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## July 17, 1952

**Arkansas Baptist State Convention** 

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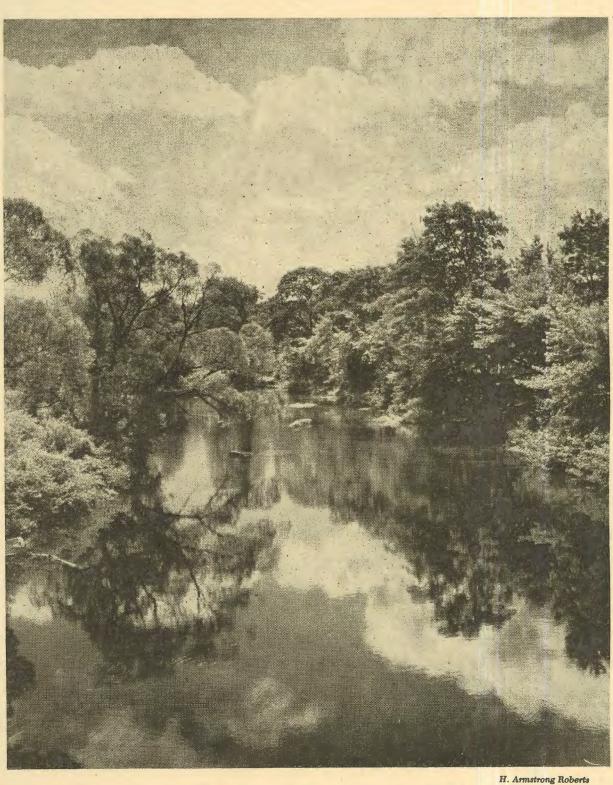
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BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 51

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS. JULY 17, 1952

NUMBER 28



Looks Inviting Doesn't It?

# How Do Denominations Lose Their Colleges?

By ALBERT McCLELLAN

Associate Secretary, Executive Committee

In asking how denominations lose their colleges we have before us the alarming fact that colleges do drift away from their moorings. They lose not only their sectarian but their Christian anchors. They become a part of the secular education pattern so prevalent in our country, emphasizing material to the neglect of spiritual values. They continue to make worthwhile contributions to the cultural life of our nation, they are invaluable lighthouses of learning, but they do not fulfill their original Christion mission.

Brown University in Rhode Island and the University of Chicago were originally Baptist colleges. Vanderbilt in Nashville started as a Methodist school. Yale, Harvard, and Princeton all had denominational beginnings.

It is true that these schools still carry some of the external manifestations of being Christian. Harvard, for example, bears on "Pro Christo et Ecclesia." They maintain chapels. They have schools of religion. But too often premium is put on intellectual freedom to the extent that the religious teaching is merely about Christianity. What is presented is a meaningless vapid Christian faith without either intellectual or spiritual content enough to face and win victories over such enemies of the soul as communism.

How does this happen? There are many answers. We suggest here areas where it seems that breakdown is most likely.

#### Denominational Relationship

The relation of the denomination to the college is so complex that failure in one area can lead to failure in another area.

First, the college must make a vital contribution to the life of the denomination. The contribution does not stop with the training of preachers. The college must denominationally-minded lay train people. A barber college must produce barbers. A law college must produce lawyers. A college of medicine must produce physicians. A Christian college must produce Christian men and women whose philosophy is inherently in sympathy with the ideals and convictions of the sponsoring organization. However, the responsibility at this point does not rest with the school. To get the job done the denomination must furnish the college with something more than money. It must furnish students.

Thus, the failure of the denomination to contribute what they need most—students—can lead to the loss of the colleges. A college administration cannot force a Christian attitude, nor can it force what has been called "a denominational flavor." A Baptist school is not completely Baptist until a sizeable portion of its student body is Baptist. Figures indicating Baptist enrol-ment in Baptist colleges run from onethird to 90 per cent. Any school that fails to challenge its constituency for student support and that draws only a Baptist minority into its student body is in for a shaky time.

#### Financial Support

Again, the college may be lost if the denomination fails to assume responsibility for financial support. A denomination will lose its colleges when it fails to provide a balanced income. Dr. R. Orin Cornett has pointed out that "a school needs endowment to protect it against depression years. It needs the financial flexibility of annual appropriations from its constituency to take care of it in periods of inflation." At this present time Baptist colleges are better off than other average denominational schools, but on the whole our Baptist colleges are precariously situated to face depression. They lack sufficient endowment.

It is not unusual for the school to find it necessary to look outside the denomination for support. This assistance often takes the form of huge sums of money for building or endowment. It is often given under rigid conditions. Usually these do not amount to outright surrender of the colleges but only impose restrictions that make denominational abdication later seem necessary. Other times the conditions are cleverly hidden strings that enable outside manipulators to gain control of the internal policies of the school.

Sometimes money is given without strings. Control is left in the hands of the college boards. This is the best way to receive outside money, but it is not a guarantee that the denomination will retain its influence. Wealthy college boards have been known to say, "We do not need the denomination any longer," and break away. This is most likely if the boards of trustees are self-perpetuating.

Therefore, the denomination must tain control in some kind of unbreakable form. The tie to be really effective must be recorded both in the constitution of the denomination and the charter of the school. It should specifically delegate control by the denomination itself through the nomination and election of all trustees. When the denomination-college relationship fails in every other area this last bulwark-power of selection of trustees can bring the college back to its intended place of service. This is the real insurance, it is very rare that denominations lose control of schools whose boards they elect.

Today's picture in the Southern Baptist Convention is very encouraging. Most of the fifty-two Baptist colleges are unquestionably loyal. The few doubtful ones are gradually becoming more closely identified with our spirit and purpose.

While we are not perfect in our relationships, other denominations are beginning to ask, "How do you do it? We want to do it the same way." We cannot resist saying it again, the place to start is with denominational election of boards of trus-

#### Facts of Interest

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Postmaster Lewis Moore, Nashville, Tennessee, Baptist layman, suggested in 1950 that all 833 postal employes pause for one minute in their work on United Nations Day and offer a prayer for world peace. It met such a hearty response that the employes requested permission to hold daily prayer services. Attendance is almost 100 per cent. Top officials say as a result of the services harmony among the employes is at its

## A Mystery Revealed

A Devotion by the Editor

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." Man has always felt that there were greater ends of life than he had as yet attained. The evidence of this consciousness

is found in the struggle of the race up-

ward.

In man's struggle toward the objectives and ends which he has felt rather than seen, his progress has been retarded by inscrutable mysteries. In spite of all the insights and revelations and discoveries, the ultimate ends of life are shrouded in mystery, and the soul of man is conscious of powers for which as yet no adequate opportunity is provided.

But Paul maintains that all the mysteries of life are resolved by one simple, yet pro-found, fact of actual experience which is possible to every individual: "Christ in you,

the hope of glory."

This one experience completes the pattern of life, and all the odd, and what had been considered unrelated fragments of life, take their places in the growing and unfolding design.

Have there not been many things in your life which appeared to be entirely out of place in the design of life, and which you did not know how to fit into your pattern of life?

Did you ever undertake to put a jigsaw puzzle together, and in so doing did you ever come to the conclusion that some piece was lost, or that there were too many pieces? The pattern of life sometimes seems like that. But if you kept working at the jig-saw puzzle you discovered that there were no lost pieces and that all the pieces were needed. And as the pieces are put together it is interesting to watch the design take shape and fill out into a beautiful and we'l proportioned picture.
"Christ in you" will resolve the mystery

of the pattern of your life, and if you will not give up, deciding that some pieces are lost or that other pieces just won't fit inif you will keep working at it with "Chris in you," the design will begin to appea and grow more beautiful and attractive a you fit the various pieces together into the

pattern of your life.

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

"To whom God would make known wha is the riches of the glory of this myster among the Gentiles! which is Christ in you the hope of glory." Colossians 1:26, 27.

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# From The Editor's Desk

# Shall the Southern Baptist Convention Set Up a Doctrinal Test of Fellowship?

This question cannot be discussed adequately in one brief article; it will require several articles to present the matter to our readers with any degree of clarity. Therefore, we plan to discuss the question in the succeeding issues of the Arkansas Baptist. We invite our readers to follow the discussion week by week with open minds and prayerful hearts. It is not our purpose to debate this question or argue for or against it. What we are attempting to do is to set forth as clearly as possible the issues involved and call attention to the deep concern which is felt by honest and sincere brethren on both sides of the issue.

We make no claim that this discussion shall be exhaustive but we hope that it will be comprehensive enough to give our readers a clear conception of the problem we face. Usually, problems in our Southern Baptist fellowship are solved when they are approached with an open mind, prayerfully, with the pertinent facts in hand.

#### Trend Toward Doctrinal Test?

Many brethren in our Southern Baptist
fellowship recognize a trend toward a doctrinal test of fellowship in the Southern
Baptist Convention, and they are alarmed
by this trend and are fearful that it will
disrupt the fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention and retard its progress in
advancing the kingdom work as given to
Southern Baptists to see their mission in
carrying out the commands of our Lord.
Others see a trend toward looseness in

doctrinal beliefs in some sections of our Southern Baptist territory and are alarmed lest a growing disregard for certain historic Baptist principles should spread further and become dominant in our Southern Baptist churches.

The issue centers mainly in the ordinances and in the autonomy of the local Baptist church. The issue has been made prominent in the sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention by the Committee on Relations with Other Religious Bodies, popularly known as the Gardner Committee. The Committee on Relations with Other Religious Bodies, in its report to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Francisco in May, 1951, said in part: "Some of our churches have departed from some of the time-honored principles of New Testament Baptists: Some by failing to give to missions, others by refusing to support the denominational plan, others by accepting alien immersion, and by practicing open communion." The Committee report further states: "Your Committee believes that every influence should be set in action to keep our churches, institutions, conventions, assemblies, and denomination doctrinally sound." The report makes other references to the ordinances as follows: "Baptists believe that all Christians should be baptized; that baptism is the immersion of the believer in water upon authority of a New Testament church and that it is an act of obedience, but, in itself, has no saving power . . . Baptists believe that the Lord's Supper is only for baptized believers. The Lord's Supper is a memorial. It has no saving efficacy. . . . It is our conviction that looseness with the ordinances is as far from the teachings and practices of New Testament churches as in joining the World Council or any other unionizing movement."

#### Milam Amendment

In its report to the Convention, meeting in Miami in May of this year, the Committee on Relations with Other Religious Bodies made no reference to alien immersion and open communion as was the case the year before. However, the Committee commended the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention "for the promotion of our Baptist doctrines through the study of doctrinal books." And in its recommendations, this further reference to indoctrination is made: "6. That, through the educational program of the churches, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention continue to challenge Southern Baptists to study accredited doctrinal books as promoted by the Sunday School Board."

