

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Fresh insight, commitment, and spiritual growth are stressed at our Ashram to make it a real heartwarming Mountain Top experience.

Registration and fellowship will be at First United Methodist Church beginning at 4:30 PM Friday, February 27, 1976, with a sharing (pot luck) dinner being served at 5:30 PM. The Ashram program will begin Friday evening with the thrilling OPEN HEART experience, when, as we share our concerns we will seek to find our needs.

During the Ashram Bishop Mathews will stress the meaning of openness to the holy spirit in our lives, and Rev. Laphorne will lead the Bible study and discussion and will bring out the biblical authority for the essentials of the Ashram movement: Jesus is Lord, in Christ we are free.

The Ashram will come to a close Saturday afternoon with the spirit warming OVERFLOWING HEART experience - a showing of victories won, and the forming of the fellowship circle of all those gathered together.

---

## REGISTRATION FORM

February 27-28, 1976

Mr.  
Mrs.  
Miss .....

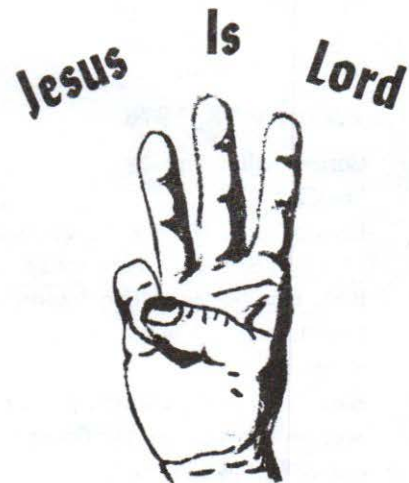
Address .....

Phone .....

Church .....

A registration fee of \$2 to accompany registration. Mail to First United Methodist Church, 9849 105th Avenue, Sun City 85351. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church.

# UNITED CHRISTIAN ASHRAM



## A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

4:30 PM February 27 to 4:30 PM February 28, 1976

Host Church

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

105th Avenue & Salem Drive

Phone 933-0562

In Cooperation with other Churches  
In Nearby Area

## PROGRAM

## THE SUN CITY ASHRAM

### Friday, February 27, 1976

- 4:30 to 5:15 PM - Registration
- 5:30 Table Blessing, Introductions
- \* 5:30 Sharing Dinner (Pot Luck)
- 6:30 Songfest
- 6:45 The OPEN HEART Service
- 7:45 Bishop James Mathews, Evangelist
- 8:30 Prayer Group organization
- 9:00 Benediction

### Saturday, February 28, 1976

- 8:30 Coffee-Fellowship
- 9:00 Songfest
- 9:15 Bishop James Mathews, Evangelist
- 10:00 First Meeting of Prayer Groups
- 11:15 Bible Hour - Rev. Albert Laphorne
- \*\*12:00 Sack Lunch
- 1:00 Songfest
- 1:10 Bible Hour - Rev. Albert Laphorne
- 1:45 Second Meeting - Prayer Groups
- 2:45 Coffee-Fellowship break
- 3:00 Bishop James Mathews
- 3:45 The OVERFLOWING HEART experience
- 4:30 Benediction

\* Bring a family size dish to share, along with your own table service. Beverage will be provided.

\*\* If you do not wish to bring a sack lunch a box lunch will be available at cost if requested at time of registration.

### Sunday, February 29, 1976

9:00 and 10:45 worship services. Bishop Mathews will preach at the First United Methodist Church.

### This is your invitation . . .

To gather together with others in a common quest for deeper spiritual growth; a quest that will make God more meaningful and real in your life.

There will be time for sharing, discussing and searching with outstanding Christian leaders in the belief that all Christians have one thing in common - Jesus Christ. In a Christian Ashram we come as we are but want to be the person God intends us to be. Around the person of Christ we become as one, not withdrawn from the world, but a stronger and better leader in our local church; a more dedicated citizen of God's kingdom.

The goal of all Ashrams is that those who come will leave as new persons, deeply renewed in faith and imbued with new life as better men and women, better church leaders, and with an enhanced appreciation and understanding that . . . JESUS IS LORD.

