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5-24-1951

May 24, 1951

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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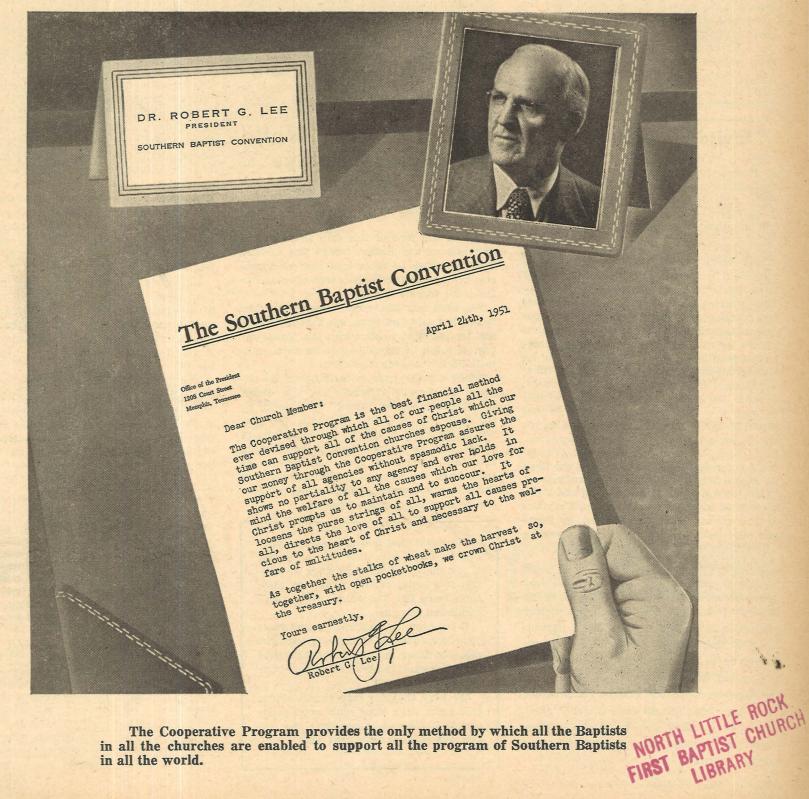


LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS MAY 24, 1951

NUMBER 21

* 1.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



From The Editor's Desk

"Playing With Psychiatry"

A Toronto Presbyterian minister, Dr. James D. Smart, declares that too many ministers are "playing with psychiatry." Also Bishop John Dixon of Montreal condemns psychiatry as a substitute for faith in God.

The fact is that all substitutes for the gospel fail sooner or later and the sooner the better, because the sooner they fail the fewer persons will they deceive and lull into the sleep of false peace.

A chaplain who served in the second Woold War declared that he learned on the battlefields that the social gospel was not sufficient for the needs of men when they faced the grimest realities of life and death. Only the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ who shed His blood on Calvary's Cross is sufficient to meet the needs of human beings as they face these grim realities.

A palliative may suffice for the conscience when things are going well. But when the soul faces eternity, God, death, judgment, only the

Invitation Withdrawn

The invitation to Governor Fuller Warren of Florida to address the Southern Baptist Convention on the opening day in San Francisco, June 20, has been withdrawn by Dr. J. D. Grey, chairman of the committee, on the suggested order of business.

A report from the Baptist Press states, "Later developments involving Warren and publicized in the National Daily and Weekly Press made his appearance on the Convention program unwise." It would seem that the experience of Southern Baptists with political leaders in the past has been of such a nature as to discourage the program committee from inviting politicians to address the Southern Baptist Convention. Harold Stassen slapped the Convention in its face in St. Louis in 1947; President Truman was invited to appear on the program of the Baptist World Congress in Cleveland but gave as his reason for not appearing, the Korean situation. As a matter of fact, President Truman could not appear on the program of the Baptist World Congress because of his involvement in the issue of separation of church and state, because of his attitude toward the Catholics of this country and the Vatican in Rome and his desire to appoint a representative to the Vatican.

It would seem the part of wisdom to avoid the use of politicians on the Convention program. A distinction should always be made between politicians and statesmen. Before any office holder is invited to have a part on the Convention program, conclusive evidence should be in hand that he is a statesman who would not stoop to take advantage of his appearance on the Convention program to advance his political ends. Further proof should be in hand that he is a Christian statesman in public office instead of a time serving politician. blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient.

It is well for a preacher to know all he can about psychology and psychiatry, if he does not allow them to make a fool of him. These sciences may be an aid in preparing the minister to meet the needs of people but they are no substitute for the gospel of Christ. It is well for the Christian minister to wear a pleasing smile, but a smile is no substitute for the gospel. A winsome personality is a great asset but a winsome personality is no substitute for the gospel. Sympathy and understanding in the disappointing experiences of people will help but human sympathy and understanding cannot take the place of the eternal word of God. These human attainments, characteristics, attitudes, and knowledge, only constitute an environment and not the dynamic power that can regenerate a human soul. That power comes from God alone and through faith of the individual in the redeeming grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Millions Starve While Congress Delays

It is estimated that at least 100 million people in India are on the starvation level and that 350 million have only one scant meal a day.

