July 13, 1961

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Plan Advertising Campaign

PLANNING together what is said to be the "largest single advertising campaign ever run at one time to sell the idea of giving the Bible at Christmas time" are these Baptist Sunday School Board staff members and a sponsoring businessman.

L. to R., they are: Richard E. Kornmeyer, supervisor of the Board's Bible and books section, advertising department; Lawrence H. Staples, market analyst, Ecusta Paper Division of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, Pisgah Forest, N. C.; Robert H. Mendenhall, sales co-ordinator in the Board's book store department, and Jay O. Turner, manager of that department.

The Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp., has devoted $300,000 to advertising the Bible as the "perfect gift" for the 1961 Christmas season. The Sunday School Board's 47 book stores will co-operate with them in this promotion and Bible distribution through its stores.

in order to keep our heads above the water of electronic progress. Movies are being made and shown about subversive actions on almost every level. Some citizens are beating the bushes to help promote every phase of education against Communism. On the other hand there are those who are stirring these people with smear campaigns and propaganda gimmicks.

But the sad fact remains that while this and many other things are taking place, some groups are playing church. These people are punctilious in attendance, ostentatious in worship, meticulous in decorum, precise in dress, and totally about the pocketbooks. Many of them seemingly have their heads in the air and the air in their heads. They are not for anything nor against anything. They have a slogan — "My wife and I, my son Joe and his wife" — which seems to mean that they know very little about the needs of the world and

(Continued on page 19)
Readers Write on 'The Bond Issue'

WELL done thou good faithful editor. I wanted to speak a word of appreciation for your coverage on the "Bond Issue." Personally, I am glad that the Arkansas Baptist goes into so many homes because I believe this helped many people to vote intelligently. To my knowledge the text of this proposal was never published in our local paper; others say they did not see it either.

We know that the buildings are needed at our state institutions such as the University of Arkansas, therefore, we shall want to give encouragement toward providing these in the proper manner.—Terrel Gordon, Pastor, Immanuel Church, Fayetteville

THIS is to let you know that as a Christian and a Southern Baptist, I certainly appreciate your stand on the bond election, and I thank God for your courage and effort. Perhaps this will be the beginning of a new day in our state for better government.

Our pastor, Curtis Mathis of Central Baptist here in Jonesboro, preached a fine message on the inherent evil connected with the proposed issue on Sunday before the election.

It is good to see right prevail.—Frank Lady, 409 S. Main, Jonesboro.

I HAVE just read "Personally Speaking," June 29th. You need not worry! Nobody's going to get you mixed up with nobody! Your new "Fabulous Nickname" will designate you from the rest of us common folk from here on in.

Seriously, thousands of Baptists across Arkansas thank God that we have a man of your courage and conviction writing for us. We love and appreciate you, and will welcome another McDonald to serve us with you. I am pleased with the selection of "Cousin Ed" to direct our Foundation work. — Tommie Hinson, Pastor, First Church, Paris

IT HAS been my intention to write you for several weeks, commending you on the firm and vigorous stand you take on vital issues. Your front page editorial in last week's issue which dealt with the proposed bond issue is one of the most emphatic and strong editorials that I have had the pleasure of reading in a long time. I also liked the way you reported the recent St. Louis Conventions.

You have a most readable paper, one which really gives news and constructive thoughts; and I am sure that the people in your state, as well as elsewhere, appreciate the editorial policy of your paper. Keep up the good work!—Herbert H. Provence, Greenville, S. C.

(Continued on page 5)

Letters to the Editor

Branscum Resigns Little Rock Pastorate

REV. Ray Branscum, pastor of South Highland Church, Little Rock, for almost 17 years, has resigned effective July 31.

During his pastorate, the value of the church property has increased from $6,000 to $400,000 and Sunday School enrollment has risen from 100 to 1,054. The church membership is 1,500.

A native of Mountain View, Mr. Branscum pastored DeGray Church, near Arkadelphia, and Second Church, Arkadelphia, before coming to South Highland in 1944. ■

William H. Thweatt
Ordained at Luxora

WILLIAM Howard "Bill" Thweatt was ordained to the ministry June 18 at First Church, Luxora. A graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary, Mr. Thweatt will pastor one of the new Southern Baptist missions in East Cleveland, Ohio.

Members of the ordaining council were Rev. Carl H. Johnson, pastor of First Church, Luxora; Rev. Harry Jacobs, First Church, Osceola; Rev. John Moon, Calvary Church, Osceola; Rev. Roy Johnson, Nodena Church, Wilson; Rev. John Gearing, Mississippi County Association missionary; and deacons R. H. Jones, First Church, Osceola, and F. H. Rush and Gerald Chafin, First Church, Luxora.

Rev. Carl H. Johnson presided and led the questioning; Mr. Gearing was moderator; Mr. Chafin served as clerk; Mr. Jacobs brought the charge and preached the ordination sermon; Mr. Moon gave the ordination prayer and Mr. Rush presented the Bible.

Mr. Thweatt is married to the former Wanda Harris, Midland, Tex., who is also a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. They have five children. ■
**Editorials**

**Arkansas Voters Assert Themselves**

As long as people have a weakness for trying to get something for nothing, those who have wares or ideas to peddle can be expected to try to move in and fleece the gullible sheep. The latest bonanza offered the public—at least the latest we have heard about—is a "free" automobile to a select few—anybody who will fall for this sales pitch. This offer is reported to have come out of St. Louis and is called the "referral plan" of securing for yourself and yours a new automobile at no cost to you. Well, you do pay for the car at the time they turn it over to you, but, as they explain every time you refer a customer to them and he buys a car you get a refund. So, supposedly, all you do is drive your new car and get your neighbors and friends to admiring it, and tell them where they can get in on the same deal. They'll gladly flock to the St. Louis firm, and just think what a new day it'll be for you!

Fortunately for all concerned, Arkansas has a state law that prohibits this sort of thing, which is rightly interpreted as a form of lottery. May the day soon come when we'll have a law against horse racing, dog racing, and all other forms of gambling.—ELM

**Guest Editorial**

**State Paper Important**

In reading the church bulletins that come to my desk, about one-half of them do not carry the name of the pastor or any church official. One purpose of the church bulletin is to keep the pastor and his program before the public. A pastor is not boasting himself when his name appears on his bulletin, but is promoting the position in which God has placed him. Some of our churches have indicated that since their budget is limited they might stop the ROCKY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST and thereby save money. The state paper is as essential to the success of our Convention as it is the local church bulletin to the local church. If our people are not informed, they cannot move together, they cannot pray together and thus will not walk together. One cannot back a program if he does not know what the program is. One of the quickest ways to hinder the growth of the local church and the state convention is to take the medium of information away from the people. If every church which is having difficulty in reaching its budget would put a Tithers Test Sunday, ask every member to bring his tithes that one Sunday, you would get more than enough in increased offering to pay for the ROCKY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST and the church bulletin for a whole year.—Willis S. Ray, Acting Editor, Rocky Mountain Baptist, Denver, Colo.
The Bookshelf

Ropes to Burma, The Story of Luther Rice, by Samuel Rowe Carver, Broadman Press, 1951, $2.50.

No other one can claim so large a part in the establishing of Baptists as a denomination as Luther Rice, the beloved leader who in the early 19th century led in establishing the Baptist college, the Baptist paper, and the Baptist magazine. Mrs. Carver hits the highlights of his life in this enthralling book for juvenile readers, a book that will be read with profit and genuine appreciation by many adults.


