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### December 13, 1956

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 55

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, DECEMBER 13, 1956

NUMBER 49



Eva Louma Photo

*Christmas Carols*

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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## Executive Board Expresses Appreciation For Retiring Editor, B. H. Duncan

It was with heavy hearts that we listened to our beloved Doctor Duncan read his resignation as Editor of the *Arkansas Baptist* before the November meeting of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Regretfully his resignation was accepted, for all of us knew he could no longer carry his heavy duties without further endangering his health. The members of the Board stood in tribute to Doctor Duncan, with a prayer of thanksgiving for the splendid service he rendered to the cause of Christ.

Doctor Duncan has made the *Arkansas Baptist* a leader among our Baptist state publications. The fact that circulation of the paper has increased from 29,800 on May 1, 1947, when he became our editor, to 49,600 at the time of his retirement, speaks well for his work.

The contribution which Doctor Duncan has made through the *Arkansas Baptist* cannot

be evaluated. His clear cut thinking, his keen analysis of the Baptist life, his forthright and kind manner of presentation, have done much to keep us on the biblical foundation of our Baptist heritage. His love for people, second only to his love for Christ, characterized by his ready smile and warm reception, has been a blessing to all who know him. His zeal for truth and his denominational loyalty have inspired the hearts of multitudes.

The members of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention want to use this means to say publicly, "Doctor Duncan we love you and appreciate your good work, and we pray God's richest blessings upon you."

Sincerely yours,  
Luther F. Dorsey  
Recording Secretary

## Fringe Benefits for Religious Employees

By BRUCE H. PRICE

First Baptist Church, Newport News, Va.

Fringe benefits for church and denominational employees are often of value to both the employer and religious workers. By taking advantage of income tax laws some fringe benefits give the workers more take-home pay without cost to the employer.

Fringe benefits are additions to salaries, or something provided in whole or in part above salaries, such as extra services, goods or funds.

In the business and industrial world, fringe benefits have become very popular and are increasing in number. More and more advantage is being taken of provisions in income tax laws to avoid taxes. The government encourages avoiding taxes, but will not permit one penny to be evaded. In a recent court decision, Judge Learned Hand said, "Anyone can arrange his affairs so that his taxes will be as low as possible."

The oldest and best known fringe benefit received by pastors is a home provided by the church, rent-free. Some denominations have a custom of completely furnishing these homes. Baptists have not done this except occasionally a stove or refrigerator is provided. Churches can render a great service to the minister by placing in the home more of the furniture, especially where the pastor is on a limited salary. If the church has no home, a tax saving of 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the amount paid for rent can be passed on to the pastor or other ordained minister in full-time Christian work by designating the amount required for rent as rental allowance. Another sum may be designated for utilities which, like the rental allowance, is not reported for income tax purposes. Whether ministers of music and education may accept these benefits, tax-free, has not been decided by the officials in Washington.

Another fringe benefit enjoyed by many Christian workers is an annuity for old age. Usually when a church does not pay its part of the annuity cost, it is the fault of the worker and not the church. However, under the regular annuity plan of Southern Baptists the annuity is limited by not permitting payments on any part of a salary above \$4,000. To offset this there is another kind of annuity offered by the Relief and Annuity Board which enables a pastor and church to take a second annuity on that part of the salary above \$4,000. Though the income of

this second annuity is much less in comparison with the regular annuity, it offers an opportunity for the pastor's total annuity to be increased which is needed in these days of rising cost of living.

Social Security for all church and denominational employees offers a great opportunity for an additional retirement income. Space will not permit listing the numerous benefits under Social Security. It is enough to say that Social Security is a must for the individual and his family, but it should always be an additional protection to the annuity and disability offered by the denomination. The ordained minister is responsible for all his Social Security payments, although if a church desires, there is nothing to keep it from paying half of the cost to the minister as is done for other employees, making it a fringe benefit.

Other fringe benefits usually given to church and denominational workers are: vacations, full pay when sick or when there is illness in the family requiring absence, expenses to the annual meeting of the state and Southern Baptist conventions, and perhaps to state and convention-wide assemblies etc., and time off to hold some revival meetings or other services in other churches.

Hospitalization, medical care and group insurance have become the rule in many fields of labor but few religious organizations offer to share the cost of such protection. This is where the need is great and church leaders should be ready to accept these responsibilities.

The most obvious relief needed by pastors and other employees is an allowance of expenses for automobiles used in the work. Most churches refuse or neglect to grant any compensation for this purpose. This is hard to understand when practically all salaried workers in other fields are furnished a car and all car expenses or are paid on a mileage basis when cars are required in employment.

A man told me today that he receives eight cents a mile and I understand the government gives nine cents a mile for private cars used in government work.

It is not unreasonable to insist that Christian workers deserve fringe benefits considered to be just and reasonable by business and industry.

## Jesus Knows Our Thoughts

A Devotion By The Editor

"What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?"

Suppose there is a group of people discussing unfavorably someone who is not present. They are not saying such bad things, but such unfavorable things as they would not say to the person's face. And suddenly and unexpectedly that person appears right in the middle of the group and asks, "What were you saying?" Well, you can imagine the surprise and embarrassment of the group.

Jesus and the disciples passed through Galilee following the transfiguration and the healing of the demoniac child. They came to Capernaum which was headquarters for them. It seems that the disciples were engaged in earnest conversation along the way and that Jesus was walking alone, either leading the way or following some paces behind.

Having arrived in Capernaum and entering the house where they were to lodge, Jesus unexpectedly asked them, "What were you arguing about along the way?" Had He overheard them? They were speaking in subdued tones, they had not meant that He should hear them.

They were chastened and remained silent. Their whole conversation now stood out boldly before them, and they were not very proud of it.

Here was the mistake of the disciples, they thought Jesus was out of ear-shot. They didn't realize that He was reading their thoughts. God once complained of Israel, "You think that I am far away and do not know your conversations, your conduct, and your designs."

The only reason people can say and do certain things is that they refuse to recognize the living presence of Jesus. In imagination people remove Jesus to some far-distant heaven which is out of sight of deeds of their lives and out of hearing of the words of their mouths and out of touch with the affairs of their daily conduct. Here is a great achievement, possible to each one of us, the achievement of the vivid consciousness of the living presence of Jesus. Such an experience of the presence of Jesus will give us self-control. By the power of His presence and grace we will gain the mastery over ourselves.

"And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest" Mark. 9:33, 34.

## ARKANSAS BAPTIST

107 BAPTIST BUILDING, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Official Publication of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

B. H. DUNCAN EDITOR  
MRS. HOMER D. MYERS ED. ASST.

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## From The Editor's Desk

### Draw Up A Chair—

## Let's Have A Little Chat

I should like for each reader of the *Arkansas Baptist* to accept this little piece as a personal chat. Of course, I cannot come into your home in person and sit with you in the family circle and talk about the *Arkansas Baptist* and the *Arkansas Baptist* program and the *Southern Baptist* program. But I would like for you to use your imagination, so far as possible, and accept the visit of the *Arkansas Baptist* as a personal visit of the retiring editor and this message as a personal message to each one of you.

### A Searching Question

We will start with a question, which every Christian should ask himself, "How may I make my life count for most for my Lord and His cause?" That is a searching question and should concern every Christian, and that includes every Baptist in Arkansas.

First, I would say, and I believe Jesus would say, to make your life count for most you should enter into the program and activities of your local church with enthusiasm. Jesus established His church that His disciples might work together to carry out His commissions. He knew that no one could do the work required by himself alone. But He knew that by pooling their efforts His disciples or His followers could carry on a world-wide program, and He frankly said to them, "Greater works than these shall ye do." Working together there is an increment of power which cannot be achieved in any other way. So if you want to do your best for your Lord, integrate your life, your activities, and all your potentials into your local church and its program and activities.

### Joy in Co-operation

You will discover a joy and satisfaction by giving yourself wholeheartedly, enthusiastically, and unreservedly to the program of your local church. It has been my observation over a long period of time that the happy Christian is the one who is serving in his local church in co-operation with other members of his church.

You will always find that those who are not participating in the local church program of service activities to be disgruntled, critical, and faultfinders. They are not enjoying their Christian life nor their fellowship in the local church because they are not participating fully and wholeheartedly in the program of the church. Remember that the church is made up of imperfect people redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on Calvary's cross. We are all sinners saved by grace. Let no one think that he is improving his own status as a Christian and as a church member by refusing to co-operate with other Christians or by criticizing and finding fault with others.

Jesus had something to say about fault-finding and the implication of what He said is that those who are continually finding fault and taking their faultfinding as an ex-

cuse for doing nothing have a sawlog in their own eye while at the same time they are trying to take the little speck out of the other person's eye. Self-examination is a wholesome exercise and should lead to a more wholesome life free of the conflicts of bitterness in the strife which so often disrupts our relationships.

### Denominational Program

Next, I would say, enter into the program of your denomination. The only way the local church program can be extended effectively beyond the local community is by pooling its resources with other churches to formulate and promote a more extensive program in obedience to Christ's world-wide commissions. Those commissions call for preaching the gospel to the whole world. They call for caring for the sick and the homeless. They call for a teaching program. It becomes obvious at once that the only practical plan for carrying out such a program of missions, benevolence, and education is for our churches to unite their efforts, their energies, and their resources in a common program which they will support and promote jointly. Now this means that the individual Christian, the individual church member must participate in this denominational program, as we call it, in order that his church may participate in such a program. The church membership is made up of individuals. The extent of the participation of the local church in a wider denominational program will depend upon the participation of the individual members of the church. Therefore, that member that holds off and refuses to co-operate is refusing the opportunity to expand his Christian testimony to the wider areas that are included in the commissions of Jesus.

The denominational program is conceived and planned and promoted by *Arkansas Baptists* and by *Southern Baptists* multiplies the individual's Christian service and Christian testimony to the nth degree. It should thrill the heart of every *Arkansas Baptist* to know that when he is participating fully, wholeheartedly, enthusiastically in his local church program, he is also participating in a world-wide program of the same nature of his own local church program. He is participating in the preaching of the gospel around the world. He has a part in ministering to the sick in the remote areas of the world. He is a participant in the educational program not only at home but abroad. He is helping to care for homeless children not only in *Arkansas* but in *Korea* and in other parts of the world.

We come back to the question, how can the Baptist church member in *Arkansas* make his Christian life most effective in the cause of his Lord. I think the answer is briefly stated in what I have already said: Participation in the church and denominational

programs that multiply and extend his Christian testimony and Christian service to the uttermost parts of the world.

### Fault Finders

I have already mentioned the faultfinders and the critics in the local church. A further word should be said along this line. First of all, it should be said that only those who are co-operating in the program have the right to point out the failures, the mistakes, and offer the constructive criticisms which will correct the failures of the past. To put it another way, only the members of the team actually know what causes them to lose the game and they are the only ones that have the right to point out the failures and offer constructive criticism to correct the mistakes. And it is the obligation of those who are participating in the program to point out the failures and mistakes that are retarding the program or that have caused failure and defeat. Progress depends upon such constructive criticism within the group who are responsible for carrying out the program.

However, the most ungracious attitude (should we say contemptible) is to refuse to play on the team or refuse to co-operate in the program and at the same time stand on the sidelines and hurl invectives against those who are co-operating in the program of the church and denomination. If one is not going to participate in the work, he has no right to criticize either the program of work or those who are carrying the burden of the work. The critic should get into the game or else forever hold his peace.