Yet in the face of this dire situation the Congress of the United States has allowed political issues to enter into the consideration of sending two million tons of wheat to India for famine relief.

We may not like some things that Mr. Nehru has said and done, but that is no reason for injecting politics into the consideration of a bill to provide available food grain to India to stave off starvation.

While our Congress is carrying on its political debate with reference to this issue, Soviet Russia comes along and sends 50 thousand tons of wheat to India. We may not be surprised if the 50 thousand tons of wheat sent by Soviet Russia makes a more favorable impression upon the country of India than the debates in Washington over the issue of our sending the proposed two million tons to her famished people.

We regret that it is necessary to publish an eight page issue of the paper. It is a matter of economy since we publish five issues of the paper in May, there being five Thursdays, without any additional revenue.

It has been the custom for many years to reduce one issue of the paper to eight pages in those months which have five Thursdays and require five issues of the paper.

We hope that our readers will accept this eight page issue with good grace and look forward to receiving the full size sixteen page issue next week.

-Editor

Stages of Christian Communion

A Devotion by the Editor

"Have mercy upon me, O God." "That I may know him ... and the fellowship of his sufferings."

Broadly considered there are two stages of Christian communion with our Lord.

The first stage of communion represented by the cry of David is the beginning of Christian experience to which we shall have occasion to return again and again throughout our Christian lives. For we shall never quite succeed in this life in getting beyond the temptations of sin and the frailties of life for which we shall surely cry to God for mercy.

The second stage of communion represented by Paul's yearning to share the sufferings of his Lord is the ripening of the Christian experience, the full fruitage of fellowship and communion with God. It represents a growth in maturity of thought and knowledge and experience.

The Christian experience begins with a cry for mercy. And that is right, it is the proper order. One must realize his need of mercy before he will come to God at all upon an acceptable basis. Any other approach is hypocritical and is repudiated by God. One who feels no need of mercy feels no guilt of sin. And if one feels no guilt of sin, he is living in a false world of make-believe and is destined to be rudely awakened when, perhaps, it may be too late to obtain mercy.

Some one has said, "This is the cry of springtime, the budding of new possibilities, the blossoming of new hopes, the sprouting of new energies, it is the shedding of the old feathers, the shaking off of chill of winter."

Ultimately springtime must give place to the vigor of summer and the fruition of autumn. Beautiful as the springtime is, and potential with new life, no harvest is reaped in the spring. The child must grow into adulthood, if it would reap the benefits of life.

The little girl, who once ran to mother with all her childish burdens, troubles, and sorrows, may now depend no less upon mother in her difficulties, but she has found a new approach. She will ask the privilege of sharing her mother's troubles and bearing her mother's burdens.

Psalm 51:1; Philippians 3:10.

ARKANSAS BADTIST

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B. S. U. President

Kingdom Progress

New Church Dedicated



The First Church of Horatio, Russell Armer, pastor, dedicated their house of worship on May 6. Melvin Rice, a former pastor, brought the dedicatory message, and the prayer was ffered by the pastor.

It was in September 1950 that the Horatio Church decided to remove the old buildings then in use and to replace them with a new structure consisting of a sanctuary and an educational building. Work on this project began in October and continued steadily until the old buildings were removed and the new structure was completed early in the current year.

During this time the worship services were held in the American Legion building as were some classes of the Sunday School and some units of the Training Union. Other classes and Training Union groups met in homes.

'The church entered the new bull'ing on the first S inday in March with a record attendance on all services and a bapusmal service in the evening.

First, Hot Springs In Revival

First Church, Hot Springs, John L. Dodge, pastor, had Lehman F. Webb, pastor of West Helena Church, as visiting evangelist in a revival meeting, April 22-29. Adam Gebhardt Jr., associate pastor at Hot Springs, was in charge of the music.

There were 20 additions to the church, 14 by profession of faith, five by letter and one by statement.

Revival at Second, Monticello

Second Church, Monticello, Wesley A. Lindsey, pastor, had H. L. Sampson, pastor of Park View Church, Monroe, Louisiana, as visiting evangelist April 22-May 4.

There were 43 additions, 32 of these were by profession of faith.

Woman's tears: The first successful fluid drive. -Quote The new auditorium is 38 x 60 feet with the choir loft immediately back of the pulpit and occupying part of the lower floor of the educational building. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 210 and the choir loft seats 30.

The educational building consists of two floors, the lower floor providing a kitchen, dining hall, two rest rooms, pastor's study, church library, one adult classroom, and the beginner department. The second floor provides for the primary, junior, intermediate, and young people's departments. Pastor Armer drew the plans for the building and personally directed it's construction.

Pastor Armer came to the Horatio Church upon graduation from Ouachita College February, 1946. During his ministry there 73 persons have been received into the fellowship of the church by baptism and 52 by letter and otherwise.

