

As the Governor of the State, I have the honor, Your Eminence, of presenting to you this award of the Advertising Club of Baltimore designating you as "Man of the Year," and we ask Almighty Providence that you be spared to provide us with guidance for many years to come.

GREETINGS, BOARD OF BISHOPS AND THE
MINISTER'S AND LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION,
ST. JAMES A. M. E. ZION CHURCH

SALISBURY

January 12, 1966

Thank you, Reverend Mack, Bishop Lord, other distinguished members of the clergy and laymen, ladies and gentlemen.

The State of Maryland is exceedingly proud of the fact that St. James Church in Salisbury was chosen as the site for this important policy-making meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. As the Governor of the State, I am highly honored to be present at the opening session of the conference, and, on behalf of all the citizens of Maryland, I extend greetings and a warm welcome to all of you who are here, and particularly to those of you who have come here from other states and from foreign countries. We consider ourselves particularly fortunate in having with us Bishop John Wesley Lord, of the Washington area.

As a native Eastern Shoreman, and as a Methodist, I have a keen consciousness of the tremendous influence Methodism has had on the lives of the people of this area since its earliest beginnings nearly two centuries ago. In the troubled times in which we live, it is comforting and consoling to observe the progress and the religious zeal shown by the churches which are represented at this convention. This zeal, and the faith and conviction of the members of this great church, and other churches like it, are a vital force in the great struggle that is going on in most parts of the globe against communism and godliness.

At a gathering such as this, I am reminded of the religious spirit of the people who settled Maryland in the 17th century—of the men who founded the colony as a haven for those of all religions and left to us the precious legacy of religious toleration. As Methodists, we honor and cherish our great heritage. And what is this heritage? *It is the heritage*