Perhaps these references would not justify inclusion in this discussion except for the fact that Dr. R. E. Milam, executive secretary of the Washington-Oregon Convention, offered an amendment to the report as follows: "That the same Committee (Committee on Relations with Other Religious bodies) be continued with instructions to seek information on the question: 'How effective is the present teaching program of our denomination on the question of the church ordinances in the light of present day conditions'?" This amendment brings the question of the ordinances into prominence again before the Convention.

(Note - Next week we will publish the comments on this question by other editors.)

## Propriety of Business Relations of Home Board And Its President Questioned

We publish on page nine a statement by W. M. Marshall, pastor of the Oakland y Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia. is statement in substance was made on floor of the Southern Baptist Convenn meeting in Miami in May. We also plish a joint reply to Dr. Marshall's tement by G. Frank Garrison, president the Home Mission Board, and Dr. J. Lawrence, executive secretary-treasurer the Home Mission Board. As you will te, these statements are taken from the ristian Index of Georgia.

#### ad Statements

Perhaps it would be well for the reader stop right here and turn to page nine I read these two statements. After readwhat Dr. Marshall has said and after ading the joint reply of Mr. Garrison and Lawrence, then come back to the edical page and read our comments on the uation and our appraisal of the questin involved.

We can easily believe the statement by f. Garrison and Dr. Lawrence that their fitten report to the Committee on Boards, e committee which was responsible for minating the members of the Home Mission Board at the recent meeting of the Convention, would not contain any suggestion that Dr. Marshall was unacceptable and should be left off the board. However, we understand that it is admitted by the Georgia member of the Committee on Boards that a suggestion, at least, was made that Dr. Marshall be left off the Home Mission Board. Where the suggestion came from has not been revealed.

The whole issue raised by Dr. Marshall centers in his questioning the advisability of the president of the Home Mission Board carrying all the insurance of the Home Mission Board amounting to \$3,000,000 or more. The question does not involve the legality of this business transaction nor the integrity of the president of the Home Mission Board. It involves the propriety of the president of the Home Mission Board entering into a business relationship with the board of which he is president, from which business relation he benefits financially.

#### Propriety Questioned

While it may be perfectly legitimate business and perfectly honest business, at the

same time it is very bad business for the president of one of our denominational boards to benefit financially from business relations with the board of which he is president. It is surprising, in fact, that more members of the Home Mission Board did not join Dr. Marshall in questioning the propriety of such a business relationship between the Home Mission Board and its president.

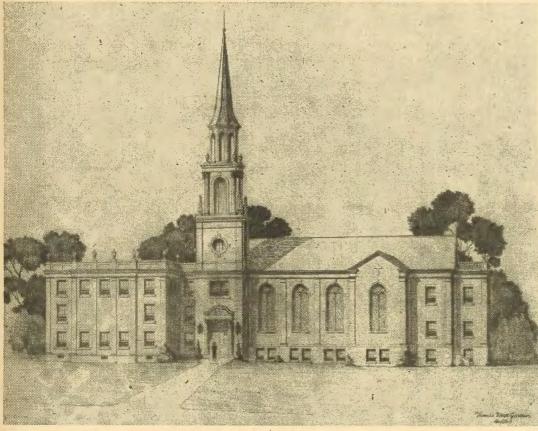
We believe that this situation should be given the widest publicity throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. We believe that the Southern Baptist people have a right to know the full details of the business transactions of our denominational boards and agencies. We believe it would be the sense of Southern Baptists as a whole that no denominational board should enter into such business relations with the president of that board which involved the total property of the board.

To correct this situation and to forestall the development of like situations in the future we would propose that the Southern Baptist Convention pass a rule prohibiting any member of any board entering into a business relation with the board of which he is a member and from which business relationship he benefits financially.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN)

# Kingdom Progress

## First Church, Helena



First Church, Helena, observed the fifth anniversary of Pastor Ralph Douglas on Sunday, June 1. Some of the outstanding achievements during the five years of Pastor Douglas' ministry are noted in the fifth anniversary bulletin as follows:

Under the leadership of Pastor Douglas, a beautiful and commodious church building has been erected at a cost of \$250,000 and the building has recently been air conditioned.

The organizations of the church have experienced phenomenal growth: Sunday School attendance has increased 175 per cent with an increase of 74 per cent in enrolment; the Training Union attendance has increased 295 per cent with 195 per cent increase in enrolment; the W. M. U. attendance has increased 122 per cent with 56 per cent increase in enrolment. Five years ago there was no Brotherhood organization. A Brotherhood has been organized and has an average attendance of 25.

The music department has developed from one adult choir to a full graded music program with an average of 115 people singing the gospel each Sunday.

One explanation of this increase in enrolment and attendance on all organizational meetings is the fact that contacts and visits have increased from nothing in May, 1947, to 1,800 in May of this year. Further results of the five year ministry of Pastor Douglas are indicated by the addition of 732 persons to the membership of the church during this five year period, 452 of these having been received on profession of faith and baptism, 280 by letter and statement. Pastor Douglas has been his own evangelist doing his own preaching in revival meetings as well as promoting an evangelistic program week by week.

The church offerings have increased 441 per cent per week with average monthly receipts of \$5,204.29 for this associational

year.

#### Minister Ordained

Mr. Morris E. Young was ordained to the full gospel ministry by the Brownsville Church on Sunday afternoon, July 6. Mr. Young is pastor of the Brownsville Church.

Emmett Graham served as moderator of the ordaining council and Missionary H. S. Coleman as clerk. C. Ed Stewart preached the ordination sermon; W. Dawson King conducted the examination; John Hill presented the Bible; Oliver Shields presented the candidate; and Ernest Baker led the ordination prayer.

A harvest depends upon the seeds sown.

#### Good Meeting In Tuscaloosa

Pastor J. B. Maxwell and the Alberta Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, were assisted in a revival meeting recently by Dr. B. H. Price, First Baptist Church, Newport News, Virginia. The meeting resulted in 20 additions to the church.

Both Pastor Maxwell and Doctor Price were formerly pastors in Arkansas.

If you talk about your troubles
And tell them o'er and o'er,
The world will think you like 'em
And proceed to give you more.

-Copied

## Fifteen-Year Pastorate South Side. Pine Bluff



LLOYD A. SPARKMAN

Pastor Lloyd A. Sparkman and South Side Church, Pine Bluff, celebrated their fifteenth anniversary together as pastor and church on Sunday, July 6. During this period of years, 957 persons have been baptized by the church, and 1,143 members have been received by letter.

Gifts for missions and outside causes have increased from \$200 per year to \$18,000. Physical improvements on the church plant have totaled \$250,000, which include a new auditorium complete with necessary offices; two homes have been purchased; an annex has been built, and a basement renovated.

The church has set a financial goal for 1952 of \$100,000.

The Moscow Mission was sponsored by South Side Church, and Pastor Sparkman preached there every Sunday afternoon for several years. It was organized into a church last year, now known as the Linwood Church.

Pastor Sparkman is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

#### Ravenden Springs Assembly

The Ravenden Springs Assembly regitered more than 300 persons in its sessions, June 23-27.

Dr. Dale Cowling, state B.S.U. secretal and recently called as pastor of the Secon Church, Little Rock, was the assembly evalgelist. Dr. J. I. Cossey was general direct and treasurer with E. Clay Polk as dea J. L. Hull and Miss Martha Morelan served as music directors.

The class work was under the direction of G. W. Smith, D. D. Scrivner, D. Cash, W. A. Jackson, J. V. Chandler, Baseloff.

Pastor D. Blake Westmoreland of Fir Church, Walnut Ridge, was the speaker f the 11 o'clock hour.

Officers elected for the next year wer Dr. J. I. Cossey, general director and treaurer, E. Clay Polk, president, Russell Duffe vice president, H. W. Johnston, secretary.

The camp facilities at Ravenden Spring consist of two dormitories for women, tabernacle, a dining hall, an administrative office, a book store, shower facilities, church, and several cabins for couples.

A good way to forget your own trouble is to help others out of theirs.

#### **Pocahontas Pastor**



R. O. PITTMAN

R. O. Pittman, who has served as associate pastor of First Church, Luxora, since September 1951, has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Pocahontas, and assumed his duties there on July 6.

Prior to his coming to Arkansas, Mr. Pittman was music-education director for churches in Texas and Tennessee. He served as pastor of Levi Church, Memphis, for five and one-half years.

Mr. Pittman has the A. B. degree from Baylor University, and the M. A. degree from Memphis State College.

#### New Church Organized

The St. Charles Church was organized on Sunday, June 22. The organization council was composed of the Executive Committee of the Centennial Association and several other members of the churches of the association.

The new church adopted a covenant and declaration of faith. It voted to seek afliation with the Centennial Association, the chansas Baptist Convention, and the Southn Baptist Convention.

Missionary T. S. Cowden was called as pply pastor until a pastor can be se-

The movement which resulted in the ornization of the St. Charles Church was arted with a revival meeting conducted 7 Missionary T. S. Cowden, June 8-22, ith Evangelist Purl A. Stockton leading the nging. The meeting was held in a tent and sulted in twenty-four professions of faith, burteen of those professing faith in Christ ntered into the new organization as charr members.

Centennial Association has arranged to uy a school building that is not in use, ad this building will be moved to St. harles to be used as the church buildig.

#### Abington To Assist Park Place, Hot Springs

Pastor James H. Fitzgerald of the Park lace Church, Hot Springs, announces that astor E. Butler Abington of the Trinity aptist Church, Lake Charles, Louisiana, is be the evangelist in a revival meeting t the Park Place Church from July 20 to ugust 1.

Mr. James M. Saunders, minister of music t the Presscott Memorial Church, Memhis, Tennessee, is to be the song leader in the Park Place revival.

#### Arkansas News Briefs

From Here and There

Immanuel Church, Warren, Quincy D. Mathis, pastor, ordained Jerry St. John to the gospel ministry, Sunday, June 22. Mr. St. John is the pastor of Highlo Church near Hermitage, and will enter Ouachita Colege in the fall.

The church also licensed Bill Sharp to preach.

Ralph Douglas, pastor of First Church, Helena, will be the evangelist in a meeting with First Church, Plumerville, beginning July 21. Charles Holland is the pastor at Plumerville.

A two weeks Vacation Bible School at Amity had an enrolment of 119 students with an everage attendance of 102; the Cooperative Program offering was \$19.45; and there were eleven professions of faith. Mrs. Floyd Jones served as principal. Charles Chesser Jr. is the pastor at Amity.

"It goes on record as one of the best" says Pastor Carl B. Chism, of the Vacation Bible School at Immanuel Church, Rogers. There were 116 enrolled; average attendance was 89; the mission offering was \$33.88 which was sent to the Cooperative Program.

"The Biggest and Best" says Jack Gullege, Eastview Church, Texarkana, of their Bible School. The enrolment reached 120; average attendance was 95; there were 15 professions of faith.