B.S.U. LEADS CHURCH IN GREAT REVIVAL

The Baptist students at the University of Arkansas took a leading part in a Youth Revival held at the First Church, Fayetteville April 15-25. The BSU Council under the leadership of Roy Fish, president, organized student committees for the following activities: spiritual preparation, seminars, student visitation, hospitality and ushering, publicity, music, and breakfast.

The evangelist during the revival was Milton DuPriest, and the song leader was John Jolly, both from Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Seminars were conducted each night after church to discuss problems in Christian living. Fellowship periods were also held after each evening service.

There were 34 additions by baptism and nine by letter.

Disk jockey: A guy who lives on spins and needles. -Quote



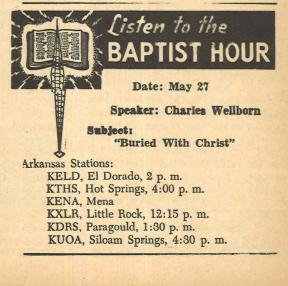
John Bond

John Bond, a pre-med student from Dardanelle, has recently been chosen to head the Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas. Mr. Bond will be a Junior in school next fall. He is a member of the First Church, Fayetteville, where he has been very active in religious activities at the University.

Other members of the new Council are: Boyd Mills, enlistment vice president; Louise Stubblefield, social vice president; Jack Perry, devotional vice president; Dorothy Davis, secretary; Gene Layman, treasurer; Dennis Hale, absentee chairman; Pat Bruce, fellowship chairman; Nancy Howard, music director; Kay Saffell, publicity director; Charlie Hallum, promotional director; Kenneth Lilly, editor BSU paper; Wilma Dolan, librarian and hostess; Marshall Thompson, Sunday School representative; Bob Riggs, Training Union representative; Joyce Peterson, extension chairman; Bob Langston, athletic director; Gerald Stone, brotherhood representative; Marleen McKeehan, Y. W. A. representative; Robert Smith, faculty advisor; and Dr. Walter Johnson, pastor advisor. -000-

Crotts to Third Church, Malvern

In appreciation to R. B. Crotts, former pastor of the Swartz Baptist Church in Louisiana, the Ouachita Baptist Pastor's Conference of Louisiana commends Mr. Crotts as a co-operative, congenial, and lovable servant of God. Mr. Crotts has accepted the pastorate of the Third Church of Malvern.



Religious Education Department EDGAR WILLIAMSON, DIRECTOR 212 BAPTIST BUILDING, LITTLE ROCK EDGAR WILLIAMSON Sunday School Superintendent GEORGE H. HINK Building Constant Straining Union Director Dale Cowling

EDGAR WILLIAMSON KALPH W. DAVIS Sunday School Superintendent Training Union Director GEORGE H. HINK DALE COWLING Associate Sunday School Superintendent Student Union Secretary MRS. B. W. NININGER, Church Music Director

 Miss Nancy Cooper

Under the direction of Miss Cooper, Executive Secretary of Womans' Missionary Union work in Arkansas, a full program of Womans' Missionary Union work will be presented daily during the 1951 session of the Arkansas Baptist State Assembly, July 3-11. A feature of the scheduled class work will be the presentation of a number of missionaries. Some of these are on furlough; others have been returned because of present world conditions.

Attention: Junior Training Union Leaders And Sponsors! The Junior Memory Drill

1. The State Junior Memory Drill will be held at the State Training Union Convention, Little Rock, next March 14-15, 1952.

2. The 52 memory verses to be used will be the memory verses found in the Junior Union Quarterlies from April 1, 1951 to March 31, 1952.

3. These memory verses should be learned by all the Juniors week by week. NOW is the time to begin.

4. To prepare for the State Junior Memory Drill, Church drills should be conducted during February, 1952, and all Juniors who do not make over 3 mistakes in the Church drill may participate in the Associational Drill which should be conducted not later than the first part of March. All Juniors who do not make over one mistake in the Associational Drill may participate in the State Drill at the State Training Union Convention, March 14, 1952 at Little Rock. WANTED: 100 IN THE S TATE JUNIOR MEMORY DRILL!

5. Mimeographed sheets or printed tracts containing the rules and the 52 verses will be sent to Junior Leaders this fall. BUT DO NOT WAIT TILL THIS FALL TO BEGIN. BEGIN NOW!

6. Three types of drills are used in the Junior Memory Drill: (1) A Scripture may be given and the Junior asked to give book, chapter, and verse. (2) The name of the book, chapter, and verse may be given, and the Junior asked to quote the Scripture. (3) Four or five words of a verse may be given and the Junior asked to complete the quotation and give the Scripture reference.

7. Eight year Primaries who will be promoted to the Junior Department on October 1 should memorize 26 memory verses between now and Promotion Day. These verses are found in the Junior Union Quarterlies for the quarter April, May, June, and July, August, September.

8. During the latter part of June, a quarterly letter will be sent to all Training Union Directors, and with this letter will be sent a sheet of instructions for Junior Leaders with 26 memory verses covering the period April 1 to September 30.

