

Scripture: Isaiah 32:14-18. RSV. . .

Text: Isaiah 32:17

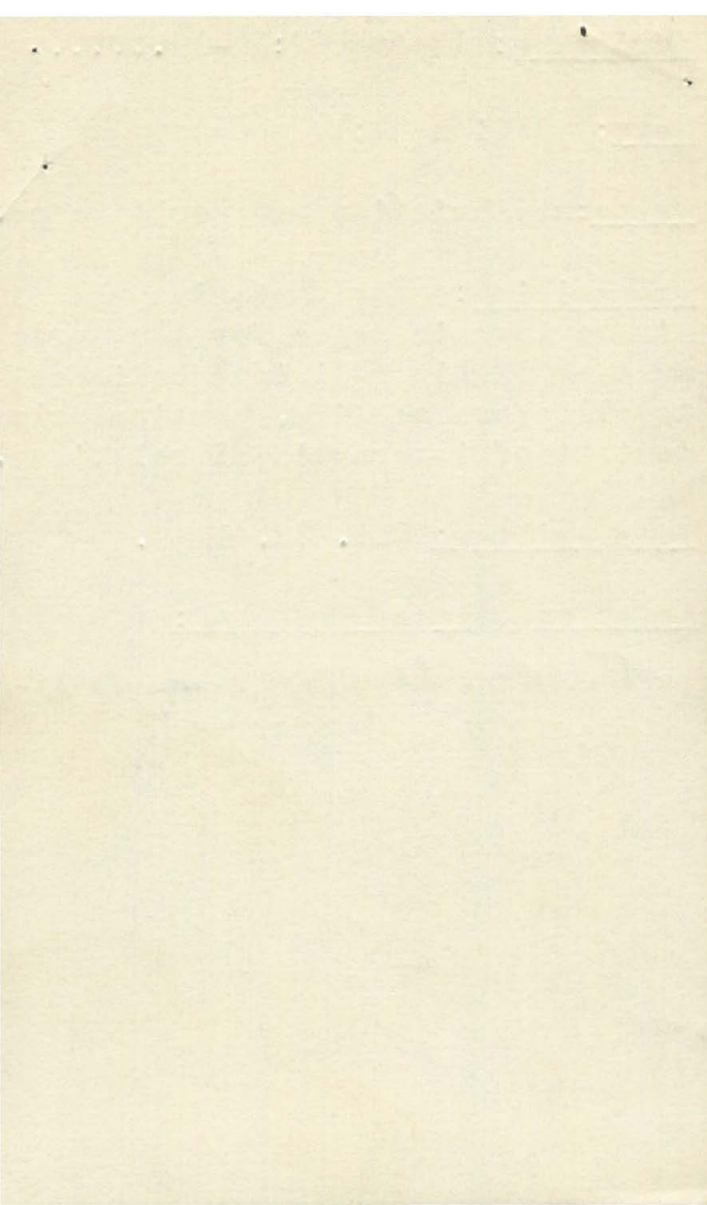
Theme: The Christian and World Peace.

Proposition: The Christian who wishes to gain peace for the world must apply his religious beliefs to all areas of life, particularly to that of international relations.

Date written: Oct. 22, 1955.

Dates and places preached:

