

4-8-1948

April 8, 1948

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "April 8, 1948" (1948). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1945-1949*. 46.
https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_45-49/46

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 47

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, APRIL 8, 1948

NUMBER 15

W. M. U. CONVENTION

LITTLE ROCK First Baptist Church

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April 13-15

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*Mrs. George R. Martin
Southwide President W. M. U.*



*Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence
Guest Speaker*



*Dr. R. C. Campbell
Host Pastor*

★ ★ ★



*Rev. Jacob Gartenhaus
Home Mission Board*



*Dr. George W. Sadler
Foreign Mission Board*

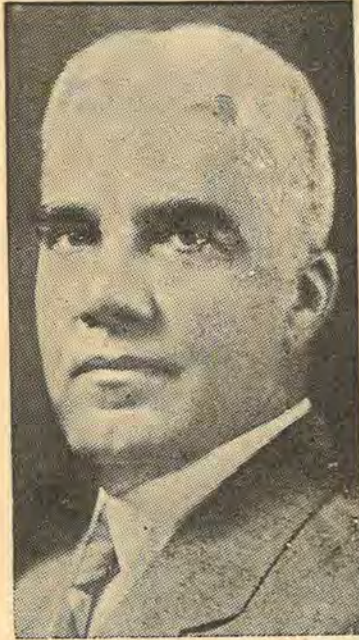
Welcome! Thrice Welcome!

We extend to you, W. M. U. messengers, Christian greetings, and assure you a cordial welcome as you assemble in the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, for your annual convention.

We welcome you gracious women of Arkansas.

I Commit Myself

By JOHN L. HILL



"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." These are strong, courageous, stirring words; they are reminiscent of days when men dared to stand up on their two feet and be counted—regardless. In his last appearance before the tribes of Israel, Joshua was the mouth piece of the Lord God, reviewing the leadership and blessings of God even to the grant of land, cities, vineyards, and oliveyards, without cost to them. Then, Joshua called on the people to choose whom they would serve—the Lord, the gods whom their fathers served before the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land they dwelt. Without waiting for a decision, Joshua committed himself in the words of the first line of this paragraph.

I wonder if it isn't time for the Lord's people to stand up and be counted, with reference to the curse of beverage alcohol which threatens to engulf our Christian civilization. Fortunately, it is not necessary for me to go to Yale, to consult a scientist, specialist, or psychiatrist in order to know what beverage alcohol does. The observations of a fairly active life have given me that information. I know that liquor attacks and would destroy everything dear to the heart of Christ; I know that liquor weakens or removes entirely the inhibitions that sustain virtue, decency, morality, integrity, and self-respect; I know that liquor wrecks homes, debauches breadwinners, and deprives little children of the love and support of parents; I know that liquor originates most of all the evil in the world and actively supports every sin that it does not cause.

Furthermore, I know that today liquor has invaded hitherto forbidden grounds. It is rapidly making itself indispensable in the social gatherings of most respectable people; distillers, brewers, and dealers hold conspicuous places in the ranks of charitable and philanthropic citizens; the liquor business grants academic scholarships and finances foundations to guarantee an education to all worthy boys.

With its billions extracted from its victims, alcoholic beverages carry on the most expensive and plausible advertising program that

our age ever saw, and exerts an influence, political and otherwise, that permeates the political, social, and even the religious life of the nation. The latest bit of astounding news is that pupils in New York City's public schools are to be taught how to make beer.

In the light of these indisputable facts, and many more just like them, it is time for me to take my stand. This I am doing voluntarily, individually, independently, and with a full sense of my personal responsibility. Don't misunderstand me; I think I could drink a cocktail, or take a snort, to use a less sophisticated term, and possibly suffer no ill effects, but my example might cause the corruption of some mother's son or the ruin of her daughter. That shall not be. Because I love Jesus and because I know what alcoholic beverages do, I am promising myself that I will not use alcoholic beverages and that I will never sell, give, or serve it to others. I am going to keep that promise. My soul literally thrills as I anticipate similar action of millions of Baptists on Commitment Sunday, May 30, 1948. Let all our churches and congregations who love the Lord make such a personal commitment with themselves. This is one way to combat this terrible evil; God helping us, we can do no less.

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Foreign Mission 1947 Receipts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (BP)—Foreign missions received 51.52 per cent of all money contributed to Southern Baptist Convention causes in 1947.

An auditors' report, just completed and covering 1947 operations of the Convention's Executive Committee, revealed that a total of \$7,356,226.65 was received during the year for distribution to causes sponsored by the Convention.

A sum of \$3,789,741.09, or 51.52 per cent of the total, went to the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia, for mission work overseas.

Home missions received the second largest portion, which was 20.14 per cent. This sum, totaling \$1,431,680.07, was sent to the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia, for mission work in the 20-state territory of the Convention, Cuba, and Panama.

The auditors revealed that less than two-thirds of one per cent of the contributions is used for the promotional and operating expenses of the Convention and its machinery. The Convention's mission, educational, and benevolent work received 99.37 per cent of the total.

Texas Baptists led other state groups in amounts contributed during the year, having sent \$983,349.20 to the Executive Committee offices. North Carolina, a historical Baptist state, was second, with \$879,539.04 contributed.

Of the total received during the year, \$5,217,762.39 was for the denomination's Co-operative Program, and \$2,138,464.26 was designated to special objects.

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WHAT IT TAKES—"I would give the world to have your experience," said one young Christian, to another whose devotion to Christ was apparent. "My dear friend," replied the other, "that's exactly what it cost me. I gave the world for it."—H. A. Ironside.

HE WENT AWAY

A Devotion by the Editor

"And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved."

This is one of the most tragic stories in the New Testament. But it is not the tragedy of a bad man. It is the tragedy of a good man, a man with high ideals, a man who was respected in the community, a man who held a position of honor and trust.

He was not an outlaw, hiding from justice he was not a dissipated man wasting his powers in revelry and debauchery; he was not a dishonest man, cheating and swindling his fellow men; he was not characterized by many other things which stamp men as wicked and bad.

On the other hand, he was a man of great personal charm and winsomeness; it appears that he was sound physically and clean in his habits; he must have been morally upright and honorable; he was a just ruler, holding his responsibility as a trust; he was a man of wealth and wide influence; he was a young man, eager and reverent.

When he discovered what it would cost him to be a Christian, this young man hung his head and "went away grieved." It was a cause of disappointment that Christ could not receive him just as he was without any change on his part. He could find nothing wrong with himself, and to have someone else point out the one weakness in his life was more than he could accept with good grace.

People do not want to be reminded of the weakness in their characters, the failures in their lives, the deficiencies which are cheating them out of the best things of life. They become especially resentful when told that they are clinging to things which make it impossible for them to become Christian, that they must give these things up if they hope for eternal life. And like this young man, being unwilling to part with their cherished possessions, their pet sins, and favorite delights, they leave behind them the greatest of all riches, which are found only in Christ; they sacrifice the supreme joys of life for the temporary pleasures of earth's little day.

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

"And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions" (Mark 10: 21-22).

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

206 BAPTIST BUILDING, LITTLE ROCK
Official Publication of the Arkansas Baptist
State Convention

B. H. DUNCAN, EDITOR
MRS. LESLIE W. BUCHANAN, ED. ASST.

Publication Committee: W. H. Hicks, Little Rock, Chairman; O. C. Harvey, Arkadelphia; Wylie Elliott, Paris; Boyd Eldridge, Tyronza; R. M. Abell, Jasper; Leroy Tedford, Corning.

Entered Post Office, Little Rock, Arkansas, as second class mail matter. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided in Section 1198, October 1, 1913.

Individual subscription \$2.00 per year. Church Budgets 11 cents per month or \$1.32 per year per church family; Family Groups (10 or more paid annually in advance) \$1.50 per year. Subscription to foreign address \$2.50 per year. Advertising Rates on Request.

The cost of cuts cannot be borne by the paper except those it has made for its individual use.

Resolutions and obituaries published at five cents per word. One dollar minimum.

Articles carrying the author's by-line do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the paper.

Across the Editor's Desk

Gifts To Foreign Missions

Turn to page 2 and read the report of Southern Baptist Convention receipts for 1947, released by the Baptist Press, Nashville, Tennessee. This report makes interesting reading and should inspire all Baptists to greater efforts.

While we must acknowledge that Southern Baptists could and should do much more, yet we rejoice that in 1947 we gave \$7,356,226.65 to South-wide causes.

A most gratifying item in this report is that "less than two-thirds of one per cent of the contributions is used for the promotional and operating expenses of the Convention and its machinery." The Convention's mission, educational, and benevolent work received 99.37 per cent of the total. This report from the auditors should hush the voice of the anti-missionary grippers who shout themselves hoarse with the hackneyed phrases which charge that the major portion of the missionary and benevolent dollar is consumed by expenses.

Another item in the report is that Foreign missions received 51.52 per cent of all money contributed to Southern Baptist causes in 1947. We are pleased that Foreign missions received such a high percentage of the total contributions, the explanation for which is found in the designations totaling \$2,138,464.26.

A disturbing factor comes to light by an analysis of these figures. While we rejoice that Foreign missions received increased support, our joy is somewhat dulled by the realization that the total increase to Foreign missions was possible only by designated gifts. If the total contributions of Southern Baptists to South-wide causes had been channeled through the Co-operative Program, Foreign missions would have received much less.

It seems obvious from this situation that the Co-operative Program, as it now stands, is not elastic enough to provide the channel through which our Baptist people may express their interest in and their contributions to our Foreign mission work. We do not believe it is possible for unyielding percentages to provide the channel for the full expression of the interest of our people in Foreign missions. For this reason, designations have increased and will continue to increase so long as Co-operative Program receipts are divided strictly on a percentage basis.

The alternative to the percentage basis of division is simple. The allocations to South-wide agencies should be stated in terms of dollars. These allocations could be adjusted from year to year as the needs of the agencies would dictate. Above these dollar allocations, the lid should be taken off and all excess funds allowed to go to Foreign missions.

Such an adjustment in the basis of division of Co-operative Program receipts should become operative in the several state conventions and, most essentially, in the churches. As the situation stands now, the only way an individual can give adequate expression to his deepened interest in Foreign missions is by designation.

Our Co-operative Program should be so adjusted that the people of our churches could express their deepening interest in Foreign missions with increased contributions, without resorting to the method of designation.

If Foreign missions were given the excess after the dollar allocations of other agencies were met, it would carry our whole South-wide program, and every agency of the Convention would profit by the arrangement.