Hymn Playing Elimination

The Pulaski County Associational elimination for the Hymn-Playing Tournament has been set for Sunday afternoon, June 17 at 2:30 in the sanctuary of Second Church, Eighth and Scott Streets, Little Rock. M. O. Kelley, association music director will be assisted in this event by Mrs. Joe Simmons.

Each church in the association may enter ONE contestant in each of the following age-groups: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-24. The five hymns to be memorized for this event are: Dear Lord and Father, Near the Cross, Have Thine Own Way, Majestic Sweetness, O For A Thousand Tongues. Winners will be eligible to enter the State Hymn-Playing Tournament at Siloam Springs, Saturday, July 7.

Bulletins on instructions and grading may be secured from the office of the state music director. Telephone or write Mrs. B. W. Nininger, 212 Baptist Building, telephone 4-2389, at once for a copy of this bulletin.

____000_____

I need a Strength to keep me true and straight in everything I do.

BROTHERHOOD

Sign in the Bus Station At Greenwood:

"LAYMAN'S REVIVAL at

EXCELSIOR BAPTIST CHURCH April 22-29, 1951

Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Concord Baptist Association

The Brotherhood Department has no other word on this revival and knows nothing as yet about the outcome, but we rejoice to discover all over our great state many evidences that God's men are alert to their sacred opportunities and obligations.

On the same evening that your Brotherhood Secretary saw the above sign, he had a good visit with the Brotherhood of First Church, Mena, where Arlie Mc-Daniel is pastor; and heard the Brotherhood vote to assist Brother McDaniel in a revival effort in an abandoned church building some miles from town.

Every Brotherhood in Arkansas ought to sponsor one or more revivals during the summer at the home church, or maybe in a school house, or in a weak church, or maybe under a brush arbor. The men will be blessed through their own efforts to reach people for Christ; and souls will be saved.

Last week the May issue of the Brotherhood Bulletin was placed in the mails. If you did not receive a copy and you desire to be placed on the mailing list, drop a card to the Brotherhood Department, Room 219, Baptist Building, Little Rock.

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Coming Events

July 3-11—Arkansas Baptist State Assembly

July 7—Hymn-playing Tournament, State Assembly

July 13, Aug. 25—Organized Summer Field Work, (Training Union)

Sept. 4 — State Associational Sunday School Leadership Meeting, Little Rock

Sept. 16-21—Forty-four Associational Sunday School Rallies

Oct. 15-16—State Sunday School Convention, Jonesboro

Oct. 29 — State Associational Training Union Planning Meeting, Little Rock

Dec. 10—Training Union "M" Night

Dec. 30 — Student Night at Christmas

When I look out and see my compound covered with weeds, I say to myself, "It isn't I, but it is the Southern Baptist Convention whom this represents." — Sara Lou Patterson (Mrs. I. N.) missionary to Africa.

Mission Study Director



Mrs. William McMurry

Mrs. William McMurry, former mission study chairman of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, will become the mission study director for southwide Woman's Missionary Union, taking up her work on June 1, 1951.

Before that time she will have directed a meeting of the Mission Study Council in Birmingham, May 9-11, and a Mississippi statewide Mission Study Institute.

Mrs. McMurry has been a teacher, a pastor's daughter, and a pastor's wife, and has had experience in mission study on the local, association, district, and state levels, so knows well the problems and privileges of this large responsibility.

Her interest in missions was awakened by making scrapbooks when a child. Early she formed the habit of collecting information on different subjects in envelopes which she labeled. When she first became a WMS member she was appointed mission study chairman in her circle. The scope of her work has now widened to the southwide position.

In February she met with the committee to plan the May mission study conference. Every Southern Baptist Convention state but one was represented by its mission study chairman for this first Mission Study Council meeting. A substitute came for Louisiana's mission study chairman who was detained by illness, so actually all the states were represented for this important workshop on mission study.

Mrs. R. H. Jones, State Missio Study Chairman, and Miss Naccy Cooper, Executive Secretary, represented Arkansas at the Mission Study Council meeting.

Great revivals are on all over Arkansas. We note that both country and town churches are launching great soul winning campaigns.

Department of Missions

C. W. CALDWELL, Superintendent

Missionary Uses Laymen To Revive Churches

During the recent Missionaries' Retreat at Hot Springs, C. C. Roberts, who serves as missionary in Concord Association, told of his plans to use laymen in sponsoring revival services in a number of churches. "Our plan is something new, but I believe it has merit," he stated, as he outlined the details of the program.

The plan was carried out and the letter below tells of the results:

Dear Brother Caldwell:

You asked me to send you a report on the Laymen's Revival we conducted in Concord Association.

I am happy to report that this was one of the greatest spiritual awakenings I have ever witnessed among laymen. We had seven teams going to seven churches each night for seven nights, each team visiting each church. This ras strictly a Laymen's Revival. They had charge of the entire service—each member of the team giving his testimony, telling what the Lord had done for him. Then, they would give the people of the church an opportunity to testify for the Lord.