MT. VIEW, CHEYENNE, WYO - 10-23-55  
Montrose, Colo. - 3/10/63

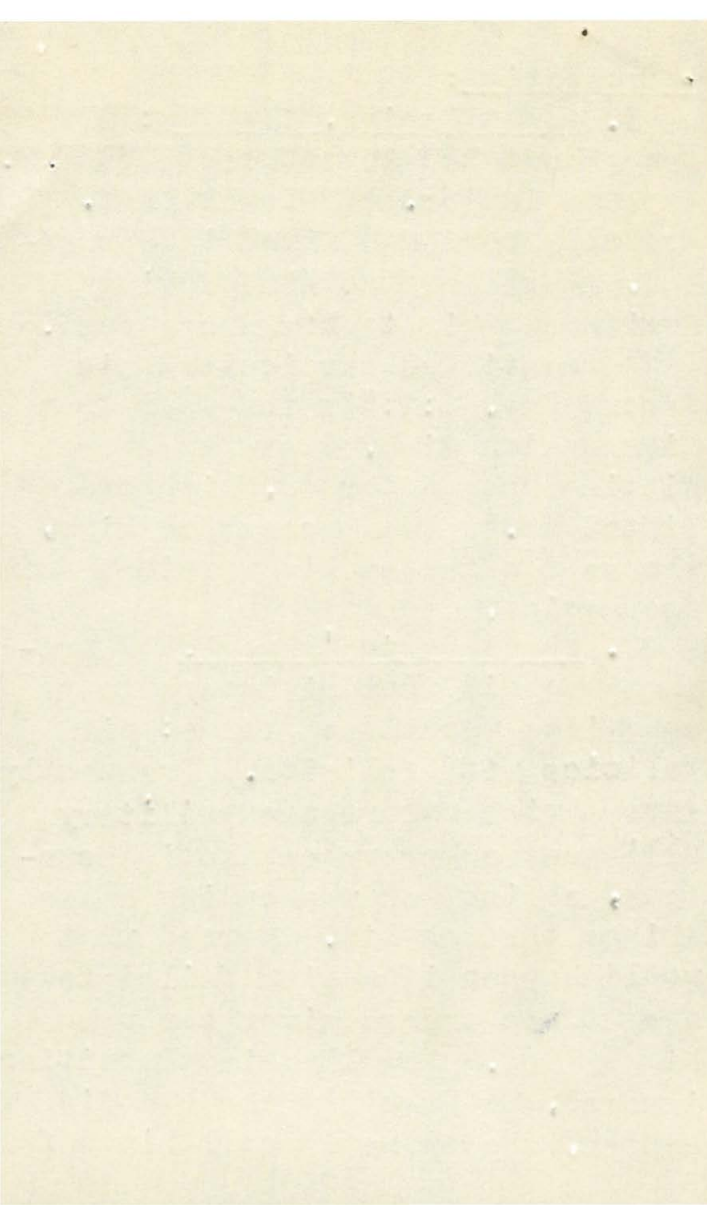


## Introduction:

1. About Isaiah, the man: lived from about 760 to at least 701 B.C. Perhaps longer. At least that. Probably born and lived in Jerusalem. Perhaps a cousin of king Uzziah and kin to his successors.

" mentioned particularly in famous Isa. 6:1: "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up." Easy access to king, who seldom heeded his warnings and prophecies.

2. About Isaiah's work. A prophet who did what ministers today sometimes warned not to do: mix politics with religion. Frequently gave advice on proposed military alliances or prevalent social customs, saying God was saying these things through him. Warned what would happen if nation failed to obey these orders given through him by God. Usually his admonition ignored, and usually the bad did happen. Today would call him a far