### Progress

*Arkansas Baptists* have made phenomenal progress during the past several years. I am confident that progress will continue at an accelerated pace. It will do so by co-operation of the individual members of the Baptist churches of *Arkansas* in their local church program and in their denominational program. There is no other way to make progress in the promotion of the kingdom of God on earth and the carrying out of the commissions of Jesus. As I relinquish my post as editor of the *Arkansas Baptist*, it is with the full confidence that *Arkansas Baptists* will continue to grow and advance and co-operate in an ever-expanding program of service to the Lord and to the people who are the objects of His love and for whom He gave His life. It is with profound gratitude that I have had these nine years and eight months with you as your editor. You have been gracious and patient and encouraging. May you give to the next editor the same loyal support that you have given to me.

—000—

### Hit Or Miss

By W. B. O'NEAL

Whether to try for a home run, a line drive, or only a bunt, is a problem that often faces a preacher as well as a batter in a ball game. A preacher should know, too, that even a sacrifice hit made for the purpose of advancing the game is an honorable thing.

Often, too often, a preacher misses all three strikes — his firstly, his secondly, and his thirdly — because he is straining every nerve to get a home run and to win great applause.

A good batter aspires not to do the spectacular, but to win the game. And every good batter knows that it takes team work to win.

# Kingdom Progress

## Home Mission Board Sets New Records

The Home Mission Board in its annual meeting November 27-28, appropriated \$100,000 to assist in establishing churches in strategic areas in several large cities throughout the United States and passed a resolution regarding mission work in Canada.

The Board recognized the need for churches in the vast metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc., in proposing the \$100,000. The amount is to be administered in co-operation with local church forces.

In Chicago, for example, there are less than 2,500 churches of all types for a population of six million people.

Approved was a resolution allowing the Home Mission Board to send salaried workers into Canada upon concurrence of this resolution by the Sunday School Board and the Executive Committee. These mission workers would be employed through the Home Mission Board. There are now 11 Southern Baptist churches in Canada.

The Board voted to accept a designation from the Woman's Missionary Union to erect a Baptist hospital building in Havana, Cuba. Cuban Baptists will maintain this hospital. A clinic is now operated by Cuban Baptists.

A \$14,000 fund to aid chaplains just separated from military service in obtaining temporary employment was established by the Chaplains Commission. This service will be administered in co-operation with state conventions.

Clovis Brantley, director of the Baptist Rescue Mission, Memphis, Tennessee, was named assistant director of Direct Missions. As Dr. Loyd Corder's assistant, he is expected to carry on administrative work in the areas of rescue missions, Good Will Centers, migrant missions, and related ministries to underprivileged peoples.

The term "western pioneer missions" is hereafter denoted as "pioneer missions" as

a result of Board action. M. Wendell Belew, now director of Church-Centered Missions, on January 1 will also begin direction of mountain mission work, also church-centered work.

Other action taken by the Board included adaption of the 1957 budget of \$3,000,000 and the election of officers. The three million dollar budget is an increase of \$615,000 over the 1956 budget.

C. G. Cole, Atlanta businessman, was re-elected president of the Board. Re-elected vice president was Rev. L. E. Smith, pastor, Park Avenue Baptist Church, Atlanta. Rev. Carleton Prickett, Burlington, North Carolina, pastor, was elected to the other vice-presidential position. Mrs. Clinton H. Whetstone, Atlanta, was re-elected recording secretary, and Mrs. David Boyd, also of Atlanta, was re-elected assistant recording secretary.

Forty-six of the 49-member Board were present for the two-day meeting. Lloyd L. Hunnicut, Arkansas member, attended.

Dr. Courts Redford, executive secretary-treasurer, reported an increase of 179 in mission personnel over 1956. This brings the total personnel to 1,180. Redford told the Board that home missions has received thus far this year over three million dollars for support of the Home Mission Board program. The report indicated that the 1955 receipts were a gain of 670 per cent over the 1940 receipts of the Board.

Redford told the Board members that \$443,201.74 has been received as of November 22, through the Advance Section of the Cooperative Program. Through the same date, \$1,568,807.93 has been received through the Annie Armstrong Offering.

The Board voted to hold its midyear meeting at Glorieta, July 25, and the 1957 annual meeting December 3-4 in Atlanta.

## Plainview Church, Little Rock, Builds New Sanctuary

Plainview Church, located on the old Hot Springs Highway, Little Rock, and Pastor Hewitt N. Hutto, held groundbreaking services on September 11, and construction began the next day on the erection of a new auditorium that is being constructed of brick and stone. The new building will seat 450 persons.

The church has issued bonds in the amount of \$35,000 through the Baptist Building Service, Memphis. The membership has purchased more than half of the bonds, the others are being offered to friends or others who may be interested. (See advertisement on page 11.)

Mr. Hutto has been with Plainview Church approximately four years. During that time the church has received 175 new members, 95 for baptism. The Sunday school enrollment has increased from an average attendance of 118 to 225; Training Union from 69 to 122. The church gave 10 per cent of their income to the Cooperative Program in 1953; increased it to 12½ per cent in 1954; to 15 per cent in 1955-56. Gifts totaled \$1,200 last year and \$1,672 this year to the Cooperative Program.

The church hopes to occupy their new building not later than Easter Sunday.

## Workers Available

The Faculty and Ministers of Southern College, Walnut Ridge, have organized a committee to find ways and means of getting pastorless churches in contact with churchless pastors. There are a number of student preachers at Southern College who have no pastorate. The committee, composed of Noble Wiles, Wm. Kreis, and J. W. Gibbs, is seeking the co-operation of pastors and missionaries in the Walnut Ridge area to supply them the names of pastorless churches within driving distance of the college. The address is: Public Relations Office, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.

## Darrell Wood Joins Faculty, East Side, Paragould

Darrell Wood, a student in Arkansas State College, Jonesboro, has been called as education and music director of East Side Church, Paragould.

Mr. Wood is a native of Paragould. He will finish at Arkansas State in 1958. He is also director of the youth choir of Greene County Association.

He is married and the father of two children.

## Alzheimer Builds



Pictured above is the building committee of First Church, Alzheimer. From left to right: R. M. Hoover, chairman, J. G. Osborne, Zack Stone Jr., J. R. Nichols, James Cash.

Groundbreaking services were held Sunday, November 25, for a new educational building. The structure will contain four assembly rooms, 12 classrooms, and two nurseries. The cost will be approximately \$25,000.

Lewis E. Clarke is pastor of the Alzheimer church which was organized in 1943.

## Executive Board Meeting

By RALPH DOUGLAS

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist Convention met November 27, in Little Rock. This Board is composed of 67 members from the 45 associations affiliated with our Convention.

As this was the first meeting after the State Convention, officers to serve during the year, 1957, were elected. S. A. Whitlow, Hope, was elected Chairman; T. K. Rucker, Fort City, was elected Vice-Chairman; and Lutz Dorsey, Pine Bluff, was elected Secretary.

Dr. B. H. Duncan's resignation, effective December 31, 1956, was accepted with regrets.

Following a report of the Camp Board of Control, by the Chairman, E. E. Grier, Hamburg, the Board voted to purchase 160 acres of land west of Little Rock and just south of Ferncliff Camp. This land is to be developed and used as a camp for Baptists.

Dr. B. L. Bridges, the Convention Treasurer, was given authority to close the Convention books December 31, 1956, instead of January 5, 1957. Money to apply on this year's (1956) budget must be in the Treasurer's office by closing time December 31. All church treasurers should take note of this fact.

If every Arkansas Baptist could sit in on an Executive Board Meeting, all doubts about how our Cooperative Program dollar is used would melt away. We can all rest assured that when 67 Baptist preachers and laymen spent a large portion of a day asking questions, making motions, voting convictions and airing out "pet peevs", our program is in a healthy condition. These are just some of the reasons why every Cooperative Program dollar spent will give 100 cents worth of service in the Kingdom of God.

## Singer Recommended

Dr. C. Gordon Bayless, pastor of Central Church, North Little Rock, commends Evangelistic Singer Arthur Nelson to the pastors and churches of Arkansas.

Dr. Bayless states that for six years Mr. Nelson has been minister of education and music at the First Baptist Church, Elk City, Oklahoma. Prior to that time he had been engaged in evangelistic singing for revival meetings. He is now re-entering the field of evangelistic singing. He may be reached in care of Central Church, North Little Rock.

## State-Wide Institute On Pastoral Care of the Sick

By J. F. QUEEN

Three of the nation's top authorities on the role of the pastor in the care of hospital patients will speak at a state-wide Institute on Pastoral Care at Arkansas Baptist Hospital, Monday, December 17.

Sponsored by the Southwest Baptist Hospital Association, the Institute will begin at 9:30 a. m. and adjourn at 4 p. m.

Featured speakers will be Dr. Richard K. Young, president of the American Protestant Hospital Chaplains Association and Associate Professor of Pastoral Care, Southeastern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; Dr. John H. Price, Director of the School of Religious Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Wayne E. Oates, professor of Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Care, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Also on the program will be Dr. John W. Smith, Little Rock, physician; Dr. Peyton Kolb, Little Rock psychiatrist; R. H. Dorris, president, Baptist Pastors' Conference, Little Rock; Edward L. Weinrich, president, Ministerial Alliance of Greater Little Rock, and J. A. Gilbreath, Administrator, Arkansas Baptist Hospital.

Dr. Young is author of the book, "The Pastors Hospital Ministry," and Dr. Oates is author of "Religious Factors in Mental Illness" and "Anxiety in Christian Experience."

## Ouachita Furnishes More Missionaries

There are more missionaries from Ouachita College than many other Baptist schools considerably larger, it was announced recently by Dr. Rogers M. Smith, associate secretary for promotion of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Of the 1,211 foreign missionaries (including the active staff of the Foreign Mission Board and approximately 10 American missionaries) 42 attended Ouachita College. Only four other colleges or universities in the Southern Baptist Convention had more listed: Baylor University, 189; Howard College, 48; Howard Payne College, 46; and Carson-Newman College, 45.

Other Southern Baptist Colleges and the number of missionaries serving are Furman University, 42; Hardin-Simmons University, 42; Wake Forest College, 37; Mississippi College, 37; Oklahoma Baptist University, 42; Georgetown College, 32; William Jewell College, 31; Blue Mountain College, 26; Louisiana College, 26; University of Richmond, 24; Mercer University, 19; Meredith College, 17; Bessie Tift College, 6; Judson College, 15; Mary Hardin-Baylor College, 14; Stetson University, 14; Union University, 14; and Wayland College, 11.

## Bentonville, First, Organizes Mission

First Church, Bentonville, has organized a mission, Park Street Chapel, and began work December 2. Dr. L. B. Golden of the State Missions Department helped make arrangements for the chapel. A. L. Hart, missionary in Benton County Association, will serve as pastor of the mission. Pastor B. G. Hickem will lead the mission in a revival meeting December 10-16.

Pastor Hickem reports a successful week of study on world missions at the Bentonville church with Dr. H. C. Goerner, professor of missions and comparative religion at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, as the speaker.

## Bible Society Plans Big Expansion Program

By Religious News Service

Dr. Eugene A. Nida, associate secretary in charge of translations, American Bible Society, said it was "likely" that within the next quarter century the society would accomplish 110 revisions of whole Bibles, 150 translations of Old Testaments, 200 translations of New Testaments and 225 translations of Gospels into new languages.

The expansion program is necessary, he said, because of an unprecedented increase in world literacy and a growing nationalism which makes Bibles in so-called "trade or colonial" languages unacceptable.

The Rev. Paul A. Collyer, an associate secretary in charge of foreign distribution, said within the next decade national Bible societies will be organized in Mexico, Argentina, the Philippines and probably France, and the new societies will be responsible for their own policies and administration even though the older Bible societies will be committed to their support.

Mr. Collyer announced plans to publish an illustrated New Testament in Spanish and Portuguese for Latin America. He warned that the American Bible Society also must provide more attractive Scriptures in other languages "in order to command the attention of the masses."