## LEADERSHIP

**Bishop James K. Mathews** is the resident Bishop of the Washington, D.C. area of the United Methodist Church. He is Chairman of "The Twelve" who direct the Ashram movement throughout the world.

**Reverend Albert Laphorne** is Assistant Pastor at Lakeview United Methodist Church in Sun City. He is a retired member of the Nebraska annual conference where he served as pastor and as District Superintendent.



# Artist sets scene of crucifixion

By **CONNIE STEELE YOUNG**  
Daily News-Sun staff

**O**n the wings of his imagination, Sun City artist Sam Ingram will carry churchgoers back nearly 2,000 years to Christian beginnings.

Members and guests of the First Christian Church of Sun City who attend 8 and 10:25 a.m. Palm Sunday services, will see a dramatization of the first Good Friday set in today's times. In Ingram's script, foreign correspondents report on the unfolding drama as if it were occurring now.

Special music, arranged by the church's music director, Jay Andrews, will support Ingram's dramatization. "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Heart," "Were You There?" "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Would I Have Joined the Crowd," will be sung by the church choir and soloists Veronica Enabnit, George Schuster and Mary Ingram.

To climax the presentation, the Rev. Paul Enabnit will unveil Ingram's painting of the crucifixion.

See Art, C4



Stephen Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Sam Ingram of Sun City stands before his crucifixion painting, "Into Thy Hands I commend My Spirit," which will be unveiled Palm Sunday in the First

Christian Church of Sun City. The crucifixion will be one of 175 works in a traveling exhibit, "America's Call to Freedom," Ingram's preparing to tour.

OVER





Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Sun City artist Sam Ingram's painting, "Discovering America," depicts many who came to the new world as part of man's evolution in individual freedom.

## Art and drama usher in Valley Holy Week services

— From C1

The unveiling of "Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit" will be the painting's only public showing.

"I don't have any plans to show the painting again until it is shown as part of my exhibit," Ingram said in a telephone interview.

Ingram is negotiating with sponsors for his exhibit, "America's Call to Freedom" in which he depicts America's freedoms as rooted in the Judeo-Christian heritage. The exhibit will contain 175 paintings, sketches and lithographs when Ingram has finished.

In his Palm Sunday dramatization, Ingram has newscasters broadcasting bulletins on events preceding Calvary.

Enabnit reports as Thadius Cronkite. The Rev. John Stone, former pastor of the church, and the Rev. Dr. Howard Davis, chairman of the church elders, report as Marcus Rather and Nero Jennings respectively. The Rev. Lloyd Sparks, a retired minister, plays an unseen voice.

The drama opens with an authoritative voice: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, this is Thadius Cronkite speaking for the World Radio and TV Network. Today we are going to bring you on-the-spot coverage of the climax of an event that for the past week has held Jerusalem and all of Judea in the grasp of suspense and heated controversy."

As the trial of the 33-year-old Nazarene takes

place, reporters brief their listeners on Jesus' earlier triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his gathering for the Passover Seder in the upper room with his disciples, his night in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest and his appearance before Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect.

Ingram's crucifixion painting has been called "very powerful emotionally" by Yolanda Muhammad, curator of the Sun Cities Art Museum. Muhammad said, "It merges illustration and fine art."

"Sam puts drama in his paintings that reaches the audience. There's a great deal of power and passion in his paintings," Muhammad said.

In his painting, Ingram captures the scene on Golgotha and the expressions of witnesses.

"Sam is a realist. He has a very strong background," she said.

Ingram has studied art with Diego Rivera, Jose Orozco and Carlos Merdia. His paintings of Mexico have been exhibited in Dallas, Houston, San Diego, Chicago and New York.

Throughout his 32 years as a Navy pilot, Ingram carried on an art career. His work has appeared in national magazines and been used in national ad campaigns of major corporations.

The painting can be seen at the church, 14001 Thunderbird Blvd., immediately after the two Sunday services.



Daily News-Sun

Friday, Nov. 11, 1988 C-1

By MIKE GARRETT  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Pastor John Stone of First Christian Church of Sun City doesn't believe in a lot of frills or social programs for his church.

Preaching the Gospel as best he knows how and having a caring attitude toward his congregation is the way Stone goes about his work.

"I envision my personal responsibility to preach the Gospel and to teach people in such a way that they grow in their Christian faith," said Stone.

