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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 51

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, NOVEMBER 20, 1952

NUMBER 46



-H. Armstrong Roberts

**Lets Untie The Hands of Our Agencies And
Institutions Through The Cooperative Program**

A Victory of the Baptist Conscience

Arkansas Baptists Are Debt Free!

By SELSUS E. TULL
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

When I undertake to write the story of the way the Baptists of Arkansas have redeemed their honor in the final payment of their defaulted indebtedness, I feel that I am especially qualified to do so since I know perfectly well the background and the history of the original Bond Issue and the circumstances which brought about its default.

Back in the middle Twenties a building boom swept the country. It was evident and necessary that our Baptist institutions of Arkansas must all be enlarged and better equipped to meet the demands of an expanding era. Money was easy to borrow in those days. Accordingly new dormitories were built at Ouachita College, Central College, The Baptist Orphanage, together with improvements at Mountain Home College, and the Academy at Mt. Ida. Along with these enterprises the magnificent Baptist Hospital at Little Rock was built.

The titles to all these institutions and properties are vested, as they should be, in the incorporate Baptist State Convention of Arkansas. For that reason all the indebtedness on these various institutions becomes a debt upon the Convention. Any running expense deficits on these institutions also becomes a Convention debt. It is easy to see, therefore, how such a general building program could accumulate a great indebtedness upon the Convention when there existed no special over-all check over the trusteeships of these various agencies of the Convention.

\$1,200,000 Debt Discovered

At the meeting of the Convention which was held at Conway in 1926, attention was called to the necessity of a general financial survey by the Convention looking to a method of refinancing all these debts which had accrued against the Convention by its agencies.

It turns out that I was appointed chairman of a committee by the Convention to make the proposed survey with instructions to report back to the Convention the following year such recommendations as the situation demanded.

My committee made a complete first-hand study of the whole situation, visiting on the ground with the authorities of each institution and examining their audits. As the next meeting of the Convention approached, my committee published its elaborate report in tract form and placed it in the hands of messengers to the Convention as they assembled in session at First Church in Little Rock. This report showed that the combined indebtedness of the Convention amounted to more than twelve hundred thousand dollars.

The major recommendation of my Committee's report was that these debts be articulated back on the institutions in the proportionate sum accumulated by each institution and that the physical properties of each institution be mortgaged by its trustees in the amount of its debt. The purpose of the plan was to distribute responsibility for the debts and put each institution on



Dr. B. L. Bridges, State Secretary, signs last check in payment of the \$650,000 honor debt.

its own merits where its physical properties might easily be acceptable for a loan in the amount of its needs. Our report showed that to handle the matter in that fashion would still leave a floating debt on the Convention, which had accumulated through a period of years, of around two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. We recommended that this floating indebtedness could finally be taken care of through the budget receipts of the Convention.

When we had made our report and recommendations to the Convention in session, a counter proposal was offered in lieu of our committee's report to the effect that the Convention issue bonds in the sum of one million dollars. There followed a prolonged debate which continued into a night session. When the vote was taken the bond issue proposal was adopted by the small majority of twenty-one votes. The next day in the Convention I was put on the committee to arrange the bond issue which was negotiated in the next few months.

In those days of flush money it was little trouble to float bonds, so we had no difficulty in seeing to it that the bond issue provided that there should be no principal payments on the bonds for four years, which meant that only the interest would be paid until 1931. The idea was to give the Convention time to pay off its floating debts meantime which were carried by simple promissory notes to individuals. But, when 1931 arrived and the four years had expired when the principal payments on the bonds must begin, the Convention had not been able to retire its floating debts and had no money to begin the principal payments on its bonds. A sad day had befallen the Baptists of Arkansas. They were at their row's end. They stood in default on all their financial obligations. This produced a predicament which was bewildering in its helplessness.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

God Encourages Moses

A Devotion by the Editor

"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go . . ."

If it is necessary for God to encourage Moses, then there are discouragements in the way of Moses. They were real discouragements—not imaginary—things to which the flesh is subject.

Moses could easily see and recognize some of them in the beginning, but not all of them. If Moses could have seen all the discouragements which lay before him, he would have been still more hesitant to take up the task to which God had called him. Since we are so subject to the discouragement which we can see, it is a gracious provision of God that we cannot see all the discouragements which we must meet.

God recognizes all these discouragements. And He proceeds to tell Moses some of the discouraging conditions which he must meet, which Moses has not as yet enumerated.

God knows the difficulties that must be met in Moses himself. God knows that He isn't calling a perfect man with absolute powers and no defects, He knows the weakness and frailties of Moses himself.

God knows the difficulties that are to be overcome among the people of Israel, He isn't pretending that they are a perfect people or perfectly obedient. They're not much better than anybody else.

And God knows Pharaoh, his stubbornness and his pride and his military power. But God isn't afraid of him; God doesn't have to have an army to fight with Pharaoh.

Since God knows the stubbornness of the opposition with which I shall meet, the forces of evil that shall be arrayed against me; since God knows all this, and if He has called me to an undertaking, it's encouraging for me to know that God knows.

The enterprise to which He is assigning Moses is God's own enterprise; God is doing this thing, it is God's work and He is responsible for it. Therefore, given obedient servants however weak they may be, if the enterprise fails the servants are not responsible.

God puts all His resources into His enterprises and at the disposal of His agents. This commitment is made in His declaration to Moses and is confirmed by actual demonstration throughout the history of His dealings with the human race through His chosen agent.

"And God said unto Moses, I am that I am; and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I am hath sent me unto you." Exodus 3:14.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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MRS. HOMER D. MYERS ED. ASST.