Contained here is the gist of helpful counsel of writers who are recognized for outstanding achievement in the religious journalism field. The lectures were delivered at the Green Lakes and St. Davids writers' workshops in the varied fields of fiction writing, articles and feature writing, writing for children, writing biography, drama, poetry, and devotions, together with suggestions on the "how," the challenge and the opportunities of writing. Editor Browne is now president of Northern Baptist Seminary, Chicago. Highly recommended for writers.

History of Interpretation, by Frederick W. Ferrar, Baker, reprinted 1961, $6.95.

First published in 1885 as the Bampton Lectures, this book is regarded by many as unsurpassed in its thoroughness, completeness and penetrating insight and scholarship. Detailed and exhaustive, it is full of information about the Bible as well as its interpretation throughout the ages.

Dr. Ferrar, who had a long and distinguished career in teaching and preaching, became Dean of Canterbury in 1893. He contributed to many Bible commentaries. This book includes Life and Work of St. Paul, Life of Christ, and The Witness of History to Christ.


Co-authors with Dr. Pfeiffer, of the Old Testament department, Gordon Divinity School, are E. Leslie Carlson, professor of Old Testament Introduction and Interpretation, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and Martin H. Scharlemann, professor of New Testament exegesis and isagogics, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Organized to follow the Scriptural narrative, this attractive atlas is a valuable aid to Bible study, suitable not only as a textbook, but for all serious Bible students. Its wide assortments of maps, many of them in color, and of recent black-and-white photographs make it an attractive as well as informative book. As a part of their qualification to produce the volume, the authors have visited and studied extensively in the Holy Land.

Letters to the Editor

THE PEOPLE SPEAK

(Continued from page 3)

The Bond Election

THIS is to express to you my personal appreciation for your stand on the proposed $60 million bond issue. Your only job is to appreciate your stand, but I appreciate the fact you have brought the matter clearly before our Baptist people.

Thanks for the good magazine.—Newman R. McLarney, Pastor, First Church, Fort Smith.

REPLY: Thanks for all the encouragement. The real heroes in the bond election were Mr. and Mrs. George F. Hays for WMU headquarters in Birmingham.

"Sit-ins" at Church

THIS is just a word to thank you for including Coleman Craig's recent editorial "The Sit-Ins Hit the Churches" in your paper [June 1 issue]. I think Coleman Craig has done an excellent job and I appreciate your including this fine statement in your good paper. I always enjoy reading the Arkansas Baptist.—Roy Valentine, Executive Secretary, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

What We Found

SINCCE you reviewed the book This Is What We Found in your paper there has been a steady flow of letters to the editor dealing with racial prejudice. Your stand has resulted in criticism and name-calling from high places, but I feel sure you will never reply "in kind," as doing so would merely place you on the level of the critic.

You have been willing to speak out for what you believe is right, according to the teachings of Christ, as you interpret them. Not that you have advocated either integration, or segregation, but you have encouraged Christians to apply the golden rule and the royal law, when confronted with the fact of de-segregation. I admire your courage. It is always easy to go along with the popular concept, but Christians, throughout the ages, have often had to forego popularity and take their stand alone. Happily, the day of having to stand alone seems to be past.

You are probably aware that This Is What We Found was selected for listing in the WMU's World in Books catalog, by the Sunday School Board and by the WMU headquarters in Birmingham.

You might also be interested in knowing that for his part in writing This Is What We Found, Carl has been recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission by Brooks Hays for a $1,000-a-year college scholarship as being the high school or college student in America making the greatest contribution during the past year, in the field of human rights: On the Christian Life's recommendation, Carl is being considered by the United Packing House Workers for the scholarship.—Ralph Cregger, 14 Rosemont Dr., Little Rock.

Lyons to Oklahoma

OUR plans are to move to First Baptist Church, Wilburton, Okla., on July 18.

We will miss the friendly visits we have had with you and, of course, seeing you at the various state meetings. We feel you are doing a top-rate job as editor of the Arkansas Baptist. As soon as we move, we intend to subscribe to the Arkansas Baptist. Please keep up your stand against immorality and godlessness, as you have so courageously done in the past.

I do not want this to be a "since I came" letter; however, the five years at Mansfield have been wonderful years in the Lord's work. Please pray for us as we enter upon this new work in Oklahoma.—Clifford R. Lyon, Pastor, First Church, Mansfield.

Church Chuklces

Church Chuklces

by CARTWRIGHT

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth—what's left of it!"
"KNOw what I miss most at home? Those times when we'd gather up whatever Mom had for lunch and go out into the woods to eat, just without any big planning ahead."

So wrote a college freshman home to his folks.

One wonderful mother, speaking to a group of young women, said:

“Our guests never write back about that very special ice cream I make. But over and over again they mention the fun we have together as a family and the way our guests feel taken in right off, as one of us. Guess it must be the spirit of a home that counts most.”

I have treasured that mother’s words, especially at those times when the food didn’t turn out too well, and we had to major on the “spirit” of our home! Like the time when a denominational worker who was our guest laughingly said, “There’s more talking and less eating at the Streets’ house than anywhere I’ve ever been.”

What is the touchstone of happiness at your house? Would you let the rest of us in on the things that are extra special with your family?

Believing that “homes are the cement of the nation” and that “when the homes crack, the nation cracks,” we hope to arrive at some stabilizing conclusions through these columns in the weeks ahead.

Questions? Problems?

HAVE you a question? Dating problems? Frustrations in your home life? Complexities in your church, neighborhood, or community relationships? Or, perhaps you have had a share-worthy experience. Take a minute, write it down, and mail it to me. We will discuss it together here on our page.

It’s going to be fun, don’t you think, to have our very own page, where we may ask our own questions, exchange our own opinions, share gleanings of wisdom from our own reading and from our own experiences! Any matter that is of real concern to you will claim our interested attention in these columns. Whether you are a teenager, just beginning to feel the thrill and questioning of womanhood; a new wife, a business woman, a young homemaker, a woman of more mature years, or a grandmother, you are warmly invited. We want you to become a part of the large circle of stimulating, colorful friendships we plan to build.

Surely you feel with me that it is exciting to be a woman in this great, frightening, and daring era. Ways and means, and woman’s status in world affairs have changed. But her interest still revolves around winning the love of a sweetheart, maintaining the devotion of her husband, preparing her children to live life at its fullest and best. These matters are as eternal as the hills and as current as Jacqueline Kennedy’s latest hairdo.

Father — Yesterday and Today

I WAS interested in a story the press carried recently from Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, founder of Father’s Day. Marking the contrast between the state of the father of yesterday and the one of today, she was quoted as saying: “The head of the family (yesterday) faced a challenge that was much more confined and local than it is nowadays. His responsibilities were as clearly defined as was his undisputed position as head of the household. . . . Today his responsibilities are as varied and confusing as the instrument panel of a manned missile.” Then she wraps it all up with, “Today’s Space Age father is as good as any, and there are even arguments that he’s better in some ways.”

Agreed. Our husbands and our children merit top rating in comparison to any generation. But we must face what womanhood in every generation has faced: to bring out their best calls for our best. Woman’s hand still “rules the world,” whether by way of rocking the cradle, or by discriminating choice of baby sitters. We meet on congenial ground in our purpose to be at our maximum in our homes, our communities, our world. Therein may we find our highest joys and our most rewarding satisfactions.