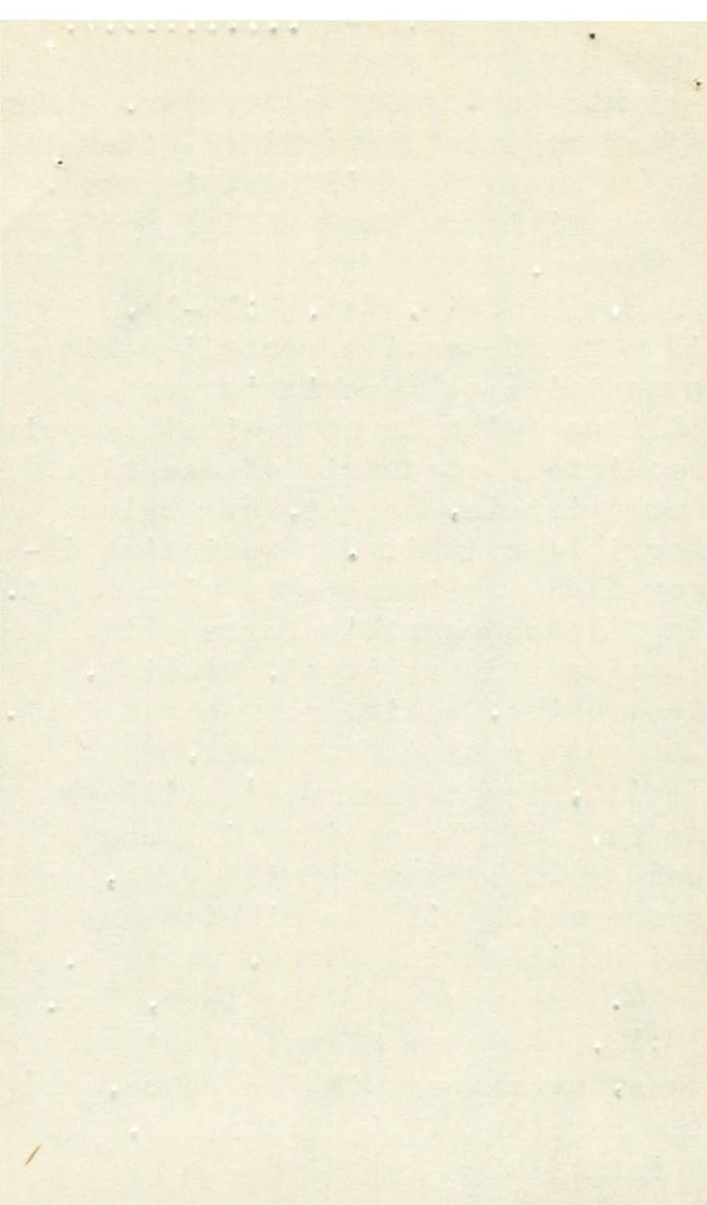


-sighted and godly statesman. When after repeated determined attempts to be heard he still was ignored, would withdraw and wait to see what happened.

3. In Scrip, Isa. 32:14-18, is part of section recording his opposition to Hezekiah's proposed alliance with Egypt against Assyria. Predicted Senecharib of Assyria would invade, defeat, and bring horrible calamity. Prediction ignored and alliance made with Egypt. In 701 Senecharib's forces did what he had predicted, killing, destroying, taking slaves and loot. The only escape from this, says Isaiah, is to seek God's will and do it. If the nation will obey God great blessings will come, among which will be righteousness which will bring peace, he says.

4. The words of the text, Isa. 32:17, "and the effect of righteousness ~~will be peace~~ will be peace, and the results of righteousness, ~~quietness~~





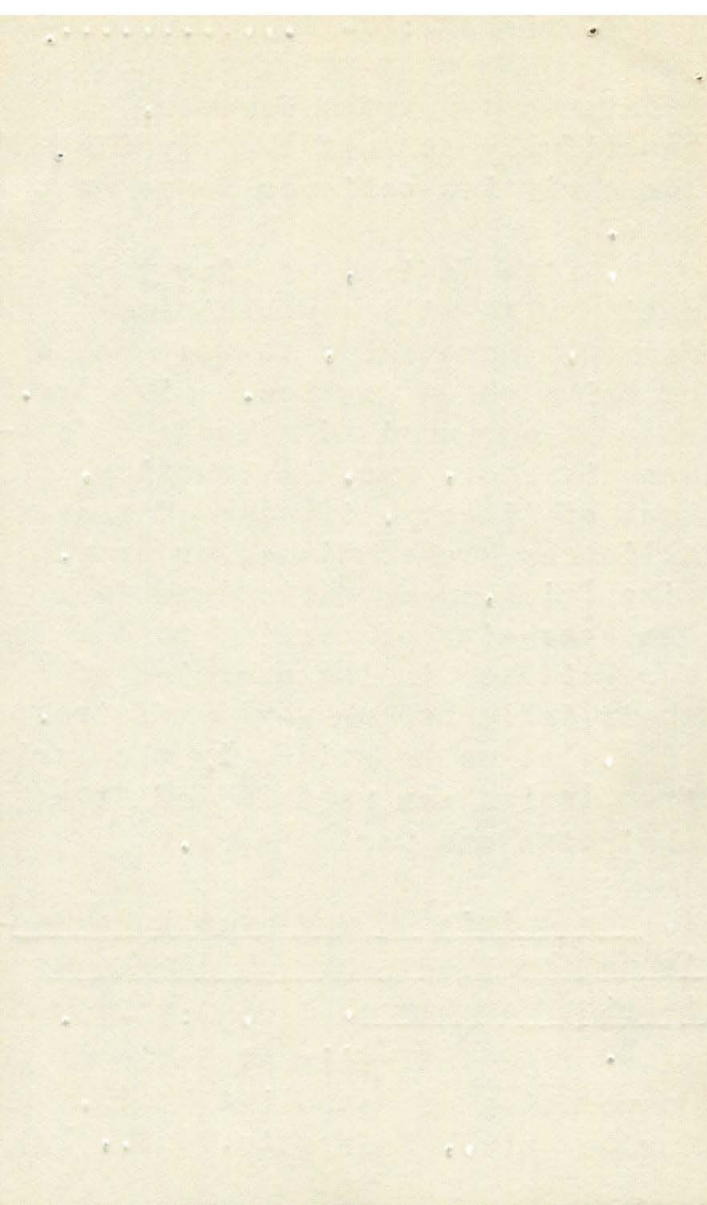
quietness and trust forever," beautifully suggest the way that the christian believes peace must come.

