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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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NUMBER 50

Do Your Christmas Thinking Early

By ED M. ARENDALL, *Atmore, Alabama*

I do not see Him, I cannot see Him — that babe in the manger — for I am the American of 1946. Who is He? I do not know. I've never looked closely into the manger.

Every newspaper tells me how many shopping days there are until Christmas. Every radio program tells me what to buy; every newspaper is stuffed with Christmas ads telling me how much my wife and boy would appreciate their product on Christmas morning. I can't walk down the street without having my toes trampled by others like myself who are getting their Christmas shopping done early this year. The blare, the noise, the confusion of Christmas has already begun. The loud laughter, the ornate decorations, the electric lights and crowded store windows, the fireworks, the tinsel, the glitter, the gaudy colors, all these herald the fact that Christmas is coming.

Is Christmas like Mardi Gras? Is glitter and surface gaiety and laughter and drunkenness the fitting setting? Did Jesus come into the world surrounded by noise and confusion and bright lights . . . or was it in a quiet, humble manner? Somehow, I can't remember. For I am the American boy of 1946, and I have been brought up on Christmas gaiety, and from the time I can remember Christmas has meant bright lights



and trees and new bicycles and skates. I have eaten Christmas noise and confusion so long it is hard for me to focus my mind on a quiet, humble manger and an innocent babe lying there. These other things are too strong, and I have been nurtured on them.

I think Christmas is a time to BUY . . . BUY . . . BUY. Or if I am a merchant, I SELL . . . SELL . . . SELL. I did my Christmas thinking early, and I have a fine stock of toys to sell.

I go to town to shop.

I want a paper hat and a tin whistle — for you see, Christmas is coming.

I want a couple of quarts and three fruit cakes — for you see, Christmas is coming.

I want the best turkey you can get — for Christmas is coming.

I want two dollars worth of fire crackers — for Christmas is coming.

GIVE . . . GIVE . . . GIVE. GET . . . GET . . . GET. The Christmas spirit is here.

And in the midst of the awful confusion, a few people look back across the years and see a little babe lying quietly — very quietly — in a lonely humble manger.

Heard AT THE CONVENTION

The lordship of Christ is the central fact in Christian experience. It is the cohesive power of our unity. It is the life line of our existence, the flame of our spiritual life.—M. Ray McKay.

* * *

Evangelism is the spearhead of our work.—B. L. Bridges.

* * *

Our federal government has not kept faith with its promises in the liquor business. Our attention is called to the fact that while Arkansas has granted 504 state permits for the sale of liquor, our federal government has issued 787. Thus our federal government is encouraging "bootlegging" or the unlawful sale of liquor within our state.—Fritz E. Goodbar.

* * *

Only as we take up the cross daily shall we find ourselves taking up the tasks of God.—S. A. Whitlow.

* * *

Arkansas Baptists face the challenge of seeking lost souls, strengthening weak struggling churches, helping sick and suffering orphan children, and training Arkansas' young people in the ways of Christian living.—W. J. Hinsley.

* * *

We will never amount to a hill of beans until we recognize God's ownership. We are only sharecroppers.—Carey Selph.

* * *

Arkansas has one county without a single resident Baptist preacher and another county without a single Baptist church which cooperates with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.—C. W. Caldwell.

* * *

Now 30 seconds for a joke. A Negro woman, in a Catholic hospital following an operation, was in a great pain. One of the Catholic sisters came in the room, gave her a crucifix, and explained that if she would take it out,

look at it, and say, "Holy Mary" when she was suffering, relief would come. The sister departed, and the old Negro pulled out the crucifix, held it up, and said: "Don't let this fool you, Lord. I'm still a Baptist.—Ray Summers.

* * *

A man's life should be conspicuously and uniformly under the influence of Christian principles.—A. L. McDaniel.

* * *

There is never a convenient time to begin work for God. People have been making excuses since the Garden of Eden.—Carey Selph.

* * *

Living a life in the community is the most important thing a pastor does.—Eddie Blackmon.

* * *

Our church rolls, burdened by names who are worth nothing to the cause of Christ, is proof positive of the fact that we failed to keep the young Christians growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.—T. K. Rucker.

* * *

God's Kingdom is planted indestructably in the Orient, because the local church has been planted there.—M. T. Rankin.

* * *

Arkansas is next to bottom in per capita gifts to missions. There are approximately 20 church organizations without their own houses. There are 600 Baptists without Baptist homes. Our main task is evangelism and stewardship.—C. W. Caldwell.

* * *

The Brotherhood is not a movement to create new duties—it is a movement to get men to do their duties.—Carey Selph.

* * *

A man's life should reveal Christian principles in little things.—A. L. McDaniel.

THE ANTIDOTE FOR FEAR

A Devotion by B. H. Duncan

"Fear Not."

Two words of welcome import occur significant frequency in connection with birth of Jesus. These two words are: "not." These words were spoken in straits, times, when the people of God were under yoke of foreign oppression. Surely could be no more welcome words than these with their accompanying announcement of the coming of the Messiah.

Don't be afraid of God and try to run from Him. He has a message for you, a mission to bestow, a mission to give. You feel at ease in God's presence, if you welcome Him into your life; and you will discover there is no need to be afraid, on the contrary you will find the greatest freedom in His presence.

God's approach is friendly, His presence gracious, and His purpose is redemptive. The person of Jesus God comes to bless, to do you good; God wants to give you justification in place of your guilt, He wants to give you freedom in place of your condemnation.

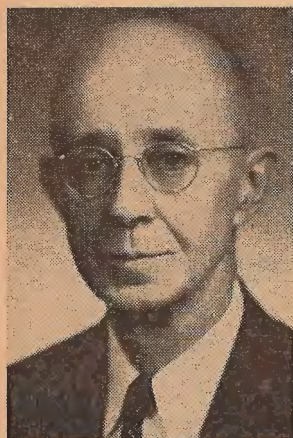
We learn what God is like through Jesus. No one need be afraid of Jesus. And He said, "He that hath seen me hath seen my Father." Again, He instructed His disciples that when they prayed they should shut themselves with God alone, and say, "Our Father." To be up with God is the safest place one can be, and with Him one will find the greatest peace and joy and satisfaction of life.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For ye are born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10, 11).

—000—

First Church, Greenwood, had a Training Union Study Course in November under the direction of Idus V. Owensby, Immanuel Church, Fort Smith. Others who assisted in the course were Henry Walker, Calvary Church, Fort Smith; Miss Jo Ann Crockett, Immanuel Church, Fort Smith; Mrs. M. Williams, First Church, Fort Smith; and Cooper Simpson, Immanuel Church, Fort Smith. Milo Bryan is Training Union director; George H. Hink is pastor.

GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL COLLEGE



DEAN J. E. RICKETSON
(Mercer University)
Mathematics



DR. R. O. BEAMAN
(Southern Baptist Seminary)
Bible



PROF. J. P. PEARSON
(Baylor University)
Social Science

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Across the Editor's Desk

The Christ of Christmas

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, and that a deserted one. He worked in a carpenter shop for 30 years, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never had an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a really big city. He never travelled, except in his infancy, more than 200 miles from the place where He was born. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends went away. One of them betrayed Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His persecutors gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, His seamless robe. When He was dead, He was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed grave through the courtesy of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today Jesus is the centerpiece of the human race, and the leader of all human progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that have ever sat, and all the kings that have ever ruled put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth like this one solitary personality.

All time dates from His birth, and it is impossible to understand or interpret the progress of human civilization in any nation on earth apart from His influence. Slowly through the ages man is coming to realize that the greatest necessity in the world is not water, iron, gold, food and clothing, or even nitrate in the soil; but rather Christ enshrined in human hearts, thoughts and mores.—Author Unknown.

Christmas, Not Xmas

Write it "Christmas," not "Xmas." And don't call it "Ekxmas." A newspaperman, John A. Kelly, appeals to the press to bar the daily contraction from all reading and advertising columns. "The day that is so dear to me," he points out, "is being given wide-read pronunciation in accordance with its shortened spelling." He explains that, although the "X" is borrowed from the Greek for a symbol for the name of the Saviour, Christians "will prefer to keep the Christmas credibly known by its right name so that none of its significance be lost."

Revised Version

Britons have ever been a bit self conscious about the last verse of "God Save the King." A relic of empire-building days, it was a brash command to the Deity to "scatter our enemies" and "confound their politics."

Now, in special recognition of the United Nations, the Church of England hymnal carries a revised version. King George VI read the new words falteringly at a recent UN service at St. Paul's!

"Nor on this land alone—
But be God's mercies known
From shore to shore.
Lord, make the nations see
That men should brothers be
And form one family
The wide world o'er."

Temperance on Radio

Apparently in rebuttal to Rev. Sam Morris, nationally-known temperance leader, who recently entered a \$15,000,000 suit charging that Columbia Broadcasting System sells time to liquor interests but refuses time to advocates of temperance, the network has begun a 13-weeks series of talks on "You and Alcohol." To acquaint the public with facts about alcohol and circumstances arising from its use as a beverage, the series deals with social, medical, religious, legal, psychological, physiological, and other aspects of the subject. Scientists, physicians, psychiatrists, clergymen, sociologists, lawyers, and officials from public alcohol control agencies are among the speakers. The program may be heard each Tuesday at 5:15 to 5:30 p. m., C.S.T.

Miracles

By Birdie Fitzgerald Jolly

Some say that miracles have taken flight
From our enlightened world, to come no more,
And one secure in realistic might
Must prove his claim to wisdom's magic store;
Others are seeking light. The daily tread
Of incidents betokening wise control,
Infinite breath upon travelling bed
Awakening there a living human soul.

Some say the day of miracles is dead—
One who has walked with God does not agree,
There are too many proofs around him
spread;
He prays, "Open my eyes that I may see!"
And lo! The sensual soul has been reborn
And henceforth fruits of grace his life adorn.

Lopsided Spenders

Anti-Saloon League Superintendent C. C. Coulter has furnished us some interesting figures comparing the costs of education and alcohol in Arkansas.

During the school year 1944-45, the amount spent for ALL state-supported schools was \$22,958,218. This is all public schools, white and colored, all state colleges and the state university and the state's deaf service.

