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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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-Religious News Service Photo.



The Silver Bells of Christmas

By SAMUEL M. LINDSAY

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

It was the week before Christmas, and the department store was crowded with customers.

At the main entrance, it was difficult to get either in or out because of the crowd. As I stood waiting for a chance to get in the revolving door, I heard a little girl in her mother's arms say, "Mother, hear the music." The child was silent for a moment, then again she said, "Hear the music." Her mother asked, "Where?" The little girl pointed upward with her finger and said, "It is up above us."

Like the mother, I heard no music, but attracted by the conversation, I looked up and listened. The little girl was right. Among the decorations above the entrance there were some silver bells ringing softly, and those who listened could hear their sweet melody. In the crowd there were those who only heard their own voices, others who heard nothing save the noise of the traffic, but the little girl with the blue eyes and flaxen hair heard the music above.

On the world's first Christmas Day Judea was in a turmoil. Caesar Augustus was making a census of the people and property. Every man was required to register at the place of his birth, and Bethlehem, like the other villages, was crowded with those who believed it best to obey the voice of Caesar.

In the inn at Bethlehem a crowd listened to the Zealots who thundered forth their condemnation of the Roman government and to patriarchal-looking Jews who recited the promises of the prophets.

On the hills outside the village, a number of lonely shepherds awakened to the music above. They heard a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Almost two thousand years have passed, and another Christmas Day is near. Some of us can only hear the bell-like TAOTI TAOTA satisfied minorities within the nation. Others hear the voice of folly and are engaged in the pursuit of pleasure. Then there are others who listen to the voice of mammon and are hungry for wealth and power. But in every community there are those who realize that God has set the silver bells of Christmas ringing, and they will listen to the music above.

The silver bells of Christmas sing to us of peace, good will, and salvation. These are the

three gifts that God bestows at Christmas time upon all who open their hearts to Him.

These three are what the world needs most of all. If you are searching for peace, good will, and salvation, you can find them at Bethlehem.

—*Watchman Examiner.*

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"And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

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Dallas Methodist Pastor Attacks Gambling Trend

Church members had a preacher's finger pointed at them recently as he preached a sermon on "amateur" gambling. The preacher was Marshall T. Steele of Dallas' Highland Park Methodist Church. According to The Dallas Morning News, Dr. Steele said that "amateur gambling at football games, in private clubs, on the radio, in public schools and at some churches is undermining the American Social structure." The News interpreted the sermon as "pointing a finger at scores of persons on the rolls of his 6000 members congregation." Dr. Steele referred to the gaming laws of the state, with particular reference to selling chances, or engaging in raffles, at school carnivals, church parties and similar gatherings. "If it is wrong," he said, "for Negro boys to shoot craps in Deep Ellum (segregated section of the city), it is wrong for our school children to sell chances to try to win a motor scooter." He had in mind a recent carnival staged at the local junior high school to raise money for student band uniforms. He indicated that some members of the congregation were insensitive to their own gambling while they looked upon other gamblers as sinners. Position and power, he said, are no excuse. "It is high time that church members began to obey the laws," he insisted.

—*The Presbyterian Outlook.*

Man's Approach to God

A Devotion by the Editor

"Come boldly unto the throne of grace."

Surely we must be amazed when we seriously consider the forces of moral persuasion which God has employed to induce human beings to approach Him with glad and confident faith and expectation. It is no less astounding to take account of the rich and ample provision He has made for all those who respond to His appeals.

Germany, by diplomatic pressure and military force, compelled the countries of Europe to bow in submission to her will. Japan subdued the smaller countries near her and undertook to conquer China. The Soviet Union has imposed a humiliating treaty upon the nations of Eastern Europe. Germany, Japan, and Russia have used force of the most cruel kind and brought devastation, hunger, suffering and death to the peoples whom they sub-

God is trying to bring the whole world to bow before His majesty and take the vow of allegiance to Him. But instead of diplomacy He offers forgiveness; instead of force He offers love; instead of bondage He offers freedom; instead of hunger he offers plenty; instead of death He offers life.

And God has put within the heart of man a spark of immortality, the stamp of His personality and nature. This image of the divine vine gives to man a natural impulse, an inner prompting, a longing within his heart to know God. And when the heart of man comes to know God in intimate relationship there is a sense of peace, congeniality, and kinship which makes one feel at home with God.

God has surrounded man with a natural environment which is powerful in its appeal, daily repeating God's invitation to come to Him for life's satisfactions.

There is a whole world of spiritual realities and forces which are even more powerful than their appeal to man to seek the companionship of God and find in and through Him an outlet for the full powers of life.

The invitation has gone out, "come boldly unto the throne of grace." It is being relayed by every Christian voice and echoed from every Christian heart. Those who hear the call and whose hearts answer, "I will," are joining the ranks and marching to that throne of grace. Those who refuse to listen must take a deaf ear to their own hearts, to the voice of nature, and to the call of untold spiritual forces about them.

"Let us come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need" (Hebrew 4:16).

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From The Editor's Desk

If Christ Had Not Come

The observance of Christmas was originated to commemorate the birth of Christ. The world, the flesh, and the Devil have tried to take possession of Christmas for their own devious ends; and they have succeeded to an alarming degree. Christian people have been drawn into the swirl of commercialism and revelry, so that it has become increasingly difficult to preserve the true spirit of Christmas and to make of it a season of worship, praise, prayer, and consecration.

With pointed and poignant emphasis, we may well quote to ourselves the words of Jesus: "If I had not come." That conditional statement opens to us an abyss so dismal and foreboding that we shrink from it with utter amazement and horror. Surely, if anything could arouse us from our smug complacency and awake in us an adequate appreciation of our Christian heritage, these few words should: "If I had not come!"

If Christ had not come, the loss to us would be incalculable. The only adequate and comprehensive appraisal of that loss would be to say, if Christ had not come, all would be lost.

It is only necessary to look around us to see the unspeakable havoc in individual lives, communities, and nations, a havoc which is the direct result of people living as though Christ had not come. All personal sins and rebellions, all brothels of sin, all community iniquities and injustices, all national selfishness and crimes, all gangster nations and international criminals, all wars with their wholesale murder; the whole unspeakable array is the result of just one thing, people living as though Christ had not come.

Present world conditions, from the petty sins and disobediences which lie at our front doors to the global wars which rage with all the fury of a Devil's hell, are an index of the unmeasured and unmeasurable depths of horror to which the world would sink, if Christ had not come.

The loss of all we hold dear is graphically set forth in the simple story of a Christmas card. The title of the card was, "If Christ had not come." It was founded upon Christ's words, "If I had not come." The card represented a minister falling into a short sleep in his study on Christmas morning and dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come. In his dream he found himself looking through his home, but there were no little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out on the public street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to heaven. He came back and sat down in his library, but every book about the Savior had disappeared.

A ring at the door-bell, and a messenger asked him to visit a poor, dying mother. He

hastened with the weeping child and as he reached the home he sat down and said, "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but it ended with Malachi, and there was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation, and he could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair.

Two days afterward he stood beside her coffin and conducted the funeral service, but there was no message of consolation, no word of glorious resurrection, no open heaven, but only "dust to dust, ashes to ashes," and one long eternal farewell. He realized at length that "He had not come," and burst into tears and bitter weeping in his sorrowful dream.

Suddenly he awoke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard his choir singing in his church close by:

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

He did come, and the news of His coming is the most glorious news ever released in the world. May we pass it on until the "good news" is heard by "every creature" in all the world.

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The First Amendment

Last spring the United States Supreme Court ruled in the Vashti-McCollum case that religion should not be taught in the public schools.

Recently the Roman Catholic bishops of the United States, meeting in Washington, D. C., charged that the decision of the Supreme Court was "entirely novel and ominously extensive interpretation" of the First Amendment.

Private Interpretation

As we have reported before, Roman Catholics are now trying to sell to the American people their own private interpretation of the First Amendment; namely, that it prohibits: 1. "the setting up by law of an official church." 2. "discrimination between religious bodies." It is further contended that the First Amendment was not intended to prevent the government from supporting all religions, even to the extent of federal grants from the public treasury.

As a matter of fact, one of the major reasons for the adoption of the First Amendment was to prevent the abuses, which were current in the old world, arising from the financial support of the church by the federal government. Everyone who has studied the history

of Europe and Great Britain knows the sordid story of the state-financed church.

Dogma of Divine Right

Any financial alliance between state and church will result either in the church being dominated by the state or the state being dominated by the church. Wherever the Roman Catholic Church has had its way, it has dominated the state. It is striving desperately for such domination over the government of the United States. In fact, one of the cardinal dogmas of Rome is that the church, meaning the Roman Catholic Church, has the divine right to dominate the state.

It is for this reason that the Roman hierarchy is making such bold efforts to invade the public schools of America with the ultimate aim of bringing the entire school system of the nation under Catholic control.

Only an aroused public conscience will halt this crusade by the Roman Catholic Church to capture the public schools of America and have the federal and state governments finance the teaching of the Roman Catholic religion to the school children of America.

These are not imaginary charges against the Roman Catholic Church. They are simply cold facts, the avowed dogmas of the Catholic hierarchy.

Facts Cited

If any reader doubts the purposes and practices of the Roman Catholic Church as set forth in this editorial, we invite you to read "Preview of a Divided America," by Harold Fey, originally published in the Christian Century, May 28, 1947, and reprinted by permission in the Arkansas Baptist August 21, 1947. Also read "Shadows Over Our Schools," by Frank S. Mead, originally printed in the Christian Herald, and reprinted by permission in the Arkansas Baptist March 4, 1948.

