HISTORY OF

MOUNT CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ROUTE 1, PIKEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

1878 - 1978

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

At a regular meeting of the Official Board of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church on November 17, 1975, the Chairman of the Board, Durwood Smith, asked the Historical Committee to bring the History of the Church up to date and to obtain and compile as accurately as possible the full history of the Church. The Board desired a complete history from the organization of the Church, August 25, 1878 to the present time. The committee consisted of Miss Evelyn Lancaster, Mrs. Jean Wooten, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, and Wilbur A. Pike.

The plan will be to put the history in a memorial book, with a copy being kept in the Church for future use. The committee was also instructed to obtain a list of memorials and gifts various members had donated, and have these properly recorded for future reference.

The committee has sought and secured information from members and residents in and near the Church community of Mt. Carmel. They also had help from Rev. C. Franklin Grill, Coordinator of the Council of Ministries, N. C. Conference, Raleigh, N. C.; our District Superintendent, Rev. Paul B. Edwards, Goldsboro, N. C.; our Pastor, Rev. Charles Graham Nickens; as well as many former Pastors and Ministers. Information was also obtained from the old registers of Mount Carmel Church, official conference minutes, and from the membership at large.

The following pages constitute a brief history of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, R-1, Pikeville, N. C. 27863, as prepared and submitted by the Historical Committee named above.

HISTORY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

John Wesley was born in 1703, and in 1738 he received the spiritual experience which made him a flaming torch whose light and warmth is spreading even yet. He lived until 1791 and saw the revival spread throughout the American Colonies. It was said that in Wesley's time, Methodism possessed a warmth, spontaneity, virility, and adaptability that some of the other demoninations in this area did not possess. As a result, Methodism attracted many converts.

After the Civil war and the long dark days of reconstruction, and in the year of 1878 on August 25th, about three miles southeast of the small village known as Pikeville in Wayne County, North Carolina, an area noted for growing cotton, forest products, terpentine, tar, hogs, and other farm products; Mount Carmel Church was organized.

Following taken from N. C. Conference Historical Directory:

"MOUNT CARMEL: Intersection of County Roads 1537 and 1545 near the Goldsboro Municipal Airport; Founded August 25, 1878, accordin to local church information; Earliest deed, January 20, 1882, Book 49 Page 5; Membership 215."

About 1865, Public School No. 39 was established in this community and was known as Mount Carmel. The boundary of the School District was as follows: Beginning at Nahunta Swamp and runs with WW Railroad to Braxton Davis Bridge near Boor house, thence a direct line East to the head of Needham J. Smith Mill pond, then down said mill pond and branch to the Slough, then down the Slough to County Road, then said road to Nahunta Swamp then up said Swamp to W&W Railroad to the beginning.

This was one of the first schools in the area and the first teacher was Grey Garriss who taught at Mount Carmel for many years. It is said that the older children of Benjamin and Serena H. Aycock attended school here and that Charles B. Aycock, being younger, attended here for a short time.

The Grammer School survived for many years, and in 1924 was finally consolidated with Pikeville School, the consolidated High School of the area.

It was near the school and on the same property that the church was founded. The primary religious belief of the area was believed to have been Quaker until the organization of this church.

Mount Carmel was organized by the Rev. A. J. Finlayson. The founding of this church was the outgrowth of a revival held under a bush arbor. This was on the same lot and near the one-room school known as public school No. 39.

In an address on July 12, 1893, at the laying of the cornerstone of what is now St. Paul United Methodist Church, the Rev. John W. Andrews recounted some of the instances of the great revival that swept Goldsboro in 1849 and of the influence that it had on the religious life of Goldsboro and Wayne County thirty-four years later. In a copy of the address owned by Mrs. Mary Slocumb, 612 E. Walnut Street, Goldsboro, N. C., this account was given of the Rev. A. J. Finlayson's early life and work as a minister or local preacher.

"Rev. A. J. Finlayson became a local preacher. He was not educated, but was converted; not eloquent, but earnest. He enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens to the end of life. No citizen of Wayne had impressed himself for good upon the religious public for two generations as did Rev. Finalyson for nearly thirty years of his ministry. After the war, the Wayne and Lenoir circuits were revived and rebuilt through his instrumentality, and the seed from which has sprung the young and promising Goldsboro circuit was sown by him. He was instrumental in building seven churches. He gave bountifully of his time and money to the cause of Christ, and his death was one of great calmness and peace. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end by like him."

