospel of Christ to as many as possible. My heart remains dedicated to that same gospel of Christ, but the body cannot do what it once did.

For my closing words in this final article in *Searching The Scriptures*, to the editor, all writers for this noble journal and to the readers, I adopt the inspired words of the apostle Paul: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20: 32). Amen.

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