This is especially important in areas where "propagation of the Gospel is meeting a new and oft-times fanatical resistance on the part of the devotees of revived national religions," he said.

He reported that Latin America is currently the area of greatest Scripture circulation and that Eastern Europe continues "to present challenging opportunities."

In cooperation with the Hungarian Bible Council three large editions of Bibles and Testaments were printed in Hungary prior to the revolt there, Mr. Collyer reported.

## Board to Publish Monthly Newsletter

The first issue of a new monthly, **The Sunday School Board Newsletter**, will be published in January. Dr. James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Board, is editor and Howard Foshee has been named associate editor.

The publication will carry concise and descriptive information on all phases of the Board's work.

**News Letter**, formerly issued by the Board's Education Division, will be discontinued with the first issue of the new publication, which will be mailed to pastors, educational directors, and denominational leaders.

## Book Store Manager Retires

After three decades and six years of service in the cause of books, Mr. H. Kay Killingsworth, manager of the Baptist Book Store, Dallas, will retire at the end of this year.

He has an outstanding record as Baptist Book Store manager — 26 years at Oklahoma City and 10 years in Dallas.

Employees and friends of the Baptist Book Store honored Mr. Killingsworth recently with a dinner and a reception at First Baptist Church.

Mr. Killingsworth's successor will be Mr. Dan Coker, now serving as manager of the Baptist Book Store, Little Rock, Ark.

## Student World Missions Congress

"That our world is in a crisis has been said so often, few give it much more than a passing thought," Dr. G. Kearnie Keegan, secretary, Student Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, said, as he discussed plans for The Southern Baptist Student World Missions Congress, meeting in Nashville December 27-30. The theme of the Congress is "The Christian Student in the World Crisis."

"In our twentieth century of ultra speed, maximum power, and fantastic change, the average modern American collegian does not have time to become disturbed with a problem that is not his very own. If it arrests his attention at all, it must have the appearance of blasting his particular hopes and aspirations into a cocked hat," Dr. Keegan said.

Dr. Keegan said, "From December 27 through 30, 2,500 Southern Baptist College students and their leaders meet in Nashville, Tennessee, where they will face up to the undeniable fact of world crises and the demands they make on Christians. The decisions made in the hearts of those attending could ultimately transform campuses, countries, and continents.

"This World Missions Congress is the meeting of this decade for Southern Baptist students. Those who are not privileged to attend are called to pray for divine guidance in every session, for the Holy Spirit's leadership in every heart.

"From this meeting should go committed Christians whose consuming desire is to serve Christ in absolute obedience. This commitment should not be the purpose of the minister and missionary alone, but equally the obsession of every Christian in every profession and calling. Only through total commitment to Christ in a faith related to the total needs of man can we hope to be victorious in the face of continual world crisis."

## Ouachita Receives Additional Books

Many new books — some that are collector's items — have been presented to the Ouachita College Library this year, it was announced by Mrs. Juanita Barnett, the librarian.

Among these are two personal libraries of more than 150 books each. One given by Dr. M. R. Owens, former member of the Arkansas Board of Education, consisted of 150 volumes on education.

Mrs. Katherine Wilson, English instructor at the college, gave the library of her deceased husband. Mr. Wilson served as associational missionary in Arkansas for a number of years. The collection included a group of books that the college had been trying to replace the set destroyed in the 1949 fire. The collection of 200 to 250 volumes are books on religion.

Mrs. C. B. Savage, a 1920 graduate of Ouachita, presented the library with a set of *Memoirs of the Courts of Europe* which was printed in 1910 and is very valuable, since it deals with many important people of that period.

## Protestants Hold Olympic Games Outdoor Service

Thousands of persons gathered at Como Park in Melbourne, Australia for a special open-air Protestant service held in connection with the Olympic Games.

More than 100 athletes took part. It was the largest service ever organized by Protestants in the State of Victoria.

# ★ ★ ★ Christian Horizons ★ ★ ★

By Religious News Service

## Washington Presbyterians Plan Retirement Homes

The Presbyterian Synod of Washington state is planning to build and operate at least three retirement homes for senior citizens, according to Albert Arend, president of the board of trustees of Presbyterian Ministries, Inc.

A survey is under way to determine the areas where the greatest need exists. Pastors of Presbyterian churches in the state are being asked to furnish a list of persons who may be interested in living in a retirement home. From this information the board will be guided as to the locations of the homes.

Presbyterian Ministries, Inc., is a non-profit corporation recently organized to build and operate retirement homes in Washington state.

## Buddhism 'On the March' Mission Leaders Told

Buddhism is "on the march" and "in competition with Christianity for the minds and hearts of men throughout Asia," Dr. Harold A. Bosley of Evanston, Ill., told some 300 Protestant mission leaders.

"Buddhism is not a dying cult," he said. "It has some of the strongest leaders it has ever had in its history."

The Methodist clergyman, who recently returned from a six-week tour of Japan, addressed the annual assembly of the National Council of Churches' Division of Foreign Missions.

He called on the mission leaders to rethink their policies so as to "guarantee the continued relevance of the Christian Gospel."

A veteran missionary to India, Africa and the Far East told the delegates there is more opportunity now to Christianize many non-Christian areas of the world than there was 50 years ago.

Dr. Donald McGavron of Indianapolis said that with millions of people seeking new ideas and establishing stronger homelands "they are ripe for the message of Christianity. This may not be true later on when people have settled on one ism or another."

## Urges American Churches Increase Support of Far Eastern Seminaries

A Presbyterian missionary called on American churches to increase their support of theological seminaries in the Far East.

Dr. Paul Lindholm, who spent 35 years in the Philippines, told more than 300 Protestant missionary leaders that younger churches overseas are suffering from inadequate numbers of native ministers and training facilities.

A member of the New York presbytery, Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., Dr. Lindholm addressed the annual assembly of the National Council of Churches' Division of Foreign Missions.

Pointing out that the per capita average annual income in Asiatic countries is only \$40, the missionary said that a year's seminary training for a son would cost a family ten years' earnings.

"Young people called to the ministry of the Word," he said, "often do not hear that call because it is drowned out by the cry of sick infants in ministers' homes, much of the suffering caused by malnutrition."

## Sees Protestant Freedom In Hungary Short-Lived

Protestant churches in Hungary are free at the moment, but "it is not likely" that this freedom will continue, a World Council of Churches' leader told the 38th annual meeting of the American Bible Society's Advisory Council.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America and chairman of the World Council's Central Committee, said the Communists "have their hands too full of other troubles to hamper the churches" now. But once "they will have reasserted themselves fully," he added, "the churches will undoubtedly again become victims of the regime."

Dr. Fry said that church attendance in Hungary had risen to 28 per cent of the total population compared with two to three per cent in other parts of Europe. He also reported a great demand for Scriptures.

## Urges Churches Train Youth For Temperance Work Careers

American churches should train young people for careers in temperance work just as they prepare missionaries and chaplains, Bishop George Epp of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, Harrisburg, Pa., told the annual convention of the National Temperance League.

"The temperance movement is going to die out in America unless we win the generation that will follow us," he warned clergymen and temperance leaders from 40 states.

## Urge Religious Appreciation Be Taught In Public Schools

A recommendation that the teaching of religious appreciation be included in public schools wherever it is pertinent to subject matter or activity, was made in E. Lansing, Mich., by nearly 50 delegates attending a conference on "Religious Opportunities in Weekday Education."

The delegates, comprising both clergymen and laymen, also agreed that an adequate program of religious training for children should include religious education conducted by the churches. They proposed that "children and youth devote one or more hours a week during the school day to religious instruction sponsored by religious groups."

"We are firmly convinced that this week-day program of religious education can best fulfill its purpose if it is planned on the basis of shared time with the public schools," the conference said.

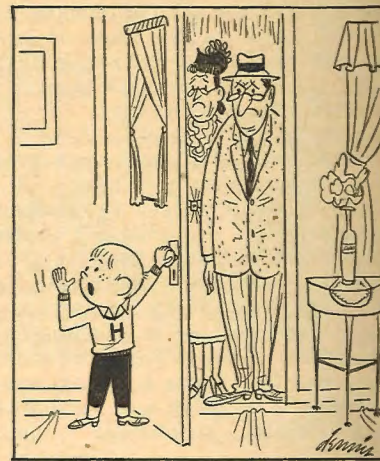
## Baptists Fight Tavern Near Church

The pastor of a Baptist church in Tulsa was told by a county judge, "It looks like you'll have to open a dance hall nearby to avoid the issuance of a beer license to a tavern across the street from the church."

He made the comment as Kenneth Everett, the pastor, appeared in County Court along with a group of Baptists protesting the issuance of a license to the tavern.

Judge Whit Y. Mauzy pointed out to the group that Oklahoma law restricts the operation of beer taverns near dance halls, but has no bars against taverns operating near schools or churches.

# A Smile or Two



"Hey, Dad and Mom—Old Fish Face and Battle Axe are here for their free Dinner."

"The psychology lecturer said that a woman is braver than a man."

"What! Why a woman is afraid of a mouse."

"Yes, and a man is afraid of that same woman."

Officer: "What's the big idea? What are you men doing climbing trees and crawling through the bushes?"

Private: "Well, sir, we camouflaged the gun before lunch, and now we can't find it."

The university president was delivering the commencement address. In the audience were an elderly couple, obviously foreigners who were having some trouble understanding the address to the class, of which their daughter was a member.

"What did he say?" finally demanded the mother, frowning.

"Who?" asked the father.

"The beega fella in black robes. What did he say?"

"He say school is out." —Quote

A little Jewish fellow went into a delicatessen one rainy day and asked the price of the roast beef. The proprietor told him, and he looked around the showcase some more. "How much are the pickles?" he asked. Again, the proprietor told him. Next, the man spotted a piece of ham. "How much is the ham?" he asked.

Before the proprietor could answer the heavens let loose a tremendous clap of thunder. The little man looked skyward in terror. "Please," he cried, "I was only asking!" —Quote

Advice is funny stuff. It is sold by your lawyer, given away free by your mother-in-law, but impossible to dispose of yourself. —Indianapolis Star

Mrs. Gray: "You're looking very happy this morning. Have you had good news?"

Mrs. Jay: "Wonderful. My husband has broken down, and we're going to Palm Beach for the winter."

Friends of ours dropped into the record department of a downtown department store and asked if they had "any albums of Johann Strauss." The clerk, a doll, wrinkled her pretty forehead for a moment in deep thought. Then asked, "Could you tell me what band he sings with?" —Milwaukee Journal

## News From Baptist Press

### Church Finance Tests 'Topped Expectations'

"The church finance program of Southern Baptists exceeded our expectations," Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here reported after test campaigns in Phoenix, Ariz., and Jackson, Miss.

Two churches in Phoenix were the first to test the new program. A few weeks later, 10 churches in Jackson were included in the test.

Reports from Phoenix were not complete but at Jackson over \$1,220,000 was pledged to the 10 test churches for 1957, compared with about \$850,000 in total pledges for the 1956 budgets of the churches.

This was about a 44 per cent increase. Moore and his assistant, R. J. Hastings, directed the test campaigns in Phoenix. In Jackson they were joined by Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee; Albert McClellan, director of publications for the Executive Committee, and officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The tests included both large, "middle-size," and small churches.

Salem Baptist Church, 263-member rural church near Jackson, had never before had pledging. Its goal was \$6,625. Its pledges amounted to \$7,840. And its 1956 budget has been \$4,500.

By comparison, First Baptist Church, Jackson, with over 5,000 members, reported pledges of more than \$365,000.

Other states held test campaigns. These were led by officers of the state Baptist association or convention. Moore said preliminary reports also indicated success of the campaigns.