"The itinerant preacher addresses you, and after twenty-nine years of continuous work and 5,800 miles of continuous travel, having preached about 5,500 times, he had only this to say for himself: That could he begin where he laid down his profession, and with it all temporal prospects, with a full knowledge of all the disappointments, failures, and misfortunes of a preacher's life, all should be given and suffered freely for Christ and His Church if he might be counted worthy to cry, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world."

Some two or three years after the organization of the Church, a building was erected on property, known as the Joe Forehand property, and donated by Mr. Needham J. Smith. The Church building was built in front of the original school-house, by the members and other interested people of the community. The building was a frame, one room, wooden structure consisting of eight windows, three on each side of the church and two small windows in the pulpit, one on each side. Over the front door which still serves, were five panels of clear glass windows. The interior was plastered. The building was heated by wood burned in a "log type heater," and light was furnished by kerosene oil lamps. They were grouped in a cluster of three in brass holders fastened to the walls at designated points. A cluster of three in brass holders were attached to each side of the wall on each side of the pulpit. One large lamp was extended from the ceiling in the center of the santuary about twelve feet in front of the pulpit. A clock hung on the wall near the pulpit.

The furnishings of the church consisted of a small table which now sits in the vestibule. This table originally served as the communion table. Two chairs sat in the pulpit. The pews, with the exception of several coats of paint, remain the same, and are presently being used. A pitcher and one glass (from which everyone drank) was used to serve the wine when communion was

served. Among the charter members of the church were: Needham J. Smith, wife, Sarah Smith; John Pike and wife; Elizabeth Pate; Poe Pate; W. L. Garriss and wife, Smithie Garriss; K. B. Smith; A. S. Smith; John Smith; R. Jack Smith; P. P. Smith and Silas Smith. Among other prominent names as early members were: the Scotts, Perkins, Garriss, Dees, and Forehand.

A picnic table, made of wire was constructed outside and trees were planted on the grounds by John Pike and family. The Peter Forehand family were the keepers of the Church and Church grounds for many many years.

The John Pate family were effective workers in the church. Mrs. Pate taught a Sunday School Class; John and Eli were sons of Joe Pate. Eli Pate, who is still remembered by many, was an outstanding layman and a good vocalist. After moving to Goldsboro, he would often come back to Mt. Carmel to worship and testified to "finding the Lord" at the alter of this Church.

The next preacher to serve after the founder, Rev. A. J. Finlayson, was Rev. J. T. Bagwell, who was the preacher on the Goldsboro Circuit which included Mt. Carmel; these were the years of 1878 - 1880. He was followed by Rev. W. M. Robey who served from 1881 - 1884. Then Rev. J. F. Washburn was the minister in 1885 - 1186. Rev. W. M. Robey served again in the year of 1887 and Rev. J. G. Nelson served as minister in the year of 1888. Rev. W. H. Townsend was the pastor in 1889, followed by Rev. Milton D. Hix during the years 1890 - 91. Rev. M. M. McFarland was pastor from 1892 - 1895, followed by Rev. A. L. Ormond in 1896 - 1897. Rev. M. M. McFarland served a second time in 1898, and was followed by Rev. H. M. Jackson in 1899 - 1900. In the Year of 1901, Rev. J. M. Benson was the minister.

In 1902 Rev. H. E. Tripp was stationed on the Goldsboro circuit and served Mt. Carmel. He was remembered as a very large and wide awake minister, weighing about 250 pounds and every pound full of energy. He would preach at Mt. Carmel on the Sunday afternoos after preaching at Salem in the mornings.

Rev. and Mrs. Tripp would often spend Sunday night with some of the members in the community then spend Monday visiting the members. In this manner, much local interest was created during his work here. Rev. Tripp served the Goldsboro Circuit for four years (from 1902 - 1905).