During the calendar year 1945, Arkansas residents paid \$49,461,000 for liquors—more than twice the amount they spent for schools. During the same year, crime attributable to intoxication cost the state's citizens \$30,700,000, and accidents caused by drinking cost \$2,394,000. This is a total cost of \$82,555,000 for liquor in Arkansas in 1945, figuring only the three items mentioned here.

There are also other liquor costs—the disastrous Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta this month, taking 120 lives, now being attributed to the insane antics of a drunk. Surely the overall costs of liquor, thoroughly considered, are prohibitive.

But, now, let us look at the comparison. For education, which has as its goal the training of its youth for good citizenship and gainful occupations which contribute to the nation's well-being, we in Arkansas spent \$22,958,218 last school year. For liquors and its resultant costs, the purpose of which is carnal satisfaction of gluttonous appetites, we in Arkansas spent \$82,555,000—more than three and a half times what we spent for education. This happens while education suffers for lack of money.

Yes, WE spent both items. We, the state's citizens, legalize the sale and the drinking of liquor—though we know its costs in crime and accidents and diseased bodies. We legalize it, because the whiskey manufacturers and whiskey dealers want the money they can make out of it . . . and they are willing to give of their time and money to influence lawmakers for statutes favorable to them. The Christian citizenship meanwhile stands by, lamenting conditions but often unwilling to spend necessary time and money to make their own voices heard.

The deplorable situation that is ours is one for which we as citizens are responsible. If we don't like it—and many of us don't—we need to do something about it.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

In accordance with our perennial custom, there will be no issue of the paper Christmas week. Our next issue will be January 2. The office staff wishes all our readers a Christ-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year.

NOTES OF ADVANCE

The Brotherhood of First Church, Stuttgart, has launched plans for the installation of an RCA Music Tower at the church as a living memorial to members who served in World War II. Of the 72 men of the church who went into the armed services, all but three returned and it is for all of these, the returnees and those who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country, that the memorial is being installed.

Pastor W. B. O'Neal, Pleasant Ridge Church, Little Red River Association, preached at Mt. Zion Church, Banner, December 2.

Biggers Church, the building of which was destroyed by fire last December, began the erection of a brick veneer structure last month. Because of the increase in building material and the small membership, operations will be halted unless additional funds are received. Tillman Tipton and Ralph Lingle, Biggers, are receiving contributions. Friends of the church may wish to contribute. The congregation has been worshipping in the high school building.

Missionary W. H. Lansford, Little Red River Association, began a Sunday School Clinic at Mt. Zion Church, Banner, December 2. Missionary Lansford taught "Building a Standard Sunday School" and Rev. Delbert Garrott, Floral, brought an inspirational address each evening.

Maurice M. Hall, who has been in the army chaplaincy for four years, is a civilian again and is now a GI student in the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

Among chaplains recently released from military service are William E. Woodson, 921 Broadus St., Fort Worth 10, Tex.; Joe L. Batchelor, Box 307, Plano, Tex.; and Harold G. Field, Box 15, Carter, Okla.

The men of Second Church, El Dorado, organized a Brotherhood December 2, with 37 men present. Officers elected are Ted Vernon, president; Wilson Harroll, vice-president in charge of missions; J. W. Webb, vice-president in charge of programs; Lee Ellison, vice-president in charge of membership; J. O. Smalling, secretary; and Clifton Jones, treasurer. The Brotherhood committee is made up of Carl Click, Ted Vernon, Victor Lawrence, Claud Robinson, and C. C. Bond.

Central Church, Hot Springs, with a resident membership of 639, had 120 additions during the year. Sunday School enrolment gained 201 during the year and the average attendance per Sunday showed a gain of more than 100. Total receipts during the year amounted to \$42,734.73. About \$24,000 of this amount went for the payment of old debts. More than \$5,000 was given to outside causes. Clyde Hart is pastor.

Second Church, El Dorado, had 89 teachers, officers, and leaders of the Sunday School and Training Union present at a Thanksgiving banquet. Reports on all departments were made, followed by talks by S. N. Nes-

bit, superintendent of the Sunday School and Ted Vernon, director of the Training Union.

Pastor W. B. Pittard, Jr., writes concerning a recent laymen's revival at First Church, England, in which there were 29 additions to the church, 23 for baptism: "As a result of this revival, conducted under the able and consecrated leadership of Nelson Tull, secretary of the Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas, the entire membership recognizes a new sense of spiritual responsibility and the results of the meeting leaves the entire church on a higher plane. Surely I have never witnessed a more direct leadership of the Holy Spirit than was manifest during these eight days. Evidence of the continuation of the revival was seen the following Sunday when three came by letter and one by profession of faith and baptism. Bro. Tull works systematically and thoroughly, but at all times with the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Arkansas contributed \$13,316.59 to South-wide causes during November, according to figures released by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Of that amount, \$10,484.02 was given to the Cooperative Program, \$435.91 to designated causes, and \$2,396.66 to World Relief. The South-wide total was \$721,664.78.

Homer Bradley, who resigned the pastorate of Des Arc Church in September to enter school at New Orleans Seminary, has been called to the pastorate of Leroy Church in Alabama. He will live in a new parsonage on the field, but will continue his studies in New Orleans.

Don Corley, student in New Orleans Seminary, has accepted a call to the Baptist Church in Venice, La.

Miss Margaret Hutchison of the Home Mission Board recently spent a week on the campus of New Orleans Seminary. She was a guest of the Arkansas girls for breakfast.

J. J. Wilson, Keith Smith, and Otis Hidgon were ordained deacons of Lake Hamilton Church, Central Association, in a recent service. Members of the ordination council were J. C. Melton, T. S. Cowden, Clyde Hart, Edward Anderson, Roy Bunch, Dave Fenley, W. S. Huddleston, Ed. Green, and R. E. Plemmons.

In an article by Mrs. E. J. A. McKinney in the Convention report issue of the Arkansas Baptist, she tells of the first convention she attended. Her article states that it was in 1896, but a card received from her since the paper went to press corrects the date, making it 1895.

Dr. Wallace R. Rogers, pastor, First Church, Pensacola, Fla., formerly pastor at First Church, Booneville, and First Church, Hope, was elected president of the Florida Baptist Convention at its annual meeting.

More than 150 Christmas boxes for needy persons in Hungary, China, Poland, Japan,

Italy, Rumania, Burma, France, and were shipped by students of Southern nary and the Woman's Missionary Training School, Louisville, in November addition, 250 pounds of food and was shipped by the students to Church Service, St. Louis, Mo., for distribution to Europe and Asia.

Two missions deputation teams have been organized by students of Southern Seminary at Louisville. The groups are open for enrollment by churches desiring special services.

Evangelist Marvin Cole, Fort Worth, recently assisted Pastor J. Paul C. First Church, Vandalla, Ill., in a revival. Following that revival he went to First Robstown, Tex., to do the preaching in connection with evangelistic services.

Lowell W. Queen, son of Chaplain Queen, Baptist State Hospital, who has been educational director at First Church, San Angelo, Tex., for almost four years, has signed to accept a similar position at First Church, Waco, Tex. During his stay with the San Angelo Church, the Sunday School has been enlarged from 12 to 18 departments. Average attendance in the Sunday School for the year closed was 1,600, the highest ever recorded. The Training Union, which had six departments four years ago, now has a total of 10 departments and a number of units for adults has been developed. A church library now contains 1,600 volumes.

Reports from First Church, Leachville, reveal that the work there is advancing. Pastor Rex Brown moved on the first of June 1945, the contributions of the church to missions and benevolences have more than doubled. The Training Union has been reorganized. The building has been repaired. The church began revival services December 2 with Dr. Arthur Fox, Morrystown, Tex., in charge of the preaching, and Ray Morgan, Leachville, directing the singing.

Two Arkansas pastors, B. H. Duncan, pastor, Hot Springs, and Bruce H. Beech, pastor, Beech Street Church, Texarkana, are the more than 370 ministers and chaplains who have contributed devotionals to a new book, *America Prays*, edited by M. E. Nygaard and published by W. A. Company, Boston. Other Southern Baptists who have contributed are Wade H. Bryant, R. C. Campbell, R. Paul Caudill, Houston Ivey, C. Oscar Johnson. The book contains daily devotions for the entire year and has in addition special devotions for special days. The price is \$2.25.

PASTORAL CHANGE

A. L. Leake from Highland Church, Hot Springs, Tex., to Immanuel Church, Rogers.

Jeff Rousseau from Greene County Seminary to New Friendship and Immanuel Chapel Churches.

V. E. Defreese from North Central Seminary as state missionary to Greene County Seminary.

Seth Compere to Flora and Englewood Churches.

Boyd Eldridge from Almyra Church, Tyronza.

Henry Rutledge from Bauxite Church, Tyronza.
Roger Butler from army chaplain, Bauxite Church.

CHRIST — In Christmas

+ +

Arkansas Baptist Hour Address

By E. C. BROWN

First Church, Blytheville

+ +

TO THE CHRISTIAN, Christmas is significant because it is the time when the followers of Jesus celebrate His birth. We read again the sacred story of His wondrous birth in that little Bethlehem and we seem to stand with the Shepherds out under the star-filled skies on the Judean hills, and lo, the angel of the Lord comes and the glory of the Lord shines round about us: and we are sore afraid. But our fears are dispelled by the angel who says: "Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

Then suddenly there is with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The song is ended and the angels return to heaven.

As we stand with the Shepherds we hear them say, as they turn their faces away from the heavens and look again at each other, "let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

We, too, want to see, so we go with them and presently we stand with them before the little King lying in a manger with Mary and Joseph nearby. The Shepherds not only believed that He was the Christ, but they told others about it and praised God for all the things which they had heard and seen.

And now we find ourselves back in the twentieth century and the multitudes of earth ask us, Why put Christ in Christmas? With the Bethlehem experience so fresh in our minds, it is not difficult for us to answer that question. Christ is in Christmas because of:

I

Who He is—"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" John 1:14.

He is God incarnated in human flesh. The incarnation brings God's "good-will" to dwell among men. He is the God-man who lived among men, and who felt the terrific impact of sin as Satan tempted Him, thus enabling us to understand the battle which man must wage in a world of sin. Emerging the victor over sin and remaining the sinless one, He became the friend of the sinner. He identified Himself with us. Our joys became His joys; our sorrows became His sorrows; our hunger became His hunger; our yearnings became His yearnings; our death became His death; our sins became His sins. He became one with us; and if He is one with us, then we are one with Him, if we yield to His wooing and accept Him in faith. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16.