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From The Editor's Desk

Let's Not Defeat The Cooperative Program

We have had a good deal to say on the editorial page of the *Arkansas Baptist* about the Cooperative Program and the advantages it offers for stabilizing the financial support of our whole denominational program and the equitable distribution of available funds to each agency and institution of the denomination. We repeat what we have said many times before, that the Cooperative Program has proven its advantage over all other methods of financing our denominational work.

We have also called attention to the dangers to our work by putting on special campaigns and high pressure drives for some special cause. We want to further emphasize this danger and to point out some specific angles of the danger.

An Interruption

First of all, a special campaign for funds constitutes an interruption in the orderly progress of our financial advance. A special campaign cannot be promoted without weakening the basic campaign which is the Cooperative Program. Any emphasis given to a special campaign is just that much emphasis taken away from the main campaign which is the Cooperative Program.

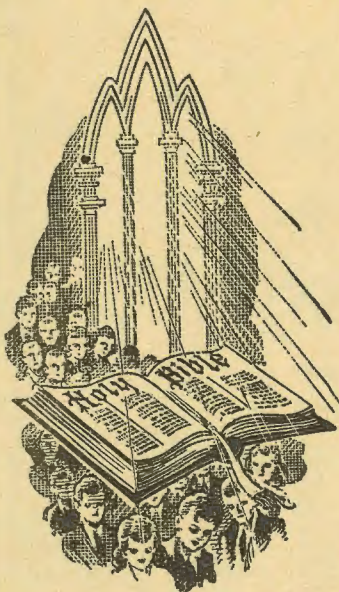
The appeal of the special campaign is addressed to the same people to whom the appeal for the Cooperative Program is addressed. We have in the past few years intensified our teaching of stewardship and tithing; we have appealed to our people to bring all the tithes into the storehouse. Much progress has been made in the enlistment of our Baptist people in this stewardship program and the increased receipts of our churches indicate the increased number of tithers who have been added to the ranks of those who recognize their stewardship under God. Now suppose we come along with a special campaign and ask these same people, whom we have urged to bring all their tithes into the storehouse and channel it through the church budget, to make a substantial contribution to this special campaign? What will happen? One of two things: Either the appeal will be ignored or many of those who make a contribution to the special campaign will deduct it from their regular contributions through their church budget. In this way the special campaign is making inroads upon the church budget and the Cooperative Program.

Individual Approach

It is often claimed and rightly so that there is money which cannot be channeled through the Cooperative Program. We have frequently made this statement in the columns of the *Arkansas Baptist*. That money should be sought out privately by approaching individuals who may have such money to give above that which they give through their local church budgets. But it is contended that this money is difficult to get unless you put on a campaign for it. If a

campaign is launched and the movement is started, then you can collect \$10,000 here or \$20,000 there and so on.

May we ask this question, Is it fair to harass and pressure and even penalize those who, to the limit of their ability, are regular and loyal supporters of the Cooperative Program through the local church budget at the insistence of a few persons who have large amounts of money that they will give only if a statewide campaign is launched? Frankly, it is better to forfeit a few five or ten or even twenty thousand dollar gifts



than to embarrass the regular loyal givers by trying to pressure them into making a special contribution to a special cause when they are committed to giving their tithes and offerings through the budget of their church.

It would seem that any person who has a sum of money to give to the Lord's cause above his regular contributions through his church budget would be willing to give it without subjecting the whole state to a special campaign, a campaign which would actually throw a monkey wrench into the Cooperative Program and which would put an embarrassing and frustrating pressure upon the many hundreds and thousands of people who are committed to the limit of their resources for the support of the Lord's cause through the regular channel of the church budget and the Cooperative Program.

If such persons are not willing to go ahead and do what they feel that they ought to do and can do in a special way for some particular institution without subjecting the whole state to a pressure drive, then we would suggest that their contribution be forfeited in the interest of the larger program of our denomination through the regular church budget and the Cooperative Program.

The torch of Christianity may be lit in church, but it does its burning in the shop and in the street.

Use These Men of Wisdom and Experience

In the October 30 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist*, we reported a four day layman's revival at First Church, Osceola, in which Mr. Lawson H. Cooke, former secretary of the Brotherhood of the Southern Baptist Convention, was the guest evangelist. Talking personally with Pastor Herring of the Osceola Church, he stated that Mr. Cooke rendered a great service to his church.

We refer to this service by Mr. Cooke for the purpose of pointing out to our pastors and churches the very great service which may be rendered by the men, ministers and others, who have retired from either the pastorate or denominational positions but are available for special service. These men, unless they are physically incapacitated, are capable of rendering a unique and outstanding ministry which pastors and churches would do well to take advantage of.

Many men like Mr. Cooke feel that they cannot continue to carry the heavy responsibilities of the pastorate or of the denominational position they hold. They, therefore, retire from the pastorate or denominational position. But unless their health is permanently impaired their retirement does not mean the end of their usefulness. The fact is that the wealth of wisdom and experience of these men constitute an asset of inestimable value to our pastors, churches, and denomination. They should be used as extensively as possible in revival meetings, interim pastorates, pulpit supply, Bible institutes, stewardship campaigns, and other like services.

Pastors and churches that are taking advantage of the rich experience and fruitful ministry of these men testify to the outstanding value of their services. It stands to reason that our fellow ministers and denominational lay workers who have relinquished the heavy responsibilities of the pastorate or other positions but who are still active and alert might be able to render a distinctive service in helping pastors and churches to solve difficult and annoying problems, to launch and promote more aggressive church programs. Many of our rural pastors and churches as well as town and village churches would do well to engage the services of some of our retired ministers in planning their church budgets and enlisting their people in a systematic financial program.