These laymen and churches where they went report they never experienced such spiritual blessings. There were souls saved and many rededications of life. There were hundreds of testimonies given.

All this has proven to me something I have believed for a long time, and that is this, that we have lost a great deal by not giving our people a chance to tell the simple story, in their own words, of what the Lord has done for them.

There is nothing in the Christian religion more interesting than one giving his testimony as a Christian.

We are planning to use these laymen this summer in some mission revivals.

Sincerely yours

Nearly four million of the nine million people of Formosa are from the various mainland provinces — refugees from communism. Torn away from home, families divided, country gone, their hearts are eager for the rest which only Christ can give. — Bertha Smith, missionary to Formosa. Any denominational school is more than an educational institution. It is a missionary asset as well. In addition to the splendid work that Southern Baptist College is doing in educating the young people of Northeast Arkansas, is the fine missionary contribution it is making in strengthening the churches and reaching the neglected areas of that section of Arkansas.

Without the influence of Southern Baptist College and the ministry of her preacher boys, it would take far more money for Arkansas Baptists to do as effective work, from a missionary standpoint, than we are contributing, as a Convention, to the school. Hence, in maintaining this school and the support we give to it means, not only is money spent for Christian education, but for missionary work as well.

Arkansas Baptists should be grateful for the contribution Southern Baptist College is making to the missionary cause, as well as the educational field. _____000_____

Navy Needs 20 Baptist

Chaplains Southern Baptist preachers have never before had such a challenge to fulfill their missionary obligation to the chaplaincy. Thousands of our choice youth, in the impressionable ages, are in the Navy. These boys offer the chaplains an unlimited opportuni-

ty for a spiritual ministry. The Southern Baptist quota yet to be supplied is 20 additional chaplains for the Navy. The need is immediate. For Navy Reserve, appointment must be made previous to the applicant's thirtyfourth birthday, and for Regular Navy, thirty-five. Both college and seminary degrees are required. Write to, Alfred Carpenter, 161 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 3, Georgia.

North Zone Hymn Sing For Pulaski County

The Sylvan Hills Church was host to the North Zone Hymn Sing for Pulaski County Association on Sunday afternoon, April 15. There were 115 people present, representing five churches and three pastors. Mrs. Joe Simmons directed the Sing. Special numbers were presented by Sylvan Hills Church, Friendship, and First Church, North Little Rock.

The next sing for this group will be on May 20 at Calvary Church, Rose City. The theme of the program will be Music for Revivals, and Gail Starkey will bring an evangelistic message.

A Traveling Witness

By JOHN CAYLOR

Perhaps 10,000 people will journey to and from California for the Southern Baptist Convention within a few weeks. What if every traveler blazed a trail of Christian witness all the way from his home to San Francisco and back again?

Miss Bertha Wallis, field worker for the Home Mission Board, tells this story:

"Between GA camps in New Mexico and Arizona I had one night free; and since I had never seen Grand Canyon and was only fifty miles away, I visited it. A Hopi Indian boy with a beautiful red scarf about his head, lovely turquoise necklace, and silver belt took my bag to my hotel room. I asked, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'Jackson.'

"'How long have you worked here?' I asked. 'Seven years,' he answered. Then I asked him if he were a Christian and he answered that he did not know what that was. I asked him if he knew Jesus. He answered, 'No, I do not know who that is either.' When I asked him if he had a Bible he said he did not know what that was. Then I asked him, 'What faith are you?'

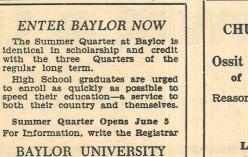
"'Just Indian, just Indian,' the young man replied.

"They told me that as many as 7,000 persons visited the Grand Canyon in a day and no one had taken time to talk to that Indian boy about Jesus Christ."

In coming weeks many Southern Baptists will have opportunities to witness for Christ as they travel. There will be attendants at filling stations, elevator operators, waitresses, and many people who would welcome a sincere testimony.

Wire Recorder

By taking your wire or tape recorder to the San Francisco Convention you can bring back to your church, and to your neighbor pastors and churches, the inspiration which comes from hearing the music and messages in the high experiences of the Convention program. The Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention will have a connection all ready for your recorder. A small fee will be charged to help defray part of the expense.



W. R. WHITE, President Waco, Texas

Contempt for Decency

By JOHN W. BRADBURY

How we wish for someone to put the fear of God into certain types of advertisers. Since neither the National Association of Manufacturers nor the Better Business Bureaus no longer seem to take note of the immoral which is increasingly being forced on the American public by advertisers, we must rally the various Christian groupings in the United States to a challenging stand against wicked exploitations. Motion picture advertising is flagrantly offensive. Beer, liquor, and tobacco ads are terrible in their disregard for every fine and true sentiment. We are being exhorted into indecency and drunken impurity in the most flamboyant and exotic appeals. Heaven help us. Unless there is a halt called, we shall yet reap a terrific harvest for the seed-sowing in sin which clutters up the newspapers, magazines, and television shows. The Montgomery (Alabama) Baptist Ministers Conference on March 19 voted its protest against features in television which show alcoholic drinking, as being an "invasion of our homes." They also protested the exploitation of children by advertisers of "Marlboro" cigarettes, put out by Philip Morris and Company, Ltd. Let our ministers throughout the land rise up on the side of decency and truth. Urge the Bureau of Trade Practices of the Federal Trade Commission in Washington to stop such unethical and dangerous -Watchman-Examiner publicity. -000-