He knows what human sin is; for He became one with us and bore our transgressions. When on the cross He cried out "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," he felt the God-forsakenness of the sinner, for He bore our transgressions.

While a student in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, I went one Sunday with a group of students to the county jail to conduct religious services. It

was my privilege to preach the gospel to a group of men there in the jail. As I spoke I was conscious of the difficulties that I faced in preaching to men in jail. I presented unto them Jesus as the Son of God who came to earth and lived among men and was tempted in all parts like unto us and yet he did not sin. He became the qualified Saviour and as such He understands us and loves us even while we are yet in our sins. He died for our sins and He will save all who will come repenting of their sins and trusting Christ as Saviour. I gave the invitation and one of the men stuck his hand through the bars and said, "I trust Jesus as my Saviour." He is the qualified Saviour!

Emma Watt Easton has given the world a timely challenge in her poem: There is a Room:

*The little King has come!
Hast thou a guest room in thy home?
Send Him not forth with beasts to lie.
Seest thou? His star shines in the sky;
Welcome Emmanuel; never depart
There is a room within my heart.
Watching their sheep on distant hill,
Angelic strains the shepherds thrill,
Joyful they haste to see the child,
The promised Saviour, undefiled.
So would I hasten, glad to greet
And kneel O Christ-child, at thy feet.
Alas, O world, turn not away
Thy sacred Guest this natal day,
Too oft in ignorance and sin
Have nations turned Him from the inn,
But from me, Saviour, never depart,
Dwell in the room within my heart.*

He is the Christ, the Saviour, the long looked for Messiah.

II

We give Christ the pre-eminent place in Christmas because of what He has done and is now doing. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." "Saviour" means far more than the Shepherds knew; for it declares the child to be the deliverer from all evil, both of sin and sorrow and the endower with all good, both of righteousness and blessedness. John said of Him: "Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus went forth preaching a gospel of repentance; "And they were astonished at his doctrine; for his word was with power" Luke 4:32. Wherever and whenever men were willing to hear and believe His gospel He redeemed their souls. The rich, the poor, the high, the low became His disciples. He called Matthew, the hated tax collector, and made him a mighty power for righteousness. He said: "And



A scene of the life of Christ modeled in wax by the Italian sculptor D. Mastroianni.

I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. His power touched the sin benighted life of Mary Magdalene and lifted her up out of sin and transformed her life.

He met the blind man and touched his eyes, and beauties of nature flooded in upon him because he could see. The leper cried unto Him for mercy and was made whole. The lame, the halt, the afflicted found in Him a glorious healing. Even the dead lived again when the Son of God called. He brought love, salvation, sympathy, life, light and hope into a world degraded, corrupted and made hopeless by sin. He said: "I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." Men have heard Him and believed and have followed Him out of their sins into the glorious freedom of salvation and eternal life. He went all the way to Calvary and there died the Just for the Unjust. They buried Him in a borrowed tomb, but He arose the victor over sin, hell and the grave and He ever lives to make intercession for us.

He is the same Jesus Christ yesterday, today and forever. He is the friend of young and old; He is the prince of peace.

We find Him first in Christmas because he is our Hope for the future. In all the Christmases of the tomorrows He will remain the hope of the lost of earth for He will still be the world's only Saviour.

Paul expressed the hope of all Christians when he said: "I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

There is no hope for future peace unless and until the members of the United Nations are willing to let His will be done rather than their own selfish schemes and plans. He alone possesses infinite wisdom and He alone can bring real peace to the hearts of men.

Surely we ought to pray that our sin-sick, war-torn world will look once again to the Christ of Bethlehem and listen for the song of angels. For in doing this, hope shall be rekindled and faith renewed.

Home Board in Annual Meeting

By JOHN CAYLOR

The one hundred second annual meeting of the Home Mission Board was held in Atlanta, December 3-4. All officers of the Board were re-elected as follows: G. Frank Garrison, Atlanta, president; W. A. Duncan, East Point, Ga., vice-president; Frank Graham, Atlanta, recording secretary.

The Board's executives were reelected. Dr. J. B. Lawrence is in his eighteenth year as executive secretary-treasurer of the Board. Reelected with him were Dr. Courts Redford as assistant executive secretary; George P. Whitman, attorney; J. W. Wing, office secretary; and B. M. Crain, business manager.

Field Workers Elected

Field workers for the Board were elected as follows: Dr. John D. Freeman, Dr. J. L. Aders, Rev. Fred A. McCaulley, and Misses Irene Chambers, Bertha Wallis, Nancy Cooper, and Vena Aguillard.

All department heads of the Board were reelected. Rev. R. G. Van Royen is secretary of the department of visual education; Rev. Lewis W. Martin heads the department of schools of missions with Miss Margaret Hutchison as his associate; and Dr. John Caylor is secretary of the department of education and publicity. Mrs. L. Irvin Lawrence is book editor in the department.

Dr. C. E. Matthews of Texas was elected to head the department of evangelism and submitted a plan for Southwide evangelism which was adopted by the Board.

Dr. Roland Smith of Atlanta, who is statistical secretary of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., and editor of the Georgia Baptist, was reelected as assistant to Dr. Lawrence in the direction of Negro work.

The department of cooperative mission work was officially set up as the combination of rural evangelism, city missions and work in Western states, under the superintendency of Dr. S. F. Dowis, whose responsibility heretofore has been in the field of city missions. Dr. Jacob Gartenhaus begins his twenty-sixth year as superintendent of the department of Jewish work.

Rev. Alfred Carpenter, who directed camp work during the war and who is still the contact man for chaplains, was reelected to head the department of direct missions. Spanish, Indian, French, Italian, Chinese, and other language group work, as well as mission centers, rescue homes, and work in Cuba and the Canal Zone, with some 500 missionaries in the various fields, constitutes the department of direct missions under Dr. Carpenter's supervision.

Salary Adjustments

Welcome news to the home missionaries on the field is an adjustment in salaries made by the Board in its annual meeting. The field missionaries' salaries were adjusted upward approximately 15 per cent. In the adjustment, the size of family, payment of rent, college and seminary training, and term of service with the Board were considered. Base pay was advanced, and adjustments were made to account for the above-named conditions. Salaries of department secretaries and field workers were not changed, but the salaries of office secretaries were increased.

The 1947 Budget

A budget of \$1,207,000 was adopted by the Board for its 1947 current operations. This anticipates an income of \$810,000 from the Cooperative Program, \$267,000 for current

operations from the Annie Armstrong Offering, and \$130,000 from general designations.

New Workers Added in 1946

According to a tabulation of reports, 120 new workers were added during 1946. The net total of missionaries reported in the annual meeting was 722. In addition, 202 student summer workers were added for ten weeks in the past summer. This means that 924 missionaries served Home Missions during 1946.

A New Field to be Opened

In view of the present situation among migrants in the South, and in anticipation of an increasing number of migrant people in these changing times, a strong committee made careful study and recommended to the Board that an appropriation be made to begin migrant work. While this work will have to begin with one missionary couple and one chapel trailer, it may be that the field will become quite challenging to Southern Baptists.

Good Attendance at Board Meeting

The Home Mission Board consists of 18 local members and 20 state members. All but four members of the Board attended the session.

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Veteran Minister

Plans Retirement

Rev. Carroll D. Wood, First Church, Dermott, has announced his intention of retiring from the active ministry January 27. He will reside at the former home of his parents, Judge and Mrs. Z. T. Wood, in Monticello.

Dr. Wood has been in the ministry more than 40 years. Before coming to Dermott in 1940 he held pastorates in Dyersburg, Tenn., Fordyce, Tillar, Portland, Arkansas City, Lake Village, Pine Bluff, Monticello, and Haynesville, La.

He was born in Monticello in 1880, and is a graduate of Ouachita College and Southern Seminary, Louisville.

Dr. Wood plans to continue preaching, assisting in revival services, serving as supply pastor, and performing other ministerial duties.

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Central Trustees

Consider Transfer

Pastor E. C. Brown, First Church, Blytheville, was re-elected president of the Central College Board of Trustees at a meeting in Little Rock December 2. Pastor Harold Tillman, First Church, Conway, is vice-president, and Mrs. Faye Lasley, Conway, secretary.

A site location committee, composed of Rev. W. O. Vaught, Jr., Little Rock; Pastor Tillman, Conway; Rev. Lloyd Sparkman, Pine Bluff, and A. N. McAninch, Little Rock, was appointed to receive and investigate offers of sites for the relocation of the college. The State Convention, at its recent meeting in Texarkana, voted to move the college from Conway to Little Rock, opening the school in the new location in the fall of 1947 as a coeducational junior college.

To dispose of the property at Conway, a committee composed of Rev. Jim Brewer, Jr., Morrilton; Dr. M. Ray McKay, Little Rock; Rev. Fritz Goodbar, Russellville, and B. C. Huddleston, Searcy, was appointed.

Windstorm Destroys 116 Year Old Ed

Destruction by windstorm November church at Washington, in Hempstead removed one of the most historic edifices in the state. The building, erected about 1831, claimed distinction as a showplace because of its pioneer setting but because of its architecture.

The timbers that went into the construction of the building were of excellent quality. They were joined skillfully and carefully by men who knew the fine points of hand-broadaxes and planes. Drawknives were used to shape the original columns from tree trunks. The windows let in light and air. They were placed high to help ventilation on a hot day.

Wounded and sick Confederate and Union soldiers were brought to the building and nursed by Washington people. Once the firewood was needed to keep the church warm, a column was torn down and burned. The Civil War dead were taken to that church to the "new" cemetery which had been started across the road in 1858.

It has been announced that Little Rock Association will give \$100 to the Washington congregation to apply on erection of a new building.