Please know, dear reader, that I make no claims to exhaustive study in the field of “Courtship, Marriage, and the Home.” No feminine oracle am I. No pseudo anthropologist. But I am interested in you. I do know that with interchange of ideas, the reaction of mind upon mind, experience upon experience, together we can develop a page that will be a credit to our Arkansas Baptist News Magazine and exert a broad, constructive influence.

Eagerly and cordially yours,

[Mail should be addressed to Mrs. Street at 1818 Bruce, Conway, Ark.]
Throwing a Searchlight on Communism

By Paul Geren

[Editor's Note: A great wave of concern about Communism has recently been evident throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. At the invitation of the Christian Life Commission, Dr. Paul Geren was asked to prepare a special report on Communism for Southern Baptists.

Dr. Geren's service at home and abroad has provided unusual opportunities to study and observe Communism. In 1959 he traveled extensively in the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia. While Executive Vice President of Baylor University, 1956-59, he established the Comparative Studies in Christianity and Communism there in addition to the J. M. Dawson Studies in Church and State.

Paul Geren was born in Arkansas and reared here and in Texas where his Baptist preacher father held pastorates. He has his A.B. from Baylor (1936) where he was president of the B. S. U., and his Ph. D. from Harvard (1941). During World War II he served in the China-Burma-India Theater and was decorated with the bronze star for action behind Japanese lines. He has taught at Louisiana State University, Berea College, Baylor, Southern Methodist University, Judson College in Rangoon, Burma, and Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan. From 1947-56 he served as a U. S. diplomat in India, Syria, Jordan and the Department of State. When asked by the Christian Life Commission to prepare this study, he was the Executive Director of the Dallas Council on World Affairs. In March, 1961, he was recalled to the diplomatic service.]

“We WILL bury you. Your grandchildren will live under socialism. The victory of Communism is historically irrevocable.”

Nikita Khrushchev, strongman in the USSR (Russia), expresses Communism's own brand of predestination in prophecies like these.

Intelligence and patriotism cause us to react sharply to such statements. A Christian has additional reasons for concern which proceed from his faith. Communism professes to be atheistic, but in reality it wants to displace other religions. It has its own idols, or gods. It presumes to answer the ultimate questions of life and death, good and evil. It demands of the Communist party member the devotion which Christians believe belongs to God alone.

Would the Communists like to subvert our churches? We have good evidence to believe so. A small vocal group are convinced this has already taken place!

Since 1917, when it was only an idea in the minds of wild men, the Communist movement has gained control of one-fourth the land area of this planet excluding the Antarctic, and almost a billion people, one-third of the world's total. Communism is the state power in over a dozen nations.

Reasons to Study Communism

Why SHOULD Baptists study Communism? These are some of the reasons. We begin by studying Communism as a medical student studies cancer. Many see Communism and Christianity as the two remaining serious contenders for men's minds and devotions.

By studying factual reports on Communism we begin our close examination. Through this and three succeeding articles, we hope to shed light on Communism. The light by which we study is the Christian faith. Concentrated study may help us to heal and even to find the means of preventing this malady of our time.

Communists reject God for themselves and either hate or pity believers. “Every idea of a god, even flirting with the idea of god is unutterable vileness,” Lenin said. The philosophy on which they base this negative and dogmatic position is called dialectical materialism which Lenin summarized “There is nothing in the universe except matter and its motion.”

Everything intangible or unseen is derived from matter. Communists mock a passage of Scripture such as John 4:24, “God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth,” by saying God doesn't exist if he is only spirit and has no material body.

Three comments may help avoid oversimplifying Communist atheism. First, its tone is not as militant as formerly. Khrushchev is quoted in official Soviet reports as having made 17 references to God, the Bible or the Christian religion during his 1959 visit to the U. S. These included: “God be with you.” “Carry on and God bless you.” “We offer thanks to God so to say.” “…you and we are also in a way brothers in Christ.” When questioned about these references, Khrushchev described them as “a way of speaking.”

(Continued on page 14)
Andy Kerr Called to First, Lockesburg

FIRST Church, Lockesburg, has called as pastor Rev. Andy Kerr, pastor of Ogden Church for the past 4½ years. Mr. Kerr is a graduate of Ouachita College and attended Southwestern Seminary one year. He is vice-moderator and stewardship chairman of Little River Association.

During his pastorate at Ogden there were 27 additions, the church was completely remodeled and the auditorium refurbished.

Mrs. Kerr is the former Alice Moran of Little Rock. They have three children, Charlotte, 11, Tina Gail, 7, and Lawrence Marvin, 2.

Note-Burning Set At Union Church

A NOTE-BURNING ceremony, celebrating the debt retirement on the building of Union Church, East Main Road, El Dorado, will be held Sunday, July 16, at 2 p.m., with Dr. Erwin L. McDonald, editor of the Arkansas Baptist News-magazine, as speaker, it has been announced by Pastor Henry M. Evans.

Rev. William Burnett, pastor of First Church, Judsonia, who was pastor of Union Church at the time it began its fund-raising program for the new building, in 1954, will preach at the regular morning worship service, at 11 a.m., following which there will be a “dinner on the grounds.” Other former pastors will speak following the luncheon.

The church plant, consisting of a two-story education building and an auditorium, was built at a cost of $65,000 and now has a valuation of $90,000. It has classrooms to accommodate 300 and the auditorium has a seating capacity of 350.

The building was dedicated Dec. 16, 1956, with Dr. Ben L. Bridges, then secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, as speaker.

South Side to Build

SOUTH Side Church, Pine Bluff, has voted to construct a new educational building providing 9,000 square feet of space at an estimated cost of $175,000.

The building will be a one-story structure with provision for addition of another floor at a later date. A complete nursery suite will occupy one side of the building and three junior departments the other. With the added space the Sunday School will accommodate an additional 300 persons.

The building is the second in a four-step program for progress adopted last fall. The first step, redecoration of the auditorium, has been completed. Rev. Ben M. Elrod is pastor.
Arkansas All Over

ABH Notes

W. M. Freeze, Jr., Jonesboro, a member of the Arkansas Baptist Hospital Board, has taken out a $25,000 life insurance policy with the hospital designated as beneficiary. This is the first time the hospital has been designated to receive a bequest through insurance. Mr. Freeze is a member of First Church, Jonesboro.

A 1,000-HOUR certificate for volunteer service has been awarded to Mrs. Reba Goldsby by Arkansas Baptist Hospital Auxiliary. Mrs. Floyd Chronister and Mrs. Marie McCracken received pins for 500 hours, Mrs. Joseph Ballard and Mrs. Earl Crump for 300 hours, and Mrs. Earl Burnet and Mrs. Roy Kemp received 100-hour stars.

The Speaker for the Arkansas Baptist Hospital capping ceremony June 16 was Dr. Dale Cowling, pastor of Second Church, Little Rock. The ceremony for 44 students was held at Asbury Methodist Church.

North Little Rock's Memorial Hospital received pledges totaling $144,774.50 in a recent fund-raising campaign to equip the $2,500,-000 plant. The pledges totaled nearly $20,000 more than the drive's goal.

Rev. R. H. Dorris, chairman of the Hospital Commission, said $38,000 of the amount pledged has been received.

The new hospital is expected to be finished by November, ahead of the original completion date of February 1962.