5. Like Isaiah, we live in a nation with military alliances formed, supposedly, to keep peace or bring about justice. Like Isa. some of our christian leaders foresee disaster, war, destruction, loss of liberty, if some of these alliances are continued or grow. Like Isiah, many Christians feel the necessity of turning to God for guidance in the exercise of their influence on world affairs.

6. Let us be guided by the Scrip from Isaiah ~~and~~ we think of "the Christian and world Peace."

I. The spirit of God must be experienced by those who would make an imprint for peace. Isa. 32:15-16.

1. Woman of India at National Convocation of Methodist Youth, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind., 1955

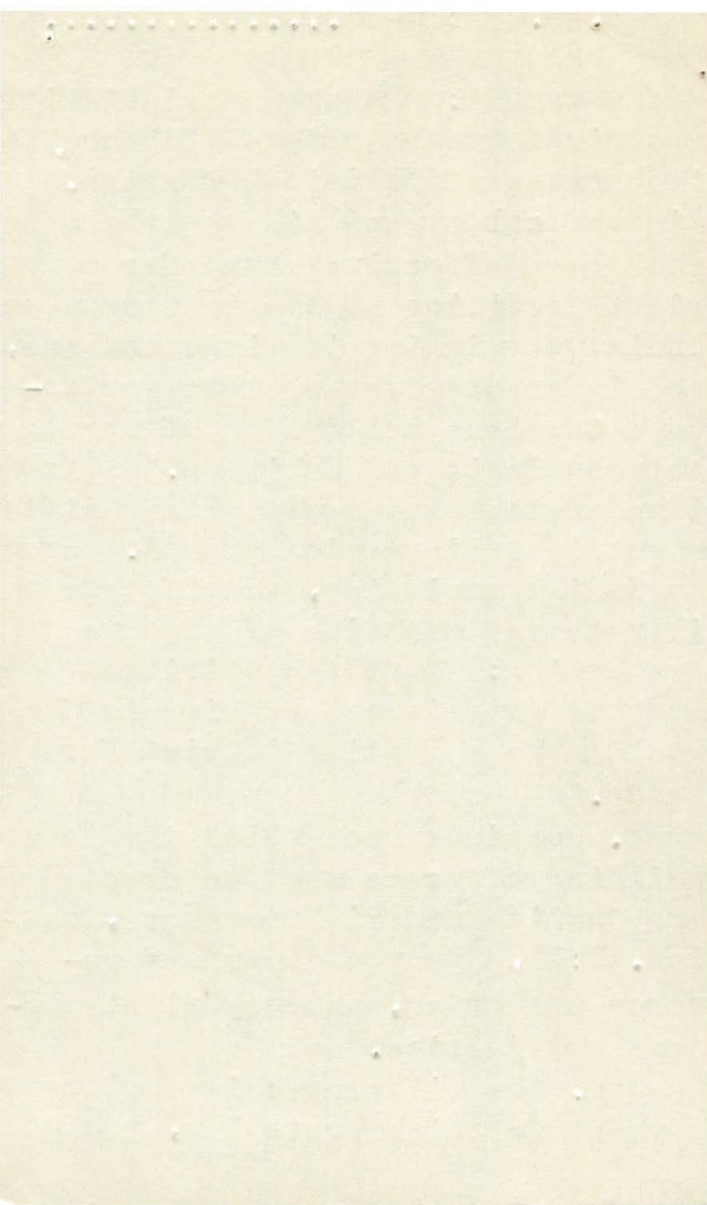