South Zone Hymn Sing For Pulaski County

On April 22 the Biddle Church was host to the South Zone Hymn Sing for Pulaski County Association. There were 105 people present, representing six churches. W. C. Stewart directed the Sing and was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Roberts. Special numbers consisted of a quartet from Pleasant Hill Church and also the Biddle Church.

The next Sing for this group will be held at the Geyer Springs Church on Sunday, May 27. The theme for the program will be Music for Revivals, and Guy Wilson will bring an evangelistic message.



My Future for Christ

Do you know what day it is? Why, this is the tomorrow to which you looked forward so eagerly yesterday. All through school you have thought about graduation. What student hasn't daydreamed and made big plans.

What of those dreams and plans now? They may have had to undergo a few changes. Perhaps some must be postponed for a while. But there is one thing which you, a Christian young person, have that is not changed and which should not be postponed. That is your opportunity to witness for Christ wherever you are day by day in words and in actions.

God has real need for young men and women to make their jobs and vocations — whatever they may be—into Christian responsibilities.

Is your job one given you by your Uncle Sam? It can also be a job for God. Have you dedicated your time in the service to your Christ? A soldier or sailor who holds to his Christian ideals and principles, who reads daily from God's word, and who has a real prayer life, is a living witness and testimony. You may never know the extent of your influence on other lives. Be true to your opportunity!

Are you going into your chosen vocation soon? Perhaps the job is waiting for you, and as soon a you can take off that cap and gown and put down that diploma, you will roll up your skeeves and go to work. Have you dedicated that job to God? You will have many opportunities to witness for Christ to those with whom you work by your daily, consistent Christian living.

-Estelle Slater

EAST TEXAS BAPTIST COLLEGE

Marshall, Texas

"A Liberal Arts College"

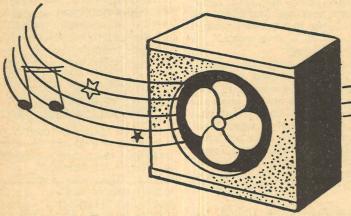
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Your electric appliance dealer is ready right now to show you an attic fan just right for your home. See him and arrange for an installation before hot summer nights arrive!



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The Babylonian Captivity

By MRS. HOMER D. MYERS

Lesson based on "International Sunday School Lessons; the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching, copyrighted 1951 by the Division of ristian Education, National Counof the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

For many years before Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians, the Lord warned them through a number of prophets what would happen if they did not turn from sin and serve Him. In spite of all the prophets could say, the people continued in sin, in idolatry, in greed, and dealt unjustly with the poor, the widows and orphans in the land.

There were many false prophets in that day, and every time a man of God would prophesy concerning judgement, they would prophesy that there would be no judgment. There was a constant conflict between the false prophets and the men of God. The true prophets even foretold the number of years Judah would be in captivity, but to no avail with the sin-stricken inhabitants of the land.

The time came when the king of Babylon made war against Judah and prevailed. The men of skill, the youth of the land, all who were physically able to serve in any capacity; were taken captives Babylon. Daniel the prophet s one of the young men among the captives: he spent his life time serving in the king's palace. It was during those years the young Jewish maiden Esther was made queen and saved her people from wicked Haman who sought to destroy every Jew in the Babylonian province. You will recall also the three Hebrew "children," the young men who refused to worship the image of the king and were thrown into the fiery furnace -and escaped unsinged.

False Prophets In Babylon

We find in this lesson, the false prophets, who denied that Judah would ever be conquered by her enemies, were proceeding with their false prophecies even down in Babylon. They now tried to persuade the captives that this thing would not last long. They were the forefathers of those who cry "Peace, Peace, when there is no peace." They denied the word of God, defied the prophets of God, and set themselves up as diviners to deceive the unlearned. Jeremiah, who had been so

thful under severe persecution tell God's people the truth when the truth was unpopular; he, who had informed the people when they resented his information, now wrote them as comforting a letter as could be composed under such conditions as they were living under. Writing under inspiration, Jeremiah advised the people to

Sunday School Lesson for May 27, 1951 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

settle down, to establish homes. rear families, and live normal lives in Babylon and make the most of the situation. Because they were not there for a short spell, but for the full seventy year period so predicted before they were captured. They were made to serve Babylon 70 years because that much time in sabbatical days and weeks and years had been stolen from God. They had their sabbath days, their sabbath weeks. and every fiftieth year was a sabbatical year; the Lord was merely collecting the time that belonged to Him. The grand old prophet promised the people that when they had served their time, the Lord would remember them and would perform His good word in causing them to return home.