Year's End

Freshman class officers at Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Memphis, happily mark the end of their first year of training. Receiving their caps from Mrs. Nina Basham, director of Nursing, (third from left) (l. to r.) are: Charlotte Graham, Hawthorne, Nev., treasurer; Anita Faye Strachn, Memphis, secretary; Britt Gantt, Memphis, president; and Geraldine Bowen, Westminster, S. C., vice president.

CAPPING ceremonies, symbolizing the end of the academic training and the beginning of clinical training at Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Memphis, Tenn., were held June 23 for 99 young women from 11 states.

All high school graduates, they have completed the first year of a three-year course leading to a diploma in nursing.

Arkansas students receiving their caps were:

Pastor for Southside

First Church, Stuttgart, and Southside Mission have called Rev. Robert Howie, formerly pastor of Gillett Church, to the mission pastorate. He fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Rev. Ben Bledsoe who will attend Southwestern Seminary. Rev. D. B. Bledsoe is First Church pastor.

Jo Lee Williams, Blytheville; Linda Ann Hicks, Rt. 2, Brinkley; Lennie Estelle Welborn, Osceola; Mary Frances Williams, Joiner; Rose Marie Cole, Rt. 1, Winnie; Eloise Patterson, Bassett; Kay Cargill, Piggott; Patricia Ruth Graham, Jonesboro; Virginia Maxine Moore, Jonesboro; Linda Sue Stallings, Rt. 3, Rector; Lovella Gillihan, Calico Rock; Nancy Marie Dick, Little Rock; Dorothy Elizabeth Pierce, Rt. 1, Texarkana.

An Article, "Preparing for Next Year by Finishing This Year's Work!," by Earl Bailey, education director of Central Church, Magnolia, appears in the July issue of the Sunday School Builder, official publication of the Sunday School Board. Dr. Loyd L. Hunnicutt is pastor of Central Church.

Deaths

A. J. Wells

A. J. "Jake" Wells, chairman of the board of deacons at First Church, Farmington, died June 15.

Survivors include his wife, Amy, and several brothers and sisters. Burial was June 19 at National Cemetery, Fayetteville.

July 13, 1961
Arkansas All Over

V.B.S. Reports

PINE Grove Church, Sweet Home, Rev. J. A. Hogan, pastor; 222 enrolled, 171 average attendance, 18 professions of faith. Mr. Hogan was principal assisted by 37 workers.

FIRST Church, Hamburg, Rev. E. E. Griever, pastor; 270 enrolled, 223 average attendance; 11 professions of faith, 53 rededications; mission offering $107.80. Mr. Griever was principal.

FIRST Church, Lockesburg, Rev. Andy Kerr, pastor; 80 enrolled, 78 average attendance.

GOODWIN Church, Rev. Johnny Green, pastor; 109 enrolled, 84 average attendance, $21.77 mission offering; Mr. Green principal; Rev. Vernon Bradley, pastor, Beckspr Church, special preacher; three professions of faith.

Revivals

HOLLAND Church, Conway, Faulkner Association; E. T. Sherrard, pastor; Walter K. Ayers, evangelist; June 5-11; seven professions of faith, three by letter.

SECOND Church, West Helena, Jack Parchman, pastor; Homer Martinez, evangelist; Joe Calderon, Ft. Worth, Tex., music; 61 additions, 31 on profession of faith, 29 by letter, one surrender to special service.

GREEN Forest Church, Gus Poole, pastor; June 11-18; Dr. C. W. Caldwell, evangelist; Clyde Stafford, music; 10 for baptism.

WESSON Church, C. H. Duke, pastor; June 11-18; John Eason, Heber Springs, evangelist; Harold Diffie and Ann McCarvey, music; two professions of faith.

IMMANUEL Church, Little Rock, Aug. 6-11 with Peter McLeod, Scotland, evangelist; Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr., pastor.

Delta Association

Sixth Encampment

NOEL Barlow, Delta Association missionary, has announced plans for two week camp programs at Wolf Creek Camp, near Collins. These programs are planned for Junior and Intermediate age girls and boys. Girls will meet July 17-21, and boys July 24-28.

Frank Ling, a native Chinese, will be the missionary speaker for both weeks. Mr. Ling's father served many years on the faculty of Shanghai Baptist University, and was there until his death under Communist occupation.

Others on the camp staff include Mrs. L. J. Ready, Tillar, director of girls camp; Rev. L. W. Williams, Wilmot, girls' pastor; Rev. Mason Craig, McGehee, director of boys camp; Rev. Roy Bunch, Eudora, boys' pastor; Rev. Phillip May, McGehee, athletic director and life guard. Mrs. Elzie Smith, Dermott, will have charge of the kitchen.

GA Coronation at First Church, Wilson

CORONATION ceremonies for Intermediate and Junior members of the Girls' Auxiliaries at First Church, Wilson, took place April 7. Counselors are Mrs. LeRoy Dangeau and Miss Rosa Etta Wolfe. Rev. T. E. Farrar, Jr., is pastor.
Arkansas All Over
Leachville G.A.'s
Have First Focus Week

GIRLS' Auxiliaries of First Church, Leachville, recently observed the first G.A. Focus Week and Presentation Service in the history of the church.

Activities were planned for each day of Focus Week, including a Mother-Daughter Banquet, with the climax the G.A. Presentation Service following Sunday evening worship services.

Among the G.A. members participating were Martha Jean McHaney, Carol Ann Hendershott, Carol Jane Wilson, Dianna Robertson, Kathy Bridges, Libby Pierce, Meiba Covey, Susie Short, Margaret McHaney, Shirley Webb, Alice Mayfield, Phyllis Thweatt, Joan Lewis, Karen Lovelady, Donna Wheeler, Barbara Blackwell, Sara Madiso and Deborah Lyerly.

Junior counselors are Mrs. John D. Wells and Mrs. Gene B. Hadley. Intermediate counselors are Mrs. Donald Wheeler and Mrs. Ather­ton Hiett. Rev. Gene B. Hadley is First Church pastor.

First, El Dorado

G.A. Coronation

FIVE Queens were among the members of First Church, El Dorado, Girls' Auxiliaries participating in a coronation service May 28. They are Eileen Anne Cauley, Freida Owen, Glenda Carol Robertson, Glynda Ann Fritts and Libby Ann Hawthorne.

Others progressing through the Forward Steps:

Maidens—Cheryl Sorrels, Paula Pruet, Suzanne Truxton, Cindy Truxton.

Ladies-in-Waiting — G l e n d a Fambrough, Linda Prothro, Robin Ritger, Pat Bornashela, Mary Lou Spears, Susan Warnock, Jan Bradley and Dorothy Novick.

Princesses—Cathy Janes, Sandra Prector and Mary Ann Prothro.

G.A. counselors are Mrs. Kathleen White, Mrs. James Hawthorne, Mrs. Iris Bornashela, Mrs. Louis Smith and Miss Marilyn Peters. First Church pastor is Dr. W. W. Warmath.

El Paso Church Dedicates New Building

ONE OF the oldest and maybe the first church established in what is now known as White County, the El Paso Baptist Church, was dedicated Sunday, June 25.

Records show the church was instituted in 1848. Some time during the Civil War, the organization was complete with five members.

A sidelight told of the history of the church is that during the war, in time of worship, Northern soldiers apprehended a man supposedly a spy and ordered the church members not to leave the area until after sundown.

Plans for remodeling were made in 1955 under the guidance of Rev. E. S. Ridgeway, pastor.

