

it is possible to believe that Jesus is divine without believing in the virgin birth."

3. Dr. Douglas Horton - In a book entitled "A Guide to the Religions of America" Dr. Horton was asked, "Do congregational Christians believe in a virgin birth?" His answer is,

"Probably a majority do not, undoubtedly many do. It is regarded as a subject for historical research. The fact of Christ, and not the manner in which He was born, is held to be of dominant importance. It is, indeed, the reference to the Virgin Birth in the Apostle's Creed which unfits the latter for use in many churches."

4. Bishop James A. Pike, Episcopal Diocese of California - On December 21, 1960 in the Christian Century Bishop Pike made these statements,

"The theological implication seems to be in favor of assuming that Joseph was the human father of Jesus . . . There are several phrases in the creed (Apostle's) that I cannot affirm as literal prose sentences, but I can certainly sing them as a kind of war song picturing major convictions in poetic terms . . . I certainly do not believe that Christ sitteth on the right hand of the Father . . . I feel the same about ascended into heaven, and the same about conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary."

Regarding the Trinity he states,

"I see nothing in the Bible as critically viewed which supports this particularly weak and unintelligible philosophical organization of the nature of God."

It was Bishop James A. Pike who together with Dr. Eugene Carson Blake proposed the four-way merger of the major denominations that is currently being negotiated.

5. Dr. J. Carter Swain, Executive Director of the Department of English Bible of the National Council of Churches - Dr. J. Carter Swain is an important leader of the National Council of Churches heading up the important department of English Bible. On December 5, 1960 at the last General Assembly of the National Council of Churches Dr. Swain made provocative statements such as

"Although the churches fixed limits to its canon, there is a sense in which the Bible is still an open-ended book."

He criticized openly Luke for not having answered some questions suggested in the Acts of the Apostles. He went on to state,

"If this be the case may it not be true that the line between Scripture and tradition is not so sharp as we have imagined."

I located a booklet entitled, "Where our Bible Came From" by Dr. J. Carter Swain and found that he set forth the higher critical theory of the Bible which denies the Mosaic authorship of the first five books of the Bible. He states this on pages 14 and 15 of his book,

"Such facts suggest that Genesis as it now stands includes material from more than one writer. Modern editors would remove such inconsistencies before allowing their work to go to press. The Ancients had a different