"An analysis showed that in some churches it cost only two or three cents to raise \$1 toward the church budget," Moore continued, including the expense of churchwide loyalty

dinners.

"We have found no changes necessary in the printed materials which we will release to all churches next year," according to Moore. "Some phases of the material need to be clarified, however, we discovered."

The church finance program is not "brand-new," Moore said. All of its many elements have been used before in one church or another. But the first time these elements have been combined into a single program was in the church finance program.

The heart of the program is a booklet known as "Guidebook of Fund Raising and Church Budget Promotion." Everything needed in the campaign is available in the guidebook, according to Moore.

The test programs revealed three lessons, Moore said:

1. "Churches which followed the program exactly got the best results. Results were not as good when the program was adapted or changed, even in minor matters."

2. "It is important to follow the calendar of the program exactly. To fall behind even one day causes confusion."

3. "The tests demonstrated the importance of being thoroughly familiar with the guidebook and supplementary material. Answers to questions which arise during a campaign are in these materials."

The program will be available to churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention next year. Materials, including stewardship Sunday school lessons, may be ordered at a single time on duplicate order forms. Order forms are available from SBC Stewardship Service, Room 303, 127-9th Ave. No., Nashville 3, Tenn.

"Materials should be ordered from two to three months before the campaign begins," Moore suggested.

### 31 Years Needed For Complete Education

If a student attempted to take all the courses offered at Wayland Baptist College today, he would spend 31 years on the campus, according to Bob Hilburn, feature writer for the *Plainview Daily Herald*.

Delving a bit farther, Hilburn learned that "in view of a constantly changing curriculum, a conservative estimate is that by the end of the 31 years at least half of the courses would be changed. Therefore, a student could spend an additional 15 years at the college without duplicating work."

Wayland is currently offering 428 different courses in 26 departments. This represents a total of 940 semester hours (120 hours are usually required for a degree) which would take 62 semesters or 31 regular school years to complete.

"The cost of tuition and books for the 31 years' work would be \$9,610, while room and board would add \$15,500," the article said.

### Miami Mayor Heads Hospital Fund Drive

Mayor Randall N. Christmas, of Miami, will serve as general chairman of the fund-raising campaign for a Baptist hospital in this south Florida city.

The appointment was announced by C. Roy Angell, pastor of Miami's Central Baptist Church and chairman of the campaign executive committee.

If the Southern Baptist Convention approves the project at its 1957 meeting in Chi-

cago, operation of the Miami Baptist Hospital program will be carried on by the SBC.

In accepting the position, Mayor Christmas said, "I am deeply honored to have been chosen to head this vitally important campaign. Surveys have been made indicating a drastic shortage of hospital beds in this area.

"While Baptists through the Miami Baptist Association have started this movement, all citizens should join in the effort. The hospital will be open to the people of all faiths and those who profess no faith. The building of a new hospital here will prove to be a valuable and needful community asset.

"Two sites have been acquired. One of 10 acres is located in uptown Miami on N. W. 12th Ave., above 14th St. The other site covers 55 acres near South Miami which has been offered by Arthur Vining Davis together with a substantial sum of cash provided Baptists and their friends of other denominations pledge sufficient funds to build.

"I have every confidence that the people of the Greater Miami area will do everything possible to bring into creation this urgently needed hospital through their participation and generous pledges," the mayor concluded.

### RELIEF COMMITTEE CALLS FOR MONEY FOR HUNGARIANS

Dr. George W. Sadler, chairman of the Relief Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced the appropriation of \$3,000 for emergency relief of suffering Hungarians and expressed the hope that Baptists will raise \$25,000 immediately for that purpose.

## Counselor's Corner

By DR. R. LOFTON HUDSON

### CAN I KNOW?

**Question:** I am 15 years of age. I'm a Christian and believe that I am saved. Some friends of mine have told me that no one on earth could know whether he or she were saved, that they wouldn't know until the judgment day. I believe that one can know that he is saved. Am I wrong?

**Answer:** You are not wrong if the Bible is right. Look in a Bible concordance under the word "know" and you will see how contrary to New Testament Christianity your friends are.

There is not a verse in the Bible to indicate that the judgment is to decide whether or not we are saved. The judgment reveals, not determines. We determine our destiny here on earth by what we do about the Son of God. To say that we cannot know whether or not we have repented and believed on the living Christ is pure foolishness. If we have trusted Him, the rest is up to Him.

Look at it this way. The words "I know" mean that my sense of assurance is so strong that I feel certainty concerning the matter. This feeling of certainty may be an illusion. In various human experiences it is. But when a man says, "I know I am saved," he is basing his assurance upon the character and promises of God. And his assurance grows as he allows the Holy Spirit to transform him.

Your friends may not know that they are saved, but millions of Christians do.

(Address questions to Dr. Hudson, Wornall Road Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.)

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### Roy W. Owen To Be South Dakota Worker

Roy W. Owen, pastor, First Baptist Church, Parker, Ariz., will become general missionary for Southern Baptists in South Dakota. He takes the position Jan. 1.

The position is in co-operation with the Colorado Baptist General Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, according to Willis J. Ray, executive secretary of the Colorado convention.

South Dakota has 700,000 population. There are four Southern Baptist affiliated churches in the state.

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### HUNGARIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE "EMBARRASSED" FOR FUNDS

Dr. Sandor Haraszti, Hungarian Baptist leader, has crossed the border, bringing his wife and five small children into Vienna, Austria, so that he can help with Hungarian relief activities. He will work with the Baptist Relief Committee for Hungary.

Dr. John A. Moore, chairman of the newly organized committee, wrote Dr. George W. Sadler, chairman of the Relief Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention: "Dr. Haraszti's coming is fortunate for us because we need someone here who has the time to help, knowledge of the Hungarian and German languages, and contacts in Hungary.

"Our committee is beginning already to be embarrassed for funds, even for minimum expenditures in caring for the several Baptist families that have come to us. We expect the need to be much greater when our notices are posted soon in the 63 Austrian camps. Our chief interest, of course, is getting supplies into Hungary itself."

(Money for the relief of suffering Hungarians should be addressed to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 5148, Richmond 20, Va.)



# Southern Baptist Evangelism Surveyed And Urged

By C. WADE ARMSTRONG, *Pastor*  
*Second Church, El Dorado*

Two World Wars, an economic depression, and "Crisis theology" have helped to turn Americans from "that rosy-hued world of liberalism" to a world of stark reality where sin and evil abound and where spiritual conversion is still needed. The birth of the "Atomic Age" and the threat of another war have aided in effectuating the about-face of the American public toward things spiritual. For well over a decade and growing out of the things mentioned above, there has been a renewed interest and emphasis given to evangelism. How have and how can Southern Baptists in general and Arkansas Baptists in particular, make the most of the wide-spread interest in evangelism?

## Evangelism Brought Rapid Growth

The continued interest of Southern Baptists in evangelism is reflected in their rapid growth. After the organization of the Convention in 1845, it took twenty-eight years to reach the first million; thirty-four years to reach the second million; thirteen years, the third million; twelve years, the fourth million; eight years, the fifth million; six years, the sixth million; four years, the seventh million; and three years, the eighth million.

From 1926 to 1950 (25 years) Southern Baptists grew faster than any of the other sixty-six leading religious bodies. Including Southern Baptists with the others, the overall growth was 59.8 per cent, while Southern Baptists alone grew 98.8 per cent.

## A Historical Evaluation

To the writer's desk and from some unsolicited source a paper comes about twice a month. It seems to be the intended purpose of the author to take to task the "program" and the "program boys" of the Southern Baptist Convention. The writer is proud to be one of the "program boys" of the greatest and fastest growing denomination in the world. He believes in the Cooperative Program, and in the Sunday School, Training Union, W. M. U., and Brotherhood programs. He also believes in the Southern Baptist program of evangelism. Now note how this program grew from the grass roots.

1908: Southern Baptists pioneered with the first American theological seminary to establish a department of evangelism.

1914: They pioneered again by being the first to offer a course in evangelism for Sunday School teachers and officers.

1921: At the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, feeling was expressed for a need of a definite and organized program of evangelism in this resolution: "We believe the time has come when we should put on a campaign of personal soul-winning . . . thorough, well organized and far-reaching . . ."

1942: Regret was expressed by the Convention over a decline in baptisms. No report on evangelism was made. A committee was created to recommend a program. The committee called for launching a Convention-wide revival effort over the leadership of the Home Mission Board.

1944: The committee on evangelism recommended that a special committee, representing all the cooperating states, be appointed to plan an evangelistic crusade for the Centennial Year, 1945. City churches were asked to have simultaneous revivals.

1946: The special committee on evangelism recommended that a department of evangelism be set up in every state to work with

the department of evangelism of the Home Mission Board.

1947: The late Dr. C. E. Matthews, with the help of the committee, presented to the Convention recommendations that were to become, in substance, the Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism.

1947: The late Dr. C. E. Matthews, with the help of the committee, presented to the Convention recommendations that were to become, in substance, the Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism.

1948: The recommendations were reaffirmed and a rising tide of evangelism throughout the Convention was reported. The committee stated that the upsurge was believed to be the result of organized effort in the states, associations and local churches and the simultaneous revival crusades were said to be growing in favor.

## The Southern Baptist Program

The Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism, worked out by 51 different men and adopted and ratified by the Convention without a dissenting vote, may be said in essence to call for:

1. An increased emphasis on both mass and personal evangelism, realizing that one cannot succeed apart from the other.
2. The utilization of all modern communications.
3. A department of evangelism in each state.
4. A chairman of evangelism in each association.
5. An Evangelism Council in each church.
6. A yearly associational-wide simultaneous revival, with all churches participating, plus a second revival in each church.
7. The establishing of new missions and churches.
8. An annual state conference on evangelism.

The committee further stated, "We 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."

## The Proof of the Program

Has this program worked: Considering the seven years prior to the inauguration of the program and the seven years following its inauguration, baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention increased 52 per cent, with an average of 115,000 more baptisms each year. **Baptists have proven that they do better what they do together!**

This program of evangelism has worked to the extent the leaders worked it. In the years 1950 and 1951, when the associations west and east of the Mississippi River conducted simultaneous revivals, Southern Baptists baptized more souls than ever before. It took "a million more in '54" campaign to bring baptisms back to and beyond that level. Arkansas Baptists have still not come back to the 1950 figure in baptisms.

The Convention-wide simultaneous revival effort of 1955 carried baptisms to another all-time high with more people won to Christ and baptized for one year than in all the history of Christianity!

The associational simultaneous revival has not only been proven on a Convention-wide basis and a state-wide basis, but also on an associational-wide basis. The Oklahoma County Baptist Association, where simultane-

ous revivals have been conducted annually for thirteen years, has dates now set for five years in advance. The writer was pastor in that association during six of those simultaneous revivals. During the first three, he felt his independence as a Baptist pastor of an autonomous Baptist church was being infringed upon but finally believing statistics which showed that more souls were being saved, that more churches were being led to cooperate year by year and that the ties between the churches were being greatly strengthened, he entered into the last three crusades with vigor and enthusiasm. He had at last realized that cooperation among Baptists spells success.

## The Strength of the Program

There seems to be five good reasons why every association and church should cooperate in the Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism with its emphasis upon the simultaneous revival.

1. It gives the tonic of bigness. The pastors and people begin to realize that winning souls is important and that they are in something larger than themselves.

2. It gives a united impact upon a city or county where the simultaneous revivals are conducted. Much free advertising is gained and both sinners and saints have ample opportunity to hear about the revivals.