During this period, there were three division of the Methodist Church, The Methodist Protestant, The Methodist Episcopal Church, and The Methodist Episcopal Church South. Ours was Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal Church South, Goldsboro Circuit, New Bern District, North Carolina Conference. Goldsboro Circuit was made up of the following churches: Pine Forest, Ebenezer, Daniels Chapel, Thompsons Chapel, Salem, St. Joseph's - Pikeville and Mt. Carmel. The pastor lived in the Goldsboro Circuit parsonage that was located on North William Street in Goldsboro, N. C.

It was around 1900, the turn of the century, that even though the membership was small and the preacher's salary less that \$100.00 per annum, some of the members began to talk of pulling out and organizing another church. Quite a few of the members opposed the move, especially the women, but in 1902 the move was made and St. Joseph's Methodist Church of Pikeville was organized.

Mt. Carmel Church always stressed the importance of a strong Church School. The first church school superintendent was Needham Smith with others to follow: John Pate, T. T. Pate, K. D. Perkins, a Mr. Hill, Charlie D. Hicks, Tavie Frank Hicks, Leon Lewis, Jr., Donald Peele, A. J. Lewis, and Ray Hicks who is now serving. Tavie Frank Hicks served as superintendent of the Sunday School and on the Official Board as an officer for a continuous period of more than fifty-five years. (A plaque is erected to his memory by the members of the Mt. Carmel Church along with the plaque that was erected to the memory of the founder of the church, The Rev. A. J. Finlayson.)

As time went on, the building deteriorated and needed repairs. The first repairs, as remembered by some of our older members, took place following the

earthquake that shook the church and cracked the plastering. In an effort to cover the cracks, the interior was painted by Stacy Demelt with a blend of colors mixed together - the most outstanding color being a dark green. Delco lights later replaced the kerosene lamps. T. F. Hicks was in charge of keeping the plant repaired and the batteries charged. Years later the electric lines were run through the community and the electric lights were installed.

At Annual Conference in 1905, Rev. Tripp, after serving four years on the Goldsboro Circuit, was sent to another charge and J. M. Carraway was stationed on this circuit. Rev. Carraway being a small man was not like Rev. Tripp in stature, but had plenty of energy and was a good preacher. His service began on December 4, 1905.

At the Annual Conference in 1909, Rev. J. M. Carraway was replaced by Rev. G. W. Stancil. Rev. Stancil served us only one year. During this period, Rev. R. F. Bumpass was the presiding elder and Rev. E. R. Hendrix was bishop.

The Conference of 1910 sent Rev. F. L. Fulcher to the circuit. Rev. Fulcher was on the charge for two years. He was interested in young people and during his years many youth organizations were formed. An organ was purchased during this time. Rev. J. E. Underwood was the presiding Elder. Rev. E. E. Hass was the bishop in 1911 and Rev. C. Dewey followed as bishop in 1912.

The Annual Conference of 1912 stationed Rev. C. O. Durant on the charge for two years. During these two years, Rev. J. E. Underwood was the presiding Elder, and Bishop J. H. McCoy served in 1913 and Bishop R. G. Waterman in 1914.

At the Annual N. C. Methodist Conference in 1914, Rev. W. A. Piland was stationed on the Goldsboro Circuit. Rev. J. B. Hurley was the Presiding Elder for the next six years, and Rev. J. C. Kilgo served as bishop for four years. During Rev. Pilan's pastorate, the Goldsboro Circuit parsonage on North William Street was sold and a larger house on East Ash Street was purchased and used

for the parsonage for many years. Rev. Piland was an excellent preacher and many changes were made during his stay on the circuit. It was during this time that some changes were made in the composition of the Goldsboro Circuit.

It was during this time that St. Joseph at Pikeville and Elm-Street of Goldsboro were grouped together to form the Pikeville-ELm Street Charge with the Rev. Ernest C. Durham as Pastor.

Mt. Carmel remained on the Goldsboro Circuit and was served during the years of 1918-1921 by Rev. K. F. Duval as pastor and Rev. F. M. Shamberger as presiding elder.

During the years 1921 - 1923, Rev. Charles A. Jones served as pastor on the Goldsboro Circuit, and it was at the Conference of 1923 that Mt. Carmel was transferred to The Pikeville-Elm Street Charge that was being served by Rev. C. P. Jerome during the years of 1923 - 25. Rev. J. C. Wooten was serving as Presiding Elder and Rev. C. Dewey served as Bishop until 1927.