On December 28, 1958, the church called Rev. Ernest Anderson as pastor, with the understanding that a new building for a place of worship would begin. In September, 1959, under the leadership of the building committee composed of Neal Jenkins, Kenneth Harston, Vernon Cole and Mr. Anderson, the church voted to remodel the old structure instead of constructing a new one.

Gwin to Nimrod

REV. Bill Gwin has been called as pastor of Nimrod Church. He was ordained June 11 at Bayou Meto Church with Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr., pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, bringing the ordination message.

During the remodeling program the past three years, a full-time church program has been carried on, with a monthly budget of $300, plus $100 for the building fund. The church borrowed $2,500 of which $1,000 has already been repaid.

The value of the church, estimated to be $15,000, does not include the hours of free labor given by members and friends of the congregation.

The El Paso Masonic Lodge, No. 68, which occupies the second story of the church and El Paso Church together painted and re­roofed the building.

New construction includes five Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall, a baptistry and a kitchen. The building has been air-conditioned and has central heating.

At the dedication service the church history was given by Mrs. Blanche Harston. The sermon was preached by Rev. E. E. Boone. The dedication was presented by Past­or Anderson and the dedication prayer by R. E. Kent.

FIRST Church, Ft. Smith, has been chosen as one of 44 in the Southern Baptist Convention to be listed in "Historic Churches," a book compiled and edited by the Historical Commission of the Sunday School Board. Rev. Newman R. McLarry is pastor.
**BY THE BAPTIST PRESS**

**Miami Baptists’ Drive**

BAPTISTS in Miami, Fla., have launched a program to finance property for new missions. Miami Baptist Association wants 10,000 persons to contribute at least $10 a year for the new mission property fund. The association plans to enter new residential areas and buy church sites while land is still available. Baptist leaders estimate at least 40 new missions will be needed in the next 10 years to keep pace with population growth.

**Baptist 4-Way Merger**

THE AMERICAN Baptist Convention was urged by one of its retiring officials to begin negotiations to merge with the Disciples of Christ, the National Baptist Convention (Negro) and the Brethren Denomination.

M. Forest Ashbrook, New York, concluding his service as executive director of the American Baptists’ Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, called for establishment of a joint commission to explore the possibilities of bringing the four groups together.

Other convention officials expressed some surprise this view was voiced. Merger talks with the Disciples of Christ were conducted for several years but had been abandoned.

Speaking at a luncheon given in his honor prior to opening of the annual session of the convention, Ashbrook told several hundred ministers there is also a need for emphasizing “American Baptist distinctives.” He likewise called for added importance to be given to theological education.

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Page Twelve
Named Father of Year

A 90-YEAR-OLD retired Baptist preacher from Grand Saline, Tex., who has led more than 2,500 persons to make "decisions for Christ," has been named 1961 Texas Baptist Father of the Year.

W. W. Parker, who has pastored 18 Texas and Louisiana Baptist churches during 50 years in the ministry, was named to receive the award by a special joint committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist Standard, state Baptist newspaper.

The committee cited Parker for "his contribution to Christianity through his family, church and community."

Military Youth Needs

YOUTH entering military service reveal an increased knowledge about the world but not about spiritual matters in comparison to former years.

"The military is getting as fine a group of young people as ever," says Brig. Gen. Robert Taylor of Washington, deputy chief of Air Force chaplains. "They are academically stronger but religiously about the same."

Taylor, a Baptist, was in Atlanta conferring with officials of the chaplains division of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He suggests churches do more to prepare their youth for military service and encourage them to be Christian witnesses in service. One area where he thought churches could strengthen their programs is in public worship.

"Many churches are shooting over the heads of their youngsters, especially in the adolescent ages," he says. "Our worship services are for adults, and the day has come when we need worship services pitched for youth. More of our churches should start separate services for them."

Gen. Taylor, a chaplain for 21 years, was pastor of Baptist churches in Texas where he attended Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. He is one of the survivors of the "Bataan death march."

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Communism

(Continued from page 7)

Christians Under Communist Rule

MANY fellow Christians are living under Communist rule. The Russian Baptists are the second largest Christian group in the USSR with 5,400 churches and more than half a million acknowledged members.

Second, Communist atheism is not so much a distinctive faith as a tool for propaganda against a social system which the Communists hate. By means of their atheism they attack the churches and the preachers for promising “pie in the sky by and by.” Christians are wise to understand this confrontation is more than a formal debate in which Communists say, “There is no God,” and Christians reply, “Oh, yes, there is a God.” This is a pervasive struggle which includes what atheists and believers do for the oppressed. “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:16) is Christ’s judgment on Christians as well as Communists.

Third, Communists have idols. The first of the Ten Commandments, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me,” (Exod. 20:3) pronounces against the persistent tendency in men towards idolatry. Men’s idols will range from Baal to ballistics. Communist idols include the Party, Science, Power, Surpassing the United States and even the bodies of Lenin and Stalin, the “gruesome twosome” on exhibition in Red Square.

What can such a system believe about the rights of an individual man, whose rights Christians say are God-given? The second in the series of study on communism will help us see this point more clearly.

Gleanings from the Greek New Testament

BY V. WAYNE BARTON

A CHRISTIAN ought to be a gentleman. Of course, a gentleman sometimes suggests one who is born to wealth or aristocracy. It goes without saying that a Christian would not necessarily be a gentleman in that sense.

But according to a certain Pauline injunction, there is a sense in which a Christian should be a gentleman. Paul said, “Let your gentleness be known unto all men” (Phil. 4:5). Gentleness is preferable here to either moderation of the KJV or forbearance of the ASV. So the Christian ought to be a gentleman to all men.

Gertrude Stein, famous for her saying “a rose is a rose, is a rose,” might have expressed it, “A gentleman is a gentleman, is a gentleman.” Hence, the Christian should be a gentleman, for a gentleman is a gentleman. ■

Copyright 1960; by V. Wayne Barton, New Orleans Seminary
AN ESTIMATED 2,000 people witnessed the appointment of 15 new missionaries at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Assembly as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board opened a special full session at the beginning of the annual Foreign Missions Conference, June 15-21. The new missionaries bring to 65 the number of appointments this year and to 1,532 the number of active foreign missionaries.

The appointees, their native states, and fields of service are Dutton A. Bonnell, Jr., and Marilyn Richards Bonnell, both of Florida, appointed for Central Africa; James Y. Greene and Judith Church Greene, both of North Carolina, for Korea; J. T. Harvill and Catherine Crum Harvill, both of Arkansas, for Mexico; Billy P. Keith, Oklahoma, and Mona Pigg Keith, Texas, for Japan. Also, Diana Lay, Ohio, appointed for Ghana; Oscar D. Martin, Jr., Texas, and Barbara Cheek Martin, Georgia, for North Brazil; Sidney P. Schmidt, North Dakota, and Darleen Wilson Schmidt, Nebraska, for Malaya; and Frank S. Wells and Jo Ann Fossett Wells, both of Alabama, for Indonesia.

Eight of the 15 just appointed will serve in this capacity in general evangelism, with the Harvills doing English-speaking work. Miss Lay is the first nurse to be appointed for the Baptist medical center in Nalerigu, Ghana, which opened almost three years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt will serve in the field of religious education, and Mr. and Mrs. Greene and Mr. and Mrs. Wells will work among students.