It is comforting to know that though God's people had sinned so greatly as to deserve such severe judgment, He did not forsake them in the land of their captivity. Ezekiel, a priest, became a famous prophet while in Babylon; the Lord revealed many truths to him concerning coming judgment on other nations, such as God and Magog, Egypt, Assyria and others. But he was the voice of hope to those Jews so far from home. He told them of the time when Israel would be bound together again, all twelve tribes, as one great body; that God would not forget those in the remote corners of the earth, but would rescue every son of Abraham. He, like the man of God today, could promise the Jews anything if they would only repent of their sins; let God melt their stony hearts; and serve the true one of Israel. No other promise has any foundation upon which to build.

History Repeats Itself

The churches of the Lord Jesus could learn so much today from a sincere study of Israel's history.

(1) The only insurmountable obstacle in their pathway was self. They never had one enemy they could not conquer with God's help; yet they never learned to conquer self, nor to control self, nor to discipline themselves. It was their own sins that separated them and God-not the sins of their enemies! It was their own lack of consecration that caused them utter defeat-not the idolatry of their enemies. It was never the atheists across the Jordan River, nor on the other side of the Red Sea, who destroyed God's people, but it was their own spiritual for-

nication that made God turn His back upon their lives and turn them over to a reprobate mind.

(2). One outstanding fact in this lesson is that God will not permit His people to waste time. Israel paid in full and paid dearly for the Sabbaths that were wasted, just one little day here and one little week there and a fiftieth year now and then; but it soon counted up to seventy years and they were long years when it came to repaying them as captives in a heathen nation.

Paul had much to say about time; how it should be used, redeemed, because evil is all around us, and time shall not continue forever; time will one day come to an end. Which means that the opportunities of services we have today will not last forever, but "the night cometh when no man shall work."

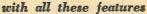
God Will Collect

106 181

Isn't it sad how indifferent many Christians are about God's time; isn't it too bad that so many seem so careless of spending any time in the Lord's service, either visiting those at church or in whom they could help if they cared to make the effort. God has promised to bless them who put Him first, and in the long run the man who closes his place of business in order to serve the Lord will make just as much, or more, than the man "Who doesn't have time" to serve God. The man who stops plowing a few minutes early on Wednesday evening in order to attend the prayer . service, which is the hour of power in any church, will make as good a crop as the man who just must plow that extra few minutes-and finds himself too tired and too late to attend prayer meeting.

(3). The Lord restored Judah: sent them home again and blessed them, yet the next voice we hear is that of Jehovah, saying "Will a man rob God?" Will a Christian, one who has accepted eternal life freely from God, turn around and rob that same Savior? With millions begging for the Gospel story in foreign lands - and at homewill born-again men and women offer a beggarly mite to the Lord who bought them, when we could be in big business for the Master? Can you imagine what Baptists could do for God if we would obey Paul by purposing in our hearts to do our best for Him? He would **BLESS THE PURPOSE.**





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Self-pronouncing

ST. MATTHEW 5

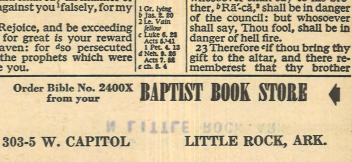
whosoever shall say to his bro-

KING JAMES VERSION 45/8"x7"

- TYPE SPECIMEN -

The sermon on the mount you, and shall say all manner of a 1 Pet 4. 14 evil against you 1 falsely, for my sake.

sake. 12 c Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for dso persecuted they the prophets which were c ch 8.4



Executive Board - STATE CONVENTION

B. L. Bridges, General Secretary, 200 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Ark.

Southern Baptists and the West

Southern Baptists, recognizing the mission opportunities and responsibilities in the West, are girding themselves for the task of evangelizing this growing section of our nation. The Southern Baptist Convention has gradually spread west since 1912 when the New Mexico State Convention was organized. Other states added since that time include: Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington and Kansas.

About one third of all the unchurched people of the Southern Baptist Convention area are in the western states now co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Arizona

1. State convention was organized 1928 with 10 churches. In 1950 there were 73 churches, 11,917 members and 12,786 enrolled in Sunday School.

2. First church was organized in 1938 with members.

3. Northern Baptists had 36 churches and 5,938 members at time Southern Baptist organized. Now they have 62 churches and 14,000 members.

4. In 1950 total gifts by Arizona Southern Baptists amounted to \$575,578, gifts to missions, \$106,256, and baptisms, 1,338.

California

1. State convention organized in 1940 with 13 churches. In 1950 there were 261 churches, 33,521 members, 18 mission stations, and 39,-552 enrolled in Sunday School. (It is estimated there are 300,000 Southern Baptists in California, 240,000 of whom are not enlisted in any church.)

2. First church was organized in 1938 with about 20 members.

3. At the time Baptist state convention was work, Northern Baptists had 20 associations, about 300 churches and 120,000 members. They now have 418 churches and 184,907 members.