Steps should be taken at the Memphis Convention in May to promote the Co-operative Program on some such feasible and adjustable basis as will present to Southern Baptists the challenge of Foreign missions and provide them the opportunity of responding to that challenge, without at the same time, forcing them to designate their gifts in order to act upon the promptness of their hearts.

We must admit that the interest of our people in Foreign missions has outgrown the provision made in the Co-operative Program for Foreign missions.

Outstanding Publicity Programs

There are two outstanding publicity programs, by commercial enterprises, which are based on Christian virtue and teaching.

One of these programs consists of a series of newspaper advertisements in support of family solidarity and happiness, by the Institute of Life Insurance, New York.

The advertisement appearing March 15, 1948, pictured two small children saying their prayers just before retiring. The serious expression on the young mother's face indicates that she is conscious of her responsibility in the home. The toys are laid aside as the children say their evening prayer: "I pray thee Lord my soul to keep."

This advertisement appeared in over 375 daily newspapers throughout the United States with more than 35,000,000 circulation.

The other is the radio program: "The Greatest Story Ever Told," produced and sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, and acclaimed as one of the greatest programs on the air. This program is a dramatization of the teaching of Jesus, each feature is taken from some episode in the life of Jesus.

Neither the newspaper advertisement nor the radio program is sectarian in nature, purpose, or content. Perhaps the sponsors recognize the publicity value of Christian teaching and religion in the home. It is true that a home built upon Christian virtues offers better insurance risks and builds a better economic structure in human society.

Regardless of the merits or de-merits of these programs, they indicate a trend which should be a challenge to all Christians. Business and commercial interests consider Christian teaching and practice basic in the social and economic structures, and spend vast sums to promote Christian principles in the home and in society generally. Christians must look beyond the economic and social orders and seek the salvation of souls by winning them to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The Commission of Jesus is not to build a better social order. His Commission is to preach the gospel to the individual, "every creature." By reaching the individual and winning the individual to personal faith in Christ, the home is made better, the structure of human society is elevated, and better communities are built.

Catholics Make

Boldest Bid Yet

The boldest bid which Roman Catholics have as yet made for American patronage was voiced by Representative Donald O'Toole, of New York, in his proposal that the United States take the lead in guaranteeing the future safety of Pope Pius XII if Communists win the April Italian elections.

All Americans would be deeply grieved if harm should come to the Pope as a result of Communists winning the April 18 elections. But why should the United States assume the responsibility of guaranteeing the future safety of the Pope?

Representative O'Toole is quoted as saying, "I say that our government and the other governments comprising the western block of free peoples should and must take immediate steps to insure that the Pontiff be safeguarded both as to person and as to action."

The fall of Italy to the Communists would be a terrific blow to the Western democracies. The United States is doing all it considers feasible to prevent the Communists from taking over the Italian government. But, to guarantee the future safety of any individual is a different proposition.

The open bid for the American government to become the protector of the Vatican and the Pope carries far reaching implications which may not be apparent on the surface. Should the United States guarantee the future safety of the Pope by bringing him to America and setting up the Vatican in this country, a state within a state? How would such a move fit into the American principle of separation of church and state?

Frankly, we do not know all the implications in Representative O'Toole's proposal, but we should be alert to the signs of danger which threatens our American freedom in religion and the principle of separation of church and state.



Pictured above is Rev. and Mrs. Hatton as they arrived in Rio on the S. S. Javanese Prince. Dr. J. J. Cowser, Secretary Treasurer of the South Brazil Mission, went aboard ship to welcome the Hattons to Brazil as missionaries. He is seen at left of photograph.

Caixa 320,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
March 25, 1948

Greetings from Brazil!

These words are being written in Rio de Janeiro, the beautiful, bustling Brazilian Capitol City. We arrived here March 20, and have been busy ever since, meeting missionaries, seeing the city, visiting churches, trying to get our things through customs, and getting settled in our new home.

The two years spent working and playing with boys in Arkansas were very profitable and enjoyable to us. We are thankful to the Lord for our Arkansas friends. To all of the missionary societies, Young Peoples' organizations, and churches that sent money and gifts to us before we left the homeland, we would like to say that we are deeply grateful. Perhaps later we can write to each of you, reporting more about our work.

Our first impressions of the work here could be summed up in the word "great." Brazil is a great country—in size, resources, and opportunities. Baptists have made a good start and have made great progress since Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Bagby came here in 1881. Not only have the missionaries of the past been men and women of great vision, but we are convinced that Southern Baptists have a great group of missionaries here today. We have been surprised to find such great Brazilian pastors and workers. Even most of the smaller churches that we have seen or heard about are self-supporting. Many of them borrow money from our Foreign Mission Board for erecting buildings, but the making of out-right gifts for building programs is discouraged and rarely ever practiced. I like the way the churches "swarm" here. They don't seem to be as selfish as some of our churches in the states. Instead of one church growing too large, they start another. Perhaps that accounts for the Baptist growth in Brazil. The First Baptist Church, Rio de Janeiro, has 1,500 members, but recently two other churches were started from this one.

The great need of Brazil is the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are as many people liv-

ing in Rio de Janeiro as there are in all of Arkansas. There are 45 million people in Brazil, compared to 2 million in Arkansas. In area, Brazil is as large as the United States, with Arkansas thrown in four more times. Yet, there are more Baptist churches in Arkansas than in Brazil, being about 1,000 in Arkansas, and about 800 in Brazil.

Whatever our task will be in the future, our first task is to try to learn Portuguese, and the ways of the Brazilian people. Will you please pray for us, that we might learn the language and prepare ourselves to be good, faithful servants of the Lord in this great land?

Sincerely,

(Signed) Catherine and Alvin Hatton.

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Parkview Church, El Dorado, observed its fifth anniversary in an all-day service Friday, March 26. Dr. T. L. Harris, First Church Camden, was guest speaker for the occasion.

The Parkview Church was organized in June 1943, with 26 charter members, the outgrowth of a mission sponsored by Westside Church, El Dorado. The new church now has 121 members and maintains an aggressive program of evangelism and enlistment.

A new auditorium, with a seating capacity of 300, is under construction now.

Pastor Vernon G. Miles, First Church, Minden, Louisiana, did his own preaching in revival services, March 14-21. There were 52 additions to the church, 31 of these by baptism.

Pastor Miles had the assistance of Walter Hill, Associate Pastor, First Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who directed the music.

Mr. Carey Selph, State Brotherhood President, recently was guest speaker at a men's meeting of the First Church, Pine Bluff. The meeting resulted in the unanimous decision to organize a Brotherhood and plans were formulated for completing such organization.

During the week of March 22-27 the Eastside Church, DeWitt, had as guest preacher for a series of doctrinal sermons Pastor W. Dawson King, of Baptist Headquarters, and pastor of Hebron Church, Pulaski County Association.

Pastor James W. Johnson of the Eastside Church writes, "We were greatly strengthened by the forceful presentation and clear interpretation of the doctrine of the Bible by Brother King. He is one of our able preachers and we hope to have him with us for two weeks at some future date."

A Third Anniversary Revival was conducted by Pastor Aubrey C. Halsell and the First Church, West Memphis, during the week of March 28 to April 4. The revival, in which pastor Halsell did the preaching, commemorated his three year pastorate with the West Memphis Church.

Sermon subjects for the week were: "The Resurrection", "From Sin to Death", "The New Birth", "A Haven of Lies", "The Holy Spirit", "The Gospel", "The Bible Pictures of Hell", "The Final Judgment", "Behold the Hour", and "Heaven—The Christian's Home."

Robert P. James, Minister of Music and Education, was in charge of the music.

The First Church, Parkin, recently observed Religious Emphasis Week with Ralph Douglas, Pastor of First Church, Helena, as guest speaker.

An interesting feature of the week was the chapel services held in the Methodist church for the convenience of the student bodies of the High School and Junior High School.

Speakers for these morning chapel services were: Ralph Douglas, First Baptist Church, Helena; Harold Eggesberger, the Methodist church; P. Gibbs, Assembly of God church, West Memphis.

The Decatur Church recently honored the pastor, J. A. Scoggins, by observing the fortieth anniversary of his pastorate.

During the 40 years' ministry of Pastor Scoggins the church membership has grown from 48 to 220, a new church building has been erected, and a dormitory constructed at Siloam Springs Assembly.

A new church building, constructed of concrete blocks, has recently been completed at Clear Lake, Mississippi County Association.

Radio

"The Voice of Arkansas Baptists," a radio program produced by the Radio Commission of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, presents "Personal Adventures With Jesus" by B. H. Duncan.

All broadcasts are by transcription and may be heard every Sunday over the following stations:

KLCN—Blytheville, 8:00 a. m.
KHOZ—Harrison, 8:30 a. m.
KCLA—Pine Bluff, 8:30 a. m.
KTFS—Texarkana, 8:45 a. m.
KFFA—Helena, 1:30 p. m.
KWFC—Hot Springs, 1:30 p. m.
KELD—El Dorado, 3:30 p. m.
KVRG—Arkadelphia, 4:00 p. m.
KUAO—Siloam Springs, 4:15 p. m.
KWHN—Ft. Smith, 4:45 p. m.
KARK—Little Rock, 10:15 p. m.



Ground was broken for the first unit of the new educational plant and church building of the Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Sunday afternoon, April 4. Dr. Edgar Williamson, Director of Religious Education Department, brought the principal address. Other participants on the program were: Dr. M. Ray McKay, Pastor; W. R. James, Chairman of the building committee; H. C. Stephan, Sunday School Superintendent; and Roy E. Pasley Jr., Educational Director.

The contract for the new building was awarded to the Baldwin Construction Company, Little Rock, at a cost of \$253,177, and construction was begun Monday morning, April 5.

D. O. Stuckey, Pastor of the First Church, Alma, since August 1943, has resigned and accepted the pastorate of the First Church, Almyra, Arkansas.

Under the leadership of Bro. Stuckey, the Alma church increased in membership from 210 in 1943, to 333 in 1947; Sunday School enrollment increased from 156 to 311; Training Union from 43 to 133. There were 116 additions by baptism. The annual budget increased from \$2,445 in 1943, to \$5,400 in 1947. Total amount given for missions was \$3,649, total for all purposes was \$32,719; an electric organ was installed in 1947. Just recently the parsonage has been completely re-decorated.

The members of the Alma Church feel a great loss in the resignation of Brother Stuckey. He is a great preacher and leader, a tireless worker, always ready to help in any task regardless how large or small. He had endeared himself to his church members from the first year of his pastorate in Alma and through their love for him and the God whom he preached, the members were led to do greater things for His Kingdom.