about Gandhi: "He knew Christianit was right but he refused to accept it because of political reasons. His refusal caused him to make a much less effective stand for a right partition of the country when India was winning its independence, and is greatly responsible for today's tensions and danger of war between India and Pakistan." (as I understood and remember her statement in a discussion group). From an Indian christian, and if true illustrates negative of what we are saying: that the spirit of God must be experienced by him who would make a lasting imprint for peace.

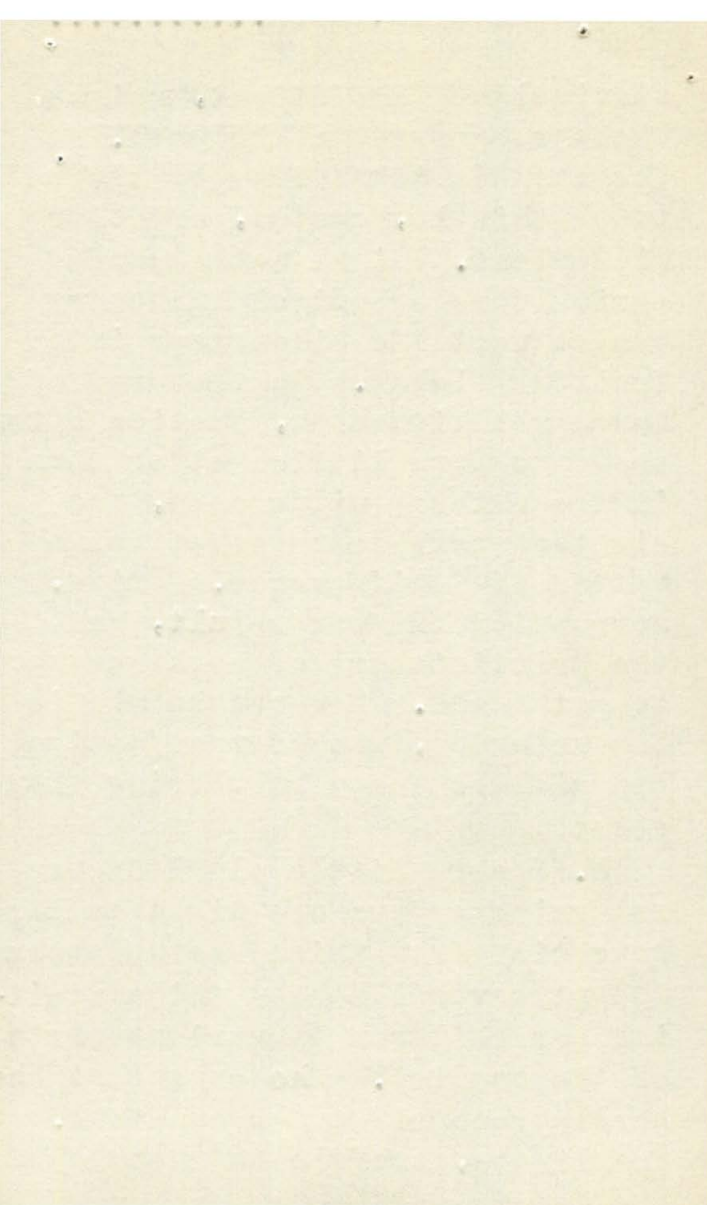
2. Footings upon which the building of peace must be erected are justice and righteousness, as Isa. 32:16. We would perhaps reverse the order, and say righteousness and justice.

