

*Journey in Faith: A History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*. By Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker. (St. Louis: The Bethany Press, 1975. Pp. 505. End maps, notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$12.95.)

This authoritative book on the first major religious denomination to spring from the soil and spirit of the American frontier represents the vision of Howard E. Short, distinguished editor emeritus of the Christian Board of Publication. In 1971 Short, convinced of the need for a reexamination of the Christian church (Disciples of Christ) in the current social and religious scene, enlisted to write such a study two able professors of modern church history, Dr. Lester G. McAllister of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, and Dean William E. Tucker of Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.

The McAllister-Tucker book represents a well researched and ably written update of the 1948 analysis of the Christian church's life encompassed in *The Disciples of Christ: A History* by Winfred E. Garrison and Alfred T. DeGroot. As McAllister and Tucker point out, they have dealt with that "collision of values and viewpoints, especially in the 1960's, which shook the foundations of church and society in North America and shattered the triumphalism inherited from former eras" (p. 9). The book is the more valuable because the authors have elected not to view in isolation the religious movement which originated with Barton Stone, Walter Scott, and Thomas and Alexander Campbell 150 years ago but to place it within the context of Christianity in North America. They have also gained a commendable degree of vitality in the realization of their aim of relating "the life and thought of a church in process of developing" (p. 10).

An interesting methodology was followed in writing the book. After determining together the scope and delineating the subjects to be treated, McAllister assumed responsibility for writing ten chapters and compiling the index while Tucker wrote eight chapters and prepared the comprehensive annotated bibliography and the helpful timeline (the only observable deficiency in the latter being omission of the formation of the National Council of Churches in 1950).

McAllister and Tucker have captured the drama of Disciples' rootage in the dynamic preaching of Barton Stone in

the Cane Ridge, Kentucky, Camp Meeting, the systematic theology of Walter Scott, the organizing and propagandizing genius of the Campbells. The authors trace with clarity the possibility of containing the new movement within Presbyterianism, among the Baptists, or in connection with the breakaway Methodists gathered around James O'Kelley. Such relationships failed to satisfy these seekers for religious truth, so in 1830 they dissolved their last ties with older bodies represented by the Mahoning (Baptist) Association and struck out on their own. In 1832 two elements—the Christians and the Disciples—were united at Lexington, Kentucky, and a new church was launched, one which has never been able to determine which strain to perpetuate in its name, a struggle reflected in the present designation “Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).” In the book one can follow the spread of this congregationally oriented, New Testament based, noncreedal, adult immersionist, unity seeking fellowship across the West. One senses the pain of the divisions encouraged by the very independency which brought the movement to birth. The book mirrors the evangelistic fervor of “Christians” in the early 1900s, their wrestling with the issues of war and social upheavals, and the final decisions less than a decade ago to restructure the movement as a “church,” terminating the delusion of unity with the many independent congregations called “Christian” or “Churches of Christ.”

McAllister and Tucker have made a praiseworthy contribution to the literature of religious history in the United States.

*The Indiana Council of Churches,* Grover L. Hartman  
*Indianapolis*

*Tenure, Nativity and Age as Factors in Iowa Agriculture, 1850-1880.* By Seddie Cogswell, Jr. Replica edition. (Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1975. Pp. vi, 170. Figures, notes, tables, bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$5.00.)

This small volume by Seddie Cogswell carefully traces farm ownership and tenancy in Iowa during the years between 1850 and 1880. Almost entirely based upon data obtained from manuscript schedules I and IV of the federal