At the Annual Conference of 1925, Rev. C. P. Jerome retired. His son, Rev. Robert L. Jerome, was finishing Duke Divinity School that year; he was ordained a Methodist minister and was assigned to the Pikeville-ELm Street Charge for his first work. Rev. Robert L. Jerome, like his father, was a good man and an excellent young minister. Progress was steadily made on the charge during his appointment. Rev. Walter Patton was appointed Presiding Elder in 1927 and served the District for three years. Rev. E. L. Morgan was serving as Bishop.

In the Spring of 1927, with the help of Mrs. F. B. McKinnie and other district officials from the Goldsboro area, and under the sponsorship of the Missionary Society of St. Joseph at Pikeville, a new Missionary Society was organized at Mt. Carmel Church. Charter members of the group were: Mrs. Ellen S. Hicks, Mrs. Fannie Wooten, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, Mrs. Inez Smith, and Mrs. Jane T. Pike. Mrs. Pike transferred from the St. Joseph Society where she was also a charter member of that Society. Mrs. Ellen S. Hicks served as the Charter President and Mrs. Jane Pike served as secretary-trea-

surer until her death in 1935. Each member paid 25¢ each month, if able, which was used for missions - 40% foreign and 60% home missions. In 1968, the name of the missionary society was changed to The Women's Society of Christian Service, and is now known as The United Methodist Women, being changed after unification in 1972.

During this same period, the youth group was organized as "The Epworth League" and later being named MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and is now known as the UMYF or the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

During the years 1928 - 29, Rev. I. S. Richmond was our pastor and was followed in 1929 - 1932 by Rev. J. G. Phillips. Rev. J. H. McCracken was the presiding elder, 1931 - 1932.

At the Annual Conference of 1930, Good Hope Chapel was added to the Pikeville, Elm-Street, Mt. Carmel Charge. This was during the great depression and our people had little money and our pastor Rev. Phillips walked to the churches to fill some of his appointments during this serious economic depression. Rev. and Mrs. Phillips were very good leaders with the young people. They were both very musical and the churches made much progress while they were on the Charge.

At the Annual Conference of 1932, Rev. Leon Russell was stationed on the Charge. He was an excellent leader and an outstanding preacher. He served these churches for four years. Good Hope Chapel was dropped in 1934 and Saulston was added. This was the second appointment for the Russells, having served a charge on the outer banks before coming to this charge. Rev. and Mrs. Russell's son, John Carl, was born while they were stationed here.

Rev. T. M. Grant followed Rev. McCracken and presided over the New Bern District during the years 1932 - 1935. Rev. E. L. Morgan was the Bishop.

In 1936 the Annual Conference transferred Rev. Leon Russell to Raleigh where he organized the Hayes Barton Methodist Church. Rev. F. M. Hodges was sent to serve our Charge. Rev. Hodges served this work for one year. He moved

from Pikeville to the Parsonage at Elm-Street in Goldsboro during the year he was here. Rev. E. L. Hillman was our presiding Elder and Dr. Paul B. Kern was serving as Bishop during 1937.

In 1937 the Annual Conference appointed Rev. F. D. Hedden here. Rev. Hedden was in Raleigh at the time and commuted to fill his appointments for awhile. Houses for rent were very scarce and due to the failure of the charge to find a suitable parsonage, Rev. Hedden moved on to another appointment. The presiding elder secured a Duke Divinity School student, Rev. John James Rook, to serve the charge. Rev. Rook commuted from Durham during the school term and then found a room in Pikeville during the summer months. Rev. Rook served the work during the years 1937 - 1939. It was during his stay that the work on the parsonage was started and completed in the spring of 1939 in time for a new preacher to accept appointment, Rev. James H. Overton, Jr. Rev. Rook was graduated in June of 1939 and returned to his home state of Florida to accept an appointment.

Rev. James H. Overton, Jr. and Mrs. Overton were married just prior to coming here and Rev. Overton was a class-mate of Rev. Rook. The Overton's were the first parsonage family to occupy the parsonage in Pikeville. Rev. J. A. Russell served as presiding elder for the years 1939 - 1944 (no relation to Leon).