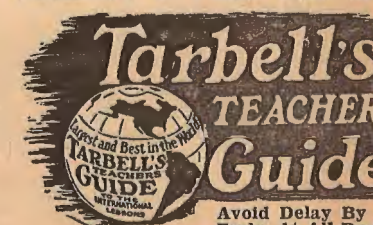
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Members of Pleasant Hill and Pine Grove Churches, Trinity Association, and the Pleasant Grove Church on November 15, elected and ordained Len Walker and Nolan of Pleasant Hill and John R. Bryant, Tate, and Tommy Edwards of Pleasant Hill as deacons. The presbytery was composed of P. O. Freeman, R. E. Cole, L. C. Edwards, W. L. Cook, Sr., Carl Walker, T. A. Roy Davis, Jim Layer, and Currey E.

South Side Church, Pine Bluff, had a record Sunday School attendance of 436 in October and not 158 as a typographical error made a recent article in the paper read. 158 was the average Training Union attendance for the month. The Adult Department of the Sunday School was reorganized and new classes begun. Lloyd A. Sparkman and R. O. Ekrut is minister of music.

Members of Marked Tree Church adopted a resolution commending Rev. J. W. Edwards who left the church to accept the pastorate of First Church, Carrolton, Mo. The resolution said: "Bro. Edwards, through his spiritual dignified personality that is appreciated in the pulpit and before the people in wedding ceremonies and funeral services, has verified himself to be a God-called minister and sincere friend to the people of the church, town, community, association and state. He possesses a Christian sense of duty and has proved his tactful ability to lead his church in developing a missionary program."

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CHRIST IN THE HEART

Those who are skilled in human anatomy say that the heart in a healthy man weighs only eleven ounces; yet every 24 hours this small organ does work equivalent to lifting a ton of stone 80 feet into the air.

We are told that man who lives to be 70 years of age has had enough blood to run through his heart to fill 164,000,000 gallons; or if wagons could be placed 25 feet apart with six barrels of 36 gallons each it would reach 1700 miles, or from New York City to the Gulf of Mexico. No wonder the Psalmist said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." It is said that every heart beat has the power equivalent to 100,000 pounds, yet so silent man can work on through the years without being interrupted by the sound of it.

God's Emphasis on the Heart

That is the reason the Lord in His word places so much emphasis on the hearts of the souls of men. The secret of power that turns society into chaos, or brings civilization to its best is found in the heart of man. The heart is the seat of affections, of love, emotions and of compassion. The heart cannot function separate from the mind but it can direct and encourage the mind to think right. Then their deeds will be right if men and women will think right, for "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

In Jer. 17:9, we read, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Ezekiel said people without God have hearts of stone and need to have them changed to hearts of flesh; which means hearts of tenderness, of compassion, and hearts of love. Paul said in Gal. 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." The living Christ in the hearts of men is our only hope for a world of permanent peace. James asks, "What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?"

Since the seat of passions is in the heart, family troubles, community disturbances, civil wars, and world wars grow out of such sinful hearts. As certain impurities of the human body find a place to assemble causing the formation of a pocket of pus, or carbuncle, so do ungodly minds move about until they focus in war and become a carbuncle on society, then suffering and death must complete its history.

The Heart Needs Christ

The great question facing us today is, "What is the remedy?" The only answer is, "Christ," Christ in the heart. I was talking to a woman, a patient, in our Baptist Hospital, a few days ago about her soul-salvation. She asked, "How do I know that the Bible is anything more than a myth?" I asked her, "How do I know that quinine will counteract malaria?" She answered by saying, "By taking it." I said, "That is right." We know the Bible is the word of God because it does for us what it says it will do when we take it, or believe it. When we read John 3:16, that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," and John 6:24, that "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall

Arkansas Baptist Hour Address

By J. F. QUEEN

Baptist State Hospital

not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life," we have promises sure and steadfast to which every trusting soul can testify.

But there are two doors to every sinner's heart that must be opened if Christ is permitted to enter with His cleansing and saving power. The first one is the moral door. John in Revelation said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man will hear my voice and open the door I will come into him and sup with him and he with me." Surely this is the moral door of man's heart. Jesus said before He went into the Garden of Gethsemane, while the 11 disciples gathered close around Him, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and righteousness, and of judgment: of sin because they believe not on me."

Our Lord does not unbolt the moral doors of our hearts, and then trespass on our freedom in decisions. If He did we would be no more than the cogs in the wheels of machinery. God has never arbitrarily forced man to believe anything. But He has done much to constrain him to believe by His love and His goodness. Paul said in Romans 2:4 that it is the goodness of God that leads to repentance. While the Holy Spirit is knocking on the outside of the heart, man on the inside should see himself, a sinner, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; and that Jesus stands ready to save him, full of pity, love and power. The lost man should hear anew the invitation of the old song, "Come ye weary, heavy-laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all." Again we say, the moral door of man's heart must be opened, and the unbolting of the door must be from the inside.

The New Birth

But there is another door over which man has no power. He cannot open it if he wished to open it. This door is the new life, or the new-birth door. Down by the river-side while Paul was in Macedonia preaching the gospel he found the moral door of Lydia's heart wide open for more understanding of God; and after he had preached Christ as her only Saviour she trusted Him and was saved. It was then said of her, "Whose heart the Lord opened."

After talking to an afflicted man in the hospital about his need of salvation who spent many months in his affliction, I asked him one day to tell me why his attitude and conversation had changed toward the outlook of the future. He replied by saying, "You told

me the plan of salvation soon after you came to the hospital as pastor, and as I thought upon it something happened to me." What happened to that man was the same that happened to Lydia, the Lord opened the new-birth door of his heart.

When the prodigal son came home to his father he was helpless as to being clothed and fed, but his father did both for him. Morally he was defeated, ruined, and helpless, and he came to recognize his condition. His father only could do for him what he needed. So is it true with the one who is ruined and helpless. If he comes to Jesus confessing his sins, "He is faithful and just to forgive his sins and to cleanse him from all unrighteousness." It is then that the door that God only can open must stand ajar, and the lost man becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus.

When Phillip Dodridge had this experience of grace he penned the conviction of every saved soul when he wrote, "O happy day that fixed my choice on Thee, my Saviour and my God! Well may this glowing heart rejoice, and tell its rapture all abroad."

Need For Christ In Living

Not only do we need Christ in the heart for salvation of the soul, but we need Him for Christian living. Lost and ungodly people are not looking for Christ in the Bible, they are looking for Christ in the hearts of those who profess that they know Him. Paul was right when he said, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." Unless the lost people of the world find Christ translated in the professed Christian's heart, they may never find Him at all.

Where Christ dwells there is compassion, light, power and wisdom. O for a heart of compassion that can be found only when Christ is enthroned in the heart! Compassion is a jewel of wisdom that is richer than the diamonds of the earth, but it is not seen, nor expressed until the heart-strings of the soul of a redeemed man of God have been loosed and made bare to a lost world.

It was the message of compassion that Harry D. Clark proclaimed that caused a drunkard to respond to the altar call, and there cried out, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, come in to stay." The evangelist was moved by the prayer so much that he wrote the song, "Come Into My Heart." That was more than 20 years ago, but since then it has been sung as a prayer around the world, and has helped to bring thousands of others to Christ.

It was compassion that filled the heart of John Vassar as he sat on the steps of a home after the door had been closed against him, as he sang that great old song, "Alas and did my Saviour bleed and did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?" Then when he had sung that last stanza, "But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my self to Thee, 'Tis all that I can do," he slipped away to search for other lost souls. The next day the woman who closed the door in his face came to church and confessed her sins and said she had opened her heart to Christ and He had saved her. She said it was those drops of grief that broke her heart as John Vassar sang the day before on her door-steps. But if Christ had not been in the heart of John Vassar as he sang, the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT)

Southern Baptists and Foreign Missions

M. THERON RANKIN
Executive Secretary

E. C. ROUTH
Editor, The Commission

The members of the Foreign Mission Board staff send greetings to the Baptists of Arkansas. We are exceedingly grateful to you for your hearty cooperation in the world mission work of Southern Baptists and for your very hearty response to every appeal of the Board as it seeks to meet urgent material and spiritual needs in war-stricken lands. May God lead and strengthen you in everything you do for his glory and make us all as fellow-workers increasingly useful in his service!

On December 1, Mr. Buxton, treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, reported that cash receipts on the \$3,500,000 Relief and Rehabilitation program had already reached \$3,852,-639.64.

With the settling of the maritime strike in San Francisco, the number of Southern Baptist missionaries to the Orient who have either sailed in December or are already in China will total 103.

Missionary J. B. Underwood in Pilar, Paraba, North Brazil, reports great damage to two houses of worship and destruction of all furniture in the buildings by a mob incited by the Roman Catholic priest, with the acquiescence of the local chief of police. New officials have given assurance of protection, but this action by the government does not replace the buildings or the equipment.

Evangelical influences continue to grow in Brazil. Dr. W. C. Taylor writes concerning one converted priest: "Perhaps the most effective witness for the gospel we have ever known, among the three dozen converted priests who have become Baptists in Brazil, is one who was already a great preacher, even of his former faith, and a teacher of it, as well. He was called far and wide as the public orator, on notable occasions. He was, with his wife and first born son, a guest in our home during a visit to our city. He told me how he had hated the believers with an unutterable fury. They had street preaching. He would get in his auto and drive pell-mell into the singing crowd, scattering them like leaves before a storm, till they could form again and go on. Then he came under the gospel influence himself, and heard dear old Hipolito de Campos, an ex-priest. After his conversion, calls came for his witness all over Brazil and hundreds of thousands have heard it. He went tirelessly on in that hard life, till his home life and pastorate called him to less exacting work. Today he is pastor of a great church and head of a vigorous Baptist School in an inland city."

Here is one illustration of many, of the vital service which can be rendered in world mission fields by Christian laymen. The Reformed Board was consulted by a Christian engineer who said: "When I was in the navy I saw parts of China laid flat. I want to help rebuild China. Can you use a Christian engineer?" Within two weeks that missionary board had a request from the Amoy Mission for an engineer. So he is going out to help rebuild China. Multitudes of Christian teachers, doctors, engineers, business representa-

tives, diplomats, and other representatives of honorable lines of service are going to every part of the world. What an opportunity for unofficial Christian missionaries.

The Brazilian Baptist WMU is planning to observe in 1948 the Ruby Anniversary of the women's work. There are now 1273 organizations, including auxiliaries, with a membership of 23,355. Miss Minnie Landrum is executive secretary.