We pay tribute to these honored friends who have retired but who have not quit, and we commend them to our pastors and churches throughout the state. We urge you to use them and discover for yourselves the value of their unique and effective ministry.

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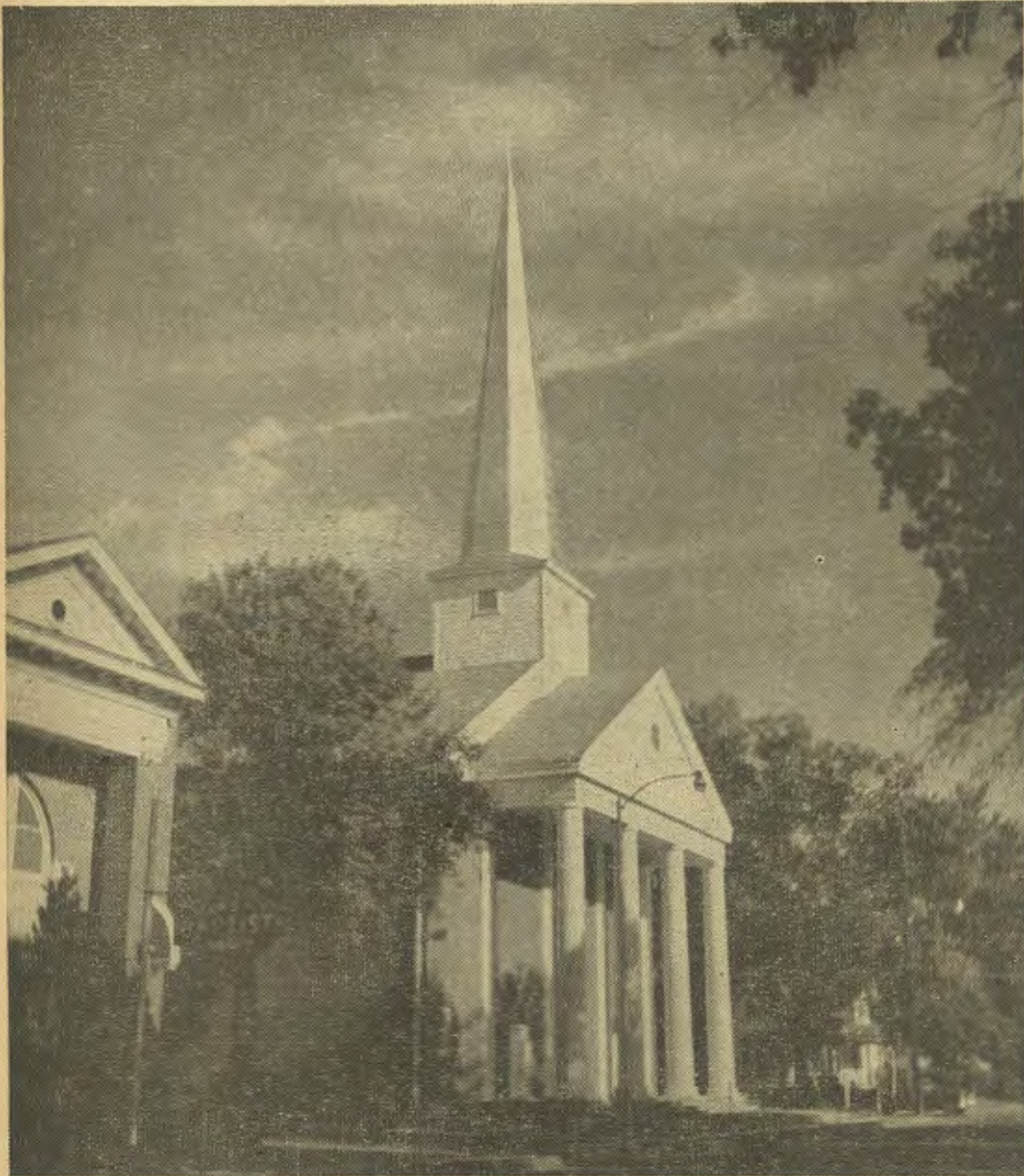
Always A Pattern

One reason life is sometimes difficult is that it can only be understood backward, and then only hazily, whereas it must be lived forward.

We stand on the wrong side of the tapestry—a confusion of colors, knots and loose ends. But, be assured, on the other side there is a pattern.

Kingdom Progress

First Church, Malvern, Enters New Auditorium



First Church, Malvern, entered their new auditorium on Sunday, October 5.

Ground was broken for the new auditorium on June 18, 1950. Opening the auditorium for worship on October 5 brought to realization a long cherished dream of the Malvern church, when 1,100 people came to worship at the morning service. The new auditorium was constructed at a cost of \$200,000, of this amount the church borrowed \$76,800. All attendance records on worship services, Sunday School and Training Union were broken during the month of October, with the Sunday School reaching

the peak attendance of 641 and Training Union 190.

Pastor J. Harold Smith, First Church, Fort Smith, recently assisted Pastor Don Hook and the Malvern church, in a revival meeting. There were 63 additions to the church during the meeting.

Pastor Hook reports that the men of the church are "on fire and doing personal soul winning." As a result, additions to the church membership continue in the regular services following the close of the revival meeting.

Luther Ward, Hot Springs, directed the singing during the meeting.

Arkansan Honored

Among the eight students of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Texas, who have been notified that they will receive recognition in the 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges," is one Arkansas girl, Jo Anna Crouch of Fort Smith.

Second Church, Little Rock, Receives 133 in 3 Months

The Second Church Bulletin, Little Rock, reports 133 members received since July 20, as follows: 102 by letter, 31 by baptism; with one surrendered to mission service and one licensed to preach. Dr. Dale Cowling is the pastor.