During the month of June, Missionary Claud Crigler, White County Association, conducted two Vacation Bible Schools and one revival meeting which resulted in two baptisms.

Mission Pastor Joseph A. Hogan reports eleven additions to the Osceola Church, resulting from a revival meeting recently at the First Church Mission of Osceola. Seven persons were received on profession of faith and baptism and four by letter. Pastor Harold White of First Church, Luxora, was the visiting evangelist. The meeting was preceded by Vacation Bible School under the direction of Mrs. Joseph A. Hogan.

Second Church, El Derado, and Pastor Jesse Reed, will have the services of Evangelist Fred Cherry in a revival campaign from July 27 to August 10. Services will be conducted in a tent.

First Church, Dardanelle, Sidney Oxendine, pastor, had an enrolment of 90 in the Vacation Bible School, June 9-19. The average daily attendance was 78. Mrs. Orville E. Brown was principal of the school.

First Church, El Dorado, Sam Reeves, pastor, had an enrolment of 375 in the Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 315. There were five professions of faith. The offering which totaled \$90.53 was sent to the church missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. John Shepard in Japan.

Farm Safety Week

The week of July 20-26 has been proclaimed by the President of the United States as National Farm Safety Week. Sunday, July 20, has been designated as Farm Safety Sunday with the suggestion that attention be called to Farm Safety Week in the churches on that day.

## Seminary Professor At New Orleans



DR. RAY FRANK ROBBINS

Dr. Ray Frank Robbins, Professor of New Testament in Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama, has accepted a position in the faculty of the New Orleans Seminary, beginning August 1.

Dr. Robbins is a native Alabamian, was educated at Mississippi College (A. B., 1940), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Th. M., 1943 and Th.D., 1945), and received the Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland ) in 1950. He has held pastorates in Mississippi, Kentucky, and Alabama, and has been on the faculty of Howard College since 1946.

Dr. Robbins married Miss Ethel Louise Pettit of Mississippi. They have four chil-

Dr. Robbins will teach in the department of New Testament in the New Orleans Seminary. "The record of Dr. Robbins as a scholar, a preacher, a teacher, and a leader of youth has been so outsanding, we feel that we are fortunate above measure in securing him for our department of New Testament," said President Roland Q. Leavell.

#### Texan Accepts Caney Creek

O. E. Coleman, Abilene, Texas, has accepted the pastorate of Caney Creek Church in Caroline Association, and assumed his duties there on June 1. He is a former pastor of the Vincent Church, Vincent, Texas, and Calvary Church, Odessa. He was the education director of First Church, Crane, Texas, for two pears prior to entering the ministry.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman have three children.

#### For Sale-\$450

One 1,000 gallon butane tank, slightly used. Excellent for church or school. Reason for selling — converting our church to natural gas.

Contact: Rev. R. J. McMillan
First Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Ark.

# Christian Korizons

By Religious News Service

#### Senate Group Kills Ban On Funds For Vatican Envoy

The Senate Appropriations Committee struck from the State Department appropriations bill a House-approved "rider" denying funds for a diplomatic mission to the Vatican.

Senator Pat McCarran (D.-Nev.), chairman of the appropriations subcommittee which handles State Department funds, said the rider was removed because "religious controversy has no place in an appropriations bill."

Following the action, Sen. Olin Johnston (D.-S. C.) said that he was studying the possibility of making a motion from the floor to restore the rider when Senate

debate opens on the bill.

(Note: If Senator McCarran, a Catholic, wishes to eliminate "religious controversy" from the appropriations bill, he should have left the Preston "rider" in the bill. This rider would have made it impossible for the President to renew the "religious controversy" by appointing an ambassador to the Vatican. Such appointment is the real cause of religious controversy and Senator McCarran has given tremendous impetus to that controversy. We sincerely hope that Senator Olin Johnston will be successful in restoring the Preston rider from the floor of the Senate.—EDITOR)

#### Lay Religious Workers Eligible For Ministerial Draft Status

Laymen who devote their career to "furthering the interest of the church" will in many instances be eligible for a 4-D (ministerial) classification in the draft even though they are not ordained clergymen, the National Appeals Board of Selective Service decided.

The action was described by a Selective Service spokesman as "giving a little more liberal interpretation" to the 4-R classification than that which hitherto has pre-

The decision was made in the case of an appeal to the President from Mr. Roy E. Holder, minister of music and religious education at the McGill Street Baptist church, Concord, North Carolina. The High Point, North Carolina, draft board was directed to give him a 4-D classification.

# Texas Baptists File Application For TV Station

The Federal Communications Commission has accepted for filing an application from the radio commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for a television station to be operated at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Application was made by the Texas Baptists for a station on channel 6 of the

present TV band.

FCC officials said this was the first application for a TV license filed by a religious group under the new national television allocations, although others may be filed soon.

#### Southern States Lead In Bible Interest

Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi remain the area of greatest concentrated interest in the Bible, it was reported at a meeting of American Bible Society district secretaries

in New York City.

The meeting, held every three years, brings together the staff responsible for Scripture distribution in the United States.

Total distribution in the country rose to 8,002,004 volumes during 1951, an all-time record in the 136-year history of the Society. The first quarter of 1952 showed gains over last year, it was reported.

The Society's Southern district topped the million mark in the number of volumes distributed last year and became the first district office to do so. The Pacific district also showed substantial gains, with a rise of 41 per cent over 1950.

The district secretaries agreed that reading of the Bible was increasing. Women were said to be the most avid readers, with children second, and men a poor third.

#### Oxnam Pledge Fight For Morality In Washington

Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam said that he will make the voice of "America's largest Protestant denomination" heard in Washington for peace, morality and political righteousness.

Bishop Oxnam made the pledge at a dinner in his honor attended by more than 600 persons. It was his farewell message to the New York Area Methodist constituency before leaving for the nation's capital where he will have charge of the Washington Area.

#### Gives Ten Commandments For Ministers' Wives

Ten Commandments for ministers' wives were set up by Southern California Seventhday Adventists at their annual outdoor camp meeting in Lynwood, California.

Written by Conference President R. R.

Bietz of Glendale, they are:
(1) Thou shalt have no other interests more important to thee than thy husbands.

(2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any church clique or anything resembling it.

(3) Thou shalt not take thy husband's name in vain.

(4) Remember thy intimate family mat-

ters, to keep them secret.
(5) Honor thy husband by keeping thy place, that his years of ministry in the cause of God may be long.

(6) Thou shalt not gossip.

Thou shalt not be a burden on others.

(8) Thou shalt not appear untidy.

(9) Thou shalt not covet a taste beyond thy husband's income.

(10) Thou shalt not covet thy lay sister's, or fellow minister's house, furniture, car, or whatsoever thy sister may have.

# A Smile or Two

A Mississippi River steamboat was stopping in the mouth of a tributary stream, owing to a dense fog. An inquisitive passenger inquired of the captain the cause of the

"Can't see up the river," was the laconic reply.

"But I can see the stars overhead," the passenger replied sharply.

"Yes," came back the captain, "but unless the boilers bust, we ain't going that way."

Restless Youngster (at 3 a.m.): "Mommy

tell me a story."
Mother: "Hush, dear, Daddy will be in soon and tell us both one."

Heard someone say after semester tests that "They marked the exams so strictly, they flunked one girl for having a period upside down."

A lady, waiting for a bus, noticed the gentleman shuffling by. Obviously, he had seen better days. Tempering her charity with tact, she stooped as though to pick something up, then said, "Pardon me. Did you drop this?" She held out a quarter.

"What do ya know?" said the man, tipping his hat. "A lot of people would have kept that for themselves."

To a college grad: "Were you fired with enthusiasm when you tackled your first

"Was I! I never saw a man so glad to get rid of me in my life!"

The sailor had arrived home after a long cruise. "By the way, Mother, how did you like the parrot I sent you?"

"Well, it was nice and plump, but, my, it was tough."

This is the only country where a ma can jump into his car and drive to tow to collect his unemployment insurance.

"Anyone who tries to float to success wi end up at sea."

Captain: "This boat makes twenty kno an hour."

Lady Passenger: "Think of the rope And who unties them all?"

Sister: "Daddy took me to Cedar Rapids Brother: "I want to see der rabbits, too!

"Oh, doctor," cried the wild-eyed man "I'm dreadfully afflicted. The ghosts of m departed relatives come and perch on th tops of the fence posts all round my garde when dusk is falling. I can look out into th gloaming any evening and see a coupl of dozen spooks sitting on top of the post waiting, waiting, waiting! Wha can I do?"

"Sharpen the tops of the posts," advise the doctor.

-Clippe

Said the handsome mosquito as he crawled in the window: "Yippee! I've jus passed my screen test!"

Mrs. Miller: "But isn't your son rather young to join the army?"

Mrs. Perkins: "Oh, yes, but he is going in the infantry."

# **News From Baptist Press**

#### Arkansas Baptists Gain 9,031 Members

Arkansas Southern Baptist churches added a net membership gain of 9,031 people during 1951, bringing total membership in the churches to 248,080, according to statistics from the office of J. P. Edmunds, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information of the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The city churches, with a total membership of 121,298, showed a gain of 5.8 per cent during the year, while a 6.8 per cent increase in the town church memberships

brought that total to 46,163.

Over 53,000 of Arkansas Baptists belong to open country churches and another 26,000 are members of village churches. City suburban churches reported nearly 1,200 members in 1951.

Churches in the Southern Baptist Convention had a net membership gain of 293,609 in 1951, bringing their total at the end of the year to 7,373,498 members in 28,289 churches in twenty-three states and territories.

In the open country churches of the Convention during the year there was a onehalf per cent decrease in membership, the total being 2,134,182. A 1.3 per cent increase in the village church membership brought their total number to 762,933 while another 1,026,571 belong to town churches. The town churches gained .4 per cent in 1951.

City churches had a percentage increase of 5.9 over their 1950 membership, bringing the total to 3,345,771. A new church classification, known as the city suburban, reporting for the first time in the 1951 statistics, showed 104,041 members. This new group of churches includes those that would ordinarily fall into the city church class but are located outside the city limits.

#### Arkansas Sunday Schools Gain 1,168 Members

A net membership gain of 1,168 persons iring 1951 makes a total enrolment of 6.008 pupils in Southern Baptist Sunday thools in Arkansas at the beginning of e year.

Statistics from the office of J. P. Edunds, secretary of the Department of rvey, Statistics and Information of the inday School Board in Nashville, indite that Arkansas small-town Sunday thools advanced 5.1 per cent during the ar, bringing their total to 33,423.

City church school memberships adnced 1.2 per cent to reach a total of 280 even though 1,089 members who reviously were classed in the city church oup are now reclassified as city suburban

embers. churches in Arkansas claim Sountry churches in Arkansas claim ,096 of the total Sunday School enrolent and 18,120 pupils belong to schools

village churches.