Mrs. C. K. Dozier writes from Honolulu: "On Sunday, people of nearly every race assemble for worship. There are many nationalities in the Islands who do not speak English. We rejoice that Christian work is being done in six of our churches in the Japanese language. The Japanese-speaking department of the church has a membership of 87. The highlight of every week is the good attendance on the Wednesday prayer and Bible study service. Translation of literature is now being made so that we can organize a Japanese Baptist Adult Union in the near future. Just last week the crowning glory of a well-rounded church was added when the Baptist Brotherhood was organized with an enthusiastic group at Olivet." Two new churches were organized in November, University Avenue and Hilo-Hawaii.

Dr. C. W. Pruitt, who served as a missionary in China for more than half a century, died November 27 at Atlanta. Mrs. John Mein, Christian home builder in Brazil, died November 23 at Recife.

James Tamimola Ayorinde returned to his native land, Nigeria, early this year. During his sojourn in this country he had been graduated Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Union University and Master of Arts from Oberlin College. When he arrived in Africa in January he must have been overwhelmed by the many positions that were literally thrust at him. He chose to accept the pastorate of a none-too-well-known church. In a recent letter he has this to say:

"I found that our Baptist churches were woefully in need of pastors. I started my pastorate the first Sunday in March. The results these few months have been wonderful. Apart from this local work, I have been visiting different parts of the country conducting revival services, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. The results of the revival services at the Baptist Academy, Lagos, at Baptist College, Iwo, and at Baptist Girls' School, Idi-Aba have been very good and encouraging. It is crystal clear that the hands of God have been guiding and directing me. For these blessings I am deeply grateful. 'By the grace of God, I am what I am.' . . . My wife is working side by side with me in the church work. She is particularly helping in the WMU work."

Approximately seven centuries before the earthly ministry of Jesus, God was saying to the world through Isaiah: "There is no God else besides me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides me. Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else."

Christ in the Heart

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN)

arrow of conviction might never have pierced her sinful heart and brought Christ to her Saviour.

Need For Christ in Dying

Thus far in this message we have seen need of Christ in the heart for salvation, for Christian living. We now turn to the thought of the need of Christ in the heart for Christian dying.

Some people do not want the thought of dying mentioned. Why not? That is something every one of us must do. Death is inevitable. Some who are listening to this message, no doubt, will never see another Christmas month. We are told that one-half of the people born in America die before they are 40 years of age; only five persons out of a hundred who reach maturity live to be 100 years of age; while but one of every thousand persons reaches the age of 95. Then surely death is a most important consideration of every man being, yet it is the most neglected subject.

No one is ready to die who has not put Christ into his heart. The two thieves who were numbered with Christ on Calvary were not ready to die but as death was made gradually through every muscle of their bodies, one cried for help that Christ only could give, and that help was the salvation of his soul. With Christ in the heart, the preaching of the word has power; the testimony of the saved brings conviction to sinners; the melody of song stirs the hardest of hearts; the tempers their stubborn wills; and when the chilly waters of death must be crossed, Christ in the heart will temper the waves with peace and light that will safely pilot us to the other side.

As the Yuletide silently moves upon us, our hearts should be thrilled with the thought of a Saviour who was born to save us, to live within us, turning our darkness into light.

Yes, it was the Christ of Christmas who came to save the lost, to live in the hearts of those who trust Him, and to make the crossing from this world to the next a glorious experience.

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War Left Unprecedented Opportunity For Christianity in Japan—MacArthur

Events of the war left in the spiritual phase of Japanese life a vacuum creating "an opportunity without counterpart since the birth of Christ for the spread of Christianity among the peoples of the Far East," General Douglas MacArthur has written Dr. Louie D. Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"If this opportunity is fully availed of by the leaders of our Christian faith, a revolution of the spirit may be expected to ensure which may more favorably alter the course of civilization than has any economic or political revolution accomplished in the history of the world. I know that you will join me in the hope that we may rise to this opportunity and squarely meet its challenge," the letter continued.

The letter from General MacArthur, supreme commander for the Allied powers in Japan, was in response to one from Dr. Newton commending the occupation forces on their management of Japanese affairs with minimum exercise of military force.

"The occupation of Japan from its inception has proceeded with minimum display of Allied force,"

General MacArthur wrote Dr. Newton. "While its course has been firmly charted toward the achievement of our political objectives, progress has rested more upon the application of those guiding tenets of our Christian faith—justice, tolerance, understanding—which, without yielding firmness, have underwritten all applied policy, than upon the power or threat of Allied bayonets.

"This has deeply stirred the consciousness of the Japanese people and will have a far reaching and lasting influence upon the future of Japanese society. It has led them increasingly to turn to Christianity to strengthen them through the ravage of destructive defeat and the bewildering realization of the complete failure of their own past faith."

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Idus V. Owensby, director of activities of Immanuel Church, Fort Smith, has resigned to accept a similar position with First Church, Muskogee, Okla., effective December 15. Mr. Owensby has served Immanuel Church since his release from the army in November, 1945, and prior to his army service he had been with the Muskogee Church for five years.

Death at 91 Takes Baptist Pioneer

Dr. Baron DeKalb Gray, secretary emeritus of the Home Board and one of the pioneers of the Baptist Training Union, died in Georgia Baptist Hospital November 25 after two months illness.

Dr. Gray was born near Waynesboro, Miss., in 1855. He was converted at about the age of 16 and soon after that felt the call to the ministry and was licensed and ordained by his church at Waynesboro. During his school years at Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, Louisville, he served a number of churches. Following graduation and after taking post graduate work, he accepted a pastorate at Clinton, Miss. There he married Miss Alma Ratliff in 1884.

Following a five year pastorate at Hazlehurst, Miss., Dr. Gray went to First Church, Birmingham, Ala., where he and Mrs. Gray gave major emphasis to the young people. In 1895 Dr. Gray became

FORTY-SIXTY

For the third successive year First Church, Marianna, has adopted a budget calling for 60 per cent of offerings to be given to the Cooperative Program. The 1947 budget calls for an overall increase of 10 per cent over that of 1946. Pastor W. F. Couch says: "We operate entirely on faith with no ever-member canvass or pledges of any kind."

very much interested in the organized work among the young people, and in collaboration with Dr. I. T. Tichenor, Dr. I. J. Van Ness, and L. O. Dawson, he led in the organization of the BYPU.

In 1901 Dr. Gray accepted the presidency of Georgetown College in Kentucky. In 1903 he was elected corresponding secretary of the Home Board where he served 2 years.

It's Coming!

HOME LIFE

A Christian Family Magazine
First Issue, January, 1947

Here is the magazine you have wanted and needed—one to help you build a Christian home. HOME LIFE, published monthly by the Baptist Sunday School Board, comes to your home with stories of homes which are successfully Christian, poems with a lift, articles by able fathers and mothers, answers to questions on family life, and plans for family worship.

From the full-color cover to the very last page HOME LIFE will delight you for in absorbing *The Better Home* and the *Cradle Roll Home*, this new magazine enlarges the scope to include every member of the family from the baby clear up to Grandpa.

Be sure that your church is making plans to start distributing HOME LIFE with the very first issue in January. It is now included on the regular order blank for periodical literature.

Subscription: bulk rate, 25c quarterly for three monthly issues

Send all orders for HOME LIFE to

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Religious Education

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EDGAR WILLIAMSON

Sunday School Superintendent

RALPH W. DAVIS

Training Union Director

Radio Center Building, Little Rock

T. D. McCULLOCH

Student Union Secretary

MRS. B. W. NININGER

Church Music Director



Season's Greetings

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11.

At this happy Christmas time Christians everywhere should be grateful unto God for His unspeakable gift. Only eternity will reveal what the coming of Christ into the world has meant in the redemption and uplift of the human race. Surely, this year the commemoration of the birth of the Saviour should honor, magnify and glorify Him. The Christian's Christmas should honor Christ.

We, your workers in the Religious Education Department, are grateful for the opportunities of fellowship and service during this past year. We are grateful to the leaders and workers in the associations, churches and colleges who have helped in forwarding the work.

We wish for all a merry, merry Christmas and a bright, happy and prosperous New Year.

EDGAR WILLIAMSON
RALPH W. DAVIS
T. D. McCULLOCH

MRS. B. W. NININGER
MRS. GRACE HAMILTON
WILLODEEN MORELOCK

Looking Forward—

Student Night at Christmas

Hundreds of Baptist Students from institutions of higher learning in Arkansas will soon be home for the Christmas holidays. This will be a good time for pastors, young people's leaders and associational missionaries to renew their contacts and friendships with them.

Use the students in the Student Night at Christmas program. These programs have come into increasing favor among the churches. They re-echo the message and power of our State BSU Convention. They increase the Student's appreciation of the home church. They acquaint the home people with college religious life and particularly with the program of the Baptist Student Union, teach the students to appreciate adequately the ministry of the church at college. They assure parents of the denominational con-

cern for students, introduce high school students to college life at its best and assures the student of the home church's sustained interest and prayerful concern for them.

Student Night at Christmas programs are in the mail. Now is the time to appoint the committees. Use the suggested material. Write the students now, inviting them to participate.

ATTENTION: Pastors and Training Union Directors. Attractive posters announcing the State Training Union Convention have been sent to all churches. If you have not received your poster, please notify your State Training Union Director, 203 Radio Center, Little Rock, immediately.

FREE TRACTS

A native of Arkansas and long-time resident of Little Rock solicits Preachers, S. S. Superintendents, Christian Groups, and individuals throughout the state to assist him in placing Gospel Tracts in the hands of every unsaved person in Arkansas.

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San Antonio 1, Texas

These Will Attend Convention

Three hundred forty-two people were present at the First Church, El Dorado, when Southwide Training Union Day was observed on December 3. Definite plans are being made in Liberty Association to charter a bus for the State Training Union Convention. Between 75 and 150 people are expected to attend the convention from Liberty association.

In a recent associational Training school in Jonesboro, plans were begun to charter a bus from Mount Zion association so that a large number of people might attend the convention in Pine Bluff, January 30-31.