Little Rock Church Tithe Almost 100 Per Cent

The annual budget of Calvary Church, Little Rock, Lawson Hatfield, pastor, lacks only \$419.20 equaling the tithe of the income of the membership of the church.

The figures are arrived at on the basis of the reported per capita income in Arkansas. On the basis of this reported per capita income of \$928 the tithe of the 414 resident members of the Calvary Church totals \$38,419.20. However, without having these figures in hand the budget committee recommended a budget of \$38,000 for 1953.

If the 250,000 Arkansas Baptists would tithe, on the basis of a per capita income of \$928, the tithe would amount to \$23,200,000.

Crooked Bayou Church Grants 30 Awards

Crooked Bayou Church conducted a stewardship study course with an enrolment of 39, with 30 awards granted at the end of the course. There were two classes: An adult class taught by Mr. G. A. Austin, and an intermediate class taught by Mrs. G. A. Austin. M. H. Howie is pastor.

First Church, Batesville Has Youth Revival

First Church, Batesville, had the services of a youth team from October 19 to 26, which resulted in ten additions to the church and several rededications.

The youth team was composed of the following: Ralph Smith, preacher; Don Moore, singer; Gracie Brown, booster band leader; and JoAnn Vaught, pianist. Ralph Smith, a graduate of Ouachita College, is pastor of Lake Hamilton Church, Hot Springs. The other members of the team are students of Ouachita College.

C. J. Sallee Jr. is pastor of First Church.

Education Building Dedicated At Manila

Pastor Guy D. Magee reports that First Church, Manila, observed its 51st anniversary on Sunday, November 2. The celebration featured all day services, the dedication of the new nineteen room educational annex and the raising of \$2,000 to pay for repairs and redecoration of the auditorium. The new building was dedicated debt free.

The dedication service was in the afternoon, led by Pastor Magee, and also featured the reading of the history of the church.

The services of the day were closed by administering the ordinance of baptism.

Rural Church Establishes Mission

Crooked Bayou Church in the Delta Association reports progress for the year ending September 30. The church was not content with its own local program but established a mission at Smith Chapel where it organized a Sunday School and conducted a Vacation Bible School. Also Pastor Leroy Brady conducted a revival at Smith Chapel.

Crooked Bayou conducted two revivals during the year which resulted in 33 additions to the church, 16 by baptism and 17 by letter.

Total contributions for the year amounted to \$1,604.59.

Worker Available

O. L. Gardner announces that he has resigned as chaplain of the Boys' Industrial School at Pine Bluff and is now available for the pastorate or supply work.

Mr. Gardner may be contacted at Pine Bluff, Route 4, Box 575.

News From Baptist Press

Southern Convention 1953 Budget Enters Advance Phase, Nov. 3

November 3 was a red-letter day in the office of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Porter Routh, executive secretary for the Committee.

When the office opened, a total of \$32,853.41 was needed to complete the capital needs section of the Convention-wide Cooperative Program.

Three checks arrived and Mrs. Ruth Nelson, bookkeeper, entered them in alphabetical order. The first was for \$26,842.78 from Arkansas. That left a balance needed before Advance could start of \$5,989.37. The next check was from Florida and it was for \$38,487.86.

Mrs. Nelson breathed a prayer of thanksgiving and spread the good news to other members of the Executive Committee staff. The goal had been reached and all funds received in the Convention-wide office through December 31, 1952, would go 75 per cent to the Foreign Mission Board and 25 per cent to the Home Mission Board.

The third check, and the first to be divided completely under the new distribution, was from North Carolina. It was for \$93,124.03.

According to Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the S.B.C.:

"Advance has begun, but any funds from churches which you want to make available for this should be sent to your state office before December 1, because funds sent after that date usually will not be distributed until January."

Cooperative Program Gain Reflects State Gift Increases

Southern Convention Cooperative Program receipts are nearly one million dollars more for the first ten months of 1952 than for the same period last year. The gain is actually \$978,776 or 15.07 per cent. Last year's Cooperative Program gifts for the period were \$6,494,389; this year's gifts, \$7,473,166. The figures were released by Porter Routh, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Increased giving in the churches was chiefly responsible. All states except one report gains in amounts contributed to Southern Convention causes. Kansas increased most with a gain of 66.55 per cent. Oregon-Washington was second with 61.28 per cent, Oklahoma fourth with 47.24 per cent and California fifth with 46.98 per cent. The others are as follows: Alabama, 11.40 per cent; Arizona, 43.26 per cent; Arkansas, 37.62 per cent; District of Columbia, 15.15 per cent; Florida, 31.46 per cent; Georgia, 10.33 per cent; Illinois, 4.38 per cent; Louisiana, 7.02 per cent; Maryland, 8.47 per cent; Mississippi, 7.14 per cent; Missouri, 8.79 per cent; New Mexico, 33.51 per cent; North Carolina, 13.31 per cent; Tennessee, 17.38 per cent; Texas, 18.52 per cent; and Virginia, 14.91 per cent. Kentucky reported a 18.9 per cent decrease.

Designated gifts are up 20.84 per cent for the period, a gain of \$805,899 from \$3,866,393 to \$4,672,292.

Total gifts including both Cooperative Program and designated gifts increased 17.23 per cent or \$1,784,675 from \$10,360,783 last year to \$12,145,459 this year.

Houston Coliseum Ample for S.B.C.