Outlines Organization

THE FOREIGN Mission Board is simply a channel through which every church in the Southern Baptist Convention projects its missionary effort across the world," Executive Secretary Baker Cauthen explained to the Ridgecrest group in his report at the opening session. He outlined the organization of the Board, saying it functions through the following committees:

1. Administrative committee, which handles all matters dealing with finance, general policy, and administration.
2. Three area committees, one each for Latin America, the Orient, and Africa, Europe, and the Near East. Through the area secretaries these committees and the Board receive recommendations from the Missions throughout the world as to needs, emergencies, programs, and aspirations, as well as matters of personal crisis to missionaries.
3. Committee on missionary education and promotions, which gives attention to the sharing of the message of missions throughout the Convention. The department for this work is organized into four divisions: publications, promotion, visual education, and press relations.
4. Committee on missionary personnel, which gives its attention to the task of bringing people to appointment by the Board.
5. Special committees appointed from time to time as required.

Goerner Reports Progress

IN HIS report Dr. H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Near East, summarized progress and need throughout his area.

Baptists in the Near East are beginning to make ready for the Baptist World Youth Congress to be held in Beirut, Lebanon, in the summer of 1963 and for a possible after-meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel. Third Baptist Church, Madrid, Spain, has been granted official permission to occupy new quarters.

In Nigeria more and more responsibility for Baptist leadership is being assumed by trained Africans, and the missions thus released are being deployed in new areas where pioneering is required and in new types of work, such as an increased use of radio and television.

Rising standards established by Ghana's Government make it almost imperative for Baptists to strengthen the staffs of medical and educational institutions there.

Beginning in early fall, Dr. and Mrs. Goerner will live abroad for several months, taking up residence in cities central to areas for which he is responsible.

The Board recommended that Dr. J. Wash Watts, long-time professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at New Orleans Seminary and former missionary to Palestine, be invited to serve as visiting professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon, for the 1961-62 session.

Latin America Report

IN HIS report Dr. Frank K. Means, secretary for Latin America, analyzed the religious situation in his area. Encouraging progress in Baptist work there was reported in 1960. For the first time the number of churches topped 2,000 (totaling 2,028) and church membership topped 200,-000 (totaling 208,708). Baptisms rose more than 2,000 over the previous year to total 17,219, with the ratio being one baptism for every 12 members, as opposed to one for every 13 members the year before.

Needs in Orient

THE REPORT of Orient Secretary Winston Crawley, sent from the field where he has temporary headquarters in Hong Kong, dealt, with vast Orient areas still unentered by Southern Baptists and with hopes for entry.

Dr. Crawley named as possible future Southern Baptist mission fields India, West Pakistan, troubled Laos and its neighbor Cambodia, and North Borneo.
Preaching

PREACHING has always received primary importance in Baptist churches.

Perhaps such emphasis is the result of the belief that ministers are called and commissioned by God. Seeking to follow a New Testament pattern, which reveals the disciples sent forth with a message, Baptists have majored on the spoken word.

Too, in early Baptist history, preaching was a reaction against sacramental ritualism. This was a form of worship which sought fellowship with God through the medium of ordinances, ceremonies, and forms of worship.

Baptists and others had a different concept. They sought fellowship with God by bringing man face to face with God through preaching. It was the impact of truth upon the conscience of man that called for definite decision and committal of life. They followed the injunction “preach the word.”

The idea of a divine call of God has kept Baptists from setting up educational standards for preachers. This does not mean that they disapprove of educated ministers. They have been leaders in religious education. It simply means that experience has proven God has done marvelous work through relatively uneducated men. He uses all type men. Usually a church does not call a man whose educational level is lower than its own.

The content of such preaching is biblical. The purpose of preaching is to explain and apply the scriptures in such a way as to give the most help to the listeners. Whether for soul-winning, ethics, stewardship, moral responsibility, or doctrine, the Bible is the source and authority for the message.

Various types sermons have been used—textual, topical, expository—but all with biblical content. Scriptures have been used to present truth in which the speaker was particularly interested. Not many have dealt with prolonged explanation. However, modern preachers seem to give more attention to expository and didactic preaching.

Preaching has directed the types of church buildings. Lack of ornate symbolism is due to this emphasis. Simple hall-like structures where men could be seen and heard have been a popular style for Baptist churches. But they have historical precedent for this; synagogues were built along these lines.
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Clear Creek Association News

Paul E. Wilhelm, Missionary

RONALD Edmonson, 16-year-old son of Rev. Milton Edmonson, pastor of Lamar Church, surrendered to the ministry recently. His first sermon was delivered in the evening service June 18.

FIRST Church, Mulberry, dedicated its new educational building June 25. The two-story concrete block building has a total floor space of 7,800 square feet. Rev. Paul E. Wilhelm, missionary, brought the message with Rev. S. A. Wiles, retired missionary, leading in the dedication prayer. Rev. Charles Duncan is pastor.

THREE churches from Washington-Madison Association assembled 115 people in an encampment at Baptist Vista June 15-17. Darrel Whitby, educational director of First Church, Huntsville, was camp director with his brother, Rev. Jim Whitby, Youth for Christ Director of Tulsa, Okla., as camp pastor. Pastors and churches participating were Rev. Carl Nelson, pastor, First Church, Huntsville; Rev. Walter Jesser, pastor, Providence Church, Fayetteville, and Rev. Jack Porter, pastor, Caule Ave. Church, Springdale. Fifty decisions were recorded with seven of these professions of faith.

KIBLER Church honored its 1961 graduating seniors with a banquet recently. Speakers on the program included Rev. Harold White, a chaplain with the Armed Forces. Rev. Charles Chesser is pastor. Mr. Chesser was the speaker in a revival meeting at Coal Hill Church which closed June 18. Rev. Doyle Smith is pastor.

REV. S. A. Wiles, retired missionary, did the preaching at a revival at Batson Mission which ended June 14. Rev. George Payne is pastor.

MISS Josephine Harris, Southern Baptist missionary now on furlough from Hawaii and a native of Brinkley, has moved from Pineville, La., to Glorieta, N. M., where her address is P. O. Box 598.
**BSU Presidents**

**Miss Chancellor**

President of the Arkansas Baptist Hospital School of Nursing Baptist Student Union is Rowan Chancellor, Dardanelle. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Chancellor and a senior nursing student.

**Jimmie Chapman**

Jimmie Chapman, Pine Bluff, is the Baptist Student Union president at Arkansas Tech. Jimmie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Chapman and plans to enter science research after graduation.—Tom J. Logue, Secretary

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**Sunday School**

**That Time Again**

PREPARATION WEEK this year is scheduled for Sept. 17-24. The theme for the week and for 1960-61 Sunday School program is "Outreach for the Unreached — Spearhead for Advance." The suggested scripture: "And other sheep I have ... them also I must bring" (John 10:16).

What is it? Climaxing eight weeks of evaluation and planning, Preparation Week launches the Sunday School into a year of advance. It is a week of training — for more effective work in your Sunday School for 1961-62; planning — to discover the best methods, materials, and organization; and a week of enlargement — to complete and put into operation plans for reaching more people through new units and programs.

What can it do for your church?

1. Strengthen and expand organization
2. Awaken enthusiasm for the work of the Sunday School
3. Reach unsaved and unchurched persons
4. Provide increased financial support

Where do you get the "know-how"?

The information you need for a successful Preparation Week for 1961 is contained in the Program Guidebook, "Design For Sunday School ADVANCE."

If you do not have a Program Guidebook order one from your State Sunday School Secretary.