Lawrence Cunningham, Fort Worth, Texas, has accepted the pastorate of the Alma Church.

Pastor J. G. Cothran, First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, recently preached in revival services at the South Main Street Baptist Church, Greenwood, South Carolina, Dr. George Moore, pastor.

The meeting at the South Main Street Church was a co-operative revival in a simultaneous revival effort in the Abbeville Association.

The building is to be a three-story, fire-proof structure, and will be air-conditioned throughout.

The first floor will house the Young People's Department, with an assembly room and appropriate class rooms. It will also provide a well-equipped kitchen and two dining rooms, seating 200 each. The combined assembly space provides seating capacity for 600.

The second floor will house the church offices, with the general office and private offices for the pastor, assistant pastor, and the pastor's secretary. On this floor will be two Beginner's Departments, four Nurseries, and the church library.

The top floor will provide for two Begin-

ner, two Junior, and two Intermediate Departments.

The entire plant, as shown in the accompanying picture, will consist of two educational units and the auditorium.

The auditorium will have a seating capacity of more than 1,200 with a balcony seating 600. There will be three choir lofts, two of which will be elevated to positions on each side of the main choir loft. The combined seating capacity of the three choir lofts is 112.

The architects are Burks and Anderson, with W. A. Harrell, Director of the Architectural Department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee, as consultant.

The Eudora Church and pastor Clarence Cutrell conducted a Revival of Training the week of March 22-26. Courses of study taught included: "The Growing Christian", "A Winning Witness", "Building a Church Training Program", "Training in Christian Service", and "Living for Jesus."

Assisting in the revival were Missionary Allen McCurry and Mrs. McCurry, H. O. Malone, Pastor of the Lake Village Church, and Mrs. Malone.

At the close of the week the Eudora Church presented a wire recording machine to Missionary and Mrs. McCurry for use in their work.

For the first time, the United States Lawn Tennis Association has accepted the entry of a Negro player for a national tennis tournament.

Pastor A. B. Pierce, First Church, Pine Bluff, preached in revival services recently at the First Church, Dardanelle, J. A. O. Russell, Pastor. P. A. Stockton directed the music. Pastor Russell says, "The work of these men will live on in the months to come in our church and community."

I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of the Book upon reason that you can and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man. In regard to the Great Book I have only to say that it is the best book which God has given to men.

—Abraham Lincoln.

Pastor Hugh Cantrell and the First Church, Stephens, are promoting a unique "Family Week" program April 5-9. Services will be held each evening at 7:00 o'clock, Monday through Friday.

The Family and its Finances is the topic discussed Monday evening by Mr. W. C. Blewster, President of the First National Bank of Magnolia.

The Family and its School will be discussed Tuesday evening by Mr. G. A. Stubblefield, Superintendent of Schools in El Dorado.

The Family and Its Church is the topic for discussion Wednesday evening by Pastor S. A. Whitlow, First Baptist Church, Hope.

The Family and Law Enforcement will be discussed Thursday evening by Honorable Guy Williams, Attorney General of the State of Arkansas.

The Family and its Health is the topic for Friday evening and will be discussed by Dr. A. C. Kolb, Physician and Psychiatrist with the Veterans' Administration.

Asks for Peace in Palestine: Dr. Nelson Glueck, fourth president of the oldest Jewish theological seminary in America, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, urged immediate enforcement of the United Nations' plan for the partitioning of Palestine.

Dr. Glueck declared, "the spreading lava of violence in Palestine must be stemmed forthwith, not only for the welfare of all its inhabitants, but in the interest of mankind itself. The sacred soil of Palestine will not sustain nor will the stage of history support those who spill innocent blood. The consequence of violence there will be visited upon the entire world."

CHRISTIAN HORIZONS

*An addition to God's Kingdom must be a subtraction from the world.
You cannot be counted in both places.*

A New Method of Aiding Missions: The one-hundred members of the Romanian Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio, under the leadership of their pastor, Danila Pascu, decided to do the janitor work of the church and send the money thus saved to Romania to establish a Baptist church.

This savings—approximately \$20 per month—has been sent to Baptist headquarters in Europe. Recently, Pastor Pascu received a report stating the fund had made possible the employment of a full time minister, Peter Florutza, for the work there.

Beginning with a central church in the state of Bihor, Romania, two years ago, Pastor Florutza has since established three other churches. These four churches have a membership of 2,000 adults, and a total Sunday School enrolment of 4,000 children.

"I can't tell you how pleased my people were to receive the report," Mr. Pascu stated. "They all said they were more than repaid for their work around the church during the last three years."

Asked if there had been any shirkers among the volunteer workers, Mr. Pascu remarked that "you don't have shirkers when the cause is worth-while."

"I would say that our church chores have given us a new and practical idea of what Christianity in action means."

Survey Made: About 72 per cent of the draft-age persons questioned believe that universal military training is unnecessary, according to a survey sponsored by the National Conference of Methodist Youth in Nashville, Tennessee.

Group of Senators Pray: During the 1947 session of Congress a group of Senators gathered at the Capitol every morning at 8:30 for a group prayer meeting. On Thursday a larger group of Representatives met in the House Wing—some forty-five or fifty in all. Among the speakers were Dr. Walter Wilson, R. G. LeTourneau, Dr. Arthur I. Brown, and Paul Rood.

Protestants-United Answer Bishop: Protestants and Other Americans United for separation of church and state issued a statement in Washington, D. C., denying charges by Roman Archbishop John T. McNicholas, Cincinnati, that its manifesto was "bound to arouse intolerance, suspicion, hatred, and conflict between religious groups."

The Protestant group asserted that it would "profoundly deplore" any such result of its manifesto, but insisted that, if dissension arose, responsibility for it would rest upon the Catholic Church, "whose aggressions are the occasion of the dissension, and upon the political authorities who yield to them."

It warned that "if Protestants and other citizens do not resist these aggressions, they will wake up to find it is too late to resist them calmly."

Home Pictures to Features Memphis Program: A special series of pictures is being prepared for projection at the Christian Home Service of the Southern Baptist Convention at Memphis, May 22.

The principle setting for the pictures is the home of a family in Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. Through the co-operation of the pastor, W. C. Kirk, a number of his congregation are helping to make this series which will be entitled, "A Crusade for Christian Homes."

The scenes focus on every day experiences in the home of George W. Logan, a Nashville groceryman, and a deacon in Edgefield Church.

This twenty-minute visual feature, in the Christian Home Service at Memphis, will precede the major address of the evening by Dr. Ellis A. Fuller, who will speak on the subject, "Save Our Homes or Else."

The second production to be released by the Protestant Film Commission is "My Name Is Han," a film depicting Christianity in China. The commission, an inter-denominational agency, reported at its annual meeting in New York that it has more than thirty movies in various stages of production. Other films deal with such topics as "How Prejudice Develops," "The Christian Minister," "Missionary Recruiting," and "Christian Education."

Secularism Going to Extremes: In a recent radio address, Dr. Duke K. McCall, Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, declared, "if secularization of American education continues, before long some atheist will probably file a suit to have the recognition of God expurgated from the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and the inscriptions on the coins of our land."

He quoted a recent report of the National Education Association to the effect that "the book used to teach a child to read in 1775 was 100 per cent moral and religious, but today the successor to that reader in the public schools of America has less than 1 per cent of either moral or religious material."

Dr. McCall charged, "churches fighting for the advantage of one denomination or faith over the other have become an ally of secularism in the public schools." Such seeking of advantage has resulted in the churches shouting for the exclusion of religion in the schools."

"To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards of men."—Abraham Lincoln.
"The moment you accept God's ordering, that moment your work ceases to be a task and becomes your calling: you pass from bondage into freedom, from the shadowland of life into life itself."—Trumbull.

R. G. Lee Proposed For Convention President

By C. B. JACKSON

Since Dr. Louie D. Newton has declined to accept the nomination for president of the Southern Baptist Convention for another year, I would like for the brethren to prayerfully consider the name of Dr. R. G. Lee of Memphis.

The entire program of the convention is centering around Evangelism. Dr. Lee has demonstrated his evangelistic heart through his own church and in many churches throughout the South. Lately he has fired the hearts of our ministers in many states by his messages to the Evangelistic Conferences. It appears to me that the convention could make no wiser choice than to call Dr. Lee to this position at this strategic hour.

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House Cleaning Due In Colleges

James B. Conant, President of Harvard College, recently said: "The nation has a right to demand of its educational institutions that the teachers dealing with controversial subjects, shall be fearless seekers of the truth and careful scholars, rather than propagandists. But granted honesty, sincerity, and ability, there must be tolerance of a wide diversity of opinion."

No one can quarrel with that doctrine, and it could well serve as a model for any university in a free country. However, it is evident to anyone who has even a cursory knowledge of modern teaching that much of the instruction on controversial problems is warped and biased. This is done, in many cases, by individual teachers who are trying to sell some "ism" or other. And it is done in many other cases by text books which bend the truth in order to hew to what amounts to the party line.

It is one thing, for instance, to show the student what socialism, communism, and the nationalization of industry involve, as contrasted with a capitalist or free economy. It is a very different thing to deliberately make it appear that the super state is the answer to the ills of mankind, and unfortunately, that is an impression that emanates from many colleges today. It is all very well to discuss what may be wrong with the American system, but, at the same time, we must honestly teach what is right in the American system, as proved by the results it has achieved for the masses of people.

Academic freedom is as basic as any other freedom. It must be protected from fanatics on either the right or the left wings of political and economic thought. But it must justify itself, as Dr. Conant said, by fearlessly seeking the truth—not by tearing down the principles which make possible the freedom of some professors in American universities to promote political and economic philosophies which, if adopted, would destroy the liberties and opportunities on which our nation was built.—Industrial News Review.

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"The greatest work that any of us can do for another, whether old or young, is to teach the soul to draw its water from the wells of God."—F. B. Meyer.

Report of . . .

THE COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM

Your Committee on Evangelism met at the Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, January 12. Fifteen of the twenty members were present. Dr. C. E. Matthews, Superintendent of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board, was invited to speak to the Committee of his observations and experiences in the Field of Evangelism. We heartily commend Dr. Matthews for the splendid leadership that he is giving to Southern Baptists. We believe that, by carrying out his suggested plans, methods, and programs, our people will bring in a new day for winning the lost to Christ.