If you do not have these issues of the Arkansas Baptist and wish to read these articles we shall be glad to furnish copies of the articles upon request.

We would also suggest that you read Dr. J. M. Dawson's book, "Separate Church and State Now." You will find this book to contain a comprehensive and documented discussion of this important issue. You may order the book from the Baptist Book Store, 303-305 West Capitol, Little Rock. Price \$2.50.

In keeping with the policy of the paper there will be no issue of the ARKANSAS BAPTIST next week, December 30. Our next issue will be January 6, 1949.

The staff of the paper wishes for each of our readers a joyful, well-spent Christmas and a Spirit-directed new year.

B. H. DUNCAN
HELEN BUCHANAN
MARY SUE PHILLIPS
JUANEZ STOKES
MARY ELIZABETH GIBERSON

The Meaning of Christmas

By DR. ROBERT G. LEE, President
Southern Baptist Convention

Springtime—with flowers, sunshine, show-ers, singing birds—is familiar, and always lovely. With every detail of the Christmas



story we are familiar—Herod of Judah, the last of Judah's kings—Israel breathing her hope of Messiah's advent—Bethlehem, small and white upon its mountain slopes, where heaven put out its brightest star—Cyre-mius publishing the order of the Emperor

—the Star, seen in far away Persia by wise men of the East, accustomed to study the heavens, mounting their camels and journeying westward over the desert to Jerusalem—the angels, the Shepherds, the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, the gifts from the wise men of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

What Meaneth All These?

It Is a Manifestation

"And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth" (John 1:14),

"God was manifest in the flesh" (I Timothy 3:16).

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3).

"Christ being put to death in the flesh" (I Peter 3:18).

Christ was God manifest in the flesh—and his every muscle was a pulley divinely swung, his every nerve divine handwriting, his every bone divine sculpture. Christ who shares that plurality of deity expressed in the story of creation was "made flesh," "made of a woman."

Christmas Means a Manger

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

Coldly the world, which later thrust Jesus out on the point of a spear, received Jesus on a pallet of straw. Messiah's birth chamber was a barn—not a palace or even a home. Born as the very poorest are born, without attendants, he was He through whom God works his sublimities without display. Listening at the manger, we hear voices from heavenly singers. Looking upon the manger we see "God contracted to a span"—Him who had glory with God before the world was "made flesh"—Him, even Christ, who came down from the heights of deity to the depths of humanity, down from heaven's honor to earth's humiliation, down from heaven's riches to earth's poverty.

Christmas Means a Marking

What do I mean by that? I mean that this Christ, coming into the world by virgin womb, and small enough to be held in a woman's two hands and weak enough to feed at a woman's breast, cradled in a manger,

has Christianized the calendar of the world. This Jesus whom neither calendars nor clocks nor contemporary historians took note of, has bent the date lines of all nations around his lowly cradle. Today, as through all the days of all the years, the world over, the dates on newspapers printed, the dates on checks drawn, the dates on cornerstones placed, the dates on monuments erected, the dates on documents filed, the dates on letters written to testify.

The Greeks tried to date time from their Olympiads. The Romans tried to date time from the founding of their imperial city. Justinian tried to date time from his tax levies. LaPlace tried to date time from the conjunctions of certain planets. The French Revolutionists tried to date time from the year one of their revolution. And all failed—miserably, woefully. But what the Jews could not do, what the Greeks could not do in the matter of dating time, Jesus did—gloriously did. Before he came the ages awaited him. Since he came the ages rise out of him.

Christmas Means a Marring

I mean by "marring" that men mar the beauty of Christmas by riotous living rather than by reverence of the holy realities which the Christmas season brings to mind. Instead of worship, wickedness—instead of prayer, perversity—instead of devotion, drunkenness—instead of spiritual delight, carnal dancing—instead of expressions of gratitude, utterances of profane and vulgar thoughts—instead of peace, Mars tying crepe to many doorknobs—instead of consecration, carnality and love, by hellish alchemy, changed into lust—instead of hands handling the Bible, hands holding booze bottles—instead of gratitude, greed and grab and get. As incongruous as chunks of ice for pillows, as rattlesnakes on playgrounds, are many things we see and hear at Christmas time. How many things people do and rejoice in at Christmas season are as man's mean paint on God's fair lilies, as the stupidity of vandals in an art gallery.

But Christmas Means Morning

Related tragically are these verses:

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him" (Matt. 2:3).

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, in Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not" (Matt. 2:16-18).

So, though not from the same cause, do we find amid our Christmas joys those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

But Christmas Means Music

"And the Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that

they had heard and seen, as it was unto them" (Luke 2:20).

As the sun went down in the western that day, the stars came out, and Messiah star shone bright. As the Temple shepherds watched their flocks by night, in the night of the starlit silence appeared a glory—a voice.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:8-11).

The shepherds, filled with awe at the shining presence and the wondrous words, did not speak. Moving not, they gazed. And suddenly as they looked the single messenger became a choir—and the night echoed with divinest music.

"And, they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which they had told them concerning this child. And they heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds" (Luke 2:16-18).

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was unto them" (Luke 2:20).

Let us, listening to the Christmas music vocal and instrumental remember that Christian life is music in harmony with the will of God. Let us never forget that centuries become, as it were, a mighty lifting increasing hallelujahs to Christ's name. Higher and ever higher rises the sublime refrain.

Christmas Means a Meeting

Heaven and earth meet. Shepherds see and angels sang. We read of "shepherds, and angels in the fields," "the angels of the Lord and a multitude of the heavenly hosts." The angels went back to heaven. The shepherds went to Bethlehem. Heaven and earth in touch, and heaven took the initiative. The candle did not reach forth to the sun; the sun stooped to the candle. The glow worm did not reach up to the stars; the star stooped to touch the glow worm. Humanity did not seek God; God sought humanity. "God loved." "He first loved us."

Moreover, Christmas Means the Meeting

This is the Christ who, in Eternity, rests on the bosom of the Father without a mother, and in Time rested on the bosom of a mother without a father—Son of man and Son of God, just as old as his heavenly Father, ages older than his earthly mother, who was in the manger later mastered death into health, blindness into sight, deafness into hearing, lameness into suppleness, weakness of muscles, leprosy into cleanliness, storms into calm, scarcity of bread into

(Continued on Page Five)

Kingdom Progress

CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS DOUBLED BY CROSSETT CHURCH

Although launching an ambitious building program next spring, the First Church, Crossett, J. W. Buckner, pastor, has voted unanimously to double its contribution to the Co-operative Program in 1949.

Pastor Buckner came to the Crossett Church September 1, 1948. Since that time 90 persons have been received into the fellowship of the church.

A school of missions is scheduled for the first week in January. Dr. C. W. Caldwell, Superintendent of Missions, will be the inspirational speaker.

Homer A. Bradley, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Bradley of Jonesboro, has been elected president of the Senior Class at the New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Young Bradley will receive the Bachelor of Divinity degree next May. He is a graduate of Ouachita College and is now serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Leroy, Alabama.

Pastor James Harris, Beech Street Church, Texarkana, is broadcasting his Sunday evening services, 7:30 to 8:30 over radio station KTFB, Texarkana.

Mrs. B. W. Nininger attended the Annual Conference of State Music Directors in Nashville, December 8 and 9. Representatives from Texas, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas met in the office of B. B. McKinney, secretary, and Hines Sims, associate, in the Department of Church Music at the Sunday School Board. A full report of the work of this department will appear shortly on the Religious Education page in this paper.

Ray Branscum, pastor of the South Highland Church, Little Rock, recently did the preaching in a revival meeting at the First Church, Marshall. There were seven additions to the church, six by baptism. The Marshall church has been without a pastor since September.

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The Meaning of Christmas

(Continued from Page Four)

plenteous, dumbness into speech, death into life, and the grave into resurrection glory.

He mastered sin, Satan, suffering, death, the grave, and hell. And through him we can be more than conquerors — mastering all things that mar proper observance of Christmas, mastering the mind so that it thinks God's thoughts after him, mastering Satan by resistance until he flees from us, mastering our bodies until we shall be "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal bodies" — to the glory of him who "being in the form of God . . . made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant . . . and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

E. S. Ray, pastor of Grace Church, North Little Rock, since August 1945, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Perryville Baptist Church. During his pastorate at Grace Church, there were 122 additions, 50 for baptism, 66 by letter, and six by statement.

Four additional deacons have been selected and ordained during his ministry there. A baptistry has been built in the church, choir loft remodeled, a new piano purchased for the auditorium, and pianos purchased for the departments. A Brotherhood has been organized and attendance has increased in all organizations of the church.

Pastoral Changes

H. W. Johnston who resigned as missionary for Current River and Gainesville Associations to accept a similar work in Missouri, has declined to take the work in Missouri, and has been elected full time missionary for Current River Association.

George Monroe, a teacher in Southern Baptist College, has recently accepted the pastorate of Shiloh Baptist Church in Clay County.

Associational Missionary J. Ernest Cox, who has served in that position for 12 consecutive years, has resigned as missionary of Independence Association, to become pastor of Clear Lake Baptist Church, near Blytheville, effective January 1, 1949.

