

A Letter from the Publisher

George Bernard Shaw, who had an opinion about everything, wrote that the subject of religion is "the only one that capable people really care for." Our readers certainly do: our mail shows consistently that they have strong, informed views on religion. This week's cover story, "The Evangelicals," concerns the fastest-growing religious movement in the U.S. today. For Religion Editor Richard N. Ostling, the assignment involved an unusual degree of personal engagement, because he is an Evangelical. "Being religious gives you a basic interest," says Ostling. "But you have to be objective, which in my case means writing about Evangelicalism as if it were Hinduism."

The correspondents covering the movement were an ecumenical group. James Wilde, on the West Coast, marveled at the faith of the Evangelicals, but says that he remains "an unrepentant papist. I prefer the pomp of Rome, the scarlet Cardinals and Gregorian Chant."

In Darien, Conn., Margaret Boeth talked to members of a thriving congregation of Evangelical Episcopalians. She remembers that, as a child in Mississippi, she once announced to her father that she no longer believed in God and would not be

attending church services. "But my dear," her father replied, "we have always gone to church." Says Boeth: "I went." Now she is an active but traditional Episcopalian. She found herself envying the new Evangelicals but not really able to join them. Thirty miles and several worlds away from Darien, Correspondent Jeanne Saddler was impressed by a group of Evangelicals who minister to derelicts in Times Square. "While no one dragged me to the baptismal font," says Saddler, "mother will have an easier time getting me to church this Christmas."

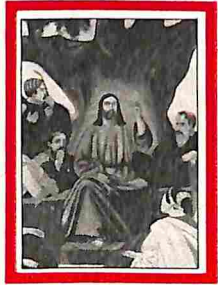
The Evangelical movement is a quest for traditional faith and values, and so for our cover the editors decided on an American primitive painting, *Christ's Sermon on the Mount*, by an artist known only as Plattenberger. Painted in the mid-19th century, the picture now hangs in the family room of a Woodbury, Conn., doctor. It was placed there, says the owner, so that the children of the household could see Christ's admonishing gesture and behave.

Our story on Evangelicals and their message of faith is appropriate for Christmas. We offer it with our warm good wishes for the holiday season.

Ralph P. Davidson

Index

Cover: Detail of *Christ's Sermon on the Mount* (Plattenberger); courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Danielson



52 Cover: Once patronized as Southern, rural and redneck, the Evangelical movement is winning converts and contributions at an increasing rate, from staid New England to the faith-bound shores of California.



10 Nation: Is Jimmy Carter a hit? TIME's special survey shows that voters are disappointed with his performance but still captivated by his idealism. ▶ Saving Social Security will cost the weary taxpayer plenty.



20 Middle East: Israelis and Egyptians start their historic meeting in Cairo. Meanwhile, Israel's Begin flies to the U.S. to tell Carter his response to the initiatives of Egypt's Sadat. The next step: another Sadat-Begin meeting.

25 World
If Quebec splinters Canada, would the U.S. pick up the pieces? ▶ Espionage case roils Bonn and worries NATO.

33 Energy
OPEC ponders the date to decide on oil prices. Outlook: a small boost or none. When? Maybe this week, maybe spring.

34 Press
Producers fight back as Critic Simon savages Broadway acts and actresses. ▶ Puzzling murder of a correspondent in Cairo.

39 Education
A one-room school uses the classics to teach ghetto children with success. ▶ HEW pursues 49 schools in a paper chase.

40 Economy & Business
The dollar swooshes into free fall. ▶ U.S. thumbs down Japan's trade plan. ▶ Auto sales slump but optimism remains high.

50 Environment
Alaska chooses a pristine site and a fitting design for its new capital. ▶ Traffic control and the Old Man of the Mountains.

60 Music
An English rocker by the name of Elvis Costello is into old-style sound and may be the first swell of a New Wave.

62 Living
The game's the thing for more Americans than ever this Christmas, as computerized marvels beep, scheme and fascinate.

66 Books
On Photography exposes Critic Sontag's views. ▶ *Caught in the Web of Words* defines the Oxford English Dictionary.

70 Sport
Kermit Washington's punch rocks the N.B.A. ▶ Denver is a mile high over the advent of big-league baseball.

72 Cinema
In *World's Greatest Lover*, Wilder pays homage to Brooks, but the flattery fizzles. ▶ *Telefon*: warmed-over spy stew.

4 Letters
51 Medicine
58 Milestones
61 People
71 Theater

TIME is published weekly at the subscription price of \$26.00 per year, by Time Inc., 541 N. Fairbanks Court, Chicago, Ill. 60611. Principal office: Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020. James R. Shepley, President; Edward Patrick Lenahan, Treasurer; Charles B. Bear, Secretary. Second class postage paid at Chicago, Ill., and at additional mailing offices. Vol. 110 No. 26. © 1977 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

DECEMBER 26, 1977

\$1.00

BEGIN'S BIG TRIP
A Reply for
Sadat

TIME

THE EVANGELICALS

New Empire of Faith



NY YORK WLS MN 56567

BOX 53

MRS D A CARLSON

JUL76 CRL 99053093T 55 65 67

®