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**LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY FOR ARKANSAS**

The Sunday School Leadership Assembly for Arkansas Baptists will convene at Siloam Springs; Aug. 7-11. Hear Howard Halsell, state Sunday School secretary for Kansas; Robert Scales, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; John McClanahan, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hope; and other Sunday School leaders and workers.

Classes are provided for all Sunday School leaders of all age group departments for all ages of children and young people. Have fun with all types of wholesome recreation and eat good food prepared by professional cooks in a modern kitchen. Add to this relaxation in the delightful mountain air of the assembly grounds and you have a perfect week. — Lawson Hatfield, Secretary

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Select Officers Early

DURING the two weeks of Sept. 4-15, training-planning meetings will be held in each association for all associational officers. This means that all officers must be elected (or at least selected) before the first of September. May we offer these suggestions:

1. Now is the time to select the associational Training Union director. A person who is serving well should continue to serve year after year. We don't select workers on the basis of "passing around the honors."

2. Beginning now the associational director, working with his associational missionary and the associational nominating committee, should select all of the associational officers, including all department leaders, nursery through adult.

3. Whenever possible, the same workers should be retained year after year. In a well organized association there should be few if any changes made.

4. When officers are selected it should be understood that they will be expected to attend the training-planning meeting in September, attend the regular associational meetings and conduct the conferences for their departments.

5. NOW is the time to do all of this! —Ralph W. Davis, Secretary

BIBLES REBOUND

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Continued from page 2)

are afraid to find out for fear someone will get excited about ministering to the needs.

In short, the need of Arkansas, the United States and the world is spiritual. This is true because Christianity can live without a democracy, but democracy cannot live without Christianity. History proves this statement. Christianity had one of its high-water marks during the dictatorship of the Roman Empire. If the need of the world is spiritual then church people ought to be concerned about spiritual things. A form of spirituality and religiosity is not enough.

This modern day has seen some church people so concerned about the biggest that now over 60 per cent of all people belong to some church. Church membership is fine if it is a regenerated church membership. It would be wonderful if every citizen of the United States of America were a regenerated, consecrated church member. But just because someone has his name on the church roll does not mean necessarily that that person is a Christian. Church membership and Christianity can be altogether different. We admit that it should not be and the terms should be synonymous.

Now, our job is not only to be concerned about quantity but quality in church membership. Why should anyone belong to a church and never know its doctrine? Why should anyone belong to a church and never give any money to help preach the gospel, etc.?

These are good questions and unless we find the answers our nation could soon become a nation of pagan church members.

One step in the direction of quality church membership is for the churches to emphasize giving. Giving is at the very heart of Christianity: Jesus said, "For where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also."

No, it is not from one crisis to another as some of our politicians would have us believe. It is the problem of qualitative Christianity. And only the teaching of Bible stewardship can solve the problem. — Ralph Douglas, Associate Executive Secretary.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By Dr. R. Lofton Hudson

Deacons Chase Pastor Off

QUESTION: We have a wonderful pastor who hasn't felt called of God to leave his place of service, but the Board of Deacons have asked him to resign. Do they have the right to do that without first asking the church? Do we who love our pastor and our church sit idly by and say nothing? This is the sixth one they have chased off.

ANSWER: Your church is like most Baptist churches, they do not have a clear statement of policy about church government. If your church gives the deacons the power to ask a pastor to resign, they have a perfect right. No pastor ought to accept a church without knowing who is the governing body. If he takes orders from God and the deacons feel that they speak for God, then, of course, there will be confusion.

Your deacons ought to consider the fact that most denominations have a real shortage in the number of ministers who are available. Southern Baptists have a decrease in the enrollment of ministerial students in colleges and seminaries each year, starting with 1957. This in the face of many new churches springing up!

It is just such action as your deacons have taken, if you have accurately reported it, that encourages young preachers. Even preachers need a reasonable security.

(Address all questions to Dr. Hudson, 116 West 47th Street, Kansas City 12, Missouri.)

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Baptist Memorial Hospital offers a three-year, fully accredited program in nursing education. Applications are now being received for the September, 1961 class. Interviews and pre-nursing tests will be scheduled after application forms are submitted.

The form below will assist you in receiving additional information, or application forms.

(Deadline for application is Aug. 15, 1961.)

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Riding a Camel

BY THELMA C. CARTER

IF YOU had been a small boy living in the Holy Land at the time of Joseph or David, you would have been thrilled to learn to ride a camel. To own a camel was a mark of distinction. Camels were considered special possessions. They were stronger than horses, were able to travel for days without water, and needed only a small ration of food.

Some ancient families' wealth often consisted solely of their camels. The Bible says that Job had three thousand of them along with other flocks and herds (Job 1:3).

Usually the largest camels were used to carry merchandise from one city to another. Rich men owned and rode the leaner and smaller camels, called dromedaries, because of their swiftness.

Many camels had one hump on their backs. Others had two humps, which formed a natural saddle for riding.

To ride a camel skillfully was learned early in the lives of boys in Bible times. The dromedary would lie down in order to let his rider mount. Then came the lifesaving trick to be learned by the rider. For the camel, in getting up, rises upon his hind legs first, and the rider must be careful not to fall over the animal's head.

When on the march — and most camels were on march in merchant caravans — the camels were not to be stopped, even to be mounted. The rider learned to give a certain signal, whereupon the animal would lower his head to the ground. Then the rider would set his foot upon the camel's neck and then to the ground. Today camel riders are hoisted upon the tall animals or have a sort of footrest to aid them.

It was a skilled rider who could jump off his beast and remain without stopping the caravan. The act of kneeling down is known to be most tiring and hurtful to a camel.

Ancient camel caravans plodded the hot sands for hours with a single palm tree as a rest stop for weary riders. From Egypt up the Palestinian coast to Damascus was their usual trail.

Alice decided she would try to see how many shades of blue she could find. The sky was a beautiful shade to start with. A lady with a blue dress came down the street.

Timmy decided to see flower colors. Even before they reached the park, he had seen five different ones: pink cosmos, yellow marigolds, lavender asters, white roses, and red zinnias.

John could hardly decide what his special "sees" would be. There were so many different birds, he liked birds.

"I'll see how many kinds of birds I can see," he said. "There are sparrows and starlings right off, but in the park there will be many others."

Now the three friends did not think of the warm day. They were too busy looking and seeing.

Alice saw blue morning-glories. "Is that in my color collection or yours, Timmy?" she asked.

"You may have it," Timmy offered generously.

"Let's both have it," Alice offered just as unselfishly, and that is what they did.

In the park were many things to see. A policeman in a blue uniform added to Timmy's and a redbird to John's.

"This is fun!" cried Timmy happily. "I didn't know there were so many flower colors. Look at the flower beds!"

"God is so wonderful to make such beautiful things for us," said Alice happily, "colors and flowers and birds, all so different and all so pretty."

"This is a nice new game," said John, seated on the grass beneath a tree.

A cool breeze blew, swaying the branches lazily over their heads. A robin sang from an oak tree, and John added him to Alice's list. A dandelion added to Timmy's and a redbird to John's.

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Sunday School Lesson

Matthew, A Converted Publican

By K. ALVIN PITT
Pastor, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock
July 16, 1961


Matthew, meaning “gift of Jehovah,” was a tax collector in the employment of the Roman government. One day he went as usual to the toll house at Capernaum where he had an unforgettable experience which completely and eternally transformed his life: he met Jesus Christ, heard His call to salvation, and laid down everything to follow Him. This in brief would account for sum up Matthew’s life.