3. It demands that the work of evangelism be planned ahead of time. Accidental and spasmodic evangelism wins less souls than planned and purposeful evangelism. Simultaneous revivals cannot be effectively conducted and local churches cannot have effective programs of evangelism unless they are planned at least a year in advance. Why not plan for the biggest business in all the world? Industries plan ahead. If one is to get ahead, he must plan ahead. If one is not willing to plan ahead, maybe he needs a head!

4. The Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism is church centered. City-wide and county-wide revivals, as effective as they may seem to be at the moment, must always be considered a supplement to and not a substitute for church-centered evangelism. Years ago Dr. William Chapman used the simultaneous revival plan when he was secretary of evangelism for Presbyterians. However, his plan called for bringing all the churches to one central point for the evening service. Before his death, he expressed the belief that they would have won more souls if each church had had its own revival, simultaneous with the others. This is what the Southern Baptist Program calls for. If this program is followed, more churches will have revivals, more churches will have more revivals, more churches will baptize souls and more churches will baptize more souls.

5. The program strength also lies in its ability to bring the best plans and methods for evangelism to all pastors in the Convention. This will include the best plans for securing attendance upon revivals and for conserving the results of the revivals. It will include the best plans of both personal and public evangelism.

## The Plea for Cooperation

Porter Routh, Executive Secretary of Southern Baptists, says, "The strength, perhaps of the present program is to be found in its ability to reach multitudes of people. That is what Baptists want to do!"

J. P. Edmunds, Secretary of Statistics, says "We feel that evangelism is on the upswing . . . due to our Convention-wide, aggressive evangelistic program. The evangelistic crusades promoted by the Home Mission Board have been a major factor in this increase."

(See "Evangelism", Page 9)

## A Plea For A Christian Christmas

By O. C. ROBINSON, JR.

*Pulaski County Superintendent of Missions*

Christmas is supposedly observed to commemorate the birth of Jesus. Special days and observances are as old as the human race. They serve as a means of keeping alive the important truth from generation to generation. Jesus Himself commanded His followers to keep two special observances that the knowledge of His sacrificial atonement and His glorious resurrection might be perpetuated in a meaningful fashion in the hearts of men. The Jews were commanded to keep many special days and feasts that their children might from earliest childhood be surrounded with the reminders of the greatness of the God whom their fathers served.

All such scriptural observances had certain prescribed rules for their keeping, that their value as a teaching agent might be preserved. The observance of the Jewish Passover in any other fashion than that prescribed by the word of God would become a meaningless occasion, but when kept as God commanded it made a tremendous impact on the minds and hearts of both the adult participants and the younger generations who grew in the shadow of it. Likewise, the Lord's Supper and baptism, when kept as originally given, have a powerful teaching symbolism. They cause both young and old to ask the question, "Why?" "What is the meaning of this?" This gives us a wonderful opportunity to explain to them the glorious truths of our faith.

Christmas, unlike the feast days of the Jews, and Baptism and the Lord's Supper, has no scriptural authority for its observance. As early as the beginning of the second century A. D. leaders in the church began trying to determine the date of the birth of Jesus on earth. There were many differences of opinion, but the most universally

accepted date at first was January 6. It was not until the fourth century or later, that December 25 came to be recognized as the probable date. We now know that this date was adopted because it coincided with a holiday already celebrated by the pagan world, and which was an occasion of merry making and feasting to their sun god; for at this date the sun reached the turning point. Up until this date the sun moved in relation to the earth so that the days became shorter each day. But on this date the sun started its journey back the other direction and the days began to lengthen.

Many of the present day traditions of Christmas observances come directly out of the pagan celebrations to their sun god. Some of these are: Merry making and feasting, evergreen decorations, exchanging presents. The word "yule" and "yule season," "yule log" and "yule tide" comes from the Teutonic word "jole" from which comes our word "jolly." These things as well as the Santa Claus idea have come to dominate the center of the stage of the great portion of even Christian observance of Christmas.

### Can Be Beautiful

Although there is no scriptural grounds for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus into the world, I do not believe that we could object to such, if indeed we make it true to its supposed purpose. It can be made a beautiful and profitable observance within the church and in the home.

The thing I wish to warn against is not the keeping of Christmas, but against keeping it in a meaningless fashion; yea even in a manner which insults and disgraces the very Saviour whom it is supposed to honor. I would warn against an observance of Christ-

mas which minimizes the Christ Child and magnifies the Santa Claus. I would warn against breeding greed and selfishness in the hearts of our children rather than a spirit of unselfish sacrifice which this season should generate.

Since the Bible does not prescribe for us the manner in which this season is to be kept, it is up to us to ascertain from a sincere search of the Bible record, and the life and teachings of Jesus, what things we ought to do to make this occasion one that would perpetuate a proper concept of Jesus.

I assert with all the energy of my soul that if Christmas does not honor Christ then Christians ought to have nothing to do with it and its hollow mockery. Our Lord is too Holy and too good to us for us to follow blindly the traditions of men who have commercialized and paganized the remembrance of His sacred incarnation until it has lost its intended purpose to the millions of the world. If we are not careful we shall be found guilty of that same hypocritical blindness of which Jesus accused the religious leaders of His day in Mark 7:6-13. "This people honoreth me with their lips but their heart is far from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God ye hold the traditions of men — Making the word of God of none effect through your traditions."

If we would celebrate the birth of our Blessed Lord let us do it as did the Shepherds and the wise men. They came and worshipped, they opened unto Him their treasures and departed to make known abroad the "good news" that God had made known to them. Let us as Christians magnify Christmas as a time of self sacrifice of giving unto Christ through our foreign mission offering that all men may know "the good tidings of great joy."

## Evangelism

Wherever the Southern Baptist Program has been honestly tried, it has been effective in winning more souls. What more proof do Baptist pastors and associational leaders need before seriously and conscientiously instituting this program, both in the local church and on the associational level? The strength of such program is found only when followed year after year. The Liberty Baptist Association in Arkansas has its simultaneous revival dates set for 1957 and 1958, with the directors for each crusade committed. The writer urges every pastor and associational leader in Arkansas to plan for and enter into this program in 1957. He firmly believes that if every association, and every church in that association in the Southern Baptist Convention, joined together in simultaneous revivals each year through 1959 (the year set for all Baptists in America to enter into simultaneous revivals) it may well be expected that Southern Baptist churches will grow by one million in membership in the one year, 1959. The writer further urges every pastor to buy the book, "The Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism," and to learn the program and to follow it. This is the best and only Southern Baptist program of evangelism. Unquestionably something better comes along, every pastor and church and association may do well to follow this program.

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"Meditate a little on the mercy of the Lord: it is tender mercy; a great mercy; undeserved mercy; rich mercy; manifold mercy, and unfailing mercy."

—Spurgeon

## A Hang-Over

The dentist had my head pushed back and mouth propped open. Using an instrument like a crochet needle he pushed, poked, probed and pried. When he came out to give me a little relief, I shook my dizzy head.

"You feel like you have a hang-over, don't you?" Before I had time to reply, he continued, "Oh! I forgot. You preachers don't know anything about a hang-over, do you?"

"Yes, I do," I replied. "I know a great deal about a hang-over."

An expression of surprise came over his face.

"I know a widow and three small children," I continued, "whose home was broken by death caused by alcohol. The husband made big money when sober, but the results of his riotous living left the full burden of dire poverty hanging-over that little family and its weight will affect them all through life."

Then I told him of a close relative of mine who lost his life last year when hit by a drunken driver leaving a pall hanging-over the loved ones.

After I had finished talking my dentist was ready to agree that preachers know more about a hang-over than he ever thought.

—Bruce H. Price

## Steadfast

"... he shall be like a tree . . ."

When beautiful Alumni Memorial Chapel of the Southern Seminary was in the planning stage, it was found that a towering beech stood in the way. Workmen went to work to dig the tree up by the roots. Day after day they toiled. Gradually a great mass of roots was revealed.

Here was the secret of the strength and endurance of the tree. Here was how it had been able to stand through the storms of a century, a thing of beauty.

The righteous man is like the tree in the quality of steadfastness. He cannot be removed from his upright stand for truth and righteousness. He has integrity. He cannot be bribed. He is not blown about by the winds of false doctrine. He is able to give every one a reason for the hope that is within him. In the storms of adversity and sorrow that may beat upon him, he is able to stand. For the hidden roots of his life are fastened upon Jesus Christ and his righteousness.

God's man is a man of endurance. He is not a hothouse plant. He is not brought up in artificial surroundings. He stands in the heat of the day. The winds blow upon him and the elements beat upon him. But in all of his being tossed about, he develops strength of character. For his life is nourished by the living Christ.

—Erwin L. McDonald

## Skinner Goes to Washington

E. M. Skinner resigned the pastorate of First Church, Rogers, effective December 2 to serve in Washington state. He was with the Rogers church approximately two years.

Let's have jingle bells and a merry Christmas—not sirens and a hospital bed. The National Safety Council says drive with reason this holiday season. Avoid traffic accidents!

—The Union Signal

## The Master's Voice

By CHAPLAIN W. W. HAMILTON, Southern Baptist Hospital  
New Orleans, Louisiana

All of us will remember the great trade-mark used by the phonograph company, portraying a little dog, all attention because the record was bringing to the little black and white pet "His Master's Voice". How varied and how different are the tones of the human voice, metallic or soulful, weak or strong, repelling or wooing, thrilling or compelling, and something which nothing inanimate can reproduce!

Longfellow said, "The soul reveals itself in the voice only, as God revealed himself to the prophet of old in the still small voice and in the word at the burning bush". Another says, "The soft contralto notes of a woman's voice are born in the immediate region of the heart". "The human voice is the organ of the soul". How many, many times do we long for the voice that is still, stored as it is in memory's treasury!

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me"; "a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers". "I am the Good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine". The Bible is the Master's voice to the Christian, written and preserved under divine guidance, and bidding us confess and follow the Son of God.

When Jesus was baptized there was a voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him". At another time, when he was asking the Father to glorify his name, there came a voice from heaven saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again". Some who stood by said that an angel spoke to him, but Jesus heard and recognized the voice of his Father.

One time while pastor in Virginia the writer went to the railroad station in the small town to

meet the evangelist who was coming to be with us in the revival meetings. In answer to my enquiry the agent said he supposed the train was on time that he had not heard from it, and while waiting we sat down on the stone doorstep. Presently another railroad man came out to sit with us. As we talked the agent spoke across me to the other man, and said "The train is thirty-five minutes late". I looked at him and said, "Where did you get that?" "You told me you had not heard from it".

The agent's reply was, "Why, that instrument in there just said so, didn't you hear it?" No, I heard it ticking away, but it did not say anything to me, for I did not know its language. One man in the church will hear the singing, will like the preacher, will participate in the service, but will get no message from God. To the one who sits beside him there will be more than a crowd of people, more than a pleasing service, for to him will come the presence and the voice of the Master.

It was the Master's voice, speaking through the worker to the poor fellow in the gutter, and it said to the outcast man, "You need Jesus, my boy, and God sees you and loves you". That voice called him home to his loved ones in South Carolina and to a changed life. The missionary, ready to flee from the African savages who had surrounded his hut, heard the words of Jesus, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world", and David Livingstone won those African people to himself and to his Saviour.

"I need thy presence every passing hour

What, but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?

Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine,  
Lord, abide with me."

## Baptist Official Opposes Change In Trust Fund Tax Rule

By Religious News Service

A Baptist official urged the House Ways and Means Committee to reject a proposal by the Treasury Department that would make it more difficult for philanthropists to set up reversionary trust funds to benefit churches, hospitals and colleges.

George L. Shearin, secretary and legal counsel of the endowment department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told a subcommittee on tax revision that the proposal is contrary to establish public policy of encouraging private charitable gifts. He said it would cause hardship to Baptist institutions.