We recognize, with gratitude to God, the heartening signs of Divine blessings upon the evangelistic efforts of Southern Baptists. There is a rising tide of evangelism moving across the entire Convention territory. All evangelical churches are contributing to this growing concern for the lost multitudes. Practically every denominational group has been working with renewed effort to press the claims of Christ and His church upon the consciences of lost men. During 1947, Southern Baptists baptized 285,152 people, the largest number ever reported in a single year. We are grateful to the leaders of all our agencies and to the workers in our local churches, for their increased fervor in this supreme endeavor of winning the world to Christ. We express our conviction that this upsurge in evangelism is, in a large measure, the result of organized efforts in the various states, district associations, and local churches. A number of the states have established a Department of Evangelism, with a superintendent in charge. Simultaneous revival crusades are growing favorably in the associations, and in the cities.

This Convention is well aware of the distressing conditions in the world today. Evil forces destroying the very soul of society are highly organized and fully subsidized. There is a continuous waning of the consciousness of the reality of sin. An American writer has said that the average American does not know what sin is. Intemperance, greed, immorality, gambling, covetousness, selfishness, and unbelief plague the lives of millions. The spearhead of our attack upon such an entrenched enemy is evangelism. In the light of these conditions, the demand grows stronger for the adoption and prosecution of tried methods, which are scripturally sound, and which are entirely safe for our program of progress. Unitedly and intelligently we must support a program that majors on the spiritual experience of the individual.

In the light of the foregoing statements, and after full discussion by the Committee, we wish to present for your consideration the recommendations herein contained.

1. THAT, the States, Associations, and Churches continue to concentrate on the program of evangelism as set forth by the Southern Baptist Convention, which is the New Testament plan of world-wide evangelism. The success of this program and the extent of its reach depend upon the co-operative endeavor of every denominational leader, of every church organization, and of all the members of our local churches.

2. THAT, we continue to be sympathetic

toward, and increase our emphasis on mass evangelism and personal evangelism. We realize that one cannot succeed apart from the other. This comprises a call to enlist the fullest co-operation of all our missionaries, at home and abroad.

3. THAT, the many modern, scientific discoveries in the field of communications, such as radio, visual education, and so forth, shall be utilized more than ever. Recognition is hereby expressed in the joyous progress of the Baptist Radio Hour and in the pictures made by the associational missionaries of the work in the rural areas.

Being aware of the progress that has been made in the states where the Department of Evangelism has been organized, and in accord with the program of the South-wide Department of Evangelism, we furthermore urge:

1. THAT, a Department of Evangelism should be created in each state as early as possible.

2. THAT, a Superintendent of Evangelism should be elected to lead in this work in the various states.

3. THAT, the Executive Board of the associations shall continue to elect annually two officers—an organizer, and a chairman of Evangelism.

4. THAT, the Program Committee of the district associations, on the order of business, provide a prominent place on the program for the discussion of evangelism.

5. THAT, the local church shall elect a Committee on Evangelism composed of representatives of the departments of the church, that is, Sunday School, Training Union, W. M. U., and Brotherhood. This over-all committee will plan and promote evangelism in the church in view of their large soul-winning opportunities.

6. THAT, we give larger emphasis to the simultaneous Associational-wide Evangelistic Program.

7. THAT, this Convention approve and co-operate with the plan of the Department of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board for a special week of study and inspiration on the subject of Evangelism at Ridgecrest, June 1-8, 1948.

8. THAT, each state plan and promote a State-wide Conference on Evangelism.

9. THAT, due to constant expansion of many of our industrial communities, mission stations, and new churches, wherever it seems advisable, be organized, looking toward the formation of an independent church.

10. THAT, we rejoice with the people of Memphis in the prospect of holding a great evangelistic service Sunday afternoon, at 2:30, in the stadium. We hereby urge all the messengers attending the Convention to remain for this service, and to assist prayerfully in personal work and in creating an atmosphere of worship to the end that many souls may be saved, and that all the messengers might return to their fields of labor strengthened with evangelistic zeal.

11. THAT, We, the Committee, urge and call upon every Southern Baptist to believe that the prosecution of this program will give us a unified Program of Evangelism that will increase our Evangelistic results many times.

Co-operation

By E. C. ROUTH

The constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention provides, "The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of missionary Baptist churches, co-operating with the Convention" on prescribed numerical and financial bases. The suggestion has been made that any Baptist church in the United States which desires to co-operate with Southern Baptist is, therefore, eligible to send messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention without reference to any other organized group of Baptists.

It is quite true that any co-operating Baptist church may have access to the Southern Baptist Convention without coming through any other general organization such as a Baptist State Convention. If such a requirement were imposed we would have a form of Presbyterianism. A path runs direct to the Southern Baptist Convention from every Baptist church co-operating with the work of Southern Baptist.

But the very genius of our Baptist life and polity involves not only representation, but co-operation. That word "co-operating" in Article III of the constitution of the Convention is a word of tremendous significance. Back in 1925 when the Convention adopted a statement of its faith and practice, a paragraph was included on co-operation which we quote:

"Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure co-operation for the great objectives of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over each other or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Individual members of New Testament churches should co-operate with each other, and the churches themselves should co-operate with each other in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent program for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary co-operation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. It is permissible and desirable as between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such co-operation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and his Word as revealed in the New Testament."

True co-operation among Southern Baptists implies not only co-operation in world missions, but in all scriptural activities of Southern Baptists in their own local areas as well as in international missionary programs. We have not yet written into our constitution a statement showing the vital relationship of the Southern Baptist Convention to co-operating Baptist State Conventions, and county, or district associations. That relationship is implicit in all of our co-operative activities, and should be recognized and respected. No general co-operative body, whether association or convention, has any authority over any other general body—certainly not over any church; but the scriptural principle of co-operation so well expressed by Paul, especially in his second letter to the Corinthians should characterize all of our Christian activities.

Making Training Practical

By RALPH D. DODD, PASTOR

First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, Arkansas

When is training practical?

Several years ago I noticed in my morning paper that a gentleman approximately sixty years of age had been awarded a degree by one of the great universities of our nation. The story behind that announcement was, I thought, pathetic. The man's father had so fixed his will that his son should receive a handsome income as long as he remained in school. The result was that the son had spent his life going to school. He had earned a long list of degrees but for what purpose? Training, but training for what?

Do we not find this man's case paralleled time after time in all of our Training Unions? We go into the shops and watch the men as they assemble a machine designed to pick cotton. Then, we go to the fields to see the machine function. From the stand point of time, effort, and money involved in its production, it is a most valuable machine. But, if it will not pick cotton, it is without value and impractical, because it is unable to do the thing for which it was designed.

Likewise, if all our training fails to lead men and women to the fields "white already to harvest", there to win souls for the Lord Jesus, our product is without value and our training is impractical. What is the purpose of training Christians if the end is not soul-winning?

The development of the Training Union during the past fifty years has gone a long way toward utilizing the man-power of Southern Baptists for the great task of evangelizing the lost. But, the idea still prevails, on a wide front, that the task belongs primarily to full time, paid, Christian workers. This may be due in part to an unfortunate translation in the King James Version of Ephesians 4:12, which reflects the attitude that many still have about this business of winning lost men to Christ. Paul had been talking of how Christ had gifted "the church which is His body" with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. In Ephesians 4:12, He gives the purpose of the divine gift and the King James has it, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Read this carefully, along with verse 13, and you will agree that it seems to place the full responsibility of bringing His body "unto a perfect man" squarely upon the ministry. I do not believe this to have been the intention of the apostle.

The Revised Version gives us a better translation; gives new meaning to the ministry, and places responsibility upon every member of the "body" of Christ. Here is the prime responsibility of the ministry, "For the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: Till we all come — unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Thus read, it is readily seen that the chief responsibility of the ministry is to so indoctrinate the saints, build them up in the faith, challenge their lives, that each one will become willing instruments of the Holy Spirit in bringing others into the body of Christ.

We can never have enough paid workers to reach the multiplied millions who are with-

out Christ. But if every pastor, with the help of his Training Union, could bring every member of his congregation to recognize the purpose of training, and to become a functioning member of the "body of Christ," millions would be swept into the Kingdom of God, and we would bring untold glory to our Lord.

The Christian who spends his whole life in faithfully attending the services of his church, tithing his income, and serving in the various organizations of his church, but who never wins a soul to Christ, is in the same category as the man who spent his entire existence going to school.

Our business is that of winning the lost to Christ. Everything else must be made incidental to this supreme task.

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Explains Court Decision

The writers of the first amendment to the United States Constitution, in seeking to save the nation from "the tyranny of authoritarian, dogmatic institution of religion," had no intention of ruling God out of the lives of the people, Dr. W. O. Carver, on the faculty of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, declares, in an article prepared for the April issue of "The Tie," monthly magazine of the seminary.

Dealing primarily with the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the Champaign, Illinois, case, Dr. Carver writes that the ruling of the court to the effect that religion cannot be taught in public schools, contradicts its five-to-four decision of two years ago, to the effect that public school buses may be used to transport pupils to parochial schools.

Declaring that the court's decision in the Campaign case "raises most important questions and calls for most serious and thorough examination of the situation," Dr. Carver suggests that the first task is to find out just where the court leaves the matter. This, he feels, will require further decisions by the court.

Religion is the essential element in all education and there can be no true education that omits religion or even gives it minor or incidental position, Dr. Carver says.

"Now, it is our responsibility to find the way of giving vital place to religion in education, without bondage to any ecclesiastical group on the one hand or to dogmatic atheism on the other hand," Dr. Carver concludes, adding that "the key to the problem lies in the teachers and with the education authorities."

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A Record to Beat: Stanley Smith, Baptist Missionary to the Indians at Dania, Fla., has written Dr. J. B. Rounds, Superintendent of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention:

"From January 1945, to December 1947, we baptized 197 Indians, and all but six of them are tithers."

Comments Superintendent Rounds: "I challenge the white Baptists to beat this record."

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No man is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of someone else.—Charles Dickens.

First Service In New Church

The first services in the beautiful new \$83,-000, Walnut Street Baptist Church of Jonesboro were conducted Sunday, March 21. In addition to the regular services of the day, open house was held in the afternoon so that friends throughout the city and adjoining area might visit the new church building.

The Walnut Street Church was established in 1913, with 39 charter members. The present membership stands at 580. The church originated from a mission established by the First Baptist Church, Jonesboro. Among those who chartered the course of the young church were: A. J. Lincoln, Millard Muse, C. M. Evans, and E. E. Dudley, who was at that time pastor of the First Baptist Church.

At the present time the church plans a further building enterprise, which will include a three-story Sunday School building, which will accommodate an attendance of 800.

The 1948 budget of the Walnut Street Church is \$25,638.