L. L. Jordan, Plumerville, has accepted the pastorate of the Central Church, Dyess.

J. S. Compere Jr. has accepted the full time pastorate of Shady Grove Baptist Church, Kennett, Missouri. He was formerly pastor of the Mt. Hebron and Mound Churches in Greene County.

J. C. Wicker, Wichita, Kansas, has accepted the half time pastorate of the Imboden Baptist Church.

Eugene Corder, Thornburg, has accepted the pastorate of the Houston Baptist Church, Perry County Association.

Marlon S. Boyd, Central College student, has assumed the pastorate of the Bigelow Church.

C. E. Bull, Thornburg, has accepted the pastorate of the Pleasant Grove Church, Conway-Perry County Association.

Walter M. Hill has accepted the pastorate of the First Church, Stuttgart. Mr. Hill has been assistant pastor of the First Church, Pine Bluff, during the past year, and before that time served as pastor of the Almyra Baptist Church. He is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

W. B. Pittard Jr., pastor of the First Church, England since August 1945, has resigned, effective January 1. He will assume the pastorate of the Baptist church at Franklinton, North Carolina.

Ordained to the Ministry



John McClanahan

John McClanahan, Ouachita College Junior, and pastor of the Elmore Mission of the First Church, Ashdown, was ordained to the gospel ministry December 12, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. W. O. Vaught Jr., pastor of Immanuel Church, preached the ordination sermon. L. F. Baker served as clerk. Dr. James T. Blakeney delivered the charge and presented the Bible to Mr. McClanahan. L. M. Keeling, Little Rock, led the ordination prayer.

L. C. Tedford, pastor at Corning, recently assisted A. B. Cooper and the New Bethel Church, Missouri, in some special services. Mr. Cooper is an Arkansas man who moved to Mississippi County, Missouri, in 1933 as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Charleston. He has the distinction of leading in the erection of ten houses of worship for rural Baptist churches in that county, three of which were for Negroes. Among the best of these structures is the brick building which serves the New Bethel congregation, where Mr. Cooper has been pastor for seven years.

The First Church, Pocahontas, held Cornerstone Laying service Sunday, December 12. Under the leadership of Pastor Harry Hunt a new auditorium with full basement is being erected at a cost of approximately \$65,000.

The regular quarterly hymn-sing in the Association under the direction of Mrs. Ralph Verser, music director, McGehee, took the form of an Isaac Watts Commemorative Hymn-Festival. More than one hundred people attended this meeting, which was held at the Lake Village Baptist Church, Sunday afternoon, December 12.

The congregation sang several hymns which were written by Isaac Watts, and special numbers were presented by the Dismal Choir, directed by Mrs. L. W. Wilson, the Lake Village Choir, under the direction of Mrs. H. O. Malone; and the Youth Choir of McGehee, directed by Mrs. Jim Merrill. H. O. Malone, host pastor, brought the message on "The Hallowed Influence of Hymns" and Mrs. B. W. Nininger, State music director, led the singing and played violin solos. Accompanists were Mrs. Ralph Verser, pianist, and Mrs. J. L. Lewis, organist.

*** Christian Horizons ***

"We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life."

Organize Protest against Demoralizing Comics: The growing protest around the country against the so-called "comics" has reached the state of Washington. Under the determined leadership of the P. T. A. and its local units, several cities are studying the problem with a view to passing ordinances to do something about it. The Tacoma City Council recently passed an ordinance which "prohibits acquisition, possession, distribution or exhibition of obscene or indecent pictures or publications, and sale of or exhibition to minors of publications featuring or depicting crimes or deeds of violence, bloodshed or lust." A board to censor all such publications and penalties for violation are provided under the ordinance.

Kate Smith Speaks: It seems to me that no woman in her right mind would venture into a bar . . . even though women have broken into practically every other realm formerly dominated by the male. This is one they would do well to stay out of. Perhaps some women consider it a mark of sophistication. I will take an ice-cream soda any day at the corner drug store.

—The Woman.

New Books

Three more "Books of Merit" have recently come from the Broadman Press:

"The Accents of Life," by R. L. Middleton, price \$1.50.

Just a glance at the Table of Contents will assure the reader of the vital topics discussed by the author. The first chapter carries the title of the book; then follows such chapter titles as these: Nothing Less Than the Best, First Things First, For What are you Hungry? Don't Lock Yourself Out, It's Up to You. There are 12 other chapters of intriguing interest.

"Preaching From the Psalms," by Kyle M. Yates, price \$2.00.

Selecting 20 Psalms which give expression to many deep and determining experiences of life, Dr. Yates brings to this interpretation mature scholarship, extensive research, long experience, and spiritual insight. The characters, out of whose experience these Psalms grew, live before the reader, who will frequently find himself mirrored in the pages of this book.

"Preaching From the Psalms" will be helpful to preachers, Sunday School teachers, and all who are interested in the study of God's word.

"Studies in John's Gospel," by John L. Hill, price \$.50.

This is a Training Course book which will be welcomed by pastors, Sunday School superintendents, teachers, and students, of the Bible throughout the South.

The book bears the characteristic marks of Dr. Hill's personality, his penetrating thought, lucid style, and clear analysis. It will prove to be a delightful and fruitful study in John's Gospel.

These books may be ordered from the Baptist Book Store, 303 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock.

New Testaments for Greece: 150,000 New Testaments in Modern Greek have just been brought out in the United States. They are to go to Greece in response to a request made last Autumn to the American Bible Society by the Greek military authorities. The British and Foreign Bible Society in Canada is printing 50,000 New Testaments in Ancient Greek for the same destination. To date more than 200,000 Gospels printed in New York have been sent to the commander of the Greek forces.

Closed Slovak Baptist Churches Reopened: According to Religious News Service ten Baptist churches recently closed in Slovakia by order of local authorities have been reopened, according to a Baptist official who returned to Prague from a visit to Bratislava. Czech Protestant bodies, including the Lutheran Church in Slovakia, had protested the closings. According to the Baptist informant, the churches were closed because the pastors of several of them are American citizens, though of Slovak origin, and were suspected by local police of "spreading western propaganda."

It was said that the churches were permitted to reopen on condition that American financial aid to Baptist pastors in Slovakia be discontinued.

German Constitution Provides State Regulation of Church Affairs: A proposed new constitution for west Germany will include provisions for state regulation of church affairs, according to a decision announced by the German Parliamentary Council at Bonn, in the British occupation zone. The Council comprises representatives of states in the American, British, and French zones.

In making known its decision, the Council stated that the Social Democratic Party, the Communist Party, and the Free German Party had objected to churches managing their own affairs without government supervision.

—Religious News Service.

Southern Baptist Schools Form Association

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — An association of Southern Baptist colleges and secondary schools to advance general education and "safeguard academic freedom" was formed during a meeting of the denomination's education commission meeting in Memphis.

Dr. Walter Pope Binns, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., was elected president. Other officers are Dr. S. S. Hill, president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; vice-president; and Dr. H. I. Hester, vice-president of William Jewell College, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. J. O. Edmunds, president of Stetson University, Deland, Fla., told the association that the danger of political control "is inherent in the expansion of federal aid to public schools."

—Religious News Service.

A Smile or Tw

Into the office of the Superintendent of Education, in Upson County, Georgia, went a smiling young Negro man to apply for the position as teacher.

The superintendent remembered a similar Negro school back in the sticks where pupils were proving extremely unmanageable and decided to test the mettle of the ambitious novice by subjecting him to a few pranks. A few weeks later the superintendent went to check up on the progress of the newcomer. To his delight, he found the school operating in a quiet and thoroughly efficient manner. And, still more surprising, the young teacher who, when he had applied for the job had appeared extremely lean and lank, now strutted a figure that was pleasantly plump, and sleek.

"How did you do it?" the official eagerly demanded.

"Well, sir," explained the young teacher, "I've made a careful study of these children and I've found out they had rather eat than do anything else. Therefore when one of the scholars gets to actin' up and I can't control him, I jes' eats his lunch. And say, Superintendent, ef I can jes' hold out long enough I do believe I can straighten out this here school."

—Wall Street Journal

"No, Nora," Grandpa nodded sadly, "are not the same nowadays, unfortunately. His granddaughter smiled.

"No," went on the old man, "you never see a girl blush nowadays. When I was young man it was different."

"Oh, grandpa!" exclaimed the girl. "Why ever did you say to them?"

—Mary Russell

Two men were working on the White House lawn, each supplied with a small push broom upon which was a garbage can. They were engaged about picking up papers with a long spear. One spied a piece of paper and started to spear it, when suddenly a gust of wind came up, and blew the paper into the White House through an open window.

The man became frantic and rushed to the building. He returned shortly after and said: "I was too late. He had already speared it."

He stopped at a small hot-dog stand and ordered coffee. Just to be polite, he said, "Looks like rain, doesn't it?"

"Well," snapped the proprietor, "it tastes like coffee, doesn't it?"

—Young People

"How long should a courtship be, do you think?" asked the serious young man.

"Oh," replied the girl of his dreams, "enough for the wedding invitations to be sent out six weeks before the wedding."

—Clippings

Safety Poem. "At railroad crossings, how to figger: In case of a tie, the engine bigger."

Husband: "Why did you tell my wife I was quiet the time I came in last night after I told you I was quiet about it?"

Maid: "I didn't sir. She asked me why the time it was, and I told her I was so busy cooking breakfast that I didn't notice."