At present, if a donor gives irrevocable control over the income from a reversionary trust to a

charitable institution for a period of two years or more this income is tax-exempt during the time of use by the charitable group even though the donor may take back the property given to the trust whenever he wishes.

The Treasury, calling this provision a "loophole" that has been abused, has asked Congress to require that income of the trust be given to charity for a minimum of ten years to qualify for tax exemption.

"There are a few individuals who can and will give up a portion of their income for two, three or possibly five years to help institutional beneficiaries," Mr. Shearin told the subcommittee, "but how many individuals can

Records show that we have 30,-000,000 unchurched youth in our country. This is an appalling number and easily shows one what causes such widespread child delinquency. We cannot let this many young people go untrained in moral and spiritual values and expect our nation to survive as a great influence in the world. Not only does our nation suffer but these youth experience tragedy within their own lives when they are not given an opportunity to develop in those values which are so essential to happiness and usefulness.

It is a matter of record that less than five per cent of the young people who are hailed into court attend Sunday school and church. This is proof enough that the Sunday schools and the churches have a rewarding influence over their members. When the churches fail to reach the young people they can expect increased drinking, delinquency, and law-breaking. We, as religious leaders, have a definite responsibility to reach these young people for Christ not only for their sake, but for our nation's sake.

We feel Southern Baptists are using every opportunity to influence our young people for the churches. The degree of success

In Seattle, the Washington Times reports that 70 per cent of all arrests in Seattle involve alcohol, that statistics show it takes at least five hours of an officer's time for the arrest and the sentencing of a drunk. The city established an alcohol rehabilitation project in 1947 which has succeeded in completely rehabilitating about 15 out of every 100 patients entered. There are some 16,-000 alcoholics in Seattle, the paper reports, and nearly 52,000 in the State of Washington.

—Clipsheet

## Unchurched Youth

By LEON MACON

we are attaining is well illustrated in the large number of our young people who are training for the Baptist ministry or some form of religious service. Where other denominations are experiencing great shortage of students comparing for a religious calling, Baptists are having to provide extra seminaries to take care of this growing group of youth who are entering full-time Christian service. This proof alone should greatly encourage all of our people who are sharing in our vast program to reach our young people, and all ages for that matter.

Precious things do not come without effort. We have a great program throughout our Convention and as long as it is bearing good fruits we should never think of lessening our efforts, but redouble them and enlist more people in the services the church renders society through its youth and others.

Our task is simply not done when we know there are 30,000,-000 unchurched young people in our land. Other denominations are awakening to the challenge and there is a constant increase in the programs aimed to preserve our youth and redeem our delinquents.

—The Alabama Baptist

## CHURCH RECREATION WORKERS TO BE TRAINED

A Special Workers' Church Recreation Workshop, directed by the Church Recreation Service of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be held in Nashville January 29-31.

The purpose of the workshop is to train workers to assist churches in their recreation needs.

Mrs. Lake Pylant, secretary of the Board's Recreation Service, said more than 25 persons from all areas of the Convention will attend the workshop.

## DRAFTSMEN NEEDED AT BAPTIST SS BOARD

W. A. Harrell, secretary Church Architecture Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, is anxious to secure the names of draftsmen interested in employment.

Harrell said the drafting room of the Church Architecture Department is in need of draftsmen. Both men and women are invited to apply.

## SS BOARD'S LITERATURE REACHES FAR AND WIDE

"The Reach of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Periodicals," is a new booklet published by the Service Division of the Board. It covers acres within the United States and sixty-five countries and shows the editors of the Board's seventy-nine different periodicals.

## The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

By BAKER JAMES CAUTHEN

Through Woman's Missionary Union Southern Baptists are called this month to bring a Christmas gift to Jesus in the Lottie Moon Offering.

It is more than a gift of money. It is a gift of intercessory prayer, a dynamic mission study, and life dedication. It closes the year on a high peak of emphasis upon the worldwide commission of our Lord.

Gratitude to God for the Lottie Moon Offering fills the hearts of missionaries. Without this Offering heartbreaking needs would remain unmet. It would be impossible to extend much of our ministry.

Last year the Lottie Moon Offering reached a total of \$4,628,-891.03. We pray that it may go far beyond that amount this year.

All money given to the Lottie Moon Offering goes to meet needs on mission fields. Those needs are carefully examined and recommended by the Missions (organizations of missionaries on the fields). The recommendations are sent to the Foreign Mission Board where they are thoroughly studied.

A committee representing South-wide Woman's Missionary Union comes to Richmond, Virginia, and reviews these needs in detail.

At the meeting of Southwide Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board in Birmingham, Alabama, the recommendations are again studied and action for approval is taken.

The recommendations are now brought to the Foreign Mission Board through its administrative committee and final approval is given.

For many years all items from the Lottie Moon Offering which constitute a part of the operating budget of the Foreign Mission Board have been adopted by the Board as a part of its annual budget. The amount so included in the 1957 budget is \$1,807,700. The total operating budget of the Board for 1957 is \$8,128,504.34.

### Carefully Administered

No money received by the Foreign Mission Board is more carefully administered than the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This money is one of the most vital factors making for a sound financial position in a vast worldwide foreign mission responsibility.

The remarkable growth in the offering in recent years has been largely to the fact that in thousands of churches the privilege of sharing in the Week of Prayer and the Offering has been extended to all the church membership.

At the meeting of the Executive Board of Southwide Woman's Missionary Union in September a resolution was adopted that Wo-

man's Missionary Union clarify its position by making it understood that the entire church is invited to participate in the weeks of prayer and give to the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong Offerings.

This resolution does not represent a change but is a recognition of a process of growth.

### Every Member Helps

At the very beginning of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the first president of Southwide Woman's Missionary Union, Miss M. E. McIntosh, sent on October 11, 1889, the following word to the Woman's Missionary Societies of the South: "Suppose you seek the co-operation of your pastor and ask him to speak to the ladies some Sunday morning from the pulpit and explain to them about the Christmas Offering and the great need for workers in North China. Last year the president of more than one society put a Christmas envelope in the hands of each member of her church. With the assistance of a few other ladies, she either saw each member personally or sent a note of explanation and invitation with the envelope. The result was a well-attended meeting and a large contribution. Perhaps you would like to try the same plan this year."

For many years all the members of thousands of churches in wide areas have been encouraged to pray, study, and give to the Lottie Moon Offering. In hundreds of additional churches each year this is being done.

Southwide Woman's Missionary Union has let it be known that this support is appreciated and invited.

Wherever the Lottie Moon Offering has been widely encouraged there has developed a parallel increase in support of the Cooperative Program. When fountains of missionary compassion are opened at Christmas they flow freely all through the year.

Where the Offering is widely encouraged an increase in missionary volunteers results. The whole church membership is led to pray, care, and give. This produces an atmosphere in which young people hear God's call.

Where the Offering is widely encouraged there is increased gratitude for the work of Woman's Missionary Union. The aim of this labor is not to glorify their organization but to cultivate the spirit of missions through prayer, study, and giving. The money contributed is not to finance special Woman's Missionary Union projects but is to supply needs on mission fields as recommended by the Missions and approved by the Foreign Mission Board.

This growth of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is in complete harmony with the business and

## Some Questions, Please

By GEORGE W. SCHROEDER, Executive Secretary  
Brotherhood Commission, S.B.C.

We Baptists, staunch believers in the principle of separation of church and state, need to become concerned about some of the events, legislation, and decisions that are taking place in our local, state, and national governments. The principle of separation of church and state is being attacked systematically, consistently, and effectively. Already broadening cracks are appearing in the wall of this great democratic principle of our government. They are breaches that should cause Baptists to become alarmed and excited. Truly the time has come when we Baptists, and especially the men of our thousands of church Brotherhoods, need to ask of those who aspire to offices of government service some pointed questions. We need to learn before their election how they

financial plan of the Southern Baptist Convention as clearly defined in Article VI. The Foreign Mission Board at its annual meeting in October adopted two resolutions expressing appreciation of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the recent positions stated by Southwide Woman's Missionary Union.

Southern Baptists will always insist on several vital values as related to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. First, it should be preceded by a season of prayer and mission study.

Second, it should always be a love offering: a Christmas gift laid at the feet of our Lord.

Third, it should always be an offering for foreign missions.

It is our deep conviction that under the devoted leadership of Woman's Missionary Union these values will be continually strengthened and will be made to bless every area of Southern Baptist life.

On behalf of millions of people throughout the world, whose distress and spiritual darkness call to our compassion, and in view of evident high responsibility of Southern Baptists to march forward in a mighty world ministry in this critical day, I hope that year by year the greatest possible encouragement may be given to the Week of Prayer and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in every church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

A new dynamic upsurge of world mission conviction is moving in the hearts of Southern Baptists today. We do well to remember the words of Jesus, "And no man putteth new wine into old wine-skins; else the wine will burst the skins, and the wine perisheth, and the skins: but they put new wine into fresh wine-skins" (ASV).

May God bless every Southern Baptist who lays a Christmas gift at the feet of our Lord in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

stand on this matter of separation of church and state and what they will do when it comes to the time of voting for the allocation of government monies to support sectarian enterprises.

To be specific, we should ask any Catholic aspirant to a public school board why he seeks to serve in such a position. We should expect a full and truthful answer. The writer does not want to be misunderstood just here. He does not question the right of a Catholic to hold such an office. Every citizen has that right and privilege. He does, however, as a fellow citizen reserve the right to ask such an individual some pointed questions relative to what motivates him to aspire to such a place of public service. They are fair questions, the type that should not be offensive to any person who would seek the vote and confidence of his fellow citizens.

The writer would ask such questions because of the common knowledge of the fact that the Catholic hierarchy does not believe in public education. Consequently, if an individual is identified in his religion with such an hierarchy, then it is fair to ask what he expects to accomplish if he is elected to serve as a member of a public school board. What does he expect to do? Whom does he wish to serve? How can he justify his acts of service on a public school board when his life is identified with a group who do not believe in public education? What will his decisions be in those matters where public tax monies can be diverted to support parochial education? All these questions should be asked and answered clearly by any and every individual who is a Catholic and who would seek to serve on a public school board. Too, they could well be asked of every individual, Catholic or not, who seeks such an office.

Yes, these are pointed questions. But we Baptists need to be asking them.

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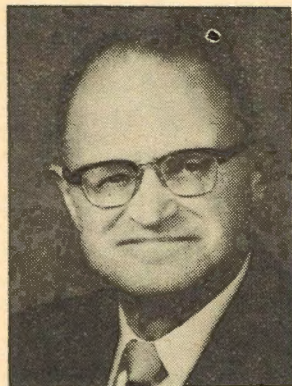
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# ARKANSAS' SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES FOR 1957

**THEME: Jesus Only — His Purpose — His Compassion — His Methods — His workers**



**EDGAR WILLIAMSON**  
Secretary  
State S. S. Dept.

**January Bible Study Week** — January 7-11

**State Vacation Bible School Conferences**

First Church, Ft. Smith, Feb. 4-5  
Southside Church, Pine Bluff, Feb. 7-8

**Associational Groups Schools** — February 18-22

**Vacation Bible School Month** — June

**Arkansas Baptist State Assemblies**

First Assembly — June 27-July 2  
Second Assembly — July 4-9



**ERNEST ADAMS**  
Associate  
State S. S. Dept.

**Arkansas Sunday School Week — Ridgcrest**, July 25-31. A chartered, air-conditioned bus leaves Little Rock, July 24. Leaves Ridgcrest July 31. For further information write Dr. Edgar Williamson 314 Baptist Building.