Mt. Zion Association School Of Church Music

Mt. Zion Association sponsored the first of its annual Schools of Church Music the week of December 1-6 at Central Church, Jonesboro. Total enrolment went well over 200 and there was an average attendance each night of 129, representing all the churches of Jonesboro and many of the adjacent towns and communities. Classes in all phases of church music were taught by a faculty consisting of Miss Jean Prince from the Southern Baptist School of Sacred Music in Louisville, Mrs. J. I. Cossey of Jonesboro and Mrs. B. W. Nininger, state director.

One hundred and seventy-five people from nine churches in the association, including six pastors, attended the opening feature and Hymn-sign Sunday afternoon. In addition to congregational singing led by Mrs. Nininger, there were special musical numbers by the choir of First Church, directed by Hardy Little, Jr., with Mrs. Little at the piano, a male quartet from the same church, and girls' sex-

tettes from both Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro, and the La City Church. Mrs. Owen J. Higgins was accompanist for the sextettes.

Climaxing the school on Friday night was the Choral Festival which demonstrated the work done through the week. Numbers were sung by a Junior Choir of 28 voices under the direction of Miss Prince, a Youth Choir of 16 voices, an Adult Choir of 60 voices and a Male Chorus of 28, with Mrs. Nininger directing. Accompanists for the program were Miss M. Shaver of Walnut Street Church and Miss Prince. Arrangements are being made to make this school an annual event in Mt. Zion Association.

Free Literature

Free literature, published by the Sunday School Board for any of the phases of the work, may be had by addressing the workers, requesting the literature desired. Pray for the workers and the work committed to them; then help make 1947 the best year for all phases of the work.

—000—

Christians must face realistically their betrayal of trust, their disobedience alike to the heavenly vision of the Redeemer in His command and commission. Confession, penitence, genuine dedication, of person and institution, are essential to any contribution to a better world.—W. O. Carver.

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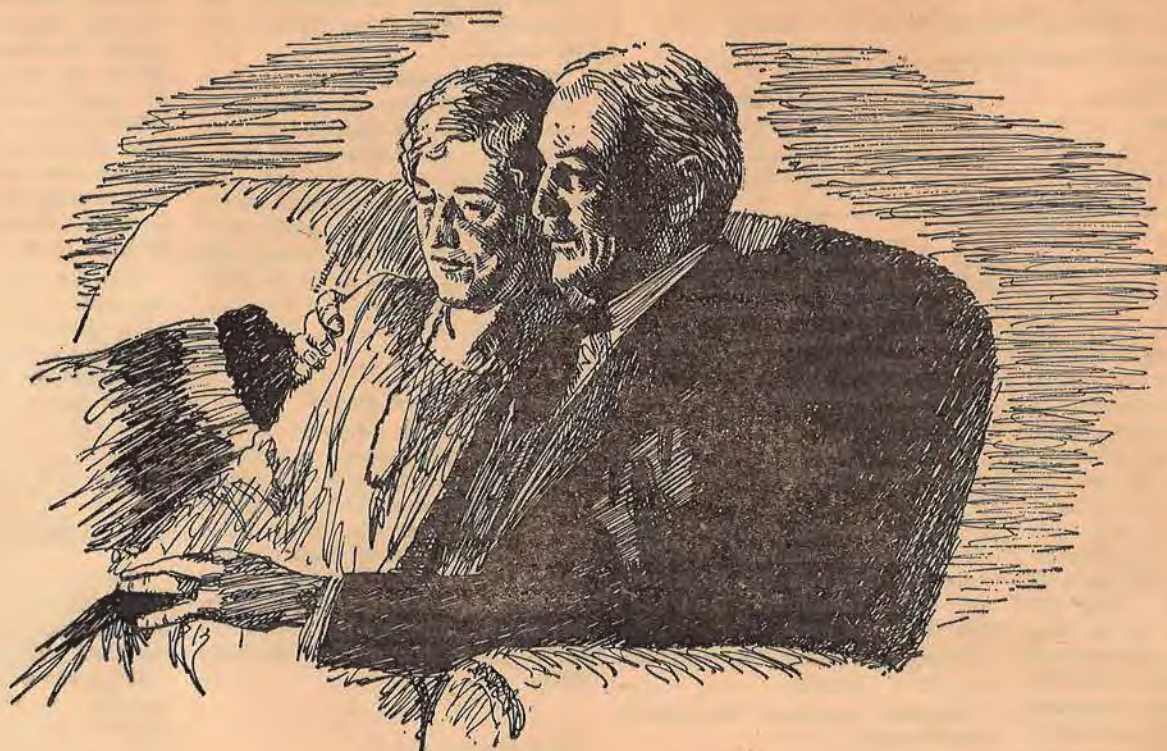
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If you are one of those consecrated individuals who would like to give a sum of money, bonds, or real estate to the Southern Seminary now, and yet cannot afford to give up the income from this property, we heartily suggest that you study our Annuity Plan.

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Won't you write Dr. Fuller if this plan appeals to you? The President or any of the Trustees of the Seminary will be glad to call on you personally or to send you the information you desire by mail. We invite inquiries and there is, of course, no obligation.



Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Auxiliary to Arkansas Baptist State Convention
209 Radio Center Building, Little Rock

Mrs. J. E. SHORT
President

Mrs. C. H. RAY
Executive Secretary and Treasurer

MISS LAVERNE ASHBY
Young People's Secretary

ALVIN HATTON
Royal Ambassador Secretary

A Christmas Plea

Dear Member of Woman's Missionary Society:

This is not a gag but a sincere plea to you from me to please, please, PLEASE do not stop buying Christmas presents until you have sent at least one dollar with the name and address of one boy to Ambassador Life, 1111 Comer Building, Birmingham 3, Ala. You believe in missionary education of young, don't you? Well, here is a good way to show it. After all, it does little good for us to have a Royal Ambassador magazine if boys do not receive it. Did you know that less than one thousand boys in Arkansas receive Ambassador Life? That is really a shame. And did you know that if every woman who belongs to the missionary societies in Arkansas should send in one subscription we would have far more than ten thousand subscribers from this State?

If Ambassador Life is in your church budget, or if the boys in your church receive it by some other means, how about picking out a boy who is a neighbor or relative (perhaps one who never heard of R. A.'s and who may not be a Christian) and subscribing to this boy's magazine for him? Here is a missionary opportunity. Don't miss it! Hurry so he won't miss the January issue.—Sincerely, Alvin Hatton, State RA Secretary.

District Brotherhood-Royal Ambassador Rallies

Mr. J. I. Bishop, Southwide Royal Ambassador Secretary, is to be in Arkansas January 13-24 for a series of District Brotherhood-Royal Ambassador rallies. He is to accompany Mr. Nelson Tull, State Brotherhood Secretary, and Mr. Alvin Hatton, State RA Secretary, to these meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide fellowship for men and boys and to strengthen our Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador work in Arkansas. A supper is to be provided at each church for which each

man and boy will pay fifty cents. Following is the schedule for these rallies at 7 p. m. each place:

Monday, January 13 — Hope, First Church.

Tuesday, January 14—McGehee, First Church.

Thursday, January 16 — Baring Cross Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

Friday, January 17, until Sunday morning, January 19—First State RA Congress for Intermediate RA's, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Monday, January 20—Van Buren, First Church.

Tuesday, January 21—Rogers, First Church.

Wednesday, January 22—Mountain Home.

Thursday, January 23—Jonesboro, First Church.

Friday, January 24—Tyronza.

Please notify the church in your district before January 10 the number of men and boys to expect from your church.

First State Royal Ambassador Congress

Friday afternoon through Sunday, January 17-19, the first State Royal Ambassador Congress for Intermediates will convene in Little Rock. All sessions will be held at the Immanuel Baptist Church. Beds will be provided free Friday and Saturday nights by the church. Also some of the meals will be served at the church.

Mr. J. I. Bishop, Southwide Royal Ambassador Secretary, will be present to speak and lead conferences on RA work. Other conferences will be on missions and present day problems faced by boys. Dr. John Miller, Camden, who served as medical missionary in

East Texas Baptist College

Marshall, Texas

New dormitory for young women makes possible the acceptance of sixty young women and fifty young men for the Spring Semester which begins January 27, 1947.

Reservations are now being accepted.

For information contact:
H. D. BRUCE, PRESIDENT

China, General E. L. Compere of Little Rock, and Mr. Nelson Tull, State Brotherhood Secretary, will speak and lead conferences at the Congress. Also State officers will be elected.

Each Intermediate Royal Ambassador Chapter is entitled to send two representatives to this Congress. There will be no registration fees, but the names and addresses of all representatives should be sent to Mr. Alvin Hatton, State R. A. Secretary, 209 Radio Center, Little Rock, by January 10 so that details of the Congress may be sent.

District Budget News

A check up on payments to the District WMU budget shows that we are nearing the goal. All funds for this purpose should be received before December 31. With little effort on the part of each organization every District can easily reach its apportionment or even go beyond it. May we have your remittance at the earliest possible date?

Give Magazines This Christmas

Mission magazines make ideal Christmas gifts—gifts that are useful and lasting. Order gift subscriptions now for Royal Service, 50c per year. The Window of YWA, World Comrades and Ambassador Life, each \$1 per year from 1111 Comer Building, Birmingham 3, Ala.

Liberty Young People Rally

Nearly 200 young people, their counselors, leaders and pastors attended the annual Liberty Association WMU Young People's Rally, Friday evening, November 29 at Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado.

Features of the first session were a pantomime of the Sunbeam hymn by the Sunbeam Band of Immanuel Church, El Dorado and motion pictures of the association Sunbeam camp held last summer. An intermission during which a visit was made to the Royal Ambassador exhibit presided over by Charles Ragland, Ambassador Ex-

traordinary of First Church, El Dorado, and refreshments were served, was followed by the inspirational program on the theme "Bridge Builders." A flannelgraph devotional on "Christ, the Bridge for all Mankind" was given by Miss LaVerne Ashby, State WMU Young People's Secretary. Miss Carol Ann Luschen spoke of "Peace Bridges." A fitting climax was brought in the final message in song, "Here Am I, Send Me by Miss Jean Brinkley.

Mrs. Charlie V. Crane is Liberty Association's capable Young People's Counselor and is largely responsible for the splendid work being done by their association young people's organizations.