James H. Fitzgerald became pastor of the church May 18, 1947. During this brief pastorate the new building has been completed; all phases of church activities have taken on new life; and 56 members have been added to the church, 26 of these by baptism.

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Ross Avenue Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, had a record day Easter Sunday. Two morning services were required to take care of the crowds.

The Sunday School attendance reached an all-time high of 660, with 222 in Training Union, and 12 additions to the church.

Dr. Homer B. Reynolds is pastor of the Ross Avenue Church.

Louisville Churches Sponsor Crime Prevention Group: Charles E. Keller, a Louisville, Kentucky, attorney, told the American Business Club that thousands of criminals must be rehabilitated. He continued: "The job cannot be left to our institutions alone. Here is a job for the church. Church congregations have something to do besides congregate.

"The Protestant churches of Louisville have been working for seven years on a policy of active study and assistance to public institutions, trying to give them an aim in civic life."

Keller was referring to the Committee on Institutions of the Louisville Council of Churches. The committee is a continuing study of public institutions and social welfare conditions, and has done outstanding work in crime prevention.

Evangelist A. C. Baker of Louisville, Kentucky, will assist Dr. B. V. Ferguson and the First Church, Fort Smith, in revival services April 4-11.

Dr. H. N. Barnette of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee, preached in revival meetings recently at the First Church, Paris, Texas.

Golden Blount and Jack McKinnon were ordained to the gospel ministry by the Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Sunday evening, April 4.

Mr. Blount has accepted the pastorate of the East Point Church near Russellville, and Mr. McKinnon is pastor of the Davis Chapel Mission of the Immanuel Church, and a student in Ouachita College.

Baptists Do Favor Christian Union

Southern Baptists have been accused of not favoring Christian union. This is because they have refused to enter into the current union schemes sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches. As a result of this exercise of their freedom of choice, such epithets as "narrow," "unbrotherly," "un-Christian," and "selfish" have been hurled at them. One editor scooped all intolerance and vindictiveness toward them into one high-sounding diatribe when, with excathedra finality, he tagged them "the problem child of Protestantism."

Union Desirable For Protestants

In the face of all of this we stoutly deny that Baptists do not favor Christian union. Instead, we definitely affirm that they do favor Christian union, earnestly desire it, and zealously work for it. Let us hasten, however, just as stoutly to affirm that Baptists do not favor and will forever disfavor the type of union proposed by the Federal Council and the proposed scheme for attaining it. Furthermore, we emphasize the fact that this refusal is in no degree a result of a spirit of selfishness, intolerance, or unbrotherliness toward others. We can see that, from the doctrinal viewpoint of the various Protestant groups, union is possible and desirable for them. From the doctrinal viewpoint of Baptists, the only way they could accede to such proposal would be to surrender their fundamental conception of Christianity, and that would mean the surrender of their very existence.

The idea that Baptists could enter into the current scheme for the union of all Christian denominations has undoubtedly grown out of a misunderstanding of the deeper basic nature of Baptists. Nor is it strange that non-Baptists should so misunderstand, for there is evidence that many fervent Baptists themselves have a too-shallow conception of the Baptist position. To say that they are a people who hold certain beliefs, peculiar to them, about Christ, sin, salvation, baptism, the Lord's supper, the church, etc., does not go deep enough into the Baptist position. If that were all, they might conveniently make alterations in their position concerning one or more of these doctrines, as have others.

Christ Sole Head

Instead, Baptists are a people who believe that Christ is the founder and sole head of the Christian religion, that through his apostles he gave the New Testament as the sole and sufficient guide in all matters of life and practice in that religion, and that Christian doctrine and practice must be according to the teachings of the New Testament. This is the characteristic position of Baptists. All of their practice and doctrinal beliefs have grown out of this fundamental conviction. The position held by Baptists goes back, beyond the beginnings of Protestantism, through the dark ages to the apostles in glorious spiritual succession. To surrender their belief on any one point of doctrine would necessitate the surrender of their basic position, their loyalty to Christ, their very life.

Baptist Favor Oneness

With this understanding, we are prepared to consider the fact that "Baptists do believe in Christian Union." The prayer of Christ rings in Baptists' ears: "That they may be

+ + +
By H. H. HARGROVE
Coggin Avenue Baptist Church,
Brownwood, Texas

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one." (John 17:22). That is the proof-text for all preachments or efforts toward union. It is emphasized that since Christ prayed for his people to be one, all Christians should work for the answer of his prayer. To this Baptists agree, but they insist on including all of his prayer for union: "That they may be one, even as we are one . . . that they may be made perfect in one." (John 17:22-23) In praying that his people be one as He and the Father are one, Christ was praying not simply for the mechanical union of all into one body but a unity of all in spirit, desires, purpose, beliefs, and effort; for only such constitutes the oneness of the Father and the Son. That is the union Baptists favor and desire. It is for this ultimate purpose that Baptists do all their service for Christ. Every sermon and every prayer they utter is directed toward calling all men to accept and practice the fundamental principle of Christianity that the will of Christ, as expressed in the Word of God, must be the sole criterion for Christian belief and action.

If the Bible is the Word of God, it is manifest that its message is the hope of the world. It is just as plain that any effort to acquire an end, as desirable even as union among all Christians, but which discards any Bible teaching, is unsound and calculated to do untold harm. A Christianity with its Bible emasculated would be a powerless Christianity—if indeed it could be called Christianity at all. The need of the world is not the force of the vast numbers of Christianity combined in one organization, but a return to the will of Christ expressed in his word which is "the power of God" for changing a world.

One very poignant danger before the world today is the inclination of good people — people who want to do right — to stop short in

their efforts for right. Baptists believe that any schemes for Christian union which stop short of calling men back to the Bible as the only proper and sufficient norm for Christian belief, preaching, and practice stop too short, will solve no problem, and will even create problems more serious than those already existent.

Jesus Prayed For Unity

In referring to the Lord's prayer for unity, mentioned above, Dr. Robert E. Speer said: "This prayer cannot be fulfilled in sectarianism. It cannot be fulfilled in what is sometimes offered as sufficient, 'fraternal relations.' That was not the kind of unity for which the Savior prayed. It was not co-operation, or toleration, or fraternity. It was oneness. And while He asked for this for the believer's sake, that they might know a love which otherwise they never could know, and see a glory which would otherwise be hidden from them, He asked for it much more for the world's sake. Only a unity of disciples like the unity of the Father and the Son and grounded in it could give to the gospel convincing power." ("Jesus and Our Human Problems" — Revel. Used by permission of publisher).

This is the union desired by Baptists—not a mechanical union of heterogeneous groups without regard to Bible teachings but the spiritual unity of all, around one Lord, one faith, one Bible. To this unity Baptists are constantly calling all men. It is their task, their program, their life. They believe that the need of the world is for all Christians to leave the creeds, forms, and practices which are traceable to men in history and return to the Christianity of the New Testament traceable only to Christ and his apostles. Their relationship to others in this matter is not that they stand against Christian union while others stand for it, but that they stand for a different type of union. They believe the type of union for which they stand is sound and right and that all should accept it. When and if this is ever brought to pass history would crown such accomplishment as a mighty epoch.

Fair Statement

The writer does not presume to speak for Southern Baptists, for no man or conclave can do that. But from a wide knowledge of them it seems that the above is a fair statement of their generally accepted position. If they have made a mistake in this matter of union it is their failure to announce their desire and to plan for Christian union and to issue a formal invitation to all others to join with them. This failure has left them in a negative position in the thinking of those who do not understand their basic position.

Such formal call would place them in a positive position toward Christian union which is in harmony with their attitude and would put them on the offensive for their position instead of the defensive against what they consider to be the faulty position of others. Much talk about Baptist narrowness in this regard would be hushed. Above all, definite and widespread emphasis would be given to the one move which will solve the world's problems — a return by all to the Bible as the one proper and sufficient guide in Christianity.

Fifty-Ninth Annual Meeting

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Theme: "At the King's Command"

First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

April 13-15, 1948

Program

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 Organ Prelude, Mrs. Wilbur Beck.
Worship Period: "Go Ye," Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence.
Organization.
Welcome: Dr. R. C. Campbell, Pastor, and Mrs. U. R. Tracy, President, W. M. S.
Response: Mrs. A. B. Price, Pine Bluff.
Introductions and Appointment of Committees.
Announcement of Nominating Committee.
Presentation of Reports—
Constitution, Miss Elma Cobb.
Recommendations, Mrs. C. E. Lawrence.
"In Royal Service": Central District, Mrs. E. Rawlings; West Central District, Mrs. Faber L. Tyler; Southeast District, Mrs. B. A. Gray; Southwest District, Mrs. W. H. House; North Central District, Mrs. W. B. O'Neal; Northeast District, Mrs. H. L. Robinson; Northwest District, Mrs. J. E. Reed; East Central District, Mrs. R. E. Low.
Mrs. C. H. Ray, Executive Secretary and Treasurer.
Report of Auditor, Mrs. G. D. Thompson.
"Lo, I Am With You": Hospital Supplies, Mrs. Charles H. Brough; Orphans' Home Supplies, Mrs. T. C. Deal; Margaret Fund, Mrs. Charles A. Gordon; W. M. U. Training School, Miss Elma Cobb; Southwestern Seminary, Mrs. F. E. Goodbar; New Orleans Seminary, Mrs. Robert W. Jones; Christian Education, Mrs. E. P. J. Garrott; Speaking to Report, Dr. J. R. Grant, Ouachita College, and F. E. Goodbar, Central College.
- 5:30 Y. W. A. Banquet, First Christian Church.

TUESDAY EVENING

- 7:30 Organ Prelude, Mrs. Wilbur Beck.
Worship Period: "Give Ye", Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence.
Focusing on Young Woman's Auxiliary, presentation of Anniversary Citations, Miss LaVerne Ashby.
Special Music: Choir, First Baptist Church.
Address: Dr. George W. Sadler, Foreign Mission Board.
Benediction.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:15 Organ Prelude, Mrs. Wilbur Beck.
Worship Period: "Give Ye", Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence.
Reading of Minutes.
Miscellaneous Business.
Announcements.
Adoption of Reports on Constitution and Recommendations.
"They That Kept My Commandments", Mrs. W. I. Moody.
Following In His Train":
Community Missions, Mrs. F. E. Goodbar.
Stewardship, Mrs. Harold B. Tillman.
Mission Study, Mrs. H. M. Keck; Speaking to Report, Mrs. Ladd Davies.
Message of President, Mrs. J. E. Short, Gould.
- 12:00 Benediction.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 Organ Prelude, Mrs. Wilbur Beck.
Worship Period: "Love Me", Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence.
Reading of Minutes.
Narcotic Education, Miss Mae Wilhelm.
Miscellaneous Business.
Focusing on Girls' Auxiliary.
"A Charge to Keep", Dr. B. L. Bridges, and Dr. C. W. Caldwell.
"That at the Name of Jesus Every Knee Should Bow", Mrs. George R. Martin.
- 4:00 Benediction.
- 5:30 B. W. C. Banquet, First Baptist Church.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- 7:30 Organ Prelude, Mrs. Wilbur Beck.
Worship Period: "Worship Ye", Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence.
"Ready To Serve", Mrs. Albert L. Buck.
Announcements.
"Ambassador to Be", Focusing on R. A., Miss LaVerne Ashby.
Address: Jacob Gartenhaus, Home Mission Board.
Benediction.