The Southern Baptist Convention will actually have room to stretch itself when it meets in Houston, May 6-10, 1953. The Convention sessions will be held in the city-owned Sam Houston Coliseum. The Coliseum, built in 1938, is a mammoth building that can accommodate 17,000 people. Twenty conference rooms of all sizes are easily available on all three floors. The book store and exhibit room can accommodate a sizable convention itself. Largest crowds ever to fill the Coliseum were attracted by Billy Graham in May, 1952, and General Dwight Eisenhower in 1950. The Coliseum is in almost constant use, averaging more than nine months each year. A full-time staff of two janitors, two electricians, and one engineer, assisted by part-time helpers, keep the enormous building in order.

The Music Hall, where the W.M.U. Convention will be held, is a part of the Coliseum and offers additional space for committee meetings and tape recorders. The Music Hall is air-conditioned and equipped with 2,200 comfortable seats.

The Coliseum and Music Hall are located in the heart of Houston's civic center, flanked by the City Hall on the south and Criminal Courts Building on the north. Nearby is Houston's new 3½ million dollar jail, and next to the Coliseum is a fire hall.

For most messengers the Coliseum is ideally located. It is only five blocks from the business district, with its fine hotels and excellent restaurants. One cafeteria can feed 15,000 people daily. It is possibly the largest in the world.

There are plenty of parking facilities available around the Coliseum, but the cost will run seventy-five cents to a dollar a day, with an additional fifty cents for evening parking. Even though parking may prove more expensive than in Miami last year, lower food costs will help to balance one's convention budget.

Available in the building will be the usual lunch stands. The information and registration desks will be located in the main foyer. Check stands will be maintained.

Dr. Graves' Inauguration Slated For December 11

The inauguration of Harold K. Graves as the third president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will be held in Berkeley, Thursday, December 11, 1952. All services will be conducted in the First Presbyterian Church. Dinner for trustees, faculty, and delegates will be at 5:30 p. m., the inaugural ceremonies at 8:00 p. m., and the reception at 9:00 p. m.

Rawls to Manage Nashville Book Store

R. Maines Rawls, head of young people's work in the Training Union Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named manager of the Nashville Baptist Book Store.

Rawls has worked with the Sunday School Board for eight years, said Harold E. Ingraham, business manager, and John H. Williams, director of the Board's newly established Book Store Department, in making the announcement of Rawls' new position.

He succeeds Mrs. Clara Shirley, who has been transferred to the Book Store Department.

Brimm to Teach in W.M.U. Training School

Dr. Hugh A. Brimm, of Louisville, Kentucky, has been named professor of human relations in the Woman's Missionary Union Training School, according to an announcement by Miss Emily Lansdell, president. Dr. Brimm leaves the position of executive secretary of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to assume his duties at the Training School on January 1, 1953.

By training Dr. Brimm is well qualified in his field. His A. B. degree came from Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi. He received the Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has done graduate study at the University of Wisconsin, Yale University, and the University of North Carolina.

His experience, in addition to his work with the Social Service Commission since 1947, includes that of pastor at Quincey, Florida, and of head of the Sociology Department of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

Dr. Brimm's wife is the former Miss Verna Mae Bingham, of Memphis, Tennessee. They have a six-year-old daughter, Martha Carol.

Pastoral Change

Ernest Baker has resigned the pastorate of the Ward Baptist Church, to accept the work with First Church, Hardy, in Big Creek Association. He served in this association some years ago as the pastor of First Church, Salem.

While Pastor Baker was at Ward, the church received 126 additions to the church, 69 of whom were received for baptism.

First Church, Benton Has Revival

Evangelist Homer E. Kirkpatrick, Hot Springs, led First Church, Benton, in a week's revival effort, October 26-November 2. There were 48 additions to the church membership, thirty-two by baptism, sixteen by letter and restoration. Paul D. McMillan, minister of music and education, directed the music.

Deacon Claimed by Death

Fifty years of service to the Lord marked the life of Thomas A. Fowler of the New Home Church, Current River Association, who passed away October 17, 1952.

Going to the field early in the morning to pick cotton, Mr. Fowler was apparently in good health. He suddenly collapsed and was rushed to the hospital at Pocahontas but lived only a few minutes after arrival.

Mr. Fowler was not only interested in his local church but was active in associational work and delighted to attend all associational meetings. Besides being a deacon in his church he was also Sunday School superintendent.

Mr. Fowler is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Stella Fowler Jackson.

Lincoln Outgrows Buildings

Pastor Jesse Coleman completed his first year as pastor of the Lincoln Church, Washington-Madison Association, the last Sunday in September. Under the leadership of Pastor Coleman the church has made splendid progress during the year. Next year's budget includes 20 per cent for the Cooperative Program, 5 per cent for associational missions and 25 per cent for a building fund. Since the growth of the Sunday School has proven the present building facilities inadequate, the Lincoln Church is planning an enlargement of the building.

A Victory of the Baptist Conscience

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

General Secretary Resigned

Under the weight of the circumstances, Dr. T. D. Brown, who was then the General Secretary of the Executive Board, announced his resignation. On January 17, 1931, Dr. Brown's resignation was accepted, and Dr. Ben L. Bridges, who at that time was pastor of First Church, Little Rock, was promptly elected to succeed Dr. Brown. Dr. Bridges declined to accept the position. Whereupon the Executive Board requested Dr. Bridges to serve as Acting Secretary in connection with his pastoral duties until a secretary could be found; this he agreed to do. This arrangement obtained until March when the Board met and again elected Dr. Bridges to be its secretary. Again Dr. Bridges declined the action of the Board, and it was not until June of 1931 that he finally gave his consent to resign his church and take up the tremendous problem of attempting to salvage something out of the wreckage which had befallen the Baptist State Convention of Arkansas.

No Baptist in the history of Arkansas has ever been called to a more confused and responsible undertaking. When it became known that the Convention had defaulted on its debts numerous law suits were filed by its creditors with the hope of getting judgment for any money which might come into the treasury of the Convention from the churches.