Nearly 230,000 new members in Baptist inday Schools in all the states of the puthern Baptist Convention made a grand tal of 5,253,695 enroled at the end of 51. The 1950 total Sunday School enrolent was 5,024,553.

The more than 2,545,000 city church unday School members represent a 5.7 er cent gain over the previous year's enlment, even though more than 95,000 embers who were a part of the city church umbers in 1950 are now classified separateas a city suburban group.

Sunday Schools in open country Baptist churches had a total enrolment of 1,304,038. a very slight decrease from 1950. The village churches reported 532,482 Sunday School members and the town churches 776.174.

The states reporting the greatest percentage increase during 1951 were the rapidly growing western states of Washington, Oregon, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

#### Southern Baptists Attending Summer Meetings in Europe

Between 80 and 100 Baptist students from Europe and America will meet in mid-July at the Ruschlikon Seminary at Zurich, Switzerland, for a week of Bible study, inspiration and discussion. Four Southern Baptist students and several leaders will attend the meetings.

Promotion plans will also be discussed for the fourth Baptist Youth World Conference to be held in Rio de Janiero, Brazil, in July 1953, according to Robert S. Denny, chairman of the Youth Committee of the Baptist World Alliance and an associate in

the Student Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Following this meeting, the group will visit Baptist work in Germany the week of July 22-29 and will travel to Copenhagen, July 29-August 3, for the first meeting of the European Baptist Federation.

The students representing Southern Baptists will be permitted to visit the sessions of the Executive Committee meetings of the Baptist World Alliance near Copenhagen, August 4-8. Southern Baptists attending the BWA meeting will include Dr. Theodore Adams, Dr. Ollie Edmunds, Dr. Duke K. McCall, Dr. J. D. Grey, Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, Mrs. George R. Martin, Dr. R. Paul Caudill, and Dr. E. H. Pruden.

#### Deacon's Retreat Scheduled For North Carolina Men

North Carolina Baptist deacons will flock to Fruitland Assembly in Hendersonville by the dozens for a weekend "Deacons' Retreat" in mid-July, probably the first such statewide retreat for Baptist laymen in Southern Baptist Convention territory.

The program for the weekend, planned by E. L. Spivey, a field secretary for the Baptist State Convention, will be for the deacons and by the deacons. Panel discussions on the deacon and his relationships to his church, association and convention will be the Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions.

The Saturday afternoon and night programs will be full of fun, fellowship, recreation and music for the men. Then the deacons will teach Sunday School classes the next morning and dismiss after their own church service. Dr. I. G. Greer, former superintendent of the Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina, will bring the message for the Sunday morning service.

Deacons on the program will represent all kinds of lay fields, such as law, medicine, argiculture, education, industry and business.

#### Arthur Flake, Sunday School Pioneer Dies At Age Of 90 in Memphis

Arthur Flake, pioneer Sunday School and Training Union leader among Southern Baptists for nearly 30 years, died in Memphis, on July 3.

#### Propriety of Business Relations Questioned

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

It matters not how genuinely Christian, how thoroughly honest, how sacrificially devoted one may be to his Christian responsibilities, it is humanly impossible for a member of a denominational board to be totally uninfluenced by the financial benefits which he receives from the denominational board of which he is a member when he is considering the policies and the program of that board.

Frankly, we consider that Dr. Marshall has rendered the entire Convention constituency in general and the Home Mission Board in particular a real service in bringing this matter to light, and that Editor John J. Hurt of the Christian Index has rendered a further service in publishing the statement of Dr. Marshall and the joint reply of Mr. Garrison and Dr. Lawrence.

The man who wrote "Building A Standard Sunday School," and who devised the formula for an enlargement campaign which has been followed by thousands of Sunday Schools, died at the home of his daughter, Miss Mildred Flake, where he has been making his home since retiring from active service as secretary of the Sunday School Board Department of Sunday School Administration in 1936.

Arthur Flake was born in LaGrange, Texas, in 1862. He attended the schools in Bell County, Texas, and the South Belton Institute, but he laughingly told many times how he "finished in the University of Plug and Dig."

As a young man, Arthur Flake made a success in the clothing business and established a store in Winona, Mississippi. He was converted at the age of 31 in a revival at Meridian, Mississippi. He was chairman of the state committee to select L. P. Leavell as the first Sunday School secretary in Mississippi, and Mr. Leavell in turn persuaded Mr. Flake to leave his clothing business and move to Nashville with the Sunday School Board in 1909. He was named head of the Department of Sunday School Administration in 1920.

In 1923, Mr. Flake outlined his plan to "(1) know possibilities; (2) enlarge organization; (3) provide place; (4) train workers; and (5) go after them."

Mr. Flake had much to do with "discovering" Harold Ingraham, J. N. Barnette, and other Sunday School leaders. Mr. Ingraham assisted Dr. Robert G. Lee in the funeral services in Memphis. He said of

Mr. Flake:

"He taught Southern Baptists how to build Sunday Schools, and this teaching has been basic in bringing our Sunday School enrolment from around one million in 1910 to nearly six million in 1952. He wrote ten books after he was fifty-eight years of age, one of which has been studied by a million people."

#### Dr. Lee and Bellevue

Sunday, June 22, marked 241/2 years that Dr. R. G. Lee has been pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. On that day 56 persons united with the church. During the 241/2 years of Dr. Lee's ministry at Bellevue, 17,032 have joined the Bellevue Church. This is an average of 14 persons per Sunday during this period.

# Steering Committee, Transfer Church Membership Week



Front row: C. E. Matthews, Home Mission Board; J. D. Grey, president, Southern Baptist Convention; Porter Routh, president, Executive Committee, S. B. C.; T. L. Holcomb, Sunday School Board; J. B. Lawrence, Home Mission Board; Edith Stokely, W. M. U. Second row: S. F. Lowe, Radio Commission; Paul Wheeler, pastor; George Schroeder, Brotherhood; Courts Redford, Home Mission Board; Albert McClellan, Baptist Press; B. H. Duncan, president, State Editors; Harold Ingraham, Sunday School Board.

Third row: W. J. Ray, State Secretaries; John Caylor, Home Mission Board; J. P. Edmunds, Survey and Statistics; H. T. Gibson, Training Union department, Sunday School Board; M. D. Moore, Promotion Committee; J. N. Barnette, Sunday School Board.

## West We Go

By S. G. Posex, Executive Secretary Southern Baptist General Convention of California

On the western bank of the Mississippi River at New Orleans is a city, established many years ago and named: "Westwego." During my ministry in New Orleans several years ago, I frequently had occasion to ferry across the river and land at Westwego.

Southern Baptists were going west long before Horace Greely counseled young men with the famous expression: "Go west, young man." And they are here in the west in great numbers and increasing every day by railways and airways, and by highways on land and sea.

Some of us in the West have been greatly concerned about finding out who these Southern Baptists in our western states are, and where they are so that we may visit them and enlist them in our Southern Baptist churches. It is humanly impossible for fifty thousand Southern Baptists in only 395 churches and missions scattered through-

out a population of over eleven million in California alone, even through the medium of a religious census, to find these Southern Baptists without the help of our fellow Baptists in the churches and states of the Southern Baptist Convention. The task is unthinkable in states like Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Kansas.

We rejoice in the enthusiasm with which the "Transfer Church Membership Week" program is being launched and promoted throughout Southern Baptist territory. It can be of tremendous value in our denominational life and especially in the western states, if all of our people will cooperate.

This message is an urgent appeal to every Southern Baptist, wherever he lives, who has Southern Baptist friends and/or loved ones who have moved to any of our western states, to co-operate with the "Transfer

#### Revival-Ordination Service At Valley Springs Church

Valley Springs Church, Boone-Carroll Association, and Pastor S. W. Wilkerson, had the services of J. W. Smith, Marshall, in a revival campaign from June 2-11, which resulted in five additions to the church by baptism.

During the same period of time, the Vacation Bible School was conducted, which had an enrolment of 66, with an average attendance of 45.

On Sunday afternoon, May 25, the church ordained three deacons, as follows: Fred Mc-Knight, George Langston, and Pat Stephenson. Hugh Cooper preached the ordination sermon.

#### New Orleans Church Begins New Plant

First Baptist Church, New Orleans, will start construction of its new church plant some time this summer. It will be located on a new site at St. Charles and General Pershing avenues.

It is expected to take about a year and a half to complete the \$1,188,000 structure. The present church property will be disposed of for \$400,000. Dr. J. D. Grey, pastor of the church since 1937, is now serving his second year as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Baptist churches of Mexico have reported more than 5,000 professions of faith resulting from a special evangelistic crusade, with reports from only 60 per cent of the churches.

-Survey Bulletin

Church Membership Week" program, September 14-21, by sending their names and addresses to the Executive Secretary of the state where they are now living. We also urge every Southern Baptist pastor throughout Convention territory to encourage the co-operation of every member in this exceedingly important campaign. The name and address of each of the western state secretaries is given here for your convenience and promptness in supplying u with this vital information.

Kansas: Dr. N. J. Westmoreland, 244; North Main, Wichita, Kansas.

New Mexico: Dr. Harry P. Stagg, Post office Box 485, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

\*Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, an Idaho: Dr. Willis J. Ray, Postoffice Bo 590, Phoenix, Arizona.

Oregon and Washington: Dr. R. E. Milan 1432 S.W. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

\*\*California: Dr. S. G. Posey, 1405 Broad way, Fresno, California.

\*Southern Baptist churches in Colorado Utah, Wyoming and Idaho are affiliate with the Baptist General Convention of Arizona, also churches in Eastern an Southern Nevada.

\*\*Churches in Northwestern Nevada ar affiliated with the Southern Baptist Gen eral Convention of California.

Please do not wait until September t send us this information. We will appre ciate it any time, but we need it now t make the "Transfer Church Membershi; Week" program effective in the western states.

Right now, while you are thinking about it, send us the names of your Southern Baptist acquaintances, friends, and relatives who are living in the West. We will do out best to do the rest here in the west for the glory of God.

# Marshall Attacks Home Board-Officials Answer Miami Charge

(Editor's note: Dr. W. M. Marshall, pastor of the Oakland City Baptist Church, Atlanta Association, charged before the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami that he was "eliminated" from membership on the Home Mission Board. His statement was made when the committee on boards was making its report.

(Neither the editor of The Index nor the dozen or so representatives of daily papers was in the Convention at the time. Reporters write their stories during such normally routine periods, since Convention sessions are held morning, afternoon, and

(Dr. Marshall's statement to the Convention, as nearly as he could remember it, follows, together with a statement from the president and executive secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board which was given to The Index. John J. Hurt, Editor, Christian Index.)