Department of MISSIONS

C. W. Caldwell, Superintendent

After serving as superintendent of missions for a year, I have come to see the importance of a well defined, organized mission program. This program must have three centers of operations: The local church, the Associational Mission Board, and the State Department of Missions. Missionary activities should be carried on from these three centers, simultaneously. The program should reach out from each center and work in co-operation with all work that is carried on in that area. Each should supplement the other, never conflict.

Local Missions

More and more I see the need of every church setting up a mission program for its territory. There is a mission field within reach of every church. Why not sow "the good seed" and then reap the white harvest? Why not begin some definite mission projects within reach of your own church? The associational missionary will be glad to assist you in getting the work started. In this way the centers of mission activities can co-operate with each other. Of course, the missionary can only help begin the work. The church must assume the responsibility of maintaining it.

Every church should have a mission committee. The old saying, "Everybody's business is nobody's business" is true when it comes to launching a local mission program. The mission committee should study the needs within reach of the church, and encourage the church to establish mission work according to the various needs. The committee should report to the church regularly.

No, it is not enough for the church to give to missions; it must also do missionary work.

Associational Missions

The majority of the associations have missionaries now. However, it is not enough to elect a man to

such a position, a real associational-wide mission program should be adopted. If this is not done, there is likely to be criticism of the missionary's activities and a lack of co-operation. Definitely deciding on the mission projects and fields of service for the missionary does not mean that he is working under orders, but according to a definite plan — a plan which he may have suggested himself.

Does your association have a mission board? If so, does that board have a clear cut, well defined mission program? Does the board meet monthly, hear the missionary's report, and plan with him the work that lies ahead? Certainly, every association should have a mission board, a mission program, and then assist the missionary in carrying it out.

State Missions

The Department of Missions has been set up to direct, promote, and supervise mission work in Arkansas. The Executive Board appoints a committee to work with the superintendent of the department in directing this work. This is the third center from which missionary activity must spread. The work of the mission department supplements that of the associations and the local churches.

The major interest of the mission department is centered on the rural areas. Financial aid is given in erecting church buildings in destitute sections and in supplementing pastors' salaries in weak churches.

It should be understood that the supplementary aid is not given with the idea of helping the pastor, but to strengthen the church. It simply enables the church to pay a modest salary in order that it might profit by the pastor's ministry.

Building aid is granted only to a church that is weak, and which faces great possibilities for growth in Kingdom work.

Rural evangelism is stressed by the mission department, and the three rural evangelists work diligently. They lead churches to tithe, to adopt a budget, to enlarge their building facilities, and to increase the number of preaching services.

We are trying, in the state mission program, to work according to a plan. We want to improve this plan from year to year.

THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:15 Organ Prelude, Mrs. Wilbur Beck.
Worship Period: "Serve Ye", Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence.
Adoption of Reports of Registration and Courtesy Committees.
Report of Nominating Committee, Mrs. J. R. Grant.
Election of Officers.
Dedication.
"Let All Move Forward Unto Great Things", Mrs. J. E. Short;
Speaking to Report, Mrs. George R. Martin.
Adjournment.
Benediction.

Religious Education

EDGAR WILLIAMSON, DIRECTOR

R. O. BARKER
Sunday School Superintendent
 RALPH W. DAVIS
Training Union Director
 Baptist Building, Little Rock

T. D. McCULLOCH
Student Union Secretary
 Mrs. B. W. NININGER
Church Music Director



Join The Training Union Day

Every Training Union in Arkansas is urged to make a special effort, during the month of April, to increase their Training Union enrolment at least 10 per cent, with May 2, designated as "Join The Training Union" day. If this is to be done, the month of April must be used in preparation for the date of May 2. The suggestion is, that, during the first part of April, a prospect list be made for each individual union, showing the name and address of the people who are not already enrolled in each of the unions, who should be enlisted during the month. Strong announcements should be made in the Sunday School, from the pulpit, and in all of the meetings of the church during the month of April, urging the people to take part in the training program of the church. New unions should be organized during this month, and all prospects should be visited several times.

During the latter part of April, there will be a report blank on this page of the Arkansas Baptist, so that every Training Union Director in the state may fill it out after May 2, and send it to the State Training Union Director, reporting the number of people who have joined the Training Union during the month of April and the first Sunday in May.

involved in a comprehensive program of music education in the church.

Both Elementary and advanced classes in theory, conducting, and voice will be offered, also, classes in organ technique and repertoire, piano technique and repertoire, graded choirs, and church music problems.

In addition to these ten classes, there will be three choirs. The first, a **Reading Choir**, will review music suited to untrained groups. Hymns, hymn-anthems, easy anthems, and their interpretation, as well as problems peculiar to untrained groups, will be studied.

The second, a **Laboratory Choir**, will review music of the higher forms and study choral techniques and interpretation. The third, an **Oratorio Choir**, will study and present the "Messiah." Schedules will be so arranged as to permit each person to participate in all three choirs and take one of the classes offered. Also, provisions are made for private instruction in voice, organ, and piano.

A high light of each evening will be the open forum in which all will participate. The faculty members will be present to answer questions and discuss church music problems. One or two of the periods will be given over to lectures by prominent visitors.

The faculty will include outstanding personalities as B. B. McKinney, who will serve as general director; W. Hines Sims, Associate Director; Warren Angell, Lowell C. Alexander, J. J. Hamilton, Clifford A. Holcomb, Plunkett Martin, Ruth Nininger, Ira C. Prosser, Eugene Quinn, J. D. Riddle, E. O. Sellers, Donald Winters, and J. Campbell Wray.

Many churches will wish to send their choir director, organists, pianists, singers. They should arrange for reservations as early as possible. The conference offers a wonderful opportunity for all church musicians and leaders to expand their experience in music and be of greater benefit to their church. Reservations may be made by writing Robert Guy, Manager, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, North Carolina.

Music Conference To Be at Ridgecrest Brilliant Faculty to Instruct during week of August 19-29

Each year pastors, music directors, educational directors, pianists, organists, singers, music instructors in schools, and interested laymen gather at Ridgecrest for a great conference on church music. The meeting this year will be August 19-29, and plans for the conference are more extensive than ever before.

The conference will provide a well-trained faculty of fifteen outstanding leaders in the field of church music and will offer an opportunity for each individual to receive valuable information and instruction in the many areas in-

Bible Teaching Clinic

Central Baptist Church, Hot Springs, April 18-23

Something New For Sunday School Workers:

A study of current Sunday School lessons under guidance of capable leaders.

Conferences by departments on "Important Phases of Better Bible Teaching."

A study of all promotion activities as an effective means of preparation for Better Bible Teaching.

Outstanding Southwide specialists in Sunday School work will be in charge.

Enroll Now:

Bed and meals will be furnished free to enrolled clinicians.

Enrolment fee may be paid in Hot Springs.

Plan to arrive in Hot Springs, Sunday April 18, in time for a rally at 2:30 P. M., and remain through the Friday night session, April 23.

Send name, address, church, and place in Sunday School, to Dr. Edgar Williamson, 212 Baptist Building, Little Rock.

Figures To Inspire

March 28, 1948

	S.S.	T.U.	Add.
Little Rock, Immanuel	1468	453	9
Including Missions	2038	754	17
Ft. Smith, First	1327	387	10
El Dorado, First	1071	280	6
Little Rock, First	1068	394	6
Pine Bluff, First	850	191	7
Hot Springs, Second	821	220	33
N. Little Rock, Baring Cross	743	320	13
Including Mission	781	334	
Camden, First	715	172	4
Including Mission	775	221	
Hope, First	687	80	
West Memphis, First	678	280	5
N. Little Rock, First	602		
Benton, First	594	123	2
Including Mission	618		
Little Rock, Tabernacle	578	107	3
Malvern, First	548	110	6
Hot Springs, Park Place	545	104	3
Little Rock, Gaines St.	517	287	10
Hot Springs, Central	515	126	2
Including Mission	567		
Fordyce, First	500	144	2
El Dorado, Second	497	122	
Springdale, First	477	230	
Including Missions	662		
Paris, First	464	114	
Magnolia, Central	450	134	2
Magnolia, Central	450	134	2
Hot Springs, First	445	70	20
Rogers, First	439	103	5
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights	436	102	2
Bauxite, First	430	120	
Ft. Smith, Calvary	405	100	
Arkadelphia, First	392	103	5
Siloam Springs, First	377	185	4
Conway, First	369	39	3
DeQueen, First	361	65	15
Stamps, First	354	109	
Hamburg	352	150	
Little Rock, South Highland	349	74	13
Jacksonville, First	295	145	6
Monticello, First	295	126	
Including Mission	310		
Cullendale	284	95	
Gentry	283	139	3
West Batesville	265	81	
Norphlet, First	261	136	1
N. Little Rock, Central	260		
Little Rock, Calvary	256	97	2
El Dorado, West Side	254	84	1
DeWitt, First	254	61	
N. Little Rock, Pike Ave.	250	100	1
Greenwood, First	249	94	2
Pine Bluff, Second	246	59	
Carlisle, First	239	50	2
Texarkana, Calvary	234	101	7
Ft. Smith, Bailey Hill	232	110	4
Little Rock, Woodlawn	172	81	1
Levy, First	154	31	5
Including Mission	294	91	
South Fort Smith	147	46	3
Monticello, Second	138	84	
Douglasville, First	130	94	7
N. Little Rock, Grace	127	21	
Pine Bluff, Matthews Memorial	124	47	1
Eureka Springs, First	119	32	4
South Texarkana	117	47	
Almyra, First	110	94	
El Dorado, Joyce City	110	89	
Little Rock, Westside	99	41	
Pine Bluff, Central	97	42	
Douglasville, Second	76	65	
Little Rock, Bellview	72	22	
Texarkana, Trinity	66	39	
Little Rock, Biddle	65	40	
Watson, First	64		
Wheatley, First	63		

Correction!