Southern Baptist and Foreign Missions

Bibles for the World

By C. E. BRYANT

Communist Regime In China Would Not Mean Automatic Evacuation of Missionaries

Southern Baptist mission work in South China would be affected by the fall of Nanking, Dr. M. Theron Rankin stated at the Foreign Mission Board meeting in Richmond, December 9, but we are not warranted in drawing the conclusion that if a Communist regime is set up our missionaries would automatically come out.

As yet, Secretary Baker Cauthen and our missionaries in China have made no plans for a general evacuation, Dr. Rankin said. Although a number of missionaries are returning to the States for individual reasons, Dr. Cauthen feels that we are justified in waiting to see if missionaries can stay in China. Some missionaries of other denominations have remained in North China where Communists are in control and thus far are still carrying on the work of churches, schools, and the hospital in Tsinan.

We must be ready to accept eventualities if they come, Dr. Rankin warned, but added that there is no occasion for immediate alarm, because "we have resourceful people there with good judgment and lots of experience." Dr. Cauthen has regular conferences with other mission boards and business groups in China and is in touch with American consular authorities. He and other missionaries there are in a position to make as safe decisions as could be made, Dr. Rankin stated.

No building programs or projected plans are being launched in China by the Foreign Mission Board at this time. Buildings and projects already in progress are being completed where it is not feasible to break off operations.

"Whatever the future holds," Dr. Cauthen said in a recent report from China, "we are grateful for the work which has been accomplished in the past three years. Should the iron curtain drop down over large areas of China, our Baptist brethren in those sections would face an indefinite period of working under most difficult conditions. They are much better equipped to carry on the work as a result of the accomplishment of these three years."

China Baptist Convention Organized

The China Baptist Convention was organized November 11, at a meeting held in Sallee Memorial Baptist Church, Shanghai. Dr. T. K. Van is executive secretary of the new organization.

Corresponding to our Southern Baptist Convention here in the States, this organization will unite the regional conventions, which have been in operation for some time, just as the Southern Baptist Convention unites the State Conventions here.

"Whatever may come in the months immediately ahead of us," Dr. Rankin stated regarding the organization of the Convention, "I am grateful that this foundation has been laid for the future of God's Kingdom work in China."

Missionaries Visit Yugoslavia

Dr. and Mrs. John Allen Moore have been allowed to visit Yugoslavia. Dr. Moore writes that churches which were closed are open again. However, some Christian leaders are still in prison.

Hospital Possible In Paraguay

Dr. Franklin Fowler cabled that he has finally secured a license to practice medicine in Paraguay. As no American missionary doctor has been licensed there recently and there is no medical reciprocity agreement with the United States, Dr. Fowler had difficulty obtaining the license.

A hospital for Paraguay has been authorized by the Board for many years, pending the licensing of a missionary doctor to practice in that country. There is no evangelical hospital in Paraguay and no Baptist hospital in all South America.

Seminary Professor Elected

Dr. Arthur B. Crabtree, London, has accepted a position as teacher in the Zurich Theological Seminary scheduled to open in September, 1949. Commended by British Baptist leaders as a man of outstanding ability, Dr. Crabtree was interviewed by members of the Foreign Mission Board in Europe last summer. He is a graduate of the University of Zurich. Mrs. Crabtree is a daughter of a Swiss Baptist minister.

Colombian Convention Planned

Plans are underway for the February organization meeting of the Colombian Baptist Convention, originally scheduled for April this year. Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary, and Dr. Everett Gill Jr., regional secretary, who had planned to represent the Board officially at the April meeting will go to Colombia for the February meeting.

10,000 New Bible Readers

Nigerian Baptists and missionaries are looking toward the 1950 centennial of Southern Baptist missions in Nigeria. At a recent meeting they set a goal of 10,000 adults taught to read the Bible before the Centennial. They also recommended the employment of an African evangelist whose field would be the whole of Nigeria.

Fon Scofield, visual education director for the Foreign Mission Board, has been authorized to go to Nigeria in 1949 to prepare films for Southern Baptist study of Nigerian mission work, scheduled for special emphasis during 1950.

Relief Center at New Orleans

More was received at the New Orleans Relief Center in November than ever before in any one month, Dr. George W. Sadler said after a recent visit there. The bulk of the relief material is being sent to Europe, but some shipments are being made to the Orient. The program will continue through the winter.

Aid for Romanian Refugees In Paris

At the Baptist World Alliance meeting in London last summer, attentions of the representatives was called to the plight of Romanian refugees in Paris who were sleeping on streets and eating whatever people would hand out to them. Missionary Roy F. Starmer, who formerly served in Romania, is now in Paris directing the distribution of aid provided by Baptists.

The grace we give to others must be no different from the grace we receive from Christ.

If one were compelled to answer the question of what, among all Christendom, is the most basic of missionary agencies, he must at the end conclude that it is the work of the Bible societies which make the Word of God available to people of every tongue in lands around the globe.

Without the printed scriptures, our churches would be at a loss to reveal the Incarnation of the Word of God to the masses of the nation. It is the Bible which serves as the sourcebook and the guidebook to all Christian faith and practice. Without it, Baptists and others could not possibly reach the masses with the saving gospel.

The American Bible Society, the largest and strongest of the Bible publication agencies, held the annual meeting of its Advisory Council in New York in early December. Dr. Luther J. Holcomb, pastor of Dallas' Lakewood Baptist Church, and I were invited to represent Southern Baptists at the sessions.

We discovered that the magnificent eight-story Bible House at 450 Park Avenue in New York City is but the hub of a wheel which encircles the globe. We discovered that the Society's work includes translation of the scriptures into hundreds of languages and dialects, some of which have never before been reduced to a written form. It includes typesetting and plate making for the scriptures in the tongues; and thousands of hours of press work and binding. These printings may be for millions of copies, or maybe for only a few thousand where the particular dialect is limited to a small island populace—but in every case the tedious work is vital if the Bible is made available to all men! It includes a knowledge of international law and international commerce to gain permission for entrance of the scriptures into lands where the Word has never before. It includes scores of offices and print shops in many lands and thousands of colporteurs who trek mile upon mile in all nations to sell and otherwise distribute the scriptures to little people in out-of-the-way places. Amid all this detail, one is most impressed by the sincere devotion of the men who make up the Society's home office personnel.

Millions of the scriptures are given away but the distribution is done with great care that none will be wasted. And in other thousands of cases, the Bibles are sold so that the owner will have the pride of earned possession—but the sales price in lands of low standards is never more than a bare fraction of the cost of production.

The Bible Society is stepping up its pace the next few years to meet the demands of the Program of Advance planned by mission boards of practically all denominations. Plans are made to publish in a five year period 5,712,081 copies of the scriptures, a program estimated to cost \$11,888,484.

Cost of the advance program, as are costs of the Bible Society, must be met by gifts from Christian individuals and groups here in America. Southern Baptists, through their local churches, are one of the chief sources of this support. Indications are that Southern Baptist contributions to the Society will total \$110,000 for 1948. A total of \$150,000 is needed from Southern Baptists in 1949 for launching of the advance program. This is an increase of 36 per cent. It means that our giving must be stepped up. The cause is worthy and vital; we commend it to you.

Mexico Fights Protestant Churches

By W. E. DENHAM JR.
First Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia

There is a religious persecution in Mexico today. I know, because I was there and talked with some of those involved. Soon after we entered the country we began to talk with our Mexican Baptist people and our own mission leaders. As we traveled reports came to us of persecutions of the Protestants, (called Evangelicals in Mexico), during the past two years.

The reported persecutions included stories of bodily injury and death to various Evangelical leaders. Antagonism to the open proclamation of the Gospel is not confined to any one section of the country, although the northwestern areas are relatively free from open acts of violence.

It is not wise to cite names and places of all the acts of violence. That such acts are authentic may be vouched for not only from those who have personally been in touch with the persons involved, but also from news articles which have appeared in non-Catholic magazines such as *Tiempo*.

Missionaries Unharmed

So far as I was able to determine, none of the missionaries themselves have been personally molested, though their activity is greatly curtailed due to strict governmental regulations regarding foreign religious leaders. These regulations are theoretically applied to all religious leaders from foreign countries. The native Mexican leaders have not always fared so well.

Some of the Mexican pastors have been boycotted by their neighbors. They have found that it is difficult to buy goods at the prevailing prices, that it is difficult to find homes for rent, and have experienced other indications of antagonism to their residence in the community.

Other pastors have had dirt and filth plastered on the walls of their homes. Spoiled eggs or other refuse have been thrown in an attempt to indicate public antipathy to evangelical religion.

(One local pastor used such antics to his own advantage. Immediately after such filth was placed on his walls he tacked out a sign which read somewhat as follows: "This filth is the only answer that can be given to our arguments. This sign will remain up as an indication of the truthfulness of our message." Usually the dirt was quickly and anonymously removed.)

Personal Injuries

Bodily injury has been reported in several instances. One such instance occurred near one of the large cities. Some 18 months ago a Mexican pastor was meeting in the home of a believer. Several others had gathered there for the evening of prayer, Bible study and praise. When the news was noised about that an evangelical service was in progress in that home, a cordon of men gathered around the home and demanded that the pastor come outside. The crowd outside obviously planning to injure the pastor, so the host would not permit the pastor to leave. The small group prayed for God's direction.

Many hours later, the men outside became so drunk that the pastor was able to slip out of the house unobserved, get to the highway, and catch a bus back to the city.