In 1939 the three divisions of the Methodist Church were united and the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church South, became the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church. Rev. W. W. Peele was bishop and Rev. Clare Purcell was appointed to follow him in 1940.

At the Annual Conference in 1940, Rev. C. W. Guthrie was stationed on the charge and served here for two years, doing a wonderful job.

In 1942 Rev. J. Q. Patrick was appointed to the charge and unfortunately passed away in 1942 (apparently a victim of the new Sulfa Drug). Rev. J. D.

Stott, a returning missionary to Japan, was appointed to complete the year and stayed until 1944. In 1944, Rev. W. W. Peele was again appointed Bishop and served until 1950.

In 1944, Rev. W. F. Walters was appointed to the charge. Rev. W. F. Walters passed away in 1946, and his appointment was completed by Rev. Ralph I. Epps.

In 1946 Rev. E. W. Downum was appointed to the charge and served for one year.

At the annual conference in 1947, Rev. Robert L. Bame was appointed to the charge. Bob and his wife, Helen, as they were affectionately called, were excellent leaders and served the work here for four years.

The Church continued to grow, and the members began to see the need for expansion and plans were made to enlarge the building. In 1948, Sunday School rooms were added to the front of the church. Some labor and materials were donated by members and other interested persons of the community. This addition was dedicated by Rev. Robert L. Bame and the late Bishop Paul N. Garber on Sunday, June 10, 1951.

The two small windows in the pulpit and the other windows in the sanctuary were replaced by memorial stained glass windows in August, 1955 at a cost of \$1,771.40. The ladies, under the leadership of Mrs. Mabel Hicks, sponsored this project.

Later, some other improvements were added to the building. These improvements included a covered entrance to the front. This was a pet project of Mack Lancaster. Then a side door was added on one side of the sanctuary.

In 1951, Rev. C. M. Mitchell was appointed to the Charge. Elm-Street was dropped during the year of 1952. Rev. B. B. Slaughter was our District Super-intendent and Rev. Paul N. Garber was our Bishop. In 1954 Rev. Hiram K. King was appointed our District Superintendent and was serving when the Goldsboro District was formed at the conference of 1954.

In 1954 the Goldsboro District was formed and Rev. Howard M. McLamb

was appointed District Superintendent. Rev. Ben F. Boone was stationed on the Pikeville - Mt. Carmel Charge. Rev. Boone served for one and one-half years until he retired in 1956.

In 1956 the date of the Annual Conference was changed from meeting in November to June. Rev. E. L. Earnhardt was named to the charge here and served for three years.

It was at this point in time that another change was made in the charge; Pikeville decided to go station in order to have more morning services; therefore, in 1959 the Mt. Carmel-Saulston-Elm Street Charge was formed with Rev. Gene L. Hood as pastor. Rev. Mark Lawrence was our District Superintendent.

At the Annual Conference, Rev. J. R. Hailey was named to fill in until a regular appointment could be made. Finally, in August of 1959, Rev. Horace T. Ferguson was appointed to the Mt. Carmel-Saulston Charge and served until 1963. Rev. Leon Russell followed Rev. Mark Lawrence as District Superindendent and served the District until 1970.

At the Annual Conference of 1963, Rev. Robert F. Randalls was appointed to serve the charge for one year.

At the Annual Conference of 1964, Rev. Frederick J. Dillon was appointed as pastor and served four years until 1968.

The Church and Church School, along with the entire community, continued to grow and it's members began to see the need to plan for an educational building. After several years of planning, harvest sales, fellowship suppers, and donations, our dreams became a reality and a fellowship building was constructed. The brick building was built by Price Construction Company. Rev. Fred Dillon served as our pastor during this time and on Sunday, May 13, 1973, it was dedicated by Rev. Eric Carson, pastor and Rev. A. F. Fisher, District Superintendent.

At the Annual Conference in 1968 Rev. J. Hillary Bryant was appointed to the Mt. Carmel-Saulston Charge and served it for four years.

At the Annual Conference in 1972, Rev. Eric Carson, a young minister from Belfast, Ireland, was appointed to the Charge while he did some graduate work at Duke and Southeastern Siminary in completion of his education. Rev. Albert F. Fisher was the District Superintendent from 1970 - 1974 and Rev. Robert L. Blackman, Bishop.