Correction!!

The Adult and Young People's quarterlies for April, May, and June carry a Vacation Bible School ad in which several items are listed incorrectly.

Prices of all 1948 VBS textbooks have advanced from \$1.50 to \$2.00

Price of the Principal's Package has advanced from \$1.50 to \$2.00

Intermediate Book D—The First Missionary Letters (Paul's), will not be used in 1948; instead, you should order Intermediate Book C—The First Book About Missions (Acts)

PLEASE CHECK THESE CHANGES CAREFULLY AND PREPARE YOUR ORDER ACCORDINGLY

BAPTIST BOOK STORE

Their Future is in Your Hands



By the end of 1948 it will be "too late" for many who need hospital care. Their only hope for recovery is in your generosity, now.

Last year your hospital gave \$69,703.41 in free service. With costs still increasing and demands becoming more frequent, your help is urgently needed.

In order that your hospital may minister to a greater number of people who are not financially able to pay for the hospitalization which they need, we are asking for your generous response to the *Mother's Day Love Offering* on May 9.

Give to the Baptist Hospital Mother's Day Charity Fund, and make it possible for more bills to be stamped, "Paid by the Baptists of Arkansas."



BAPTIST STATE HOSPITAL

Welcome! Thrice Welcome!

By R. C. CAMPBELL
First Baptist Church, Little Rock

We extend to you, W. M. U. messengers, Christian greetings, and assure you a cordial welcome as you assemble in the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, for your annual convention.

We welcome you because of your good graces; we welcome you because of your faces; we welcome you because of your places—in the Kingdom of God. It is great to be a woman. It is great to be an American woman. It is greatest of all to be a Christian woman.

We shall pray that holy hours, high aspirations, broadened visions, larger plans, renewed allegiance to the Master, deeper purposes will be yours in the sessions of your convention.

We welcome you gracious women of Arkansas.

Welcome!

By Mrs. U. R. TRACY
W. M. U. President
First Church, Little Rock

The W. M. U. of First Church extends a cordial welcome to all who will attend the State W. M. U. Convention.

We are making every effort to insure you that your visit with us will be a most pleasant one. We trust that we have adequate facilities for your convenience and needs while you are here.

Let's have a great crowd and a great meeting.

—000—

Board Meeting And Luncheon

The annual meeting of the board will be held Tuesday, April 13, at 11:00 A. M., at the First Baptist Church. Luncheon will be served board members following this meeting, at the usual price.

The famous "World Book Encyclopedia" is an excellent tool for preachers.—Otto Mathis, El Dorado, Ark. Adv.

Welcome Business Women

"The B. W. C. Federation of Pulaski County Association extends a cordial welcome to all members of Business Woman's Circles, to attend the B. W. C. Banquet, Wednesday, April 14, at 5:30 P. M., at the First Baptist Church"

—Mrs. Howard Lavender, President.

W. M. U. Conferences at State Convention

Conferences will be held during the annual meeting as follows:

8:15 A. M., Wednesday—Community Missions, Mrs. F. E. Goodbar; Mission Study, Mrs. H. M. Keck.

8:15 A. M., Thursday—District, associational, and local officers, Mrs. C. H. Ray; District, associational, and local counselors, Miss LaVerne Ashby.

Featured Speaker at Y. W. A. Banquet

Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence, Arkansas' first Young People's Secretary, will be the featured speaker at the Young Woman's Auxiliary Banquet, Tuesday evening, April 13, at 5:30 P. M. The banquet will be held at the First Christian Church, Tenth and Louisiana, because of the W. M. U. Annual Meeting, which will meet at the First Baptist Church, Little Rock. Two-hundred young women from all over Arkansas are expected to attend this special meeting, which is an annual feature of Arkansas' W. M. U. Young People's Department.

MOVING TO DALLAS?

Worship With
Ross Avenue Baptist Church
Ross and Moser
Homer B. Reynolds, Pastor

Southern Baptist Seminary Choir

The forty-voice choir of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, will be heard in a sacred concert in the auditorium of First Church, Little Rock, Sunday, May 16, at 3:00 P. M. Donald Winters, Co-director of the School of Music at the seminary, is the director of the choir, which will be accompanied by several instruments in some of their selections. For the most part, however, the group sings unaccompanied. This is the first appearance of this fine choral organization, which has made annual tours of the South since 1945. It is expected that a capacity audience will attend this concert. The Religious Education Department is sponsoring this appearance in Little Rock.

State Music Director, Mrs. B. W. Nininger, is very enthusiastic about the work done by this choir.

—000—

The soul is dyed the color of its leisure thinking. —Dean Inge.

PRAYER

An old lady in England, who had stood the bombings with amazing fortitude, was asked the secret of her calmness in the midst of such frightful danger. She replied, "Well, every night I say my prayers, and then I remember how the person told us God is always watching; so I go to sleep. There's no need for both of us to stay awake."—Selected.

—000—

My mother's life made me a man.—John Masefield.

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- No. 854—Genuine leather, overlapping covers, red under gold edges. 6.00
- No. 864—Genuine morocco, leather lined, overlapping covers, red under gold edges. 10.00

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NELSON F. TULL
Secretary

A MILLION MEN FOR CHRIST

R. D. Washington is pastor of the church, and Exall Kimbro is the Brotherhood president. These men are leading the Brotherhood in a very worth-while program of activities.

MORE TAXES

Professor—You don't know the first thing about syntax.

Student—Now, don't tell me they're taxing that.—Chiva Chatter.

—000—

"I am my brother's keeper."

Honor Club Programs

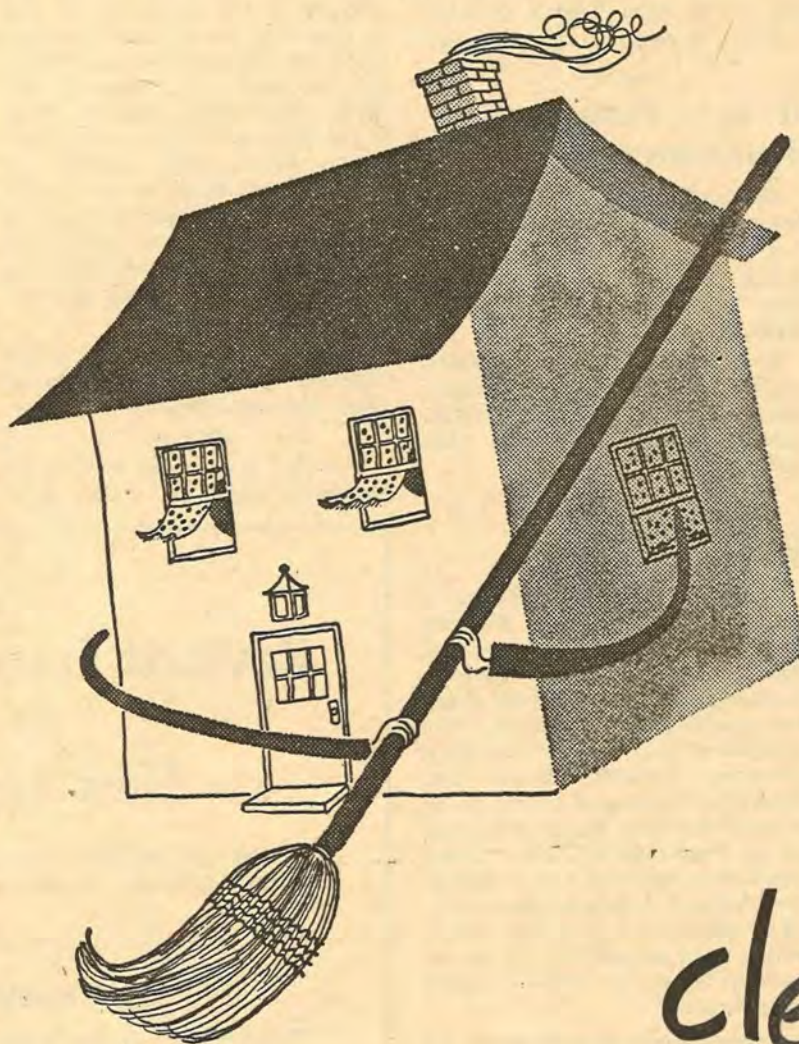
Optional programs on the Honor Club are being sent to the Training Union Directors over the state and the Young People and Adult Unions are urged to use this optional program for Sunday night, April 25, instead of the regular missionary program.

The Brotherhood of the First Church, Crawfordsville, recently led the church in a Brotherhood revival campaign in that community. The men visited, witnessed, and prayed. They carried the revival effort in a very effective way. Forty-five people joined the church during the week, twenty-nine coming by baptism. There were several additional conversions and many re-dedications.

The Sunday School set a goal of 115 for the second Sunday of the revival, and there were 156 present! At the closing night of the revival, a baptismal service was held, and the men of the Brotherhood exercised much ingenuity in providing a baptistry of warm water for this service.

Ray Y. Yangle is pastor of the Crawfordsville Church. He and his consecrated wife are great Christian leaders.

Thus, another church joins the rank of those churches who, through a Brotherhood revival, and the leadership of their men, have received a vision of a greater work out ahead.



house
cleaning!

Off To A Good Start!

The Brotherhood of First Church, Monticello, is well on its way. The organization is completed, both as to officers and committees, and the activities program is progressing splendidly. The men of the Brotherhood are interested in extending the program of their church out into areas where there are no church services, and are planning several mission Sunday Schools. They are already at work in the task of reviving a rural church.

At a meeting of the Brotherhood Monday evening, March 29, there were 34 members of the Brotherhood and 13 visitors present. At this meeting, plans were completed for a city-wide census, and a Brotherhood revival in the fall.

Grandma will tell you that Spring housecleaning was one chore she hated—and Grandpa dreaded—but that was before electricity had taken so much work out of housework. Now, with electric service ready to lend a hand—or a dozen hands—house-cleaning has been stripped of almost all its drudgery.

Never before has electricity done so much to make life easier and more comfortable! Yet the average Arkansas Power & Light Co. family is getting more than twice as much electric service for its money as it did 20 years ago. What other item in the budget does so much for so little?

Arkansas

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GOD'S MESSAGE TO A PEOPLE IN EXILE

By MRS. ROLAND LEATH

Last Sunday we studied the call, commission, and revelation given to Ezekiel, the prophet, who was among the exiles in the land of Babylon. In this lesson, the watchman, (3:17-21; 33:1-9), fulfills his great obligation as he brings to the exiles a message from God. In this message of truth, hope, and light, he had the courage to point out Israel's sin, the compassion to tell them of God's forgiveness, and the vision to tell of His promises for the future.