When the waiting mob discovered what had happened, they battered down the door of the home, dragged out the men and women who were present, stripped and beat some

of them, and marched them across the mountain to another village. They were there put in jail. No opportunity was given for hearing their case or for legal aid. In the meantime the pastor had told a missionary what had happened.

This missionary hurried out to the village and discovered what had happened to the group who had remained in the home. It was only after talks with some of the high governmental officials that an order was procured which made possible their release from the jail.

Reports of Death

Others have been killed. Several instances have been reported in a community not far from one of the largest cities. An evangelical minister announced that two other ministers were soon to come to his community to help him in some revival meetings. Many in the community became greatly upset.

Not long after the announcement two strange men appeared in that community. The local citizens assumed that these were the two evangelical ministers come to help the local man. The two men were seized, taken into some buildings, beaten and stripped. One of the men escaped by bribing his temporary guard. When the other was found he was dead. His body had many knife wounds and his eyes had been gouged.

It was only then discovered that the two men were not the expected pastors. They were two secret service men for the government who had been sent to investigate rumors of some alleged local governmental mismanagement.

After these government men were molested, there was an immediate tightening of laws designed to prevent persecution because of religious beliefs. Our information was that persecutions have been at a minimum for the past twelve months. However, none of the evangelical leaders expect such immunity to last indefinitely.

It was out of information such as this that the desire came to talk with the Catholic Archbishop concerning the attitude of the Roman Church toward such persecutions.

—The Christian Index.

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Now I've Heard Everything!

By HUGH A. BRIMM

Here is the latest in "humble service to mankind." A "Good Samaritan Club" has been organized for officials of the liquor traffic. It is exclusive . . . you have to be an official with a "good heart" in order to qualify, so says the announcement in *SPIRITS*, the trade journal of the beverage alcohol industry.

This "club" is the brain-child of Thomas W. Balfe, vice-president of National Distillers. He has been made general chairman of the fund drive of the Traveler's Aid Society.

Mr. Balfe has urged the executives of the liquor business to give generously. Could it be that there is some small tinge of conscience from the fact that probably many of the applicants for aid are victims of the traffic in human misery that these "good samaritans" represent?

Sorry, brother pastor, brother deacon, you can't be a member of this "good samaritan" club . . . you aren't an executive of the liquor trade with a "good heart."

Students Seek Religious Training

College student interest in religion as evidenced by enrolment in classes in religion established last year at a non-sectarian University is reviewed by Dr. Lawrence D. Folkemer, head of the department of religion at The George Washington University in a November issue of "Confidential—from Washington," University publication being distributed this week.

Dr. Folkemer points out that students representing each of the University's schools of engineering, education, medical, pharmaceutical, liberal arts, law, and government—choose courses in religion as electives during their first year they were offered at The George Washington University.

He also reveals that "Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox Churches were represented in one or more courses." He says that during the year "every conceivable motive from the young man who was 'just curious' to the active church member who desired a greater understanding of a particular subject was expressed at one point or another."

Dr. Folkemer states that as a result of student response to courses last year a major in religion has been established at The George Washington University. He says that "students who desire a major in the department but are encouraged to take the minimum number of courses possible in closely related fields of study. No attempt will be made to prepare men or women for particular denominational ministry."

The University, which is 127 years old, established a department of religion as a whimsical gesture," according to Dr. Folkemer.

He attributes the University's decision to offer courses in religion to "moral and social upheaval of the times, the loss of traditional abiding values, the wise and careful planning of concerned leaders, and the direct requests of inquiring students."

When the department was established in the Fall of 1947, Dr. Cloyd H. Marvin, president of the University, stated that the purpose of the department would be "to help students gain a wholesome view of religion and combine scholarly and religious ideals so as to produce an atmosphere conducive to intelligent faith."

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What Would You Have Said

A striking illustration of the power of Christian forgiveness and love was seen and heard at the recent Foreign Missions Assembly in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Takua Matsumoto, principal of Methodist Girl's School in Hiroshima, Japan was one of six survivors out of 368 teachers and students who died when the atom bomb from an American plane obliterated the city. His injuries made it necessary for him to have months of hospital care.

When he stood to speak he first expressed his feeling of penitence because the Christians of Japan had not been strong enough to prevent the military control of that country. He then thanked the American people for the food, clothing and money that had been sent to meet the needs of his suffering people.

Though somewhat short in physical stature, this humble Christian stood tall in spiritual stature.

Baptists Go Forward

By HENRY COOK, chairman
The Committee on Evangelism of the
Baptist World Alliance

The great need of our time is the acceptance by the world of the redeeming grace of God in Christ. Nothing else can save us. Over wide areas of the world there is steady disintegration both moral and social. Unrest and unhappiness abound, and the hearts of men are filled with foreboding and fear. No panaceas of politicians or economists, whether right or left, can meet the need, because the basis of all sound society is the moral character of the men and women who compose it. For the home, for industry, for community life in all its forms, in village or town, in national or international relationships, the one indispensable necessity is Christian character, and that can be created only as Christ Himself is received and acknowledged in the heart. So we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ.

In this evangelistic enterprise Baptists have always been in the forefront; as is inevitable, in view of their loyalty to the New Testament message Carey, Judson, Spurgeon, Oncken, Pavlov, Truett — these and others less known but equally devoted, have offered Christ to men as Savior and Lord. And what we need is that the evangelistic fire burn no less brightly in our churches today. The world cannot be saved without Christ, and we must be faithful to our evangelistic task wherever the opportunity comes. The need is desperate, and God is calling us all to renewed consecration for the spread of the Gospel. Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.

Already in many areas of our great Baptist field the work is going forward. In Australia our people are engaged in a commonwealth-wide crusade; so in South Africa, so in Canada, so in the United States. In Germany there were 6,500 baptisms last year; in Italy and France young people are more responsive to the message than ever before; and everywhere we have our encouragements. Evangelism is increasingly becoming a living concern of the whole church of God, and some denominations hitherto apathetic, are beginning to feel the glow of spiritual enthusiasm. God is laying His challenge on every Christian heart, and in the breakdown of civilization He is presenting us with a problem which is an unparalleled opportunity.

Appropriately, therefore, at the executive meeting of the Baptist World Alliance held in London in August the following resolution was unanimously passed.

That this executive committee receives with pleasure the report of its Commission on Evangelism and expresses its thankfulness to God for the widespread interest of our Baptist people everywhere in the work of bringing men and women to Christ.

It endorses the principle that evangelism is a primary concern of the Baptist World Alliance and pledges itself to do all in its power to further closer co-operation and intenser effort to bring to the people of the world the challenge of the Gospel.

Here then is the summons to every Baptist pastor and church worker. Never was the need more obvious and never was our confidence in the Gospel more sure. Christ can meet the total demand of the total situ-

News of Interest

Baptist Press

Jack Robinson Featured In National Sport Magazine

New York—"The Rev. Jackie Robinson, Waco, Texas, Powerhouse" is the front cover slug line Sport Magazine used for the feature article of its December issue.

Subject of the article is the Olympic-famed ministerial student in Baylor University, who has won national and international basketball honors. In addition to his basketball, Robinson finds time to win high marks in his studies—including Greek—and serve as pastor of Waco's Ninth Street Baptist Church and president of the Texas Baptist Student Union.

This article is written by William T. Edves, a well-known Texas sports writer, and is illustrated with a full-color, full-page photograph of Robinson. Sports Magazine is one of the leaders in its field with a circulation of 600,000.

Mississippi Baptists Honor Their Mission Secretary

Jackson, Miss.—Resolutions of appreciation from hundreds of churches and individuals were presented to Dr. D. A. (Scotchie) McCall at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention here in recognition of his tenth anniversary as state mission secretary.

In other actions, the Convention authorized Baptist Hospital, Jackson, to incur an indebtedness to provide for purchase of more land for enlargement; authorized Mississippi Woman's College, Hattiesburg, to promote a campaign to raise \$225,000 for endowment; and heard Secretary McCall report 14,605 baptisms for the year (a record) and total receipts of \$1,615,925 (also a record).

Dr. W. E. Green, president of Clarke Memorial College, was elected president of the state Convention.

1948 Monthly Average Receipts Of SBC Co-operative Program Nears That Of Full Year, Just 15 Years Ago

Nashville, Tenn.—If Southern Baptists contribute as much as \$514,000 to the Co-operative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention in December, the year's receipts will have averaged over a half-million dollars monthly.

Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary, held 1948's possible \$500,000 monthly average up as a worthy objective—a monthly average, in fact, equal to the full year's receipts in 1933.

Co-operative Program (undesignated) receipts through November have totaled \$5,486,261.08, Dr. McCall said. Total receipts of the Executive Committee of the eleven months, both designated and undesignated, were \$8,292,693.60, an increase of \$1,421,075.93 over the same period last year.

ation, and it is our privilege and responsibility to offer Him to men and women and whenever the opportunity comes. Let us then go forward, expecting great things from God and attempting them in humble reliance upon His power.

Louisiana Baptists Exceed 1948 Budget

Shreveport, La.—The century-old organization of Louisiana Baptists reviewed past achievements and launched a greatly enlarged program in its annual sessions here. Part of the convention program was a centennial celebration at Mt. Lebanon where the group was organized in 1848.

The convention adopted the largest budget in its history—\$622,000, and it is believed that designated gifts may swell the total 1948 program beyond a million dollars. Following announcement that the 1948 budget goal of \$380,000 has been exceeded, the Convention voted that \$50,000 of the 1948 surplus be added to the Louisiana College endowment and \$30,000 to Acadia Academy.