Although many Sun City retirees are already mature in their Christian faith, Stone noted that many retired business executives here who were leaders in their various fields didn't have or take the time to devote to church work.

"Consequently, they are now very receptive to challenges in that direction. I find the retirees in Sun City are far beyond most places in desiring to reach out and give a helping hand to others who need it."

First Christian Church of Sun City at 14001 W. Thunderbird Blvd., is relatively small by Sun

**'I find the retirees in Sun City are far beyond most places in desiring to reach out and give a helping hand to others ...**

John Stone

City standards with a congregation numbering about 300 at its maximum from January through Easter Sunday.

"We have grown not so much numerically because as we add, we lose by people dying or maybe one member of the family dies and the other one has to go back closer to their family.

"Our church is basically a Bible preaching-teaching church," said Stone. "We don't have a lot of social programs and we don't participate in a lot of things, mostly because our emphasis is in another direction.

"It's not that we have objections to them. If you mention the National Council of Churches, the roof would probably blow off our church. We are not in accord with the national council," said Stone. "We try to cooperate with such things as the Westside Food Bank, Salvation Army programs and Interfaith Services, but we are not leaders in these movements."

Stone said he is primarily a New Testament preacher and tries to keep his sermons topical.

# Preaching the Gospel

## Pastor Stone skips frills to help people grow

November will be devoted to Thanksgiving-type sermons and last Sunday, the one before Veterans Day, honored all the veterans in the congregation.

Stone, who will turn 70 next May, said he enjoys what he does and where he does it.

"I rejoice in the life of my ministry here because I preach to my generation. I don't think I could go out and take a church now that had young families with kids growing up and facing the drug problem and living together without marriage and all of these things. I would have a real tough time handling a church that way."

He hopes retirement is still a ways away yet.

"I've been debating how soon I should retire. I always said I wanted to preach until I was 70 if the Lord gave me health. And unless something happens I'll make that. I'll probably go on awhile longer."

His congregation has let him know in several ways he has made an impact on them.

"I guess the thing that they express to me more than anything else is my caring and compassion. I spend a lot of hours in the hospital as any good preacher in Sun City does. I try to stand by families as they struggle with grief and these kinds of things.

"He's a fine minister, preaches good sermons, has been very supportive and he does a good job teaching the adult Sunday school Bible class we have," said Lloyd Sparks, one of three retired ministers in the congregation and a member since 1984. "He has labeled us as ministers of encouragement."

Like the other two retired ministers, Howard Davis and Robert Hanson, Sparks said he has filled in for Stone during absences or during the January-Easter period when the church has two morning services. Its regular worship service is 10:25 a.m.

"If I do need to be gone or during vacation time, it's just a question of which one is going to preach for me," said Stone. "I don't have an assistant minister so they have been a great help to me."

Stone said he has seen a number of attitude and activity changes occur in his congregation since he arrived from California in 1981.

"Our missions program has grown tremendously. I don't take credit for it but I'm a part of it."

Two years ago elders of the congregation decided to send Stone and his wife to the Holy Land in Israel, footing the bill out of their own pockets.

"It shows the feeling the peo-

ple here have expressed towards me."

Stone began his ministerial career in 1942 in his native California and began full-time preaching in 1947. He has had ministeries in southern and northern California and Oregon before Sun City summoned his services.

He was also a public relations director for San Jose Bible College for 3½ years as a liaison

between the college and area churches.

The First Christian Church dates back to the 1800s as a completely self-ruled, self-controlled group. It has no national headquarters.

"Basically, the Christian church came out of the background of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, who were Scotch Presbyterians and came to the

United States," said Stone. "After a period of time they felt that churches so often were leaving Scriptures and the Bible as their authority and making use of manmade traditions.

"Primarily, they sought to restore the New Testament church. They say where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent. Secondly was the desire to have

just one church. Tragically, we split into three major branches ourselves."

First Christian Church of Sun City opened its doors in 1974. Stone is its third full-time head pastor after founding minister Robert O'Gan and Barton McElroy.

Both had to leave the pulpit for health reasons, according to Stone.





PASTOR JOHN STONE — Minister at First Christian Church preaches the Gospel and helps people grow in faith. News-Sun photo