Court Settlement at 35 Per Cent

In the midst of the confusion, Dr. Bridges called a meeting of all creditors. At this meeting the creditors appointed "A Creditors Protective Committee" to work with Dr. Bridges with the purpose to effect some sort of orderly procedure to help stop the filing of lawsuits. This committee proved to be of great assistance. Things rocked on under this arrangement until 1936, when it was decided that the most equitable manner by which to obtain a just and proportionate final settlement to all creditors would be to submit to a litigation through the federal court. This was done, and the Executive Board through Dr. Bridges petitioned the federal court for a settlement on the basis of thirty five cents on the dollar. The court granted the petition. This decree of the court also covered the floating debt as well as the defaulted bonds. This decree was issued in December, 1937.

Following this decree of the Court a state-wide campaign was put on among the Baptist churches of Arkansas to raise \$350,000, which was the amount of the thirty five per cent of the total indebtedness. The money was raised and the settlement was concluded. By this means the Arkansas Baptist Convention became legally free from all its debts which had hampered and demoralized it for more than a decade.

But, while this transaction freed Arkansas Baptists of all legal responsibility for these debts, the fact remained that a multitude of innocent investors had lost approximately \$650,000.

Such court settlements are of common acceptance in the business world and are looked upon as a good bargaining riddance, but it appeared in no such light before our Baptist conscience. While it was a clear and legal transaction it left a blatant stigma of defalcation upon the Baptists of Arkansas which was no less than a grave moral reproach. While the court settle-

ment was equitable and fair as far as it went, it left the Arkansas Baptist Convention morally obligated to arrange some way to pay the sixty-five per cent which was charged off by the federal court. A great depression had settled down over the financial world at that time but that fact must never be accepted as an excuse or mitigation for the loss of multiplied thousands of dollars of other people's money through our failure.

B. L. Bridges Leads March of Victory

No man in Arkansas felt more keenly the sting of reproach against the Baptists of Arkansas than the intrepid soul of Ben L. Bridges who had been asked by Arkansas Baptists to give up a brilliant career as a pastor and pulpiteer and step down into the quagmire of financial desolation to fight for the very survival of our Baptist institutions and for the redemption of the sacred honor of our people. He stepped out of the comfort of a pastor's study and the love and fellowship of a great church into a bleak business office beset by an empty treasury and threatened by the loss of public respect. Few people ever have appreciated the sanguine elements of real sacrifice which went into this heroic decision which it took from January until June for this man of God to pray it through. In that connection it has never been made known to the Baptists of Arkansas that Dr. Bridges cut his own salary allowance by \$25 per month, and that his noble wife served as his secretary and stenographer for a long period without one cent of remuneration for her tedious and exacting services. Time has proved that God was in the call to this position in such a critical hour. God knew that Ben Bridges had in him the latent powers of a business genius and the expanding elements of denominational statesmanship.

When the Federal Court relieved the agonies of these debts and cleared his desk of the weight of their ugly documents, Dr. Bridges at once turned his vision to the open field to revitalize the denominational spirit of hope, loyalty, and co-operation. His challenge went forth for expansion in missions and evangelism and a new life in all our denominational institutions. With the revival of general economic conditions following the depression, the churches responded to the appeal of the liberated co-operative program and over all Arkansas resounded the feet of the Baptist Army in the march of progress from defeat to victory.

'Honor Club' Organized To Pay Entire Debt

By the meeting of the Convention in 1944, the time was ripe to bring up the old defaulted debt and to start the movement to pay every dollar of it in the next few years. In anticipation of this action, Dr. Bridges had found out from the federal judge that this could be done through "token payments" which would not bring the Convention back under legal obligation for the debts. At this Convention in 1944 a rousing vote was passed to pay off these debts through annual installments. After this action was taken, Dr. Bridges surprised the Convention by announcing that he had a surplus in the treasury and a plan on foot to pay the first one hundred thousand dollars by the end of 1944! Following this

Convention the "Honor Club" was organized through which to receive designated gifts for the payment of these debts. In a few years an item in the Cooperative Program was allotted to guarantee the final installments. The result is that in the year 1952 the last dollar will be paid!

21 Victorious Years

The heading of this article has become a reality, and the world today witnesses A VICTORY OF THE BAPTIST CONSCIENCE! We were not legally forced to do it. We did it for Honor's sake—that our Christ might be honored, and the Baptist conscience vindicated before God and man!