Dr. J. D. Grey, pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans, was unanimous choice of the messengers as convention president.

140 Baptist Missionaries Remain on Duty in China

Richmond, Va.—Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has announced that 15 missionaries stationed in Tsingtao and Shanghai are enroute home. These evacuations are for reasons of health, age, or imminent furlough and do not indicate a general evacuation of North China, he said.

Approximately 140 Baptist missionaries are still on duty in China. Five missionary language students, formerly at Peiping, have evacuated to Manila, P. I., eight others to Shanghai, to continue their studies.

The Board, in its December meeting, voted to raise the subscription rate of the monthly journal, The Commission, from 50 cents to \$1.00 a year, effective April 1. The magazine now in its twelfth year, has a circulation of 98,000. The Board will subsidize it to the extent of \$28,000 for 1948.

Dr. Frank K. Means, secretary for missionary education and promotion, was authorized to tour the Board's missions in South America in 1949. The Rev. Fon H. Scofield, Jr., director of visual education will tour Columbia in February and visit West Africa later in 1949, making motion pictures of the Baptist missionary work in those areas.

The African film will be produced for showing during 1950, the centennial Southern Baptist Missions in Nigeria.

Treasurer E. P. Buxton reported total receipts for the first eleven months of 1948 \$4,906,000. For relief purposes during the same period, the receipts total \$241,673.

PELOUBET'S

Select Notes

for 1949

A Commentary on the
International Bible Lessons.
by Wilbur M. Smith

\$2.75
AT ALL
BOOK
STORES

75th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Published by W. A. WILDE CO., Boston 16, Mass.

Woman's Missionary Union

Auxiliary to Arkansas Baptist State Convention

209 Baptist Building, Little Rock

Mrs. F. E. GOODBAR
President

Mrs. C. H. RAY
Executive Secretary and Treasurer

Season's Greetings



God bless you through a happy holiday season and through every new tomorrow. "Trust . . . in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy"—I Timothy 6:17

W. M. U. OFFICE PERSONNEL.

New Home Mission Books

A new series of graded books for study previous to the Home Mission Season of Prayer in March will be ready around January 1. The titles of the books are: for W. M. S., "Co-operating Southern Baptists" by Dr. Lawrence, 50c; for Y. W. A. and Adults—"Handclasp of the Americas" by Alfred Carpenter, 50c; for Intermediate G. A.'s and R. A.'s "The Word of Their Testimony" by Una Roberts Lawrence, 50c; for Junior G. A.'s and R. A.'s, "Indian Blankets" by Gambrell, 35c; for Sunbeams, "Anthony Becomes Eagle Heart" by Curb and Tarry, 50c. You will appreciate having a "resource book" for help in teaching this new series. It is entitled "For a Christian Nation," the price is 50c. Order all books from the Baptist Book Store, 303 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock.

Mission Study Institute

Red River Association W. M. U. held a Mission Study Institute at the First Church, Arkadelphia, in November. All books in the series on China were presented by the following teachers: Mrs. R. B. Finger, Mrs. J. R. Grant, Mrs. Jack Cooper, Mrs. Alfred Grigsby, and Mrs. R. W. Bethea. Mrs. J. A. Abernathy, missionary to China, was guest speaker. Miss Frances Turrentine displayed curios secured on a visit to China.

Associational G. A. Alliance

Over 400 attended the Concord Associational G. A. Alliance held at Calvary Church, Fort Smith, with thirteen churches represent-

ed. Greenwood won the banner for perfect attendance for both Junior and Intermediate G. A.'s. The Alliance was organized one year ago and has bet quarterly. A Coronation Service was conducted by Miss LaVerne Ashby, assisted by Mrs. Clyde Ledford, Associational Young People's counselor. An Associational Camp was held the past summer resulting in 9 conversions and 12 surrendering for special service.

B. W. C. Federation

The Pulaski County Federation of Baptist Business Woman's Circles met with the First Church, North Little Rock, Friday evening, November 26, in a supper meeting. There were 13 Circles represented with 91 members attending. Mrs. Howard Lavender, president of the Federation, presided over a short business session, after which the program was presented by Mrs. Lucille Reynolds, program chairman. The group was led in singing "Praise Him, Praise Him" by Miss Flora Hammett with Mrs. Cecil Byrns at the piano. Psalm 100 was read by Mrs. Dorothy Catlett, after which Mrs. C. H. Ray led in prayer.

The speaker of the evening, Mrs. W. B. Pittard of England, State Mission Study chairman, presented the book "Light for the Whole World" in such a way that the group was challenged to a deeper consecration of service, of giving, and of praying for our missionaries and the needs of the peoples around the world. At the close of her review, Mrs. Pittard led the group in singing "In Christ There is no East or West."

Song of the Month

January, 1949

"O Word of God Incarnate"

MUNICH

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky!
We praise thee for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

It floateth like a banner
Before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon
Above the darkling world;
It is the chart and compass
That o'er life's surging sea,
Mid miss and rocks and darkness,
Still guides, O Christ, to thee.

FROM GERMAN CHORAL

The Church from her dear Master
Received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket,
Where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heaven-drawn picture
Of Christ, the living Word.

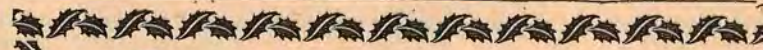
O make thy church, dear Savior
A lamp of purest gold,
To bear before the nations
Thy true light, as of old.
O teach thy wandering pilgrims
By this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see thee face to face.

The humble and gifted writer of this great hymn was born in the same year as many other hymn writers, notably, James Drummond Burns, Cecil Francis Alexander, Thomas Hughes, Henry Twells, Fanny Crosby. As he grew to maturity his powers of interpretation of the Scriptures were greatly increased and he contributed to the world of music such great hymns as "O, Jesus Thou Art Standing," "For Saints Who From Their Labors Rest," and "Behold, the Master Passes By."

In analyzing this great hymn, "O Word of God Incarnate," it is interesting to study the figures of speech which are attributed to the Word of God. These colorful descriptions show that the author is thoroughly conversant with the Scriptures. Perhaps the most beautiful expression used in this connection is, "It is the golden casket, where gems of truth are stored." Quite aptly this describes the Word of God.

The learning and singing of this great hymn might well be correlated with the program of the Training Union in the Bible Reading Crusade. In all services of public worship where emphasis is placed on the Holy Scriptures this song is particularly appropriate. "Wonderful Words of Life" is used almost exclusively for this purpose. Two other fine hymns which might be employed in this connection are "Holy Bible, Book Divine," and "Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart." Perhaps the hymn of the month of January, "O Word of God Incarnate," is the loftiest one of the four. Set to a beautiful tune which came from the German Chorale it has beauty and dignity commensurate with the splendid text of the song. The tune, simple though it is, was taken by the great composer, Mendelssohn, as the medium for his text, "Elijah Cast Thy Burden On the Lord." This tune lends itself to congregational singing, perhaps as well as any hymn tune with which we are more familiar.

—Ruth Nittinger.



Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

We, the workers in the Religious Education Department appreciate the wholehearted and sympathetic help given us as we have tried to promote all phases of the work of the department during the past year.

To the pastors, and all associational, church, and college workers we say "thank you," and wish for every one a real Merry Christmas and a bright, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

DR. EDGAR WILLIAMSON
RALPH W. DAVIS
T. D. McCULLOCH

MRS. GRACE HAMILTON
MRS. FREDILENE SNELLINGS
MRS. HELEN EMMONS



Sunday Schools Steadily Advancing in 1949

Arkansas Baptist Sunday Schools have shown an increase in enrolment every year for the past 12 years. Tentative figures for 1948 indicate a total Sunday School enrolment of 150,779. This is an increase of more than 10,000 for the year. Total Sunday School enrolment gains for all of the Sunday Schools in the Southern Baptist Convention territory was 336,506. Vacation Bible Schools in 1948 reported 17,196 schools held.

Arkansas Baptist Sunday Schools have steadily advanced during the past. Every effort will be made to continue advancing during 1949. Southern Baptist Sunday Schools have large plans for 1949. State Sunday School Secretaries, working with the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board, have set out a three-fold objective for 1949:

- I. A net gain in Sunday School enrolment of 600,000
- II. A Bible teaching program aimed at helping each church to provide an expanding Bible teaching program, including the following objectives:
 - (1) A Sunday morning session of one hour and fifteen minutes, with increasing effectiveness.
 - (2) A Vacation Bible School of two weeks some time during the year.
 - (3) A church-wide week of Bible study, the first full week in January.
 - (4) The study of at least one Bible book in the Sunday School training course each year in connection with the prayer meeting, a week of study preparatory to revival meeting, as a preview of a quarter's Sunday School lessons, or in some other way.
 - (5) The establishment of family altars as a beginning of much fuller development of the home as a school in Christian living.

III. A soul winning emphasis with the effort made to urge all Sunday School work be keyed to winning to Christ. Arkansas Baptist Sunday Schools will join heartily with the South-wide program.

Arkansas' 1949 Objectives

Arkansas Sunday Schools' share in the South-wide objectives will include Sunday School enrolment gain of 20,000:

- 50 New Sunday Schools
- 500 Vacation Bible Schools held
- 100 Sunday Schools, at least, applying for a standard Sunday School award
- 10,000 Training awards earned
- 500 Churches with at least some form of teacher training during the year
- 40 Associations with some kind of training effort, and a wide-spread use of a week in January for a church Bible Study effort.