**State Associational Officers Planning Meeting** — First Church, North Little Rock, September 9.

**Simultaneous Associational Planning Meetings** — September 10.

**Preparation Week** — September 22-29.

**Southwide Regional Teaching Clinic**, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, October 7-11.

**Five Regional Conferences**, October 14-19.

- October 14 — Central Church, Jonesboro
- October 15 — Second Church, Pine Bluff
- October 16 — Beech Street Church, Texarkana
- October 17 — Second Church, Little Rock
- October 18 — Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

**Four Special Sunday School Lessons.** Theme — "World Missions"

All Sunday schools will be asked to set aside four Sundays during the year to teach especially prepared lessons on the Convention theme for the year. These special lessons will be published and provided by the State Sunday School Department.

**Special Sunday School Lesson Dates, Subjects and Writers.**

- March 31 — "Unto the Uttermost" — Dr. W. O. Vaught, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.
- June 30 — "Unto Jerusalem" — Dr. I. L. Yearby, State Secretary, Department of Evangelism
- Sept. 30, Oct. 27 — "Unto Judea and Samaria" — Dr. C. W. Caldwell, State Secretary, Department of State Missions.

# Children's Page

## Raccoons Tamed and Untamed

By AYLESA FORSEE

People who have raccoons for pets claim they are smarter than dogs. Coons learn quickly to unlock cages, unbuckle collars or mimic their owners. One man taught his pet to sit up and salute whenever he heard a recording of the "Star Spangled Banner."

But raccoons can be pests in the house. Curious and fun-loving, they will snoop into everything from the flour bin to a jewel box. They like to climb. Unless carefully trained while very young they will climb over furniture, up curtains, or pull tablecloths to the floor. They chew shoes, lick sugar from the bowl and hide anything small enough for them to carry around.

Young raccoons tumble and box like little kittens. They like to be stroked and have their ears scratched.

The raccoon has a roly-poly body covered with thick hair ranging from light tan to a brown that is almost black. The hair is straight and soft. Mr. Coon has an almost pretty face, saucy whiskers, and perky ears.

His tail is ringed and bushy. Around his piercing eyes is a mask of darker fur that makes him look like a bandit.

Most raccoons live in the woods — not in people's houses. Mr. Coon especially likes a nice warm southern woodland. Here he picks a tree that he can scurry up and down with ease, a tree close to a pond or stream.

Mr. Coon is always looking for something new to do. He explores constantly. Sometimes he gets himself wedged in a hollow log.

For the raccoon, daytime is bedtime. All day he snoozes in a tree — a hollow one if he can find it.

When night comes he pads around on black-soled feet, whooping and hollering, or looking for food. Mr. Coon has a huge appetite and eats a wide variety of things — roots, birds, berries, fish, frogs, grain, nuts, insects. When he's in oyster country he cracks the shells with his strong teeth and eats the oysters. Should picnickers come his way he'll try anything from dog food to olives, macaroons, peanuts or candy.

Mr. Coon eats daintily holding his food in a skillful, hand-like paw. When there is water handy he washes every bite of food before eating. He will sit dripping morsels into the water over and over.

Some say Mr. Coon washes his food because he is cleaner than other animals. Others point out that he can't chew very well and that he moistens his food to make it easier.

Raccoons take good care of their young. Mother Coon carries babies in her teeth the way cats carry kittens. Patiently she teaches the little ones where to find food, how to hide from enemies, how to swim.

Raccoons lead a dangerous life. Large animals prey upon them. They are also at the mercy of men with guns who want their skins for fur coats or Davy Crockett caps. They also have a keen sense of smell that warns them away from their enemies.

Whether Mr. Coon is a household pet or a woodland rover he is fun to watch and he has a likeable, cute manner. Sometimes we learn something from our animal friends. Mr. Coon's neatness, his eagerness to learn are good habits for any of us to have.

## God's Wondrous World

By THELMA C. CARTER

When we look at the green hills, russet earth, purple mountain peaks, blue-green lakes and clear streams, we forget that the face of the earth is terribly disfigured with wrinkles and blemishes. "Does God care?" we may ask.

Yes! He cares! Our Bible tells us, many times, of His great concern for the earth. "Great is our Lord—" "who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains." Psalm 147:5, 8.

Nature, God's masterpiece, is eternally at work removing the scars left by storms, floods, glaciers and volcanoes. Not overlooked are the deep wounds our highways cut into the land — quarries, excavations, mines, atomic bombs, etc.

One day, take a long, thoughtful look at nature restoring her prairies, deserts, fields!

Mountains shift their position! Rivers change their beds! The earth's face is continually powdered with dust, carried by the winds and deposited in rock crevices, ravines, swamps, river and ocean beds.

Winds and waves batter rock cliffs and bluffs into sediment, which along with mud and vegetable debris, are deposited in the gaps of the earth's surface.

Isn't the miracle of nature at work restoring the earth's beauty a wonderful reminder of God's redeeming power working eternally in our hearts to rid us of the scars of sin, doubt and unbelief?

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## The WMU Wishes You a Happy, Blessed Christmas!

MISS NANCY COOPER

Mrs. R. E. Hagood  
Miss Sara Ann Hobbs  
Mrs. Lola Cowger

Mrs. Ed Nelson  
Mrs. W. C. Edwards  
Miss Ruth Skiles

God bless you all  
This Christmas Day;  
May Bethlehem's star  
Still light the way,  
And guide thee to  
The perfect peace  
When every fear  
And doubt shall cease,  
And may thy home  
Such glory know  
As did the stable  
Long ago.

—EDGAR A. GUEST

### "CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST"

Some seasonal materials relative to Christmas are suggested by Mrs. L. D. Mack, State WMU Community Missions Chairman. In connection with the December emphasis on anti-alcohol Christmas celebrations (see the Community Missions column, page 25, December Royal Service) Mrs. Mack suggests that members of the WMU organizations use "Christmas for Christ" stamps, obtainable from

National Temperance League  
131 Independence Ave., S. E.  
Washington, D. C.

The stamps, printed 50 to a sheet, are available at the following prices: 4 sheets for \$1.00; 12 sheets for \$2.00. Here are a few suggested uses: On Christmas cards, letters, packages; on letters to business firms urging them to hold "spiritless" Christmas parties; by tearing out Christmas liquor ads, attaching a stamp and mailing the ads back to the publisher.

"Christmas and You," is a folder in green and white suitable for inclusion in Christmas baskets and gifts. Again the appeal is personal. The leaflet may be ordered from Good News Publishers, 411 South Wells Street, Chicago 7, Illinois. Price, \$1.00 for 125. This company has other Christmas tracts at the same price, such as: "Christmas Sweetest Story," "If Christ Had not Come," "The Free Gift of Christmas," and "God's Supreme Gift."

### A NEW DAY DAWNED

"A new day has dawned for our church. I baptized three, the first baptisms in ten years." That was the message from a second year student in the Bible Institute at Nassau.

It is a sample of what that training is meaning to the progress of the Lord's work in the Bahamas. The Institute is a venture of faith, begun in the rented home of Dr. and Mrs. John Mein in 1953. They had found that only 4 or 5 men in the member-

ship of 200 churches had been to school beyond the primary grades. Training for leadership was desperately needed. The additional allocations of 1954 gave money for land for the institute and missionary residences. The additional allocations of 1955 gave \$40,000 for building the first unit of the Bible Institute.

What if there had been no additional allocations! People are groping for fuller understanding of the gospel, for know-how to win others. We must continue to help train ministers and church leadership. Give and pray.

### NEWS FROM MISS COOPER AND MISS COBB

From Quito, Ecuador, on November 24th Miss Nancy Cooper, who is visiting mission fields in South America, with Miss Elma Cobb, writes: "Greetings from the equator! It is quite an experience to stand with one foot in the southern and one in the northern hemisphere."

Womans Missionary Union  
Mrs. Ed. Nelson, Office Sec'y.

—000—

Fifty per cent of the divorces granted in North Dakota each year are caused by alcoholism, according to figures just released by the North Dakota State Alcoholism Commission.

—Clipsheet

## GOWNS

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## Times Demand Red-Hot Evangelism

The descriptive words of the following paragraphs, by a famous evangelist of Great Britain, give us a picture of the world today. He says:

"Humanity staggers from crisis to calamity, and calamity to chaos — with the abandon of a light-hearted inebriate. This is the peak hour of human folly. Communism strangles the nations, and carnality straps the Church.

"This is the hour for a trumpet-voiced prophet! He must have the beating, throbbing heart of Paul, and the compassionate heart of Jeremiah when he cried, 'See if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.' He must have the fire-baptized heart of John the Baptist.

"This is the calamity hour of the ages. Science has jumped ahead of men with Atomic power while the Church drags behind for lack of Holy Ghost power. God's man for this tense term of time, must be out of step with the orthodox inertia of this end-time, cozy Christianity."

Business as usual, will not do for times like these. There must be extraordinary praying, extraordinary witnessing, extraordinary preaching, extraordinary Christian living, all to the end that the salvation of souls may be realized.

The end of all Christian institutions, that which gives value to them, is the salvation of souls. The end for which Christ lives, and for which He has left His Church in the world, is the Salvation of sinners.

This is the business which God sets His servants about; and if any man, calling himself a Christian, and paying outward respect to religion, be not doing this, as his business — as the leading and main object of his life — he is not truly serving and obeying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, my brother preachers and fellow Christians of Arkansas, when will we realize that we are here with a commission to "send the Gospel of salvation to a world of dying men, tell it out to every nation till the Lord shall come again."

### Ten Significant Years in Evangelism

This year, 1957, marks the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Department of Evangelism under the Home Mission Board, with a Southern Baptist Coordinated Program of Evangelism.

In the ten years (1937-1946) before we had the "Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism," churches of the Southern Baptist Convention baptized 2,325,340.

In the ten years (1947-1956) since the inauguration of a Department of Evangelism with a Coordinated Program of Evangelism, Southern Baptist churches have baptized 3,611,823.

This is a total gain in the ten-year period of 1,286,483 baptisms; an average gain of 128,648 baptisms per year.

In Arkansas the ten-year period before the Program of Evangelism was inaugurated, our Baptist churches baptized 91,541. During the ten years since Program of Evangelism was inaugurated, our churches have baptized 141,454. This is a gain of 41,913 baptisms in the ten-year period. These results are abundant evidence of God's approval upon the "Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism."

Yet, the reports reveal that only 966 of our 1,166 churches, reported any baptisms during the year 1956. These 966 churches reported only 13,449 baptisms for the year. This is almost 2,000 less baptisms than we had in 1955. Furthermore, we must face the tragic fact that two hundred of our churches did not report a single baptism for the year 1956.

We can and must improve this record in 1957. Here is how it can be done. If 800 of our active pastors would win one soul to Christ and the church each quarter (every four months), that would be 3,200. If the 966 churches, which won and baptized one or more souls in 1956, would each win and baptize just two more in 1957 than they did in 1956, that would be a total of 15,581 baptisms. Then, if the 200 churches that did not baptize anyone in 1956 would win and baptize at least ONE in 1957, that would be 200 more. All these together would make a grand total of 18,781 baptisms in 1957.

This is not unreasonable and it certainly is not impossible. We should not be satisfied to do less. I know God expects the Baptists of Arkansas to win more souls to Christ than we did last year. God will help us to do it. We must all pray and work and witness to that end.

### STATE-WIDE EVANGELISTIC CONFERENCE NEXT

PLACE—FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH LITTLE ROCK

DATE—JANUARY 21-23, 1957

PROGRAM—SUPERB

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND

Department of Evangelism  
I. L. Yearby, Secretary

In France, the "dark" days of Pierre Mendes-Frances are over, and French school children can soon give up their milk and back to spiking their drinking water with wine. The French National Assembly's committee on beverages voted in October to demand that the public schools permit pupils to add wine to their water as they did before Mendes-France was premier.

