

A TRUE WATCHMAN

Message given at the Christian Beacon Banquet, February 13, 1960,
by Dr. Allan A. MacRae, President of Faith Theological Seminary.

It is indeed an honor to be invited to give the message at the Beacon Banquet. I well remember the night when I first heard Dr. McIntire make the announcement that a Christian newspaper was to be started. It is hard to realize that nearly 25 years have passed since that time. During that period the Beacon has expanded and extended its influence until now it has readers on every continent and in many sections of the United States. As I think of the service that it renders, I feel that it is one of the watchmen of whom the Lord speaks in Isaiah 62:6, where He says: "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night. Ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence."

Today our nation is surrounded by a vast network of radar screens, early warning systems, etc., designed to detect the coming of any enemy that might seek to destroy us. In ancient times every city had watchmen on its walls throughout the night, peering into the blackness around, seeking to detect any sign of a stealthily approaching foe.

History records a tragic instance where the efforts of the watchmen accomplished nothing. For ten years the ancient city of Troy had resisted a devastating frontal attack. At last the invaders had given up the effort and had sailed beyond the horizon, leaving only a large wooden representation of a horse. Glee-fully the relieved defenders dragged the horse into the city, a trophy of their joy that peace had come. As they celebrated into the night, the watchmen on the walls glanced into the distance, thankful that the enemy was gone.