a. The wilderness is a place where we think brute law, the



survival of the fittest, reigns. The strong prey on the weak. The land is taken over by the tough thistle, cactus, or other wild plant. Right methods of agriculture or animal husbandry can convert the wilderness into fruitful fields. In the area of human relationships, justice often seems to fare little better than in the natural wilderness, and righteousness seems sometimes a matter of indifference. Crime, corruption and war result, and the practitioners of each seem to get ahead. How can he who is the underdog, who craves justice and righteousness help bring them about?

b. A spry little old lady was returning by bus one night to her home city from which she had been absent several months while visiting her children in various parts of the country. She says that she hardly recognized her own town. The lights, traffic and people



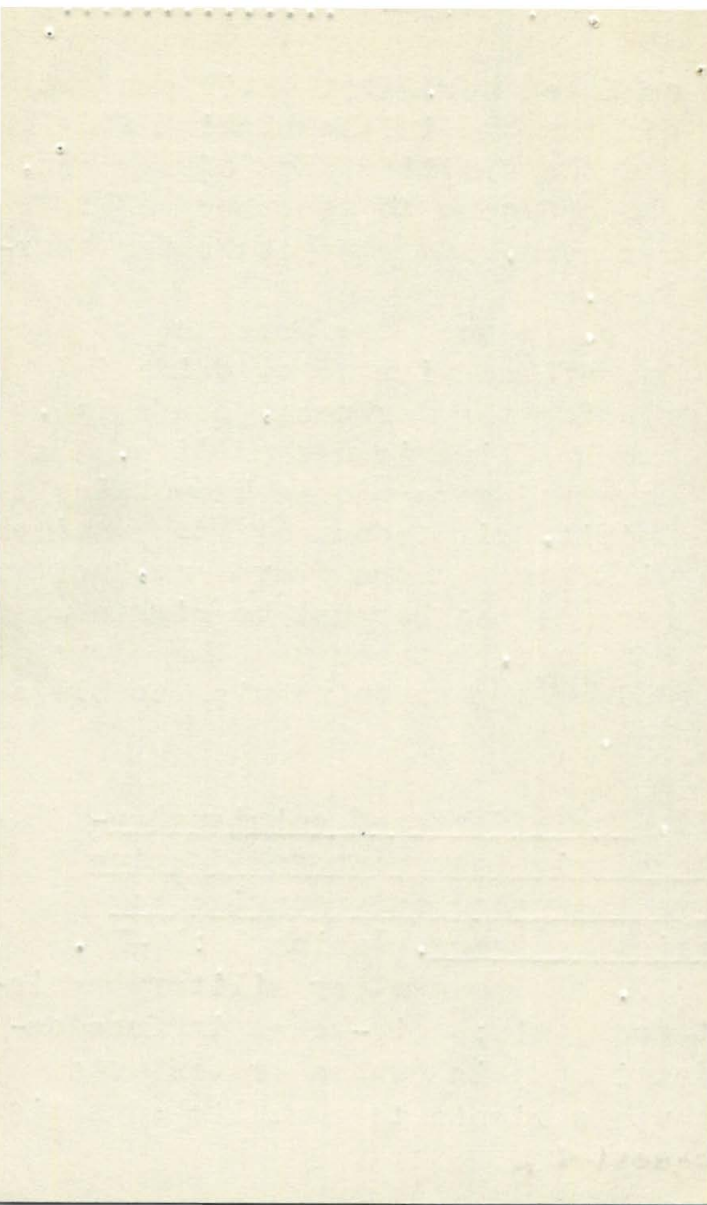
13a. 20.17-18.....  
c' confused her. Not until she got off the bus in the station and saw the familiar face of her son, who had come to meet her and take her home, had she gotten her bearings.

c. We need the presence of the Son of God with us to guide in meeting the darkness, confusion, and baffling issues of life. As more and more people know this Spirit, righteousness and justice will become more prevalent, not because people must be righteous and just, but because they love God and by so doing wish to please Him.