Sunday Schools Enrolment Goal

Every Sunday School will want to know what its share will be in the 20,000 enrolment increase goal for Arkansas. We give, herewith, the schedule of suggested increased enrolment for the different Sunday Schools as worked out by our South-wide and state leaders. Each Sunday School can readily locate its place in this list, accept the goal, and work diligently to have this increase during the year 1949.

Sunday School Enrolment	Increase in Enrolment
1. 0 through 149	20
2. 150 through 299	25
3. 300 through 399	30
4. 400 through 499	40
5. 500 through 599	50
6. 600 through 699	60
7. 700 through 799	70
8. 800 through 999	80
9. 1,000 through 1,099	100
10. 1,100 through 1,199	125
11. 1,200 through 1,299	150
12. 1,300 through 1,399	175
13. 1,400 through 1,499	200

14. 1,500 through 1,599	225
15. 1,600 through 1,699	250
16. 1,700 through 1,799	275
17. 1,800 through 1,899	300
18. 1,900 through 1,999	400
19. 2,000 through - up	500

1949 Calendar of Activities

Every effort possible has been made to bring to Arkansas in 1949 the very best of help for leaders and workers in our Sunday Schools.

State-wide activities include:

Bible Study Week	January 3 -
State-wide Vacation Bible School Clinic, Little Rock, February 3	February 3 -
Clinic and Enlargement Campaign, Second Baptist Church, Little Rock,	March 13 -
Christian Home Week	May 1 -
Arkansas Baptist Assembly	July 5 -
Sunday School Leadership Week, Ridgecrest	August 11 -
State Associational Rally and Team Members Conference	September

Promotion Day,	September
Forty Associational Sunday School rallies	September 18 -
Sunday School Study Course Month,	October
State Sunday School Teaching Clinic	October 2 -
State Sunday School Convention, Second Baptist Church, Little Rock,	October 17 -

Working With the Associations

The strength of the association is recognized. Deepened convictions confirm our faith in the associations. The increasing use of the association by our denomination at large attests its value, and the results already achieved justify its continued use.

There is room for much improvement in the work of the association. Several things militate against the largest effectiveness of the work of the associational organization. Among these may be listed, the large turnover of leadership personnel, untried leaders and workers, and inadequate leadership.

We shall make every effort to strengthen and establish the Associational Sunday School organizations. We shall endeavor to hold train association workers, and during the week of September 18-23, eight trained teams of workers will go out in the state to conduct five associational rallies each day, thus conducting a rally in each association the state during this week. The Associational Sunday School organization and its work will have a large place in the annual State Sunday School Convention program, and in all of the promotional work throughout the state.

Southern Baptist Convention President Speaks

Dr. Robert G. Lee, president of the Southern Baptist Convention states: "What could enrolling 600,000 additional people in our Sunday Schools in one year mean? The birth of a spiritual concern for the lost around us; the stirring to flames revival coals that glow; the winning of many to faith in Christ; it could mean the putting to work those in our churches who now live lazily and slovenly, just filling the hours. It could mean our refusal to live on promises that long ago should have become programs. What could be, should be, and what should be will be, if we do with our might what our hands find to do praying, loving, serving, sacrificing, visiting, pursuing souls, until we are out of breath."

We urge every pastor, Sunday School superintendent, officer and worker to join hands with all Baptist Sunday School workers in the greatest effort ever made to reach men and women, boys and girls, for the teaching of the Word of God that we might win them to Christ and induct them into training and service for Christ. Arkansas Baptist Sunday Schools will continue to advance during the coming year.



Dr. Edgar Williamson,
State Sunday School Superintendent



Central Baptist Church, Lake Village



The Bayou Mason Baptist Church, Lake Village



The Macon Lake Baptist Church, Lake Village

"The Bible As It Is

For Men As They Are

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The Lake Village Church which has as its theme "The Bible As It Is for Men As They Are" is carrying on a great mission program under the leadership of the dynamic pastor, H. O. Malone.

Four missions and churches have been helped by the Lake Village Church. The Central Church was organized under its sponsorship during the pastorate of J. T. Elliff. For some time services were held in the home of Mrs. Loyd Hammonds. The Department of Missions gave \$250 on their building program. Pastor Malone served as supply pastor until a permanent pastor was called, and led in the dedication of their building.

Bayou Mason Church was organized last summer. The first service was conducted by Pastor Malone last Easter in the yard of one of the families of the community. Brother Malone writes, "Within less than 60 days they had the church which you see in the picture all paid for without any financial assistance from outside."

Macon Lake Church was the result of a revival meeting conducted by Glenn Wright in a Negro church building. The Lake Village Church extended an arm to receive the members. Under the

Department of

MISSION

C. W. Caldwell, Superintendent

leadership of Missionary J. McCurry and Pastor Malone church was finally organized. They already have their own building for worship services. Still another mission has been opened by the Lake Village Church which will likely follow the course of others and soon become an organized church.

Have these missions hurt the local church or hindered gifts to outside causes? It means—in November the church gave \$300 to Bottoms Baptistphanage and in December, to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The pastor states that he believes the church will give between \$5,000 and \$6,000 to the operative Program next year. The church baptized 81 people during the associational year and received 66 other additions. It never had a church to do mission work.



Left to right: Allen McCurry, Delta Association Missionary and H. O. Malone, pastor, First Church, Lake Village

IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION

A Chinese Christian businessman has given \$1,000,000 to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to set up a foundation to provide for retired Presbyterian missionaries. The gift was given in appreciation of the work done in China by Presbyterian missionaries.

Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Atlanta, has been re-elected president of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church. Mrs. F. G. Brooks of Mount Vernon, Iowa, was elected president of the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

Methodists plan to build one new church a day for the next four years, according to Dr. Earl R. Brown, executive secretary of the Home Missions and Church Extension.

The Roman Catholic Church has 261,895 full time missionaries in 560 mission dioceses, vicariates, and prefectures in the world, according to Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of

Death in Editor's Family

Mrs. C. L. Pendergrass, the mother of Mrs. B. H. Duncan, wife of the editor, died at her home in Louisville, Kentucky, December 13, 1948. Editor and Mrs. Duncan left for Louisville immediately upon receiving the news of Mrs. Pendergrass' death and returned to Little Rock Saturday, December 18.

the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The Methodist Church commissioned 31 new missionaries in their annual meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., last week. The Methodists elected 36-year-old Dr. Eugene L. Smith to succeed Dr. Ralph E. Diffendorfer as executive secretary of the Division of Foreign Missions of the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. has set up a department of ministerial relations to assist placing the right pastor in the right parish.

Season's Greetings

We wish for every Baptist man everywhere the very best Christmas season of his life, and also the happiest and most prosperous New Year that he has ever known.

May this Christmas season draw us all very close to Him Whose coming gave Christmas to the world; and may the coming year find us always doing His will.

In His Name,

NELSON TULL,
Brotherhood Secretary.

BROTHERHOOD



209 Baptist Bldg.
Little Rock
NELSON F. TULL
Secretary

To Greet You At Christmas

May the light of the Christmas star shine brightly and happiness be yours this joyous season.

C. W. CALDWELL,
Superintendent of Missions.

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HANDCLASP OF THE AMERICAS .50

ALFRED CARPENTER
For Young People and Adults
The author was pastor of Balboa Heights Baptist Church in the Canal Zone for four years and has served as superintendent of direct missions of the Home Mission Board for some time. He discusses mission work in the Canal Zone, Panama, and Costa Rica, and presents the needs of the fields. There is significant comparison of the Mediterranean area of the first century with the Caribbean bowl of the twentieth.



THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY .50

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This is a revision and reprint of a very popular book showing the influence of the Bible in home mission work. While the material may be familiar to teachers, it will be new to intermediates.



INDIAN BLANKETS .35

ALFRED MARIE GAMBLELL
For Juniors
The author takes her readers on a visit to the Indian field at Pawnee, Oklahoma, and discusses Indian missions in general. This book was printed in 1944 when today's Juniors were Primaries. The material is as fresh now as it was then.