Ezekiel, the priestly prophet, had a message of condemnation, of warning, of proffered forgiveness, and of future judgments. The message he had for captive Israel is the same message we need for the people of today. People in sin and rebellion against God need to be told of the tragic consequences of their condition, of the Savior who is ready to forgive if they only believe, of the coming judgments, and of the glories of the redeemed when "He shall appear" (1 John 3:2).

Responsibility for Sin

The prophetic writings of the Old Testament are filled with interesting facts and revelations which should incite the teacher to further Bible study. Much of our study is superficial and the taking of another's interpretation instead of systematic study. You will notice the use of the parable, the allegory, and much symbolic writing in Ezekiel, the latter form which is found in Daniel and Revelations. This truth should urge the student to more diligent study.

Our lesson opens with Ezekiel 18, the word of the Lord coming to point out the responsibility of sin. The captives had the attitude that the judgment which had come upon them, through the fall of Judah to Babylon, was through no sin or fault of their own, but that God was dealing harshly with them because of the sins of their forefathers. The proverb, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge," was one which they used

Sunday School Lesson For April 11, 1948

Scripture: Ezekiel 18: 1-4; 34: 11-16; 36: 25-28

to justify themselves before God, although his prophet protested its use. The fact that the Israelites were hiding behind this proverb is proof of their being justly punished. God banned this reasoning which cast a doubt upon His righteousness. "...ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb." He then gave Ezekiel the truth concerning this matter: "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Every individual is directly accountable to God for his own individual sin.

We make our own choice! That is a message needed for the lost man, woman, and child of today. The individual may die under the blackness of sin; he may live under grace, freely given by God. Our acceptance or rejection of the way, free of sin and death, absolutely depends on our individual choice.

Hope Through the Good Shepherd

Dr. W. L. Howse compares Ezekiel 34: 11-16 to Psalm 23; here God is pictured as the true Shepherd. This passage is in contrast to chapter 18, which we just studied, also, to the first verses of chapter 34. This chapter opens with an indictment against the false shepherds of Israel; referring to kings and princes whose unfaithfulness, cruelty, neglect, and greed had led the people into idolatry and rebellion, and brought them to an impoverished state. God said "my flock" wandered, became a prey, was scattered because these shepherds fed themselves and not "my flock." God's anger was aroused and His love for the people was shown as He said, "I will deliver my flock."

Then, in a triumphant, exalted note, God pictures Himself as the

true Shepherd who will "seek out my sheep . . . deliver them . . . gather them . . . feed them." The compassionate heart of the good Shepherd promises help and succor: "I will seek that which was lost and bring again that which was sick:" also, He promises judgment to those who cause such existence: "but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment."

What a God is the Lord Jehovah! There is hope for all mankind in the power of our God to deliver. He promised restoration to the scattered tribes in Babylon; this was practically fulfilled in the return of the exiles to Palestine as recorded in Ezra. I believe that, in "the fulness of time," we shall understand the power of God in the future events concerning God's people. This we know—God is able to redeem, restore, and rebuild broken, bruised hearts. Some day we will comprehend His mighty, unlimited power.

Promise of Cleansed Heart

God made it definite and clear that Israel would be restored, not through any personal merit, but that God's holy name might be sanctified and His promise kept (36: 21-23). He will do more than re-gather, however, for He gives

us a promise of cleansing from defilement which was a type of the blood of Jesus. The prophet tells of God's forgiveness to the people and his cleansing them from their defilement, which was idolatry. Remember that idolatry was conquered among the Israelites after the captivity, and even though the people were filled with outward show in Jesus' day, they were not idolatrous.

That absolution was not enough; God knew that to be a changed people, there must be a new heart and a new spirit. Instead of a "stony heart", Israel was to receive a "heart of flesh", one that would heed the Divine will. Ezekiel 36:26 points to the new birth. Jesus carefully explained this cleansed heart to Nicodemus (John 3).

Just as the captives in Ezekiel's day needed a changed heart and spirit to be in harmony with God, so must every individual today experience that change. The promise of God to his people is one which gives hope and life to all who heed in this needy generation.



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★ Executive Board — STATE CONVENTION ★

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

Concerning Messengers To the Convention

Elect your messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets in Memphis, May 19-23.

Your messengers must have enrolment cards signed by the moderator or the clerk of the church when they register at the convention. Write us the number of messengers your church will have, and we will send you the credential cards. **WE CANNOT SEND ANY CHURCH MORE THAN TEN CARDS BECAUSE ONE CHURCH IS NOT ALLOWED MORE THAN TEN MESSENGERS.**

Any co-operating church, however small, may send a messenger. One additional messenger for every two-hundred-fifty members of the church; or for each \$250.00 paid to the work of the Convention last year, is allowed. Elect your messengers at once, and write us for the cards.

Arkansas Baptist History

We have been disappointed that the history of Arkansas Baptists is not yet off the press. Dr. Rogers and Brother Tillman have worked hard to get it into circulation. We hope that we can make the announcement soon, that the book is ready. It will be a large book, and will sell for about three dollars a copy. Watch for the announcement.

Ouachita College Campaign

Let us all chime in and co-operate to the fullest extent with Brother Harvey Elledge as he works and leads in the Million Dollar Campaign for Ouachita College. There is much to be done in this mighty movement, and this is the third year of it. Up to February 27, 1948, we had received \$296,466.03 in cash for this campaign. We have also received a thousand dollar par value bond donated through the First Baptist Church, in Monticello.

Did You Do It?

Did you preach a Centennial Sermon last Sunday, or did the Holy Spirit lead you to preach a different message? Won't you pray about it, and if you can feel the leading of the Holy Spirit, tell your people how the Lord has led the Baptist people, and what he has done for us during the past hundred years.

Last week we sent a Baptist Handbook to every preacher whose address we have. Did you get yours? If not, write us.

Has the beautiful "Centennial Poster" been displayed in your church?

J. Bryan Sims

J. Bryan Sims, Little Rock, died a few days ago. He was widely known throughout Arkansas. He served as a state official for many years, winning for himself a good name because of his unquestioned integrity and marked efficiency. In 1944 he made the race for governor of Arkansas, but withdrew before the final contest. He was prominent in business and financial circles.

Brother Sims was a leader in the Second Baptist Church, Little Rock. The son of a preacher, he lived and acted the part. Also, he was a brother of the late Clark Sims, who died as a young man while serving as pastor in Dermott, Arkansas. He was a useful man in church work and in the business world. Earth lost a good man when Brother Sims died.

Great Revivals

Many churches are having revivals at this season of the year and we hear some fine reports. Great numbers are being saved. There are simultaneous revivals, such as are going on in Clear Creek Association. Praise the Lord for His blessings. Report your revival to the Arkansas Baptist paper.

B. A. Lewis

Another good Baptist deacon recently passed to his reward. It was B. A. Lewis, Helena. He was a dependable, leading man in the First Church, there. He was a friend of preachers and a lover of his home and church. He was tremendously interested in the proposed new church building in Helena, and a liberal contributor to the building fund.

Brother Lewis was a valuable asset to his city. He was a merchant and had businesses in other cities, also. He and Mrs. Lewis were a source of satisfaction and delight to their friends. Mrs. Lewis and children survive.

Eastview and Wallace Ely

A new church has sprung up in east Texarkana. It has done so under the leadership of Rev. Wallace Ely. Brother Ely has been doing some secular work in Texarkana, but he has been doing the Lord's work, too. On the east side of the city, in a territory where there should be a church, one has been established under his leadership. It was the writer's privilege to be with them in a splendid service a short time ago. They have erected a commodious building. The auditorium is beautiful, they have a great deal of room in the basement. Before entering this building, they worshipped in a small building which they had purchased, and which has given them a place in which to worship pending the completion of the new structure. When all decorations are completed the Eastview Church will have a splendid plant. The people have built and paid for it. It is remarkable what a group of Baptists can do when they have a mind to work. We believe that any church can build a plant sufficient for its needs if the people have a mind to work. More and more, it is proven that it is not absolutely necessary for Baptists to have all the money in the treasury before they start a building.

Wallace Ely is a leader of men. He is doing a fine work with the people of Eastview Church. They love him, and follow his leadership.

Baptists Are Growing



Baptisms by States In 1947

State	Membership	Baptisms 1946	Baptisms 1947	Gains & Losses	%	Ratio to Membership	State	Membership	Baptisms 1946	Baptisms 1947	Gains & Losses	%	Ratio to Membership
Alabama	481,074	18,200	20,131	1,931	(10.6)	1 to 23.9	Missouri	317,918	12,484	14,403	1,919	(15.4)	1 to 22.1
Arizona	7,912	724	867	143	(19.7)	1 to 9.1	New Mexico	35,835	2,059	2,123	64	(3.1)	1 to 16.9
Arkansas	200,843	9,874	11,460	1,586	(16.1)	1 to 17.5	North Carolina	621,888	24,106	25,906	2,345	(9.8)	1 to 24.0
California	15,935	1,583	2,489	906	(57.2)	1 to 6.4	Indian Asso.	5,235		545	368	(207.9)	1 to 9.6
Dist. of Columbia	27,162	910	1,100	190	(20.9)	1 to 24.7	Oklahoma	293,181	14,578	16,470	2,073	(14.2)	1 to 17.8
Florida	225,882	11,846	13,543	1,697	(14.3)	1 to 16.7	Indian Asso.	5,558		181	13	(7.7)	1 to 30.7
Georgia	620,803	21,421	23,996	2,575	(12.0)	1 to 25.9	South Carolina	330,502	12,585	13,582	997	(7.9)	1 to 24.3
Illinois	94,729	3,424	3,920	496	(14.5)	1 to 24.2	Tennessee	528,769	21,554	25,311	3,757	(17.4)	1 to 20.9
Kentucky	482,457	17,913	19,988	2,075	(11.6)	1 to 24.1	Texas	1,022,783	44,419	49,792	6,044	(13.6)	1 to 20.5
Louisiana	253,823	10,324	12,143	1,819	(17.6)	1 to 20.9	Mexican Work	6,519		671			1 to 9.7
Maryland	27,305	1,029	1,112	83	(8.1)	1 to 24.5	Virginia	315,392	11,285	10,814	-471	(4.2)	1 to 29.2
Mississippi	349,314	13,043	14,605	1,562	(12.0)	1 to 23.9	Total	6,270,819	253,361	285,152	31,791	(12.5)	1 to 22.0