II. The effects of spiritually-based righteousness and justice are the peace and security for which we yearn. Isaiah 32:17-18.

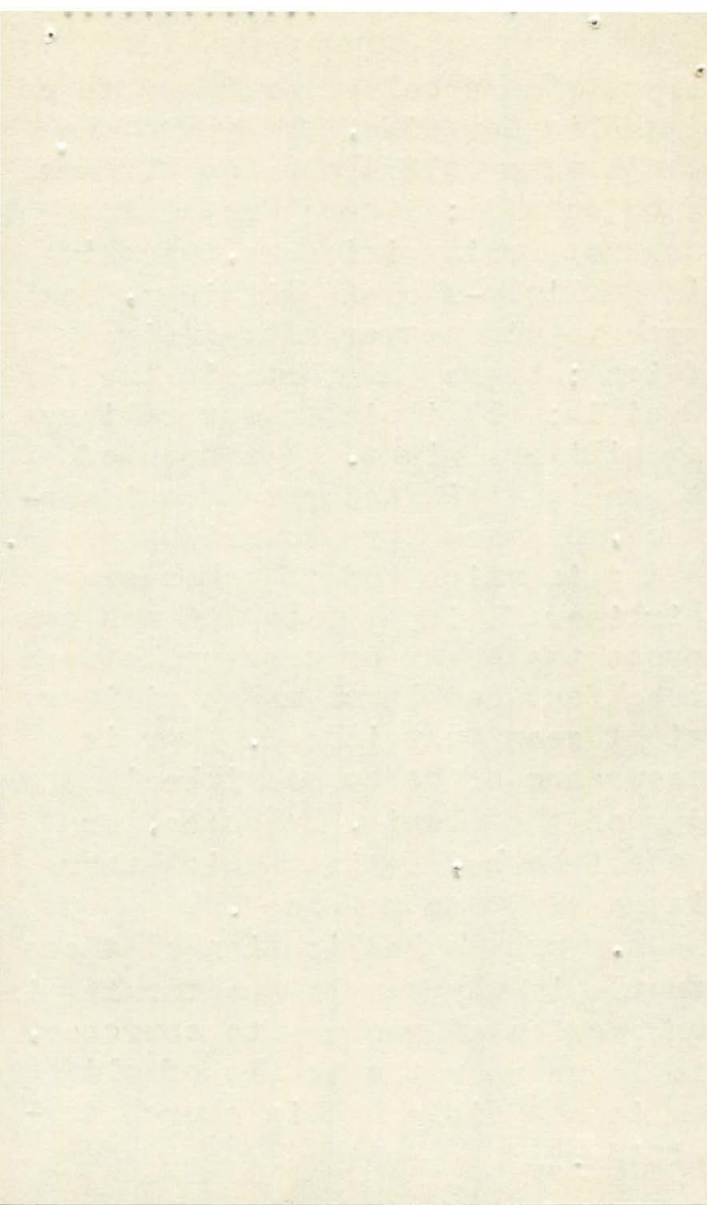
1. NATO and other military assistance pacts; Air-bases in freedom-denying Spain (where Protestants have no rights to a public education ~~except in~~).





except in schools where Nuns teach Catholic doctrine, and where one can't vote unless one has attended such schools; where Protestants can not train ministers, worship in publicly-marked buildings, nor seek to win converts to their faith); bases and ports in the far Pacific; all indicate our reliance on military might. Yet none of these is satisfactory peace insurance, and some are downright wrong. A day in which a jet bomber or airliner flying 500 to 600 mph can cross the ocean or country between breakfast and lunch makes military might seem puny indeed. Nor is assurance of peace possible in the day of the atomic, hydrogen, or cobalt bombs, against which there is no adequate defense .