#### Marshall's Statement

What I am about to say has never been said before the Southern Baptist Convention. There are several methods whereby one may commit suicide: By jumping out of a ten-story building, by inhaling carbon monoxide gas or by drowning. What I am about to do I know is denominational suicide. But, I feel impelled to make the statement I am about to make.

I have served as a member of the Home Mission Board for three years, by virtue of an appointment at the Convention in 1949. I do not believe that any member of the Board has a better record of attendance than I have, either at regular meetings of the Board or special committee meetings. I have served as a member of the committee on co-operative missions and as a member of the chaplain's commission. I have endeavored to respond to every request of the heads of these departments.

It is normal procedure for a person to be returned to a respective Board for a second three-year term. I have a feeling that the failure of the committee on boards er to recommend me for this second term is Dr due to a deliberate attempt to eliminate Cit me from the Board membership.

I incurred the undying enmity of the president of the Board and the executive the secretary by asking them some questions tion about the insurance carried by the Board pul during the first year of my membership. The insurance of approximately \$3,000,000 sta is carried in full by the president of the Board, who has been a member of the Board for some 20 years, having been president for 10 years. He has carried all the no insurance for 15 years.

Dr. Grey reminded me that my minute was up after I had been denied the privilege of speaking further on the report except by appeal that I be given one minute as a matter of personal privilege.

I do not think I would be amiss to say that this appeal received some support from the Convention floor by request from the audience saying, "Let him speak."

-W. M. Marshall

#### Home Board Reply

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The editor has given us the privilege of answering a statement appearing in this issue made by Dr. W. M. Marshall, pastor of the Oakland City Baptist Church of Atlanta, and a local member of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist

Convention, prior to the Convention held in Miami, May 14-18.

We would like to state for the benefit of all concerned that we bear no enmity toward our brother and that we took no action of any nature whatever to influence the committee's action in this respect other than, at the committee's request, to write a letter in which we listed Brother Marshall's name along with the names of other local members, whose terms expired as of the 1952 Convention-indicating the year in which each person was elected, followed by the following statement: "All of the above members appear to be eligible for reelection except Dr. Paul S. James," who had already served two full terms and under the constitution of the Convention was not eligible for re-election.

We sought immediately to disabuse Brother Marshall's mind of the belief which he held in the matter. We have since had a lengthy conference with him in a further effort to convince him that neither of us had sought in any way to influence the action of the Committee on Boards.

Brother Marshall's statement seems, implication, to create the impression that there is something badly wrong with the Administration of the Home Mission Board as respects the placing of the Board's insurance. We deny that there is anything wrong in this respect. The handling of the Board's insurance has been on the highest business and ethical plane across the years. For many years prior to, and some eight or nine years subsequent to the coming of Dr. Lawrence to the executive secretary-treasureship of the Board, all the Board's insurance was handled by one Atlanta agency.

On February 3, 1938, the following action was taken in a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board: "It was moved and carried that a committee on insurance be appointed. The following were appointed to serve: A. W. Jackson, chairman; F. B. Graham; and H. C. Collins-

The aforementioned Committee made its first report on June 2, 1938, and item No. 3 of that report read as follows:

"3. That the insurance be placed during the coming year, approximately one-half of the total sum with the agency of C. A. Rauschenberg, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, and the other approximate half be placed with the Federal Hardware and Implement Mu-

"These recommendations are made without solicitation by any member of the Board."

The report of the Committee was adopted. The committee next reported on July 7, 1938, and the concluding paragraph of that report read as follows:

"In the third paragraph of our recommendations of June 2, 1938, we recommend that one-half of the total insurance be placed with C. A. Rauschenberg, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, and the other half with Federal Hardware and Implement Mutuals The Federal Hardware and Implement Mutuals are unwilling to assume the risk." (The risks referred to consisted of idle mountain school properties which they considered sub-standard). "We therefore recommend that the entire insurance be placed with the agency of C. A. Rauschenberg, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia."

The recommendations of the committee were adopted.

As the Board's various lines of insurance expired, the coverage was renewed with C. A. Rauschenberg, Inc., agents of Atlanta, which firm was later succeeded by Rauschenberg & Garrison, Inc. The arrangement has been mutually satisfactory to both the Board and the Writing Agency. The Agency represents only the highest type insurance companies in the business and all rates used have been those approved by the State Rating Offices wherever the properties are located.

Brother Marshall attacked this arrangement within ninety days after he came on the Board before the Executive Committee and later brought the matter up to the annual meeting of the Board in the Fall of 1949, where not only the Executive Committee was present, but state members from Maryland to California and from Illinois to Florida. After a full explanation such as has been given above, the Board was satisfied and took no action in the mat-

Across the three years which Brother Marshall served on our Board, we both sought in every way possible to warrant and gain his respect and confidence and it is a source of genuine regret that we have apparently failed in our efforts to do so; nevertheless, our attitude and our future conduct toward Brother Marshall will be within the spirit of Paul's admonition as set forth in Romans 12:17-21.

> G. FRANK GARRISON, President J. B. LAWRENCE, Exec. Secretary-Treasurer. --000-

#### More Courses Ready In Seminary Extension

Several new courses have been added to the curriculum of the Seminary Extension Department, according to director, Lee Gailman.

A New Testament course which covers the period from the conversion of Paul was developed by Dr. Henry C. Turlington, of the Southern Baptist Seminary; Dr. W. L. Howse, of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, has developed a revised course in Church Leadership; Dr. H. C. Goerner, of the Southern Seminary has written a course in Christian Missions; Prof. John K. Durst of the New Orleans Seminary has developed a course on Church Organizations; and Dr. Charles A. Trentham has completed a course of study, his second, in Theology. These new courses will be available immediately.

The Seminary Extension Department has just closed its first year of operation. Beginning July 1, 1951, in Jackson, Mississippi in the offices of the Baptist Building, the department, representing all of the seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention has had phenomenal growth. Its first year's development resulted in a total of 617 enroled in its two types of education; 120 have been enroled in Extension Centers, while 497 have enroled by correspondence.

Study guides have been prepared by teachers in the seminaries. Courses in the Bible have been developed by the Old and New Testament Department of the cooperating schools while other departments have created the study guide in Evangelism, Preaching, Recreation, Counseling, Teaching, Theology, and Church Leadership. Trained instructors receive and grade lessons which are sent to Jackson, Mississippi, from all over the world.

# Department of Missions

C. W. CALDWELL, Superintendent

## **Emphasis on Evangelism**

# CHURCHES WITH NO BAPTISMS

How are the churches in your association coming along in their evangelistic efforts? You will recall that 185 churches in our state reported no baptisms during 1951. Of course, many of these churches are inactive and their names are still carried in the association. Many of them have been inactive for years and the lack of possibilities probably do not justify an effort to reestablish them. This is not true, we know, of all the 185, so we would urge that special efforts be made by missionaries, associational officers, and pastors to see that a revival is held in every church with the hope of winning someone to the Lord and baptizing them into the fellowship of the churches.

How many of those churches reporting no baptisms in 1951 are in your association? How many churches in your association have had no baptisms thus far in 1952? Now is the time to put forth our best evangelistic efforts in the rural churches. Hence, we earnestly request all missionaries and pastors to make a thorough check and put on special efforts so that our 1952 report will be far better than 1951.

#### DO YOU HAVE A MISSIONARY STATION?

It is our plan to publish a little booklet on, "The Arkansas Baptists' Mission Stations." We are therefore issuing a request for pictures of mission buildings, congregations, baptizings, mission pastors, together with brief writeups of the history and progress made. We do not mean that each mission should send all pictures mentioned above, but we would like to have at least one of some sort. Since we do not know every church that sponsors a mission

selected from leading manufacturers of choir robes for design, work-manship, value-patterned for adult, youth and children-popular colors-fashioned to fit and please. Prices, samples on request.

Painstakingly

BENTLEY & SIMON ROBES worn by more Baptist choirs than all other choir robes combined.

BAPTIST BOOK STORE

station, we are issuing this general appeal. It may be impossible, however, to use all pictures received and, of course, the written articles must be very brief. Let us be hearing from you about your mission stations.

#### A DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

The Department of Missions recommended to the Executive Board last fall that a Department of Evangelism be set up, thus relieving the Superintendent of Missions of the responsibility of promoting two major causes. Most likely the Executive Board will take some action in regard to setting up a Department of Evangelism in their next Board meeting.

The Missions Department, however, has voted to proceed with plans for a State-Wide Evangelistic Conference and has set the date for January 19-21. We felt that some plans ought to be made now in order to secure speakers desired and to fit the date into the proper schedule. When a Department of Evangelism is set up, we will gladly turn all responsibility of promoting evangelism over to proper hands. May the Lord lead in a great evangelistic movement!

-000-

A landlubber once asked an old boatman, "If one were to fall from this pier into the water would be be drowned?"

With a quizzical smile the old man answered, "Well, no. It isn't falling into the water that drown; a man."

"What then, is it?"

"Staying there!" was the em-

Nor is it falling into sin that condemns a man, but staying in it by refusing to repent and run to God for pardon.

-W. R. Johnson

God has never put anyone in a place too small to grow.

-Copied.

# Woman's Missionary Union

MISS NANCY COOPER, Executive Secretary

. Royal Ambassador Camp

Place: Ferncliff Springs, 18 miles west of Little Rock.

Date: Intermediate boys, July 21-26.

Reservations: Mail request for reservations to W.M.U. Office, 209 Baptist Building, Little Rock. Send ONE DOLLAR with each reservation.

Price: In addition to the one dollar reservation fee each boy (or counselor) will pay \$12.25 upon arrival at camp. This makes the total cost of \$13.25.

Program: The theme: AMBAS-SADOR FOR THE KING. The scripture: "We are Ambassadors for Christ," II. Cor. 5:20. Morning watch theme: AN AMBASSADOR'S PLEDGE. Topics include "Live Pure," "Speak Truth," "Right Wrong," "Follow The Christ the King," "A Royal Ambassador." Pastor's messages will be THE KING'S COMMAND and will include the following: "Live Worthily of the name of Christ", "To Know Him through Prayer and Study," "To Witness to My Neighbor," "Accepting His Plan for my Life." Missionary messages, recreation program, stunts, films, will be a part of the day's schedule.

HURRY, HURRY, if you do not have your reservations in the office, please do something about it right today. Write the office if you need an information sheet.

#### Announcing New Foreign Mission Graded Series

ADVANCE into New Areas

Soon the new books for study preceding the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions will be available for advance study by teachers and for use in Mission Study Institutes. They are devoted to presentation of the new fields into which Southern Baptists are going and have recently established work.

ADULTS, Scattered Abroad, E. C. Routh. A survey of Southern Baptist work in the new fields entered during the last twelve years. Hawaii, Korea, Formosa,

Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaya, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Equador, Peru, Southern Rhodesia, Near East. Methods and techniques in mission work are discussed also. Price 60¢.