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Figures to Inspire

December 12, 1948

Little Rock, Immanuel	1260	407
Including Missions	1571	634
Ft. Smith, First	1145	477
El Dorado, First	907	262
No. Little Rock,		
Baring Cross	727	279
Including Mission	782	312
Hot Springs, Second	701	181
Benton, First	616	188
Fayetteville, First	588	244
Including Mission	640	264
Camden, First	569	157
Including Missions	774	285
Little Rock, Tabernacle	557	215
Hope, First	527	105
El Dorado, Second	525	187
Arkadelphia, First	522	212
McGehee, First	487	142
Including Missions	566	
Malvern, First	475	78
Including Mission	501	
Magnolia, Central	472	139
Including Mission	563	
Forrest City	454	201
Warren, First	444	98
Pine Bluff, Immanuel	441	148
N. Little Rock, First	436	124
Including Mission	516	
Little Rock, Gaines		
Street	429	306
Including Mission	518	
Paragould, First	429	219
Including Mission	571	288
El Dorado, Immanuel	428	231
Including Mission	480	265
Russellville, First	420	142
Including Mission	464	166
Little Rock, Pulaski		
Heights	419	106
Hot Springs, Central	418	118
Including Mission	470	157
Ft. Smith, Calvary	397	102
Ft. Smith, Immanuel	396	139
Paris, First	387	134
Ft. Smith, Grand Ave.	380	87
Springdale, First	378	212
Including Missions	515	
West Helena	371	128
Conway, First	363	
Hot Springs, Park Place	359	165
Hot Springs, First	346	80
Stuttgart, First	340	150
Including Mission	382	170
Cullendale	339	169
Rogers, First	339	84
Siloam Springs, First	333	197
Little Rock, South		
Highland	317	133
Lake City, First	287	145
Pine Bluff, Second	285	112
El Dorado, West Side	284	120
Dumas, First	265	83
Including Missions	318	
Harrison, First	263	107
Including Mission	373	140
Mena, First	257	84
Including Mission	334	123
Ft. Smith, Bailey Hill	234	90
Texarkana, Calvary	231	117
Stamps, First	217	98
Ft. Smith, South Side	214	58
Ft. Smith, Oak Grove	198	86
Bentonville, First	152	40
Little Rock, Hebron	150	79
Judsonia, First	147	70
Pine Bluff, Matthews		
Memorial	128	81
Texarkana, South		
Texarkana	119	79
Grannis	114	103
El Dorado, Joyce City	114	78
Camden, Elliott	106	115
El Dorado, Parkview	106	47
Dardanelle, First	102	
Kensett, First	97	79
Little Rock, Capitol		
Hill	86	41
Hot Springs, Walnut		
Valley	83	55
Melbourne	82	86
Conway, Bromley Chapel	65	59
Douglasville, Sec.	58	27
Monte Ne	57	55

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Apocalyptic Literature in the Bible

By MRS. ROLAND LEATH

Sunday School Lesson For December 26, 1948

Daniel 7; Revelation 21:1-7;
22:1-5; 17.

Satan's final revolt, the triumph of Christ over Satan and the purifying fire, all things shall become new.

Listen to John: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more." Old things will be no more. All scholars seem to agree that the meaning is that the old state of creation as we now know it will be changed and that a purification, a changing, a renewing shall take place and that the creation will not be annihilated, but will be free from the curse of sin and evil with all its terrible blight. The sea, a symbol of separation or unrest, will be no more. Man and God will walk as in the time before the fall into sin and no barriers shall exist.

Then John was given the vision of "the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." This was no city such as the Jerusalem of today, but the one "whose Builder and Maker is God." A bride wears her best, is adorned as beautifully as possible and comes to meet her bridegroom pure and untouched. That is the picture of the Holy City of God. John saw it as the bride, as a walled city of pure gold, as that city which had no need of sun or moon for there was no night there and "the lamb is the Light thereof."

In this new day God will tabernacle with His people; life will be endless and "God shall wipe away all tears"; there will be no death, no sorrow, no pain. It will be glorious, that Glad Day which is coming some day!

The Great Invitation

The great invitation of God is open to all men everywhere, always we know He is coming to earth again; the very fact that we don't know when He is coming should move us out to seek to win a lost and dying world to redemption. Our Bible closes with an invitation. Here we find a two-fold meaning: the children of God long for Christ's coming; and the message of the redeemed is for all who do not belong to Him to accept Him, for sooner than any of us think He may return.

The gospel invitation will never close until Jesus returns. The last seconds of time before His appearing will still sound the invitation to all who "is athirst" and to "whosoever will." Our friends in the darkness of the ungodly world

today find no satisfaction, no contentment, no peace. The thirst that cannot be quenched is such a miserable condition; that is the perfect picture of the soul without Christ. Listen to Christ's invitation: "Let him take the Water of Life freely." Salvation is a free gift from God, generously offered. Anyone who will accept, may freely receive.

Our constant prayer should be for the salvation of the lost. Teacher, has a soul been saved in your class in 1948? There is no joy akin to that joy unspeakable when the teacher sees a pupil walk the aisle professing Christ. God grant that we may win our lost pupils and diligently join the Spirit in inviting all to come.

Behind the "Iron Curtain"

Information coming from behind the "iron curtain" indicates the brutality of the Russians in dealing with the populations which they have subdued.

A Mother and two daughters committed suicide because "they preferred to die quickly rather than starve to death slowly."

Sunday School attendance by the children in the Russian zone of Germany is slowly declining because they are "too weak from undernourishment to walk the distance from their home to the

church." One Sunday School boy was heard praying: "Dear God I wish I could eat enough just once."

Southern Baptist relief workers in co-operation with the Baptist World Alliance are trying to reach these desperate cases. Much their success will depend upon the response of Southern Baptists and other Baptist friends to the appeals for help.

Send all cash offerings through your State Headquarters designated for Relief, to be forwarded to the Foreign Mission Board. Send all clothing and other supplies to Southern Baptist Relief Center, 601 South Olympia, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Let Your Actions Shine

I would not give much for your religion unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk, but they shine. A light house sounds no drums, it beats no gong; and yet far over the water its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. Let your actions shine out your religion. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by your conduct, and it shall not fail to be illustrious.

-C. H. Spurgeon.

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



The members of the Executive Secretary's office force wish to say "Merry Christmas" to every Baptist in Arkansas. We also wish for everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Lord has been good to all of us this year. We acknowledge his providence and care.

Yours for Christ's sake,

B. L. BRIDGES, Executive Secretary

W. DAWSON KING

BETTY GARTON

MARTHA CHILDS

Buckner and Crossett

Crossett is "going places" following the new pastor Brother Buckner. The wife had a blessed visit with them recently. A down pour of rain the house was well furnished including the balcony. The pastor and Brother Culpepper, the treasurer, hope the church will double its contribution for the Co-operative Program.

A New Year

A New Day

We are now beginning a new century Convention. Is your church adopting a program and a budget that will be commensurate with the spirit of the new days which upon us? The growth and accomplishments which we have enjoyed during our first century of corporate existence have inspired us to undertake a more far-reaching program than ever before. Naturally it requires a larger budget to finance this forward movement, but everywhere throughout the Southland our people are not only getting a vision, but also a new sense of responsibility in the whole program of missions. Many churches and individuals are reaching out almost unbelievable proportions as they embrace a new conviction about Christ's great world Mission program.

We are now upon a new year. New church budgets are now in operation. Many of these church budgets are making the pastors as well as others, happy indeed, because they have greatly enlarged their allocation for missions through the Co-operative Program. You have been reading much about it on this page. Is your church keeping step with other churches? Are you sharing the additional expense of this new enlarged budget program? If your church is not increasing its gifts through the Co-operative Program we do not see how you can be happy if your brethren are stepping out in this matter. If it is not too late be sure to increase your allocation for the Co-operative Program for 1949.

DO YOU HAVE A SURPLUS IN YOUR 1948 BUDGET? PLEASE SEND US AN ADDED CHECK AND HELP US REDUCE THE DEFICIT OF OUR 1949 STATE BUDGET.

Evans and Berryville

Pastor Gray Evans at Berryville has made an enviable record in his leadership in Berryville. The church has made signal progress under the ministry. They are almost ready to launch a building program. They need it. The Sunday School has grown and they do not have room for the classes. Brother DePriest is making a great superintendent. Brother Smith, the former pastor, is a real asset to the church and pastor.

Berry Likes the History

J. E. Berry, a deacon in Smackover, gave \$500 for the Arkansas Baptist History Fund. We have had quite an over draft in paying for the history. Of course, we have the books as assets, but we need more cash. If the brethren would buy the books the receipts would be more than the disbursements, but as it is we have several thousand dollars outstanding in the investment.

Mr. Berry is one of our very best Baptist leaders, and we are grateful to him for his thoughtfulness and generosity in helping on this fund.

Pastor Baker and the Wynne Church

The Wynne Church has recently called Boyd Baker to be its pastor. The church has made up its budget, and has increased its contributions for the Co-operative Program. The church will give more than \$2500 through the Co-operative Program next year. This church will go forward under the leadership of this aggressive pastor.

South Side, Pine Bluff on the Increase

The South Side Baptist Church in Pine Bluff is in a great building program. Pastor Lloyd Sparkman is one of the busiest pastors in Arkansas. This great church is increasing its contributions for the Co-operative Program nearly twenty-two per cent. Thank you Brother Sparkman.

Correction

A short time ago we published a report from the Cullendale Baptist Church relative to the Co-operative Program gifts, over the signature of Pastor Elmer Morgan. We regret indeed that there were errors in the copying of this fine report. We are happy to make the correction.

In the second sentence of the letter the figure should be \$3,600 instead of \$3,000. In the third sentence the figure should be \$3,682 instead of \$3,000. The first of these figures represents the amount the church anticipated that it would give for the Co-operative Program in 1948, and the \$3,682 represents what it has actually done.

Baucum and Murfreesboro

The Murfreesboro Church under the leadership of Pastor R. E. Baucum gave its full quota on State Mission Day for the Honor Fund. The Honor Fund Committee of the Centennial Committee requested the churches to give one dollar per member for the paying of the old debts. Many of our churches responded one hundred per cent. The Murfreesboro Church is not one of the largest churches, and it is not located in the wealthiest section of Arkansas, but it is a great church in spirit, and is led by one of the finest pastors that we have.

Hitt and Madison

It was the writer's privilege to help Pastor Hitt dedicate the church building in Madison. Madison is a little town four miles east of Forrest City. Brother Hitt is pastor there and at Palestine. The only church for white people in Madison is this new Baptist Church. Brother Durfee, Brother Curtis, and Mrs. V. B. Hamilton are some of the leaders in the church. Brother Coleman, head of one of the mills, is also one of the Baptists, and will soon find time to push the work of the church.