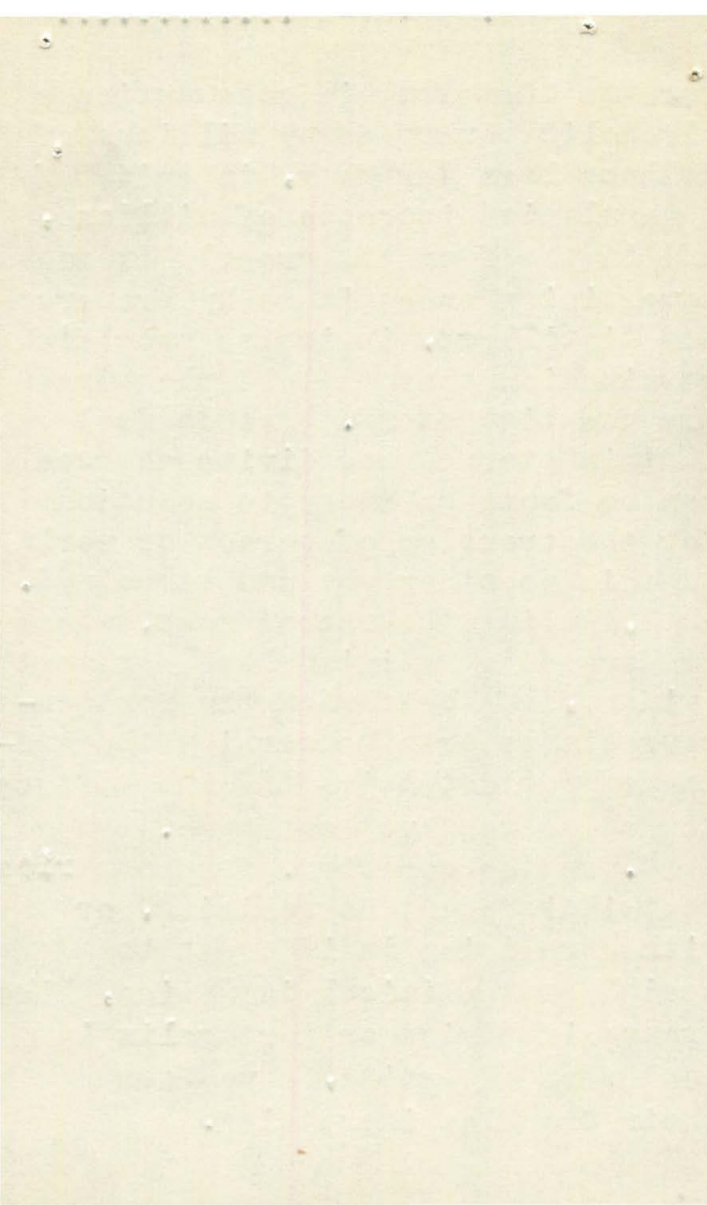
2. Perhaps realization of these truths is why people are turning in unprecedented numbers to churches, to learn anew the truths of old as in the Bible and in church tradition. ~~dition~~ B



Perhaps the slump in consumption of alcoholic beverages by millions of gallons less per year, in spite of a population increase of millions, and in the face of a greatly expanded advertising expenditure by brewers and distillers, indicates people's realization that the old pleasures are unsatisfactory. People feel that in eternal and ~~divine~~ sources can be found an adequate solution for the troubles of person or world that in no other way can be solved.

3. During the recent past, when the trend to religion has been most evident, has been when the most encouraging reports concerning the easing of world tension and the efforts toward peace have been made.

4. On the contrary, the countries most indifferent to religion, or with a religion indifferent to social and political injustice, like France in Africa or Portugal in ~~Southern~~ (part of India), have found their troubles increasing.





## Conclusion:

1. The spirit of God must be experienced by those who would make an imprint for peace.

2. The effects of spiritually-based righteousness and justice are the peace and security for which we yearn.

3. The Christian who wishes to gain peace for the world must apply his religious beliefs to all areas of life, particularly to that of international life, letting his government and his neighbors know what he wishes.

4. As more and more Christians realize this, their efforts added to yours, can bring peace.

5. "and the effects of righteousness will be peace, and the results of righteousness, quietness and trust forever."