YOUNG PEOPLE, Rainbow South, Albert McClellan. In this interesting study of the "rainbow republics" of Central America one sees the rainbow shaped isthmus, the charming people who live there, their government, customs, and dominant Roman Catholic religion, along with a human interest analysis of Baptist mission work and an appeal for support. Price 60¢.

INTERMEDIATES, "Clash of Swords", Pen Lile Pittard. Teenagers will enjoy this study of Moslem people in the confines of the Near East, with its stories of some who have experienced "miracle of the sword of truth" The author points out that the only sword that can bring peace is the sword of the Lord, the gospel of Christ. Price 35¢.

JUNIORS, "The Birthday Wish" Mary Christian. Thrilling, true-to-life stories about boys and girls in Ecuador, Hawaii, Southern Rhodesia, Thailand, and Venezuela. Written for juniors to read as well as for study in mission classes, these stories tell of the country, the homes, the churches, friends of boys and girls in five new mission fields.

PRIMARIES, "A Lei for Malcolm" Cornelia Leavell. Malcolm, the little son of missionaries in Hawaii, visits all of the islands with his father, makes new friends, learns many lovely Hawaiian customs. He is given a lei by Toshi's mother because he tells her about Jesus.

Have you plans for the study of these books? W.M.U. president, young people's director, mission study chairman, counselors should be scheduling the dates for classes. Adequate and thorough preparation demands that you begin now to plan for the fall study.

Order all books from the Baptist Book Store.



## Seminary Training

Full theological seminary training with major emphasis upon rural, small town churches and associational mission work. Well trained and sound faculty. Th. B. degree offered upon completion of two years college.

Housing conditions excellent with modern brick apartments renting from \$13.00 to \$24.00 per month. Pastoral opportunities unexcelled, with over 500 rural churches within one hundred miles

Fall Term Opens Sept. 8
THE RURAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE SOUTH

On the campus of Southern Baptist College Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

## Pioneer Week At Glorieta

By Lewis A. Myers

Glorieta's first assembly. known as Pioneer Week, is to become a reality, August 7-13 with variable estimates of attendance. Manager E. A. Herron announces that, from registrations to date, the enrolment will probably exceed 5,000. Some are optimistic enough to believe that 10,000 will pass through the camp during the week. At any rate there are no ceilings. The sky is the limit in numbers that may attend, in the spirit and fellowship that may prevail, in the inspirational uplift that may be experienced, and in the general denominational values that may be obtained.

Because it is a matter of first concern, we hasten to present facts relating to camp accommodations, costs, and regulations. First, is the camp registration fee, usual in camps everywhere, for Pioneer Week, only \$2. The camp management requests that we urge, through this article, that all who plan to attend be sure to send their registration fee at the earliest possible time. The presence of this fee will be the basis for meal service and the registration receipt will be the pass to the dining hall. Those in the registered line will be served first. Send the individual \$2 fee to Manager E. A. Herron, Glorieta, New Mexico. There will be no charge for children under nine.

Second, those attending with trailers or coming prepared for tenting will be assigned camping areas with running water and electric lights. No charge is made for such accommodations, but again the registration fee should be in the hand of the camp if meals are to be secured on the grounds. All visitors will remember, however, that there are adequate eating places adjacent to the assembly grounds, in Pe-

cos which is 10 minutes by auto, in Santa Fe which is 20 minutes by auto, or at other points equally close. Camp ground prices, chuck wagon style, will be gratifyingly low in cost and appetizingly high in quality foods.

Third, bunk houses for women and for men will be provided. There will be bath facilities, running water and lights. The cost for these accommodations, plus three meals daily will be \$3, providing each holds registration receipt for access to the dining hall. Should only a bed be desired, the price will be minimum. All who may ask for this accommodation or who tenting will, of course, have their bed rolls. The nights will require one or two light blankets. Here also we are to remember that there are unlimited facilities outside the camp and nearby motels, camps, hotels and at prices from \$2.50 to \$6 daily.

Fourth, Texas Hall provides 48 rooms with private bath. Those who may secure accommodations here will pay \$5.50 including three meals in the dining hall.

Close behind this article will be another, the next dealing with the type of program offered. Suffice it for the present to say that each day's order of service is a complete unit within itself. The Sunday School Board has seen to it that the day by day values for each visitor will be something that he can carry away. A strong corps of inspirational speakers will be present and unmatched conference personnel is pledged to attend.

FOR NOW, SEND IN THE \$2
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RIVER ARE EXPECTED TO
HAVE MANY REPRESENTATIONS PRESENT.

----000

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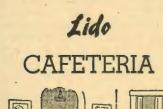
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#### Minister Ordained



MORRIS SMITH

Morris Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Smith, was ordained to the gospel ministry by South Highland Church, Little Rock, June 25. Mr. Smith is a graduate of Little Rock High School, and a sopnomore in Ouachita College. He is serving as pastor of Parks Church, Parks, Arkansas,

The ordaining council was composed of Pastor Ray Branscum, who conducted the examination; E. A. Ingram, Associational Missionry, offered the ordination prayer; T. W. Hayes delivered the message and the charge; Melvin Greer presented the Bible. Special music was a Trombone and Piano Duet by Barbara Kuhns and Phillip Lewis.

This makes three young ministers who have been ordained by South Highland Church during the ministry of Pastor Ray Branscum, and two other young men, Bobby Smith and Wendell Ross, have surrendered to the ministry and Miss Barbara Kuhns has surrendered for Foreign Missions.

#### Music Schedule Of Gloria Hink

Miss Gloria Hink of Little Rock, a student in the School of Sacred Music of Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, is affiliated for the summer with the State Music Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and is giving most of her time to the churches and camps of Liberty Association. This is a new project of the Association in which, under the leadership of Mrs. Carl A. Clark, El Dorado, seven music schools have been arranged with Miss Hink leading.

She was with the Village Church, July 6-11; taught music at the Intermediate Girls Camp at Beech Springs Camp of Liberty Association July 14-18; is to be with the Junior Girls Camp on July 21-25; in church schools at Urban Church July 27-August 1; First Church, Norphlet, August 3-8; First Church, Huttig, August 10-15; and Joyce City Church, Auggust 24-29.

Miss Hink is the daughter of the State Associate Sunday School Superintendent, George Hink.

Once I knew a Baptist He had a Pious look, He had been totally immersed, Except his pocketbook. He'd put a nickle in the plate. And then with might and main He'd sing, "When we asunder part,

\_\_\_\_\_000\_

It gives me inward pain." -000-

Every man needs to inspect his convictions from time to time lest they degenerate into mere prejudices. -000-

"The world," says Sacha Guit-"is filled with statues of writers, poets, musicians; Have you ever seen a statue of a critic?"

A LESSON IN LIVING

one doesn't lose its head and fly

off the handle. It finds the point

and drives it home. It looks on the

other side and clinches the mat-

ter. Occasionally it makes a mis-

take, but rectifies it. It keeps pounding away until the job is

done. It is the only knocker in the

world that does constructive work.

"Praying frequently" helps us to

Take your family to Sunday

"pray fervently."

School Sunday.

Consider the hammer. A good

-Quote.

-Right Hand

#### PRAYER

O God, who prompts the tiniest bud

To waken in the spring, Who teaches every smail, brown wren

Its melody to sing;

Prompt me in every thought of mine

That I may think like Thee, And sing my song in perfect tune With Heaven's harmony.

-Selected

Humility is to make a right estimate of oneself.

-C. H. Spurgeon

P. O. Box 446, Batesville, Ark.

# Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas

NELSON F. TULL, State Secretary

## Why Not Include Youth in Brotherhood

We need an integrated program of Christian work which will include men, young men, adolescent boys, and boys in later childhood.

Start boys in Christian work

while they are children.

Continue this work through the early stages of adolescence, into young manhood and through young manhood into and throughout adult life.

Here are some FACTS:

Boys who stay away from church grow up into men who stay away from church.

Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention 75 per cent of the Baptist men are having no part whatsoever in the work of their churches.

We are not going to drift into a better state of things. The trend is the other way.

Adult men are largely set in their ways. And if their pattern of life leaves little room for God and His work, not only do they have an exceedingly difficult time making those adjustments which will help them become effective Christians, but those who work with them find them slow to respond to God's will and God's work. How wonderful it is to find adult men who are set in God's ways! We suggest:

1. That Royal Ambassador work (as is) be expanded and extended to touch the life of every Baptist Boy in Arkansas both through the Junior (9-12) and the Intermedjate (13-16) age ranges. We salute the Woman's Missionary Society at this point and offer any help we as men can give!

2. That a Young Men's Brotherhood be set up, correlated with the Royal Ambassador program on one end and with the Brotherhood program on the other.

3. That the Brotherhood give every possible help to Royal Ambassadors and young men in order to help them to get through to manhood without a break or lapse in service.

#### Are There Any Other Announcements?

By HARRIET GRANT HALL Lake Wales, Florida

The pastor was away and the man in charge of the service seemed very anxious that nothing be omitted.

"Are there any other announcements?" he queried.

Only silence greeted him for several seconds. Just as he was about to introduce the visiting speaker a boy's voice in the balcony was heard.

"I have an announcement." he said. "There were no eleven year old boys in Sunday School this morning."

The man who was presiding looked up in surprise, as did the rest of the congregation.

"And how old are you, son?" he

"Ten," replied the lad.

"And you think it is very important that ten and eleven year old boys come to Sunday School?" "Yes, sir, I do," said the boy.

The man turned to the audi-

"This is not on the program," he continued, "but I am wondering if any of you parents out here this morning were guilty of causing your eleven year old son to miss Sunday School."

The speaker for the morning gave a splendid message, but in the run of the years the audience may remember more about the announcement from the ten year

-000-Most of the time we need to pray to the Lord to deliver us from our own littleness.

#### Religious TV Series Begins July 18

The Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention will begin a series of fifteen-minute telecasts of WSB-TV, Atlanta, on July 18. It is anticipated that the program will run each Friday at 6:00 p.m. for thirteen consecutive weeks.

Dr. S. F. Lowe, director of the Commission, says WSB-TV is donating the time for these broadcasts and the station staff, under Bartlett, is helping in the planing and production of the pro-

At the outset, the programs will be designated primarily for children, featuring Bible stories, chalktalks and flannelgraphs. Several youth workers from the Atlanta area will participate. All the telecasts will be live, and a group of children will be in the studios to take part in each pro-

This will be the first regular television series attempted by the Radio Commission. Interested friends will be able to see these programs throughout most of Georgia, and in large portions of Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina. -000-

He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and head is a crafts-

man. He who works with his hands, head and heart is an artist. And he who works with his hands and his head and his heart and his feet is a salesman. -000-

"Never make the mistake of thinking you have to use dollar signs in order to spell \$ucce\$\$."