At the Annual Conference in 1974, still another change in the make-up of the Charge took place. Pikeville and Mt. Carmel were again joined, forming the Pikeville-Mount Carmel Charge with Rev. Haywood L. Harrell appointed as pastor. Saulston and Jefferson were put on a charge together.

Rev. H. L. Harrell served as pastor from 1974 - 1975 and was followed in 1976 by Rev. Charles Graham Nickens, our present pastor. Rev. J. Paul Edwards was appointed as our District Superintendent in 1974 and is currently serving in that capacity.

The spiritual life of the Church continued to grow through the years. Our membership has also continued to grow and we now have a membership of 172.

Several of our members have been inspired to go into full-time Christian service for the Lord, serving as Ministers. They are Rev. Jim Pate, son of one of the charter members of the church, Mrs. Elizabeth Forehand Pate, Rev. Charles W. Wooten, son of Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Wooten, who served as stewards of this church for many years; Rev. Leon Lewis, Jr., whose great grandmother and grandfather were early members of the church; Rev. James W. Hicks, whose father served as a steward of the church; and the late Charles Hicks, whose father and grandparents were members of this church.

Some others who have given outstanding service to the church are our Communion Stewardesses: Mrs. Penny Pike Pate, Mrs. Jane T. Pike, Mrs. Lizzie T. Pike, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, and Mrs. June Smith, presently serving.

Our Choir directors as remembered were: Mr. Jim Thomas, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Eddie F. Jones, Mr. Wesley Wooten, Mr. Robert Y. Wooten, Mr. W. A. Wooten,

and Mrs. Jean P. Wooten, presently serving.

Those faithful members serving as pianist or organist include: Mrs. Mamie Ella Hicks Holbert

J. Perkins, Mr. Arthur C. Scott, Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster, Mrs. Pearl Jones Best,

Mrs. Ava Hicks Aycock, Miss Evelyn Lancaster, Mrs. Inez Hicks Smith, Mrs.

Sandra Hicks Benton, Mrs. Olga W. Davis, Miss Kathy Smith, and Miss Donna Lewis.

Others that contributed of their musical talents were Milton Hicks with his violin, and Otto Hicks with his saxaphone for many years.

Some of our members rendering outstanding service as teachers in the Church School include: Tavie Frank Hicks, serving over 55 years; and his wife, Mrs. Ellen S. Hicks, serving over 50 years; Mrs. Enness H. Wooten, serving over 40 years; Mrs. Ava Hicks Aycock, serving over 30 years and put flowers in the church for almost that long, also. Mrs. Jean P. Wooten served as teacher for over 15 years, and Mrs. Elma P. Lancaster served for over 20 years. Mr. P. B. Scott, Jr. served as Church School secretary for 30 years.

Some others serving on the official boards for long periods include: T. T. Pate, Wesley Wooten, James Wooten, Mack D. Lancaster, Sr., Mrs. Jane T. Pike, William Moody Pike, Wilbur Pike, Wesley Hicks, George Herring, Katherine Herring, L. C. Huffman, John Hicks, Otto Hicks, Casper Hicks, Elton Wooten, William Bogue, Handley Pate, Clinton Lancaster, Bruce Mozingo, Bobby Benton, A. J. Lewis, Donald Peele, Durwood Smith, Lynn Lancaster, and John Wooten. Also, many others who we are unable to remember.

Yes, we are today beginning the centennial celebration of Mt. Carmel Church. We will celebrate for several weeks to come, all this is very appropriate and timely, but it is not enough to merely look to the past, or to remember and glorify the "Good Ole Days" gone by. We know that the past is prologue.

We must look to the future, and let this celebration be, not only a celebration of the past, but s spring-board of spiritual enthusiasm on which to take a leap forward into the next 100 years with even greater determination and zeal than we have shown in the past. Mt. Carmel has an outstanding heritage.

Mt. Carmel has been called a great church.

Mt. Carmel is great because Mt. Carmel is good.

When she ceases to be good she will cease to be great.

Therefore, my prayer is that her influence be deepened and her power be extended throughout the next 100 years.

Thank you very much for your attention!