As we look at the Scripture before us, we can get much insight into Matthew’s heart before and after his conversion experience.

First, Matthew at the receipt of custom. Matthew 9:9-13

Of all places for Matthew, a Jew, to be was at the toll house at Capernaum, where taxes were collected for the Roman government. And of all things for him to do was to be a part of the collection of these taxes. But there he was! In fact, this particular station was under his authority.

Because of the enormity of the business we can be sure that he had several people working under him. Capernaum was on the major trade route which connected Asia with Africa, making it necessary for all the many caravans to travel “that way with their heavy loads of tapestries, rugs, grains, marble, and precious woods.” Matthew and his force of tax collectors were there to buy and collect the proper taxes.

Not only did Matthew collect taxes from the caravans that passed by Capernaum but he was responsible for collecting taxes from the local Jews. This caused him to be looked upon with hatred by the people. They called him traitor, collaborator, sinner. Nothing was too mean for them to say or think about him.

Because it was common for publicans or tax collectors to be guilty of graft and corruption in the execution of their job, they did not hesitate to class Matthew along with all the rest. The fact that he was working for the government which controlled their country with an iron fist made them hate him all the more.

That was the kind of man whom Jesus saw when He passed by the receipt of custom. He did not hurry on by or look the other way or give Matthew a hard look as the other people did. Rather, He said to him appealingly, “Follow me.”

Jesus was inviting him to leave the business to which he had sold his soul and follow Him for salvation and worthy employment and service. We are told, and in Matthew’s own words, for he later wrote the gospel which bears his name: “And he arose, and followed him.”

Matthew was never the same again. Jesus saw him not as he was but for what he could become by God’s power and challenged him to give himself to that power.

The New Testament word for God’s love is agape. It means God loving the unlovely. Jesus loved sinful, hated Matthew as He passed by his toll house. He loved him even though he was a rebel against God. He wanted to do something for him.

Friends, God loves those down-and-outs in your community. It matters not how low in sin they have sunk. The same Lord who died for you gave His life for them. The same precious blood of the Lamb that redeemed you is abundantly able to save them. No matter at what mill of sin they are grinding for Satan there is redemption, a new life awaiting them in Christ. Dare to take it to them.

Second, Matthew entertaining Jesus in his house. Matthew 9:10-13

How thrilled this man was to meet and to know Jesus personally. Jesus had done something for him. Now he must do something for Jesus. So He invited Him to his home for a meal, a banquet. He wasn’t ashamed to have the Master come into his home. He wanted Jesus to see that he was sincere in his profession; that he wasn’t pretending to be one thing in public while he was altogether different at home. He desired his home to be Jesus’.

Still Matthew wasn’t satisfied. He was happy to have Jesus visit his home for a meal but that wasn’t sufficient. He had so many friends who were still like he was before he met the Saviour. He wanted them to know Him too; so he invited them to the meal. This would give him a good opportunity to introduce them to Jesus and to let Him talk to them about His way of life.

These friends came. About the time that everybody was thoroughly enjoying himself, a damper was put on the festivity by some Pharisees who asked the disciples why Jesus was eating with publicans and sinners. Because this was a question He wanted to answer, Jesus replied, “They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick . . . I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

He let them know that He was exactly where He wanted to be and should have been: dealing with lost men who knew their condition and wanted to do something about it. He does not mean to infer that the Pharisees were righteous or whole, only that they thought they were and as a result were beyond His help.

So much did Matthew burn with the desire to bring his countrymen and friends to Christ that he was given the privilege of writing the four gospels, which was written especially for the Jews. In it he sets forth Jesus as the promised Messiah who has come to earth, died on the Cross for man’s sin, and is risen again as the living Lord. His very language in the gospel lets us know it was written with the Jew in mind. He wrote it for their salvation.

Do we burn with such a compassion to see men saved? If we did, would we not witness more people coming to know Christ? We would not be content to sit idly by while men are dying in sin and going to eternal Devil’s Hell.

Third, Matthew among the disciples. Matthew 10:1-4

When Jesus called Matthew on that day at Capernaum, He not only was calling him to salvation but to special service. We find his name listed among the disciples, which means “learners.” We also find one of the 66 books of the Bible bearing his name, as we have already noted. What a far cry from that of collecting taxes for a pagan government to the task of learning from Jesus to render special service.

Our study concerning Matthew would suggest several truths for our hearts:

1. See men not from the standpoint of what sin has done to and with them but what God in His grace and power can do for and with them.

2. Love the downcasts and dare to challenge them with God’s best.

3. Invite Jesus into your total life: heart, home, business, etc.

4. Dare to follow Him where He leads. He will go before you and where He leads will bring high service and happiness.

5. Be willing to serve in whatever capacity the Master places you.
A Smile or Two

WHILE campaigning for Congress in a rural section, a politician ran into an unfriendly crowd at one stop, and halfway through his speech was suddenly pelted with tomatoes and eggs. His presence of mind did not fail him, however.

As he wiped his face and shirt front his next remark turned boos into cheers.

"My critics," he said jauntily, "may not think I know much about farming — but they'll have to admit that I'm being a big help with the farm surplus."

Once a Year

A HARRIED mother says, "At Christmas time the kids hang up their stocking. After that, it's a full week before any one of them hangs up anything again."

Sad But True

SINKING Fund: Your checking account toward the end of the month.

Junior Diplomat

MOTHER (to son returning from party): I hope you didn't ask for a second piece of cake.

Tommy: No, I just asked Mrs. Smith for the recipe so you could make some like it. And she gave me two more recipes.

Prosperity Note

BEGGAR: "Can you spare a dime for a cup of coffee?"

Man (fumbling in his coat pocket): "Just a minute."

Beggar: "Hurry up, I'm double parked."

Hindsight

SHE: You deceived me before our marriage. You said that you were well off.

He: I was, but I didn't know it.

They Might Be Tough

MRS. REILLY, "What makes these sardines so high?"

"They're imported, Mun," replied the grocer.

MRS. R.: "I'll take the domestic ones — them as had brains to swim across this country."

Modern Miss

THE THIRD grade was learning the letters of the alphabet.

"What comes after T?" asked the teacher.

Ella quickly replied, "V."

Experienced

LANDLADY — I think you had better board elsewhere.

Boarder — Yes, I often had.

Landlady — Often had what?

Boarder — Had better board elsewhere.

Togetherness

"SERGEANT, pick me out a nice gentle horse. " Have you ever ridden before?"

"No."

"Well, here's just the animal for you. Never been ridden before. You can both start together."

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J U L Y 1 3 , 1 9 6 1
Postal Increases
WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Seeking ways to reduce the U.S. postal deficit, Postmaster General J. Edward Day announced recently that postal COD rates would be increased Aug. 1—first COD rate change since 1952.

Earlier, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish publishers of religious periodicals met with members of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee to protest rate increases that, in some cases, would more than double the postage bills of church publications.


The Congressional Committee offered a sympathetic ear as the publishers explained in detail the effect of postal increases. Mr. Van Ness said that the postage bill for Presbyterian Life (circulation 1-148,000) would jump from $91,502 to $160,487 if Postmaster Day's recommendations were passed. The Lutheran (United Lutheran Church of America), which paid $19,125 last year for its 200,000 weekly circulation, would have its bill increased to $44,165, an increase of 133 per cent. The Methodist magazine Together would pay $30,000 more, an increase of 40 per cent. The smaller the periodical, the greater would be the increase, Van Ness said.