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# The Bottleneck In The West

By Courts Redford, Assistant Secretary,

Home Mission Board

Southern Baptists have constituted in the western states an average of more than two new churches every week, Each of these new churches needs a pastor and a building.

The Home Mission Board and respective state mission boards have done much in providing pastoral leadership. The need has not been fully met. Many additional pastors will be needed in the months ahead. But schools in that area and funds to help mission pastors have done much to provide leaders for these churches.

The bottleneck in reaching the West for Christ seems to be the lack of church buildings. Many additional fields now without a Baptist ministry could be reached if help could be provided for buildings.

These churches, if they can secure pastors and buildings, will become a great asset to the kingdom. The growth of Southern Baptist work in California illustrates the potential value of these new churches throughout the West. In 1944 there were 76 Southern Baptist churches in California and in 1951 there were 295, a gain of 288 per cent. In 1944 there were 5,048 members; in 1951, 40,963, a gain of 694 per cent. In 1944 the total mission gifts were \$15,473.00: but in 1951 they had increased to \$211,974.00, a gain of 1,261 per cent. The churches in California reported 5,094 baptisms in 1951, or 694 per cent more than were reported in 1944. These churches will continue to baptize more and give more as the years go by. The median age of the California churches is a little more than three years. At the rate we are now going we shall have about 320 additional churches in the West in three more years and these new churches will have given more than a quarter of a million dollars annually to missions. New churches added to the Convention in the past ten years gave approximately \$1,750,000 to missions last year and \$19,000,000 in total gifts to all purposes.

#### ONE NEW CHURCH DAILY FOR TEN YEARS

The phenomenal growth of churches in the West comes at the time when there is an unusual expansion of Baptist work throughout the Convention. New churches are springing up everywhere. There has been an average of more than one a day for the past ten years. Not only are new churches seeking buildings but older churches are enlarging their present buildings or adding new ones. This expansion in our work means that we now have the greatest church building program among Southern Baptists that we have ever had.

As a result the Home Mission Board has been receiving about five inquiries per week from churches concerning the possibility of securing loans. This means 250 to 300 requests during the year and many churches have been deterred from making a request because they knew our Board's inability to meet such requests without a long period of waiting.

The Board, through all if its loan funds, made seventy-seven loans last year. Thus it was able to meet only about one-fourth of the requests. If money had been available, loans could doubtless have been made to 500 churches that cannot borrow to advantage elsewhere

There are at present at least 300 churches in the West that have urgent need for new buildings or additions to their present buildings. This number is being augmented by sixty or seventy per year that cannot even provide a first unit of a building from their own resources. They must have help.

The Home Mission Board now has about \$1,800,000 in its Church Building Loan Fund and approximately \$440,000 in other loan funds that can be made availble for church buildings. This makes a total of \$2,240,000 with which to meet this ever increasing need. Loans have been approved that will take every cent that is available and three or four hundred additional requests have been filed for consideration as soon as money is available.

#### LOAN FUNDS ENLARGED

Realizing the needs of the churches in the West and the inability to meet these needs with present resources, the Board asked the Southern Baptist Convention in session in Miami on May 17, 1952, to authorize its Executive Committee to consider and act upon such requests as the Home Mission Board may make looking to the enlarged usefulness of its three church loan funds. The Southern Baptist Convention unanimously passed that motion.

To implement the spirit of that motion the Executive Committee of the Home Mission Board made a request of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, on June 12, that it be allowed to borrow \$500,000 from banks in Atlanta at an interest rate of three per cent per annum or from any other source from which the money may be secured at a better advantage, and that this amount be made available to new churches in the West and in the border states on such terms and under such conditions as the Home Mission Board may prescribe. The request was made with the further understanding that the action be ratified at the semiannual meeting of the Home Mis-

## **Advance Can Continue**

By PORTER ROUTH, Executive Secretary

S. B. C. Executive Committee

Gifts for missions through the S. B. C. Cooperative Program during the first six months of this year indicate that advance can continue in 1952.

Receipts for the first six months, in Nashville, through the Cooperative Program total \$4,-446,433.95, a 13.5 per cent increase over the same six months in 1951. During the past few years, about 48 per cent of the total S. B. C. Cooperative Program in 1952, an increase of more than \$1,000,000 over 1951.

If more than \$9,000,000 is received, it will mean that \$1,-500,000 plus will be available—75 per cent to the Foreign Mission Board and 25 per cent to the Home Mission Board for advance

Sufficient funds should be on hand this week to meet the operating budget of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. The \$3,000,000 for capital funds should be received by the middle of November. This will mean that the Southwide share of all gifts sent in by your church



during November will go for the advance program of home and foreign missions. This should be a real stimulus to giving in this Thanksgiving month.

Advance can continue if we all advance together.

sion Board at Ridgecrest on August 14.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention authorized the Home Mission Board to borrow the \$500,000 on the condition and terms specified with the understanding that it would be repaid from the over-andabove of the Cooperative Program or from Capital Needs Funds at the rate of \$100,000 per year, so that the entire loan of \$500,000 will be liquidated within a five-year period.

#### 5 MILLION NEEDED NOW

It is expected that the Home Mission Board will be in a position to help some of churches with their building projects after this plan has been ratified at the Board meeting in August. It is evident that the \$500,000 will not meet the need in full. Southern Baptists must give careful consideration to their responsibility of providing additional funds with which the very urgent needs of these new churches can be met. Many have expressed the conviction that this is the most urgent demand upon Southern Baptists at this time. It is certainly an opportunity that will pay large dividends both in financial returns to the denomination in the years to come and in evangelistic and missionary opportunities in areas where the Baptist message is needed. A fund of at least five million dollars is needed to meet this challenge. Southern Baptists are abundantly

able to provide this amount. Let us all co-operate in making the money available at the earliest possible moment.

#### Summer Commencement At Ouachita

Dr. R. G. Lee, pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, will be commencement speaker for the summer graduating class of Ouachita College. Scheduled for Friday, August 8, the service will begin at 8 p. m.

For the 27 members of Ouachita's summer graduating class, summer commencement exercises will be a historic event. This is Ouachita's first time to have regular graduation exercises for the summer graduates. Until now summer graduates have participated in the May graduation exercises.

-000-

#### New Orleans Seminary Film Strip Available

A new film strip of the New Orleans Seminary, showing both the old campus and the new campus under construction, is available. There is no rental charge except to promise to return it. Church groups, youth groups, V. B. S., and other groups interested may secure it by writing to President Roland Q. Leavell, 1220 Washington Avenue, New Orleans 13, Louisiana.

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#### **News About Missionaries**

Miss Josephine Harris, Southern Baptist missionary to Hawaii who has been in the State on furlough, has returned to her field of service and may be addressed at 2036 Vancouver Drive, Honolulu, T. H. Miss Harris is a native of Brinkley.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Solesbee. Southern Baptist missionaries to the Philippine Islands, are now in the States on furlough and may be addressed c/o J. R. Enloe, Route 4, Box 258, Vernon, Texas. Mr. Solesbee is a native of Greenwood.

Dr. J. V. Dawes, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to China, has moved from Mena, to 311 W. Mountain Street, Fayetteville.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugo H. Culpepper, Southern Baptist missionaries to Argentina who are in the States on furlough, are now at Ridgecrest, N. C., where they will be until the middle of August. Their address is: P. O. Box 79. Both Mr. and Mrs. Culpepper are natives of Arkansas and they make their permanent American home in Little Rock.

Miss Rosemary Limbert, Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, has moved from Tokyo to 2 Chome, Meiji-machi, Tobata, Japan. Miss Limbert is a native of Grubbs.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyce N. Nelson, Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan, have moved from Tokyo to 236 Hirose machi, Okayama, Japan. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are natives of Arkansas.

The slaughter on the highways since liquor came back has taken more lives than all of our wars.

## An Appeal For Information

By C. E. BRYANT

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is currently engaged in research designed to bring to light the full extent of our Federal Government's allotment of tax funds for church purposes, a clear violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. We are conducting here in Washington a rather thorough survey of federal agencies.

As a supplement to this research in Washington, we desire also to make at least a sampling of infringements in the States. You can be of great help in this regard simply by listing for us the violations of the church-state separation principle you have observed in your area. You perhaps have knowledge of such violations on the part of your community, county or state governments, which we would have no other way of discovering. Perhaps you know also of Federal grants to church institutions in your state which might not show in our research here.

We are particularly interested

in learning of:

1. Tax aid to churches; (1) Grants to church schools and colleges (transportation, textbooks or lunches to parochial schools, etc.);

(2) Grants to hospitals operated by churches (for construction, charity cases, or otherwise); (3) Grants to social welfare agencies of the churches (orphanages, homes for the aged, etc.); (4) Grants to other official religious institutions or individuals.

2. Tax exemptions to religious persons or institutions; (1) Full or part-time religious persons (tax exemptions on property or income); (2) Church-owner commercial properties or other non-worship facilities.

3. Official favors to particular churches or church organizations; (1) Any appointments on a church basis; (2) Any discriminatory action by the government against churches, church organizations or individuals because of religion.

Can you please furnish us with information on such church-state connections about which you know? Please send whatever supporting evidence (news clippings, pamphlets, etc.) that may be readily available.

Send information to C. E. Bryant, Research Director, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

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By Editor B. H. Duncan



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#### **Historical Conference**

Five important history conferences will be held at Ridge-crest, North Carolina, August 20-23, under the sponsorship of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Norman W. Cox, Executive Secretary.

On August 20, there will be a conference of seminary and college history teachers and librarians to decide several matters that affect their institutions and the work of the Historical Commission.

August 21 will be given over to meetings of the Historical Commission.

August 22 will bring something distinctly new in a workshop for state historical societies, commissions or committees. These are doing an important work in each of the states. They have never met together for conference. This workshop prom-

ises to strengthen their services.
On the night of August 22, Dr.
Robert A. Baker, History Department of Southwestern Seminary,
Fort Worth, Texas, will deliver a
special address on the occasion
of the annual public meeting in
the assembly auditorium.

August 23 will be devoted to a re-organization of the Historical Society as an auxiliary to the Commission.

Each Southern Baptist who is interested in these vital matters is invited to share in these meetings.

Defense is a costly business these days. A medium tank which cost \$81,300 during World War II costs \$244,000 today; a medium bomber costing then \$402,000, costs \$3,476,000 today; a destroyer costing \$9,900,000 then costs \$27,500,000 today.

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## Gideon, A Man of Faith and Humility

By Mrs. Homer D. Myers

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

#### INTRODUCTION

After Deborah's victory of which we studied last Sunday. Israel had rest from its enemies 40 years. But as time went on, they again became idolatrous, and again God sent an enemy to plague them; this time it was the Midianites. For seven years they robbed the Israelites day and night, their cattle and their crops until they were completely impoverished. Finally the children of Israel cried out to God, He heard their cry, and sent a prophet to tell them that their idolatry was the cause of all their troubles. Then God raised up a deliverer in the person of Gideon, who is the subject of today's lesson.