—Clipsheet



## How much does this "tax curtain" cost you?

A strange kind of tax favoritism separates a few million families and businesses from most Americans when it comes to paying taxes on electricity.

The people in this "privileged class" pay little or no taxes in their electric bills, while everybody else does (about 23 cents out of each dollar spent for electricity). Because the few don't pay their fair share of taxes, you and other taxpayers are taxed millions more every year to make up the difference.

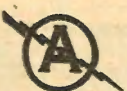
There's nothing different or special about the people behind this "tax curtain." They just happen to get electricity from government power plants, and government in the electric business pays little or no taxes.

This kind of tax favoritism is unfair—and unusual in America. That's why we believe it should be made widely known and given critical study.

Arkansas

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# The Way of Christian Love

By BURTON A. MILEY

The thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians is "The Hymn of Love." Some scriptures are best known but the one for today is surely best loved. It was written by a particular group of Christians at Corinth who had strife and discord among them. The strong cord that would tie them in unity was love. The Corinthian church was endowed with many fine spiritual gifts which were a sign of strength. The exercise of these gifts was to be for the good of the whole body. However, the way of love is superior to all others. It is the excelling way.

The last verse of chapter twelve goes with chapter thirteen. Some one questions the kind of love Paul referred to. Was it the love of God for man, or man's love for man? Three words are used in the Bible for love. One is a mild word which clearly means friendship. The other is a word that belongs to the physical senses. It is love for an adorable object or person. The third word is one of the highest associations, it is love which roots in the undeserved goodness men have received in Christ. This without doubt is the type of which the author writes.

This love reveals itself in certain actions that are noteworthy. Three words have one thing in common. Each produces activity. Friendship produces activity for friend. Sensual love produces activity among the adored and adorable. The love which is grounded in the goodness which Christ has given to men produces activity toward God which affects man in relation to God and his fellowman; this the Corinthian church needed. The chapter falls into three logical divisions.

## THE SUPERIORITY OF LOVE (Vs. 1-3)

"Charity" is really love. It is one of the words which in 1611 (the time of the King James version) meant one thing but now carries a different meaning. Charity now produces the idea of a gift to the poor or some proffered relief. The entire thirteenth chapter has more sense when "love" is substituted wherever the word "charity" appears. The writer has spoken of spiritual gifts in the twelfth chapter. Now he speaks of the superior gift which exceeds that of tongues, prophecy, miracle working faith, and liberality in gifts. "Tongues" are discussed in chapter four. Paul knew of two kinds. The one man used and those which angels used. It is not certain whether he uses "tongues of men and of angels" as the extremes of speech or to include all speech. But it is certain that regardless of how speech is made, if it is not undergirded with love it is without

## Sunday School Lesson

December 16, 1956

1 Corinthians 13

value. The gong and cymbal were used in the temple worship. neither of these instruments makes melody when alone. Their use was to accent overall worship. "Speaking in tongues" is without meaning if separated and used by itself.

None of the spiritual gifts named are criticized. Prophecy, miracle working faith, and liberality are contrasted with love. If they are done without love, they become meaningless. They leave the user the value of zero when it stands alone. Love is the excelling way in all gifts. Man is to develop any capacity which he has. If his capacity is in the field of science, art, music, elocutions, religion, or social work, it is Christian responsibility to develop to the maximum. But none of these fields is worthy of development apart from undergirding love. The excelling way should stand as a canopy over every endeavor.

## THE NATURE OF LOVE (4-7)

Paul does not try to define love. He tells how it works. Perhaps love cannot be defined. Yet it is recognized by saint and sinner wherever it is in existence. It carries qualities that so peculiarly belong to it that there is no mistaking the source. Love is patient and kind. There were difficult people in the church at Corinth. They were brusque and were apt to hurt tender feelings and place strain on relationships. But love would bind them all into perfect harmony because of its long suffering. The absence of envy plus the fact that love never boasts itself up causes unity where it lives. Love and humility are two virtues which one does not boast of when he possesses them. To boast of either is to give evidence it is not present. Love has excellent manners. It is not arrogant. It is not rude. It does not fly off the handle and love does not insist on its own way. Love bows to the desires of others. It lives to give and share instead of get. Love sees to the benefit of the whole body above selfish gratification. Love is not resentful, neither is it irritable. The life of Jesus shines true at each of these qualities. His actions show His possession. If he had not possessed this love, man would never have been the recipient of His grace.

## THE PERMANENCY OF LOVE (8-13)

Love does not fail. It does not come to an end. Love is eternal and final for it is the very essence of God Himself. Infatuation is evanescent. It bubbles high and it runs low to finally play out. Pursuit of sensual finally brings tiredness and one turns to rest like the hare in the race of the turtle and hare. However, Jesus gave the right illustration in John 13:1. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." He made promise in the Great Commission "Lo, I am with you always . . . to the end of the world." This is evidence that true love is permanent and does not end.

This cannot be said of other gifts. Prophecy ceases at fulfillment. Tongues come to an end. They do not maintain lasting value. Knowledge changes and passes away. Love glides on through all the changing conditions surrounding it to come to perfect rest in its creator. Man himself changes. His childhood leads him to one set of expressions, his adulthood to another. Love is as sweet and changeless on the aged dying saint's lips as it is in the profession from a new believer.

## PRACTICAL LESSONS

Man cannot return God's love but he can respond to it. An individual is incapable of loving as God loves, but he can respond to God's love. Qualities within his life become God-like qualities. Men have been lifted through this response to the love of God. Sin has been rebuked and righteousness given way to love. A constant worry is not the return of God's love, but the response that keeps coming with the force of everlasting flowing waters.

Love is the best way. Paul gives a picture to a richly endowed congregation of that which counts most. He lifts tribute to the way of love as being the best way. He does not say that it is the only way, but suggests that it is the

highest. No other spiritual gift is to be shunned. The best way is not to be displaced by other gifts. Hate, envy, malice, mockery and scorn leave mars upon every life they infest. Love heals and covers all scars. It serves the highest good in the furthestmost manner. It is best and it lasts longest.

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## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### WORKSHOPS PLANNED BY BOARD'S SERVICE DIVISION

Two Special Activities Workshops, planned and sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be held February 4-5 in Pensacola, Florida, and February 25-26 in Alexandria, La.

Dr. H. E. Ingraham, director of the Board's Service Division, will direct the workshops, assisted by department secretaries in the Service Division.

The purpose of the workshops is to reinforce the whole program of the churches by careful, intensive attention, study, and planning in the following areas:

The physical plant — the building or buildings in which and from which the church carries on its work.

The book ministry of the church through the Church Library to serve every person and every need.

The Church Recreation Service for all age groups, all agencies, and all types of wholesome recreation.

How complete and correct church records, made easily available, can help all areas of work.

How improved publicity materials can be used in all phases of church work to produce results.

The possibilities of a new approach to the interpretation of the church and its life and ministries to the church itself and to all the publics of the church, through a Church Public Relations approach.

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# Executive Board STATE CONVENTION



B. L. Bridges, General Secretary; Ralph Douglas, Associate; 100 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Ark.

## We Offer Help

By DR. BEN L. BRIDGES

Some brethren approached us one day and told us that their pastor was loafing and the work was not doing well. They did not have any bitter charge against their preacher except that they did not feel that he was taking his work seriously enough to be a good thinker and a hard worker. We did not discuss the matter at length with these brethren. We decided to offer our young preachers some suggestions that we

know will help them.

There are at least three qualities that any preacher must have if he wants to be a success. First, he must have a prayer life. Second, he must keep his Bible before him in a diligent study of it. Third, he must work.

A long time ago we knew a brother in the ministry that did not seem to know how to study. There was nothing wrong with his life except he didn't seem to

know that it takes very hard work to be an effective minister of the Gospel. This writer does not claim to have been a howling success, but there is one thing that helped him a great deal in his younger ministry and we are giving it on this page today hoping that some of our preachers will profit by it. It is a schedule of the writer's program week in and week out. Here it is:

HOURS	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
5:30 to 6	News- paper	News- paper	News- paper	News- paper	News- paper	News- paper	News- paper
6 to 6:30	Bath Shave	Bath Shave	Bath Shave	Bath Shave	Bath Shave	Bath Shave	Bath Shave
6:30 to 6:45	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion
6:45 to 7	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
7 to 7:30	Planning Work	Planning Work	Planning Work	Planning Work	Planning Work	Planning Work	Review Sermon
7:30 to 8:30	Review Sunday Experience	Meditation	Meditation	Meditation	Meditation	Meditation	Meditation
8:30 to 9	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise	Exercise
9 to 10	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Sunday School
10 to 11	Work on Sermon	Work on Address	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Sunday School
11 to 12	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Work on Sermon	Preach
12 to 1	Eat	Club	Eat	Eat	Eat	Eat	Eat
1 to 2	Plan Church Work	Plan Church Work	Study the Members	Corres- pondence	Do Repairs	Visit on Streets	Rest
2 to 2:30	Prayer	Prayer	Prayer	Prayer	Prayer	Visit on Streets	Rest
2:30 to 3	Calling	Calling	Calling	Calling	Calling	Visit on Streets	Calling
3 to 4	Calling	Calling	Calling	Calling	Calling	Calling	Calling
4 to 5	Childrens Hour	Childrens Hour	Childrens Hour	Childrens Hour	Childrens Hour	Meditation	Meditation
5 to 5:30	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family
5:30 to 6:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
6:30 to 7:30	Miscella- neous	Miscella- neous	Teachers	Miscella- neous	Miscella- neous	Miscella- neous	Training Union
7:30 to 8:30	Visit	Visit	Prayer Meeting	Visit	Visit	Visit	Sermon
8:30 to 9	Visit	Visit	Prayer Meeting	Visit	Visit	Visit	Visit
9 to 9:30	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family
9:30 to 10	Bible	Bible	Bible	Bible	Bible	Bible	Bible
10	Retire	Retire	Retire	Retire	Retire	Retire	Retire

## Price of This Paper Will Be Increased

The Executive Board of the Convention finds it necessary to increase the subscription price of the "Arkansas Baptist". The regular subscription will be \$2.25 and the church budget subscription will be 14c per family per month, or \$1.68 annually. A group of ten or more may have the paper for \$1.75 each per year. This all begins January 1, 1957.

It has been a long long time since the Convention increased the subscription price of the paper. The writer cannot remember when any increase was made it has been so long. Meanwhile, everything else has increased. The cost of labor has increased perhaps twofold. The cost of paper stock on which the paper is printed has increased time and time again. The Editor and Business Manager has fought hard to keep the paper subscription price the same. None of the Board or the office wanted to increase the price, but it finally came to the point where something had to be done. The paper office had used up all of its surplus and a large shipment of paper stock will have to be paid for very soon. The only alternative seemed to be an increase in subscription rates and this is what the Board decided to do.

We are sure that all the brethren will fully understand that this increase in price is due and is not out of line with all other expenses in the field of Christian service. —B.L.B.

### Preachers

Brother Preacher, Brother King is preparing the annual for the press. Is your name listed in the 1955 annual? If not, you should immediately send us your name and the position you occupy unless you registered as a messenger at the Convention. In that case he has your record already. If you are only a licensed preacher or not a pastor be sure to indicate that when you write. Address your card to Rev. Dawson King, Baptist Building, 401 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas. —B.L.B.

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In New York, Statten Island District Attorney John M. Braisted, Jr., termed the use of intoxicating liquors by teenagers a chief cause for crime. Braisted said that the majority of cases handled by his office involved teenage offenders and that almost in every instance intoxicating liquors played a part in the crimes they committed. —Clipsheet

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