—000—

New Church Has \$35,000 Budget

Gaines Street Church, Little Rock, Charles E. Lawrence, pastor has adopted a budget of \$35,000 for 1947. The budget is to be divided three ways: \$15,000 for local expenses, \$5,000 for missions, and \$15,000 for a new building fund. The budget provides for sending the Arkansas Baptist into every home in the membership. Any surplus over the budget will go into the building fund.

The church, now three months old, has 500 members. Sunday School attendance averages 325. Training Union attendance averages 225.

Plans for a modern fireproof church plant to be erected at 16th and Gaines Streets have been completed. Ground was broken Sunday December 1. The plans call for an auditorium with seating capacity of 1000 and an educational building with capacity for teaching and training 1000. Approximate cost of the completed plant will be \$200,000.

The church has extended its ministry by obtaining broadcast rights for the Sunday morning service over Station KXLR, North Little Rock. Sunday services are now being held in the auditorium of East Side Junior High School, and mid-week services are held in the chapel of Drummond and Company Funeral Directors.

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BROTHERHOOD—ROYAL AMBASSADOR RALLIES

A series of Man-Boy meetings will be held in the eight districts of the state during January, 1947. There will be one such gathering in each of the districts. These rallies are sponsored jointly by the Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas and the Royal Ambassador division of the State Woman's Missionary Union. The purpose of the meetings is to draw Christian men and Christian life and service, looking forward to a day when the men of our churches shall have a larger part in the lives of the men-to-be.

The schedule of the Brotherhood-Royal Ambassador Rallies is as follows:

Southwest Region: Hope, First Church, January 13.

Southeast Region: McGehee, First Church, January 14.

Central Region: North Little Rock, Baring Cross Church, January 16.

West Central Region: Van Buren, First Church, January 20.

Northwest Region: Rogers, First Church, January 21.

North Central Region: Mountain Home, First Church, January 22.

Northeast Region: Jonesboro, First Church, January 23.

East Central Region: Tyronza, First Church, January 24.

Selph at West Helena

Carey Selph, president of the Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas, spoke at the quarterly rally of the Arkansas Valley Associational Brotherhood held at the First Church of West Helena on December 17. Mr. Selph will be available for many Brotherhood meetings throughout the state.


Brotherhood Sidelights

Brother J. I. Cossey, pastor of the Central Church of Jonesboro, is promoting Brotherhood development throughout Mt. Zion Association, and is arranging a tour of the churches to be held early in June of 1947.

The Brotherhood of the First Church of West Memphis meets weekly, with an average attendance of about 50. After one hour's meeting the men go visiting. We believe that the spirit of the men of this church, as they have worked together, has contributed largely to the fact that during the last eight months the church has baptized 142 people. Brother Aubrey C. Halsell is pastor of this great church, which was recently host to the Tri-County Associational Brotherhood at its quarterly rally.

Brother Siebert Haley, pastor of the First Church of Parkin, reports that the Brotherhood of his church meets twice each month,

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NELSON F. TULL
Secretary

212 Radio Center
Little Rock

and that the time of meeting has been set at six o'clock in the morning! Brother Haley also reports that the attendance is good and that the men of the Brotherhood are lining up a real program of work. We predict a fine future for this Brotherhood!

During the past week two churches have reported new Brotherhoods. They are: The First Church of Corning, Brother L. C. Tedford, pastor; and the First Church of Sylvan Hills (Pulaski County). Brother E. S. Ridgeway is pastor of the Sylvan Hills church.

Register YOUR Brotherhood with the Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas!

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Gratitude

By CECIL O. ABBOTT, *Pastor
Plainview Church, Little Rock*

May I have the privilege of expressing my appreciation of our Baptist State Hospital in our Arkansas Baptist.

Recently I had a serious illness that called for a major operation which was done in our Hospital. The skill of the physician, the kindness and good attention the nurses gave me, visits by the hospital pastor and other pastors of the city, visits by my own faithful church members, prayers by them all for me, and the Christian atmosphere of the Hospital are some of the things for which I am very thankful.

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GOES WEST



Charles H. Ashcraft, native of Malvern, has been elected Baptist Brotherhood Secretary for N. Mex. He was graduated from Ouachita College in 1939 and Southern Seminary, Louisville, in 1942. He resigned from the pastorate of Walnut Street Church, Evansville, Ind., to enter the army chaplaincy in 1943.

Mr. Ashcraft participated in five major battles in the New Guinea-Netherlands Campaign and took part in three amphibious assault landings. On Biak Island he received the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement under fire. Back in the states as chaplain, he was on special duty recruiting personnel to pastors of the city where they were located. In this manner, he travelled over all of New Mexico and spoke in most of the churches and before many of the Brotherhoods of the state.

He will take over active duties January 1.

Figures to Inspire

December 8, 1946

Church	Addns.	S.S.
Arkadelphia, First	1	552
Benton, First	1	656
Camden, First	—	506
Conway, First	3	462
Cullendale, First	—	300
El Dorado Churches:		
First	19	832
Second	—	442
Fordyce, First	—	335
Fort Smith Churches:		
First	2	1028
Immanuel	4	604
Hamburg, First	3	333
Harrison, First	7	360
Hot Springs Churches:		
Central	—	401
Park Place	3	454
Second	—	486
Including Mission	—	552
Jacksonville, First	1	208
Little Rock Churches:		
Baptist Tabernacle	2	523
First	4	930
Including Mission	—	993
Immanuel	—	1022
Including Mission	—	1524
South Highland	—	254
Magnolia, Central	2	408
McGehee, First	—	470
Mena, First	2	293
Monticello Churches:		
First	3	241
Second	—	183
Mount Ida, First	—	118
Norphlet, First	—	258
Paragould, First	1	583
Paris, First	—	396
Pine Bluff Churches:		
First	4	751
Including Mission	—	815
Matthews Memorial	—	133
Second	—	212
South Side	6	471
Including Mission	—	534
Rogers, First	4	367
Springdale, First	—	358
Including Mission	—	437
Warren Churches:		
First	—	447
Immanuel	—	89
West Memphis, First	7	410

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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Executive Board Names Committees

Pastor Irving M. Prince, of First Church, Paragould, was elected president of the State Convention's Executive Board at its recent meeting. He succeeds Pastor W. M. Pratt of Lonoke, who had served two terms. Pastor Fritz E. Goodbar of First Church, Russellville, was named vice-president, and Pastor Wilford Lee of Crossett, recording secretary.

Committees named by President Prince to help direct the Board's activities include:

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

B. H. Duncan, Hot Springs, Chairman.
Charles F. Wilkins, Newport.
C. E. Lawrence, Little Rock.
O. L. Gibson, Fayetteville.
Bruce H. Price, Texarkana.
Reece Howard, Brinkley.
J. P. Emory, Story.

BROTHERHOOD

W. A. Jackson, Benton, Chairman.
Carey Selph, Mt. Ida.
H. E. Williams, Pocahontas.
L. M. Keeling, Judsonia.
R. M. Abell, Jasper.
G. E. Owen, Conway.

STATE MISSIONS

T. K. Rucker, Malvern, Chairman.
Rel Gray, Rogers.
Ralph Dodd, Stuttgart.
J. I. Cossey, Jonesboro.
H. L. Lipford, Earle.
Lloyd Hunnicutt, Magnolia.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

E. C. Brown, Blytheville, Chairman.
Boyd Baker, DeQueen.
Paul Fox, Pine Bluff.
W. M. Pratt, Lonoke.
E. P. J. Garrott, Batesville.
Dewey Stark, Mountain Home.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS (Hospital and Orphanage)

E. E. Griever, Harrison.
B. V. Ferguson, Fort Smith.
Othar Smith, Heber Springs.
J. G. Cothran, Arkadelphia.
A. B. Hill, Little Rock.
Allen Dugger, El Dorado.

BIBLE SCHOOL AND NEGRO WORK

C. W. Caldwell, Fordyce, Chairman.
Boyd Eldridge, Almyra.
J. O. Young, Piggott.
W. O. Vaught, Jr., Little Rock.
Faber Tyler, Ozark.
Rivos Dorris, Cotton Plant.

RETIREMENT

V. H. Coffman, Fort Smith, Chairman.
L. A. Sparkman, Pine Bluff.
Perry Corder, Thornburg.
Herman Dover, Melbourne.
C. H. Moore, Ink.
Claude Jenkins, Clinton.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

T. H. Jordan, Van Buren, Chairman.
W. H. Hicks, Little Rock.
J. T. Elliff, Lake Village.

S. A. Wiles, Batesville.
Clyde Hart, Hot Springs.
O. C. Harvey, Arkadelphia.

WMU

H. B. Tillman, Conway, Chairman.
F. E. Goodbar, Russellville.
C. G. Davis, Waldron.
Oscar Ellis, Salem.
Fred Perkins, Little Rock.
J. T. McNew, Helena.

One Million Pints of Blood

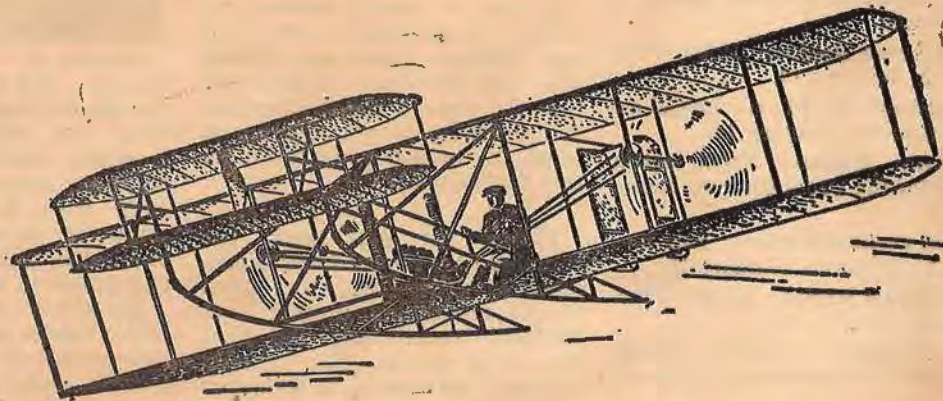
By LAWSON H. COOKE

The annual meeting of the State Brotherhood Secretaries Association was held in the offices of the Baptist Brotherhood of the South, December 4-5. Virtually every area of Brotherhood activity was discussed and vital and far-reaching plans for 1947 were adopted. As a special project for the year,

the establishment of blood banks in hospitals throughout the South and the donation of 1,000,000 pints of blood by the men of our Brotherhoods was suggested.