#### GIDEON COMMISSIONED

Gideon was hidden behind the winepress one day threshing wheat, when a heavenly messenger appeared to him and said: "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour." Gideon answered him with a normal question: "If he is, why all this trouble that we are in?" Where are all the miracles that God once showed to Israel when He brought them out of Egyptian bondage? Why had God forsaken Israel? (Isn't it strange that people seldom recognize sin as the cause of their troubles?) The Lord ignored Gideon's uestions, and said to him: Go . . ., and thou shalt save srael from the hand of the didianites; HAVE I NOT SENT THEE? This team became known "The sword of the Lord and dideon." Gideon was a man of ourage: no doubt he had already xperienced some skirmishes with he Midianites. He proved to be man of faith. He was an bedient person, once he really ecided that he was the man od was seeking. The Lord had o prove Himself to Gideon by fulfilment of several signs, once Gideon was convinced went forth conquering for Lord.

# IDEON'S HUMILITY AND

As is true with most people, ideon had to get self out of he way before he was in a osition to serve. He had an intriority complex. He was deeply onscious of his own limitations. It is worried about what others hight think of him. He had no esire to be a failure. He reinded the Lord that he was he son of a poor man; and bedes that Gideon was the least

Sunday School Lesson for July 20, 1952

Judges 6:11-16, 25-31

in his father's household; he was either the youngest or in some way he felt himself to be the most insignificant member of the family.

Men look upon the outward appearance, personal prestige too many times, but God looks upon the heart. It isn't the handsome one, nor the highest in intellect, nor the one that looks and acts the most impressive that God can use every time, but He is seeking men of courage, men who are fearless to stand for Him, and men of faith; men who will obey the simple orders of the Master.

The Lord said to Gideon, "Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites." How much stronger all of us would be if we could realize that when He sends us, HE WILL BE WITH US, and henceforth there is nobody or nothing to fear. The only surety we need is that we are doing His will, and He will provide the means.

It is a fascinating story how Gideon called forth an army of 32,000 men to defeat the Midianites, but God said that was too many. Israel would be puffed up if they won the victory and would say, "Look what we did." So the army was reduced to 10,000 men. But the Lord said it was still too many and He reduced it again, leaving Gideon only 300 men to disperse a great host of enemies. All the cowards were gotten out of the way. Only those who meant business were retained.

#### SIMPLE WEAPONS

Another interesting study of the scriptures is God's use of simple weapons. In the case of Gideon, the camp of the enemy was quietly surrounded by 300 warriors while the enemy slept; each soldier held in one hand a water pitcher; inside the pitcher was a light burning. Each man had a trumpet. At the given momens, every pitcher was broken with light bursting forth in the darkness; 300 trumpets blared, followed by 300 men shouting, "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon." The sleeping Midianites were awakened suddenly, surrounded by what must have seemed like a million men. They began to kill each other, and what was left of them fled into the darkness. The victory was won, and not a sword was in sight, on Israel's side of the bat-

Isn't it marvelous that our

God has all the elements of nature at His command? It may be hailstones, or an earth quake, or a tornado, or the flooding waters of a river, a bog caused by a snowstorm, but He can win the battles of men without a sword or a gun.

#### GIDEON CLEANS HOUSE

The Lord commissioned Gideon to go and promised to go with him in conquering the enemy of Israel. But before the battle, some house cleaning had to be effected. Israel was worshipping Baal, and Gideon's father owned an altar and a grove where Baal was worshipped.

THE LORD CANNOT BLESS A PEOPLE OR AN INDIVIDUAL IN SIN

Israel had to clean house before God could possibly deliver them. Gideon had to conquer sin in Israel before he could conquer sin outside of Israel. That was probably the most difficult task he was called upon to do. The Lord instructed him to go out at night and tear down his father's altar to Baal; and cut down the grove wherein the altar was erected. He would take his father's bullock, not his own, build an altar to God, and offer the bullock as a burnt offering to the Lord. Gideon took ten servants and obeyed the Lord.

But when daylight came, the

men of the city were ready to slay Gideon. They went to Gideon's father and demanded his son's life. But the father told them if Baal was a god, let him plead for himself; let him punish Gideon, and their anger was appeased.

#### GLEANINGS FROM THE LESSON

- 1. God called Gideon, a commoner, to service because of his integrity, his character, and his willingness to be used. He desires us to have the same kind of character; and He never uses people against their own will to be used.
- 2. God sent Gideon on an important assignment, perhaps because Gideon was the only man in Israel who was qualified. God has a place of service for each of us that nobody else can fill. It is our DUTY to be in the place where God can use us when He needs us.
- 3. God promised to accompany Gideon in the way he was to go.

He will go with us every step of the way, when we go His way, "even to the end." Any deviation from the pathway of God is because of our own disobedience.

4. Gideon was humble and modest. So are all truly great people. A pretended humility or false modesty is easily detected. We should strive to be sincere with ourselves, with God, and with the people.

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# Reasons For The Non-Resident Problem

By W. Forbes Yarbrough, Professor of Religious Education

Oklahoma Baptist University

We cannot solve this problem by striking the names of non-resident members from our rolls. In some extreme cases such action might eventually become necessary, but if we can determine the causes we might be able to salvage a great many lives. The only way to stop an infectious disease is to determine the cause and then use a specific cure. Before we can remedy this unhealthy condition of our churches we must search for the causes.

From a questionnaire sent out by the Division of Publications of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to a cross section of pastors, Dr. Paul Wheeler, chairman of the sub-committee on non-resident member problems has reported the chief causes to be:

- (1) Faulty evangelism.
- (2) Failure to enlist and indoctrinate new members.
- (3) Inactivity in the home church (before moving).
- (4) Lack of a sense of loyalty to Christ and the local church.
- (5) Failure of churches to encourage nonresident members to move their letters.
- (6) Worldliness and indifference.
- (7) Lack of proper parental training and influence.
- (8) Temporary residence.
- (9) Difficulty some members have in making adjustment to a new church life.
- (10) Desire of home church to hold them.

  Many other causes may be added to the
  list but it seems to me they might all be
  classified into four types of reasons.

# 1. FAULTY METHOD OF RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS.

About all a person has to do to get into a Baptist church is to walk down the aisle, give the pastor his hand, sign a card and possibly nod his head affirmatively to a few general questions. More often than we realize we vote to receive unregenerate persons as candidates for baptism; assuming that they know what they are doing. It may be all right to receive them on their profession of faith, but the pastor (or some member designated by him) should have a personal conversation with each one before he is baptized to make certain that he has had an experience of grace.

It may be that many of our non-resident members are unregenerate. We would scarcely expect such a one to move his letter until somebody persuaded him to "join" another church. Failure to guard our New Testament ideal of a regenerate church membership is probably one of the basic underlying causes.

# 2. FAILURE OF CHURCHES TO ENLIST AND INDOCTRINATE ALL NEW MEMBERS

Unless the new member is immediately enlisted in the program of the church and

put to work he becomes inactive and indifferent. In the case of new converts there is need for careful indoctrination and guidance in spiritual growth. If this is not provided he becomes a "dwarfed" or "stunted" Christian.

When members are received by letter it is equally necessary for the church 'to help them make a satisfactory adjustment to the new church. Many Baptists who have been faithful and effective workers where they came from have found the new church to be "different." They have failed to get into the work of the new church because it was "strange" or "too large" or "cold," or they have not been asked to do the kind of work they had enjoyed in the old home church. Constant effort must be made to help them get adjusted in the new church and feel they have become a necessary part of it. Otherwise the new church does not occupy the place of influence it should in the life of the new community.

Failure at this point may be the chief cause for the high percentage of members who leave their letters in the large churches when they move from the city. Church membership had lost its value because of prolonged inactivity and failure to feel that they are a part of the church.

# 3. CARELESSNESS IN KEEPING ACCURATE RECORDS.

Often those who keep the records are confused and the records are not accurate. Upon revising the membership rolls it has frequently been found that names of persons who have been dead for years have never been removed from the rolls. Also the names of those who have married have not been removed although letters have been granted them in their new names. Sometimes both the maiden name and married name of the same person occurs on the roll. What is most surprising is the number of names on the roll in older churches, of people who are not remembered by any of the resident members.

Two other common mistakes made by clerks are, first, the failure to request letters for people who join on promise of a letter, and, second, the failure to remove names of those whose letters have been granted. One earlier form of church letter which stated that the person would be considered a member of the church issuing the letter until notified of his reception by another church of like faith and order may have been the cause of this error. One of the most regretable discoveries is that the member has joined a church of another faith and has not had the courage to notify the church and request that his name be dropped from the roll. Certainly among the causes for many of the nonresident names are our lack of a uniform system of records, our failure to train our

clerks, and our inadequate revision of our church membership rolls.

#### 4. CAUSES OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

There are those who would put the blame upon causes outside the churches. Among these are listed frequent shifts in population due to the need for gainful employment in war industries, or in military service, or to temporary residence in unchurched communities; worldliness and sins into which backsliding church members are being drawn; Sabbath desecration; broken homes; denominational pride in reporting large memberships; substitution of religious radio and television programs for preaching attendance.

All of these may be considered as contributing causes but the main reason lies in the failure of the churches to enlist and indoctrinate all the members. Spiritual churches produce spiritual minded Christians who want to serve their Lord wherever they go. Unspiritual, selfish churches seek to build and hold large memberships but are not sending out members who will work for the Lord wherever they may be.

-Baptist Messenger.

Winning Catholics

J. P. Edmonds, secretary of the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information, has recently released the report which reveals that Southern Baptists won and baptized 3,557 Catholics during 1951. During the same period Texas Baptists won 1,027 Catholics. All of which goes to prove that Roman Catholics are responsive to the gospel appeal wherever and whenever presented. The trouble is too few of us are trying to win them.

In fact, there is an exodus from Roman Catholicism throughout Europe. Dr. W. O. Lewis, associate secretary of the Baptist

World Alliance, reports:

"According to recent statistics, about 2,000 Roman Catholic priests have left the Church in France since 1945. And the movement still continues. Those leaving the Church have an organization called "The Bereans," which carries on an energetic propaganda to encourage Catholics to break with the Church and turn to a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

"Recently the paper published by the Baptist young people of France, Croire et Servir (Believe and Serve), printed a number of testimonials of priests who had left the church. Soon after this issue of our Baptist paper appeared, there was such a demand for it that 10,000 extra copies had to be printed to fill the orders for the number."

Nineteen fifty-one was the banner year for the number of baptisms among Southern Baptists. Our 28,289 churches reported 375,525 baptisms. That sounds good and looks good in print, but when we reflect that it means only one baptism for every 19½ Southern Baptists, it shames us all We know we can do better than that and all know that we ought.

-Baptist Standard.