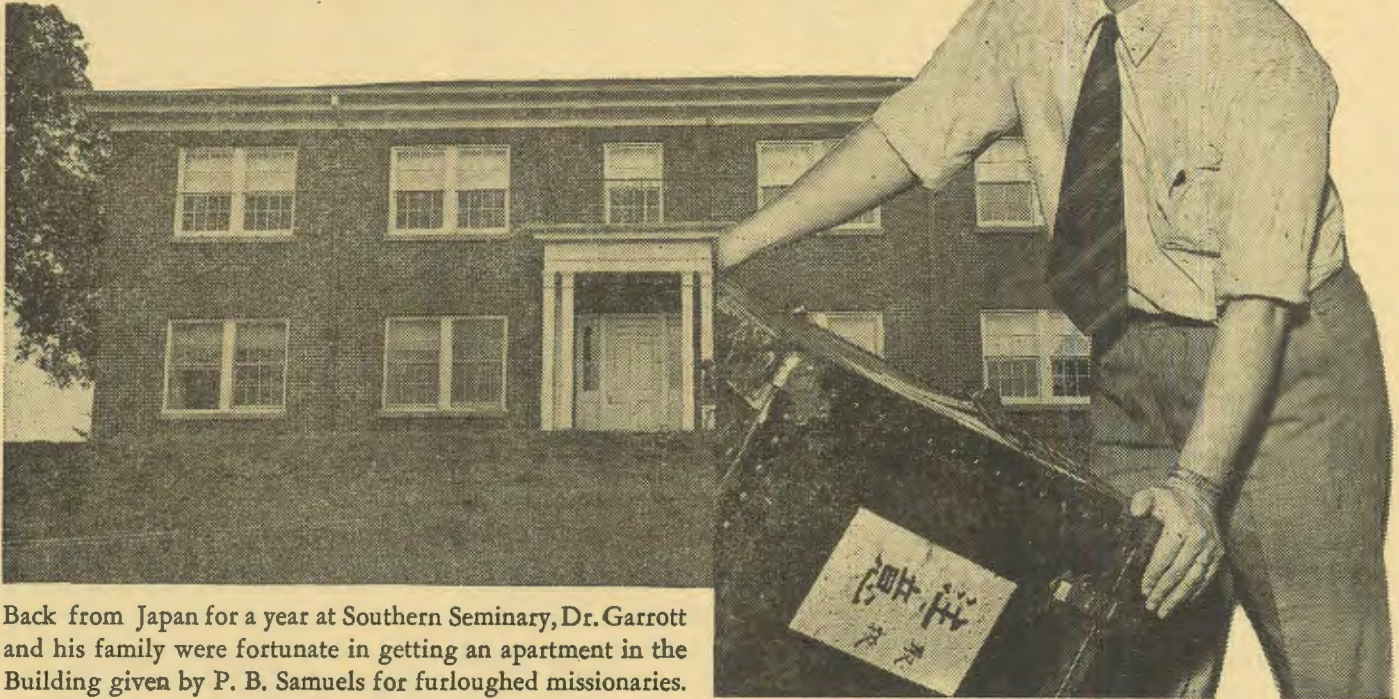
This monumental history of twenty-one years has transpired under the administration of Dr. Ben L. Bridges as the undefeatable secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board. I number him among the great Baptist leaders of this generation. I place Dr. Bridges in that rating of eminence not because these debts are now paid but because of the manner in which he framed the circumstances which led to their payment. These debts simply dissolved under the weight of an expanding program of denominational progress. This year which marks the date when these debts are honorably settled finds Arkansas Baptists in the most militant spirit which has ever possessed them. They are today successfully carrying the biggest Cooperative Program budget in their history. Look into the record of these twenty-one years and witness the steps of advancement. The department of Rural Missions, the Brotherhood Department, the BSU Department, and the Pastor's Retirement Plan, have all been inaugurated during the span of the secretaryship of Dr. Bridges. This does not mention the expansion of the work of the Sunday School Department, the Training Union, the WMU, and the marvelous enlargement in the circulation of the *Arkansas Baptist*. All this has transpired as an accumulation of power which explains the payment of an honor debt of more than six hundred thousand dollars. When we offer to God our thanksgiving for these marvelous achievements, we will not fail to include the modest personality and the heroic leadership of Ben L. Bridges, whose steady hand has piloted the course of these twenty-one years from defeat to triumph! He was a young man when God and the Baptists of Arkansas called him to this great task. Today he has reached maturity. He is now a seasoned veteran having fought through battles which now afford him the weapons of experience for the brighter days of conquest which lie ahead. He has come to know Arkansas Baptists and their temper and capabilities as no other man among us. He knows how to chart the future course for our people. If the qualities of his leadership are to be measured by past accomplishments then Arkansas Baptists may confidently look with expectant pride to such safe, reasonable, solid lines of future progress as his vision, now unhampered by past limitations, may unfold before us. We have witnessed the victory of the Baptist conscience. May God give us to see the triumph of limitless Baptist achievement in the days which lie ahead. Since we have been forced in past years to think in terms of hundreds of thousands of dollars of debts, may we now indulge the spiritual thrill of thinking in terms of millions of dollars for the advancement of our glorious Baptist message around the world.

In another few years we may confidently

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN)

This Man Was Lucky!

THIS IS MISSIONARY MAXFIELD GARROTT WHO GOT ONE OF THE 4 MISSIONARY APARTMENTS ON SOUTHERN'S CAMPUS



Back from Japan for a year at Southern Seminary, Dr. Garrott and his family were fortunate in getting an apartment in the Building given by P. B. Samuels for furloughed missionaries.

This Man Was Less Fortunate

HE HAD TO *BUY* A HOUSE FOR HIS FAMILY IN ORDER TO ATTEND SOUTHERN SEMINARY



This is missionary R. L. Lindsey from Jerusalem with his family of 5 children who have just moved into a house they were forced to buy, even though Mr. Lindsey will be here only one year. Eleven other missionaries and their families were turned away because of lack of housing. We need to provide for these homeless missionaries home on furlough by building at least 12 more apartments immediately.

Southern Baptist THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Duke K. McCall, *President*

We Are Counting on the Cooperative Program!



BOTTOMS BAPT

MONTICELLO, ARKANSAS

(Tack Me Up)

"I Need Help Too"

ONE DAY'S PAY

as YOUR

**THANKSGIVING
OFFERING**

***Will Help Build
a Place for Me!***

ST ORPHANAGE

H. C. SEEFELDT, Supt.

★—

Let Me Talk)

Training Union Department

RALPH W. DAVIS, *Secretary*

SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT SUBJECTS FOR 1953

The subjects to be used in the Speakers Tournament, 1953 are: "Learn from Me", (ASV) The Value of a Life; "I am the Way"; The Way of Salvation; The Meaning of Discipleship; God's Title to Me; The Path to Power; Sowing and Reaping; The Meaning of Church Membership; The Meaning of Christian Stewardship; How Great is God's Love?; Thanks Be to God; Preparedness and Service (Christian Education); The Wisdom of Total Abstinence; "Jesus Calls Us"; Does God Care?; How Can We Keep Our Freedom?; Can Democracy Survive?; The Supremacy of Christian Character; The Christian and His Money.