Conversations are now in progress with physicians and hospitals to ascertain the practicality and the possible extent of this Brotherhood project.

"IT FLIES!"



Just 43 years ago—December 17, 1903—American aviation had its beginning on a cold, wind-swept hillside at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. That morning the Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville, managed to keep their flimsy biplane in the air for 59 seconds—the first time in history that man had been lifted from the ground and carried through the air by power.

It is quite a jump from the Wrights' contraption to the mammoth planes that fly around the world today—but it's one of the best examples of American ingenuity. Another is more closely connected with our business—Thomas Edison's invention of the incandescent lamp, contrasted with electric service as we know it today.

But that is the American system—endless opportunity for ambition and ability! It works alike for individuals and business, giving both the incentive to greater service: to the Wright brothers it meant improving their aircraft; to us it means improvement of our service, at an ever decreasing cost to you. And as long as this American system remains, you need have no fear of this nation's greatness.



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Christ's Coming Was Supreme Demonstration of God's Love

By R. PAUL CAUDILL

"Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). Paul was right. In God's gift of Jesus to the lost world we do have an "unspeakable gift. Through the coming of Jesus into the world we find the explanation of life's deepest meaning. Whatever hope man has for brotherhood, for peace, and for personal and world salvation rests in Him. His name is above every name (Phil. 2:9). Moreover, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The Gift Of Love

Love was the originating cause of our salvation. It was because of God's great love for the world that He gave His only begotten Son to be our Saviour, Redeemer and Cleanser from sin. "We love him because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Never before did the world behold such a gracious experience of love as that which was beheld in the Incarnate Christ.

Fruitless would be the effort on the part of anyone to describe the glory of the preincarnate state of the Lord Christ. The words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians (2:6ff.) constitute what is perhaps the best expression we have concerning that state: "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

In other words, the incarnate Christ—though previously existing "in the form of God"—considered His estate not something that should be grasped or held on to but actually took upon Himself "the form of the servant," being made in the likeness of men taking up His abode in the flesh which eventually led Him to the cross of Calvary.

Through the incarnation, however, Christ became the Lamb of

Sunday School Lesson

For December 22

John 3:16; Eph. 3:14-21

God (John 1:36) that taketh away the sin of the world.

This unspeakable gift can be appropriated by all men everywhere upon one condition, namely, that of faith. The "whosoever" is followed by the words "within him." Christ can have meaning for lost souls only in proportion as they entrust their lives unto Him. That is why Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and saying, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

"Faith," "belief," "trust," may be defined as "the leaning of the entire human personality upon God or the Messiah in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness" (Souter). Faith, then, as it relates to Christ as Saviour and Lord, embraces the whole human personality. There are doubtless thousands of people in the world who from the standpoint of intellectual comprehension believe in the existence of the historical Christ, yet those same individuals have never entrusted themselves to Christ as Saviour and Lord. They have never gone down into the laboratory of Christian experience.

In John 3:16 we have the amazing statement that those who "believe" on Him "should not perish, but have everlasting life." Never before were such words spoken to the downcast hearts of humanity. Never before was there a trustworthy basis for belief in life beyond the grave. In Christ death loses its sting and has its victory.

Before the coming of Christ, when pagan mothers said goodbye to their babies in death, they knew but one word to speak, namely, "Farewell, farewell, eternally farewell, farewell." In Christ we know that "weeping may endure for a

night but joy cometh in the morning" (Psa. 35).

The Indwelling Christ

In his letter to the Ephesians (3:14ff.) Paul prays that his fellow Christians may experience the joys of the indwelling Christ.

The actual presence of the spirit of Christ in the heart of the believer was to the Apostle Paul a living reality. "I know whom I have believed," he said, "And I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

But what Christ meant to Paul He can also mean to Christians of every age and nation. God's grace in Christ Jesus is free to all who will exercise sincere faith in His plan of redemption. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9).

Hence the cosmic sweep of Paul's prayer: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. That he would grant unto you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Eph. 3:14-17).

Perhaps at no other recorded point in his prayer life does Paul sound "such depths of spiritual emotion or rise to such heights of spiritual passion as here. The whole seems to be colored with 'the riches of his glory'" (Robertson).

Paul's Greatest Prayer

Dr. Robertson calls attention to the fact that there are really five petitions in this greatest of all Paul's prayers (there is already one in the passage (1:16-23) where Paul prays that his fellow Christians may have the spirit of wisdom "and revelation in the knowledge of him" so that their eyes of understanding may be enlightened unto a fuller knowledge of his will and purpose).

First, he prays for strength in the inner man, the strength that comes with might "by his Spirit." Second, he prays for the indwelling Christ—that Christ may dwell in the hearts of believers "by faith."

Third, he prays that Christian may be able "to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height (four dimension, so far as Paul is concerned) of God's wondrous love. Fourth, he prays that his fellow Christians may come "to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge." Fifth, Paul prays that Christians may "be filled with all the fullness of God."

As Dr. Robertson aptly suggests "One hesitates to comment on this sublime climax in Paul's prayer, the ultimate goal for followers of Christ in harmony with the injunction in Matt. 5:48 to be perfect (teleioi) as our heavenly Father is perfect. There is nothing that one can add to these words."

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Mission Harvest

By HARLEY SMITH
Porto Alegre, Brazil

We had a most remarkable day in Central Baptist Church of Porto Alegre, Brazil, November 10. There were more than 12 professions of faith in the morning service. Several candidates were accepted for baptism for the morning hour including the little son of Dr. and Mrs. Albert Bagby.

Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Harrison's little son, Billie, had made a profession of faith some days before. At the evening baptismal service the pastor baptized five young women. Dr. Harrison, my brother-in-law, baptized his little son Billie, after which Dr. Bagby baptized his oldest son, Albert, Jr.

It was rather a remarkable affair in the history of a missionary family in having three brothers-in-law baptizing the same evening in the same baptistry. Future generations may tell the results of such a service.

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A Merry Christmas

The Christmas Season has arrived again. It is a season of forgetfulness. The spirit of the season helps us to forget many of our cares, and gives to us an opportunity to relax into a Christian attitude and blessedness. It is a season of Holy Joy. The Psalms that we hear, and the jovial spirit of the children remind us of the blessed importance of Christ's coming into this world. It is a season of service and holy ministry.

We, in the Baptist Mission rooms wish for one and all of our Baptist people a Merry Christmas Season followed by a New Year fraught with blessings from Heaven.

A NEW HOME FOR MR. AND MRS. PUGH

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Pugh, lovers of homeless children, who have been associated with the Baptist State Convention in the operation of the Bottoms Baptist Orphanage at Monticello will retire from the Orphanage at the end of this month. The messengers of the churches at the Convention in Texarkana voted unanimously to build a home for Mr. and Mrs. Pugh, and authorized an appeal to the churches for contributions for this purpose. The plan is to ask the churches, and Baptists, and their friends to contribute \$4,500 to apply on the erection of this building. Some of our churches are already sending in contributions. You will want yours to do likewise.

Brother and Mrs. Pugh have given 26 years of the very best part of their lives to orphan children. They have not only conducted our Orphanage in an exemplary manner, but they have extended parental affection to the little children who were left lonely in this world, and whom Divine Providence guided into our care and keeping. It takes more than buildings, and food, and clothing to make a Christian Orphanage. It takes serious thoughtfulness, and interest, and willingness to accept responsibility. It takes a willingness to bear the burdens; it takes ability to solve the problems and over and above all it takes a heart of compassion and a love that is willing to serve and to bless. Brother and Mrs. Pugh have been all of this and more. Any eulogy to which we might give expression would, in our judgment, fail to describe adequately the contribution that these Christian people have made to the cause of Christ which we represent.

Has your church made this special offering? We would suggest that you not simply chip in a dime or a quarter, but take out your check book, and try to be square, and make your gift look like your prayer. Now is the

time to do it. Make it your Christmas offering. Help your pastor to lead your church to do a worthy thing in making this offering.

Correction

Shiloh Church in Little Red River Association sent \$10 for Relief funds. B. M. Hooten is the pastor.

We had credited this contribution to the Shiloh Church in Red River Association through error, and we had incorrectly credited Shiloh Church in Red River Association with a \$25 contribution in March which was sent for Home and Foreign Missions. We are glad to make this correction.

Relief and Rehabilitation Offers

BRINKLEY AND REECE HOWARD. The First Church in Brinkley, Reece Howard pastor, gives \$410.30 to the offering for Relief and Rehabilitation.

EBENEZER AND DON WILLIAMS. Ebenezer Church in Bartholomew Association is one of our very strongest rural churches. Don Williams is the pastor. The church sent \$115. on the offering for Relief and Rehabilitation.

SOUTH FORT SMITH AND SAMUEL KING. The South Fort Smith Church is making great progress under the leadership of Pastor Samuel King. For Relief and Rehabilitation the church gave \$48.10.

Whisky Costs

Cost of caring for alcoholics in U. S. mental hospitals is about \$13,000,000 a year; cost of keeping drunken persons in jail is \$25,000,000 a year, and cost of a society of crime associated with excessive drinking is estimated to be over \$175,000,000 a year.

Union Church Does Well

The Union Baptist Church in Liberty association was one of the first to make a markable contribution for Relief and Rehabilitation work. We had overlooked mentioning this fact. Rev. Selbert Haley their pastor until he went to Parkin last summer. W. S. Jackson has for a long time been the efficient treasurer of this great Testament rural church.

CHANGE OF DATE is noted in the denominational calendar published last week. The Church Music Convention will be June 9-10 instead of the originally listed date.

A unique service took place at the meeting of the Mississippi State Convention at Jackson when a private plane, presented to D. A. McCall, executed secretary-treasurer by some of the churches, was dedicated. called "The Gospel Flyer." Dr. McCall, is a licensed pilot, is finding the plane practical in his journeys, since a great many Mississippi areas have landing fields already constructed. He had driven approximately 40,000 miles per year by car during the 25 years he has served as secretary, in addition to several thousand by train.

15,000 MEMBERS NEEDED

We Need Fifteen Thousand New "HONOR CLUB" Members. Will you Join Now?