4. In 1950 total gifts of California Southern Baptists amounted to \$1,534,956, gifts to missions, \$149,146, and baptisms 5,087.

Kansas

1. State convention organized 1946 with 8 churches. In 1950 there were 55 churches with 7,021 members, 2 missions and 6,672 enrolled in Sunday School.

2. First Southern Baptist Church was organized prior to 1890 and affiliated with Missouri Baptists in 1911.

3. At the time Baptist state convention was organized Northern Baptists had 312 Churches. Now they have 285 with 87,000 members.

4. In 1950 total gifts amounted to \$252.911, gifts to missions, \$36,808, and baptisms, 924.

New Mexico

1. State convention was organized in 1911 with 6 associations, 88 churches and 2,673 members. In 1950 there were 184 churches, 45,704 members, 14 missions, and 37,701 enrolled in Sunday School. (Spanish Baptists have about 12 churches and 1,000 members

A LOCAL DESCRIPTION OF

and Negro Baptists 8 churches and 600 members.)

2. Northern Baptists withdrew from New Mexico in 1912, and Northern Churches affiliated with the Southern convention.

3. Total gifts in 1950 amounted to \$1,752,-675, gifts to missions, \$295,464, and baptisms, 3,478.

Oregon-Washington

1. Present Baptist General Convention of Oregon (made up of churches from Washington and Oregon) was organized in 1948 with 15 churches. In 1950 there were 30 churches with 4,141 members and 4,478 enrolled in Sunday School.

2. The First Baptist church in Oregon was constituted in 1844. In 1857 there were three Baptist associations in Oregon. They asked recognition by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1874 and were rejected. They drifted, and finally became affiliated with a not too strongly missionary group.

3. In 1950 total gifts amounted to \$197,011, gifts to missions \$21,502, and baptisms, 489.

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Did You Know

Did you know that the Seventh-Day Adventists Denomination was organized in 1863 with 125 churches having a total of 3,500 members, according to their report? If this were the true New Testament Church, Jesus waited more than 1,800 years after His ministry to give this lost world a church that would perform the tasks mentioned in the Great Commission. We want you to see, however, the growth of an organization which has been well financed and pushed. It is now reported to have 11 world divisions of 216 regularly organized mission fields. Seventh-Day Adventists now have a world membership, they say, numbering 716,538. The North American membership is 243,193, Since 1900, 6,450 missionaries working in 706 languages have been sent to foreign fields. Last year 115 workers returned from their furlough to their fields of labor and there were 239 new workers that went out. The oganization's report shows that they have churches established in 228 of the 282 countries of the world. They have many sanitoriums, training schools, publishing houses, food companies, treatment rooms, etc., more than 500 of them.

How do they do all this? Answer: through tithes and offerings. Last year their per capita giving in North America was \$138.28. Baptists in Arkansas gave less than \$40.00 per capita. We do not want to do or believe everything that the Seventh-Day Adventists believe and do. Their worst error is not the question of the Sabbath Day. There are other grave errors in their teachings, such as "soulsleeping", etc., but it would be fine if we Baptists would toe the mark on stewardship principles as well as do the Seventh-Day Adventists.

What the Home Board is Doing

Besides providing missionaries to the Indians, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese and other language groups in the states of Arizon California, Kansas, New Mexico, and Orego Washington, the Board is co-operating with these state conventions in other mission activities within each state.

The Home Board surveys the needs of the fields and through conferences co-ordinates efforts and directs the mission work. The Board also assists in the support of superintendents of evangelism in these states. Each year the Board sends approximately 100 student missionaries into these states for 10 weeks to supplement the work of the regular missionaries.

Through the Co-operative mission department assistance is given to general mission work and in the securing of mission pastors and in the construction of much needed church buildings.

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Attorney General on Separation Of Church and State

By J. M. DAWSON

At the annual National Catholic Educational Convention recently held in Cleveland, Ohio, United States Attorney General J. Howard McGrath told the Catholic educators:

"An amendment which was intended to prevent the creation of an established church, and a phrase in a letter of Thomas Jefferson have been distorted to create, in words of Mp Justice Black, in the famous McCollum cas a 'wall between church and state which must be kept high and impregnable.'

"It may be that in some respects Mr. Justice Frankfurter's quip that in relation with church and state 'good fences make good neighbors' is true, but not all. If anything, the state and church must not have any fence between them."

How does this sound concerning the American distinctive system of separation of church and state as embodied in the First Amendment and interpreted by the United States Supreme Court? Is it a bit shocking to hear the chief law enforcement head of the United States Government set forth the distinct Roman Catholic view of church-state relations? Is the President of the United States, who appoints the members of the cabinet. unmoved by such an utterance from one of his chief cabinet members? Has the public no right to raise these questions when the Government of the United States in one of its departments is so pronouncedly working in conflict with the other departments of the Government as in the case of the Justice Department and the United States Supreme Court? -000-

A good woman inspires a man . . . a brilliant one interests him . . . a beautiful one fascinates him . . . but the sympathetic one gets him!

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