ATTENTION, JUNIORS AND JUNIOR LEADERS!

An error was made in some of the Junior Memory Drill scriptures that were sent out. The error was in scripture reference number 37, and should read: Psalm 98:1.

DON'T DELAY—DO IT NOW!

Now is the time to set the place and date for your associational Elimination Tournament. This should be held as late as possible, but at least one week before the meeting of the State Training Union Convention. The Convention meets at Immanuel, Little Rock, March 13-14, 1953.

WANTED: 12,000!

Wanted! 12,000 people to attend "M" Night on December 8. Last year 9,805 attended 35 "M" Night meetings that were held in the 44 associations of Arkansas. We now have 45 associations (including Motor City).

In the last issue of the *Arkansas Baptist* we published a list of associations that were definitely planning for "M" Night. Since then we have heard from the following associations:

Mt. Zion, Jonesboro, First Church, goal 400.

Red River, Mitchell, Hall, OBC, goal 1,200.

Women's Missionary Union

MISS NANCY COOPER, *Executive Secretary*

The Opportunity of the Week of Prayer For World Missions

By MRS. GEORGE R. MARTIN

DECEMBER! What does that mean to you? To most people it means Christmas, but to Woman's Missionary Union it means the **Week of Prayer** for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

The women who gathered in that upper room in Baltimore, in 1888, to make plans for the first week of prayer and Lottie Moon Offering were women of faith and vision. Yet, could they have imagined that today in twenty-two states and more than twenty countries Baptist women would this December celebrate the 64th anniversary of their effort? Could they have imagined that their offering that year of \$3,315.26 would this year stimulate a goal of \$2,000,000? Could they have imagined that on the last day of this Week of Prayer, December 5, Baptist women on six continents would be praying together for world-wide missions? This celebration has become a missionary heritage typifying the spirit of that early group which showed such bigness of vision under such difficult circumstances. Year by year, the far-reaching importance of this observance has expanded in our consciousness.

Last year over nine thousand Woman's Missionary Societies participated in this effort. But, alas, over eight thousand failed. Was your society one of those that failed? Last year 4,277 societies observed only one day, while 2,584 observed five days. In which group was your society? If your society was one of those using only one day, will you not do all in your power to have them observe the week?

Great occasions in our homes and in our churches require preparation. This great week in

As we face these final weeks let us ask ourselves the following test questions:

Have I prepared my own heart and life for this week?

Am I spending more time in meditation and reaching higher levels of prayer?

Have I done all in my power to get my society to plan for a whole WEEK of prayer?

Have I done my part in helping the women of my society to prepare for this celebration?

Have I given to the women of my society the high challenge of a worthy offering at this time?

Woman's Missionary Union's calendar calls for serious and prayerful planning. Unusual plans and splendid material have been provided by a committee, of which Miss Ruth Porvence, of North Carolina, is chairman. This committee has been working for months on these suggestions. Try them and see if you do not have results. If these plans are followed the result will be a deepened interest in world missions, more fervent prayer for the missionaries, and more generous giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The call is to let our love for Christ overflow in devotion and prayer and gifts that we may speed the message of salvation to lost men and women, boys and girls, the world over. It is your responsibility to promote these plans and give this week first place in the lives of your women. The successful observance of this week and the ingathering of a worthy offering are the contributions your missionary society may make to the great cause of world missions.

Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a "special" offering, approved by the Southern Baptist Convention as a part of its financial plan. When this offering is placed in the budget of the church it ceases to be "special" and becomes another item in the budget. We must guard these offerings that they be kept over-and-above. Our goal for this year is \$2,000,000! This is a high challenge! It has been marvelous how the Lord has blessed this particular phase of our work! If we are faithful in presenting the appeal of the lost millions of the earth we shall be able to give the full amount and more for the work of redemption.

Helpful Messages for Preacher and layman



THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED

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"Dr. Macartney's sermons have won him fame as one of America's outstanding writing preachers. This fifteen-sermon volume is among his best. They go straight to the point in preaching the great Christian fundamentals."—Rev. J. Marshall Walker, pastor, Braggtown Baptist Church, Durham, N. C.



IN QUEST OF GOD'S POWER

by Charles L. Allen (6r) \$2.50

"One of the most helpful books of sermons I have read in many a day. Pressed for time I expected only to spot-read it. But it was so interesting and helpful that I read all of it. It has a message and a blessing for preachers and laymen, young and old, saint and sinner."—Dr. Norman W. Cox, Historical Commission, Nashville, Tenn.



OPENING THE NEW TESTAMENT

by Floyd V. Filson (8w) \$2.50

"Written in a style that every student of the Bible can easily comprehend, this will prove a great blessing both to the interested layman and to the busy pastor. It is the thrilling story of the background, the occasion, the method, and the message of each book of the New Testament."—Rev. John W. Salzman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Muskogee, Okla.

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Department of Missions

C. W. CALDWELL, Superintendent

Chaplain Finch's Report

FOR ONE YEAR

The following is a report of my work as the chaplain of the State Sanatorium, November 1, 1951, to November 1, 1952. Services conducted and re-

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| sponsible for | 365 |
| Professions of faith | 141 |
| Rededications | 161 |
| Arkansas Baptists Given Out | 2,000 |
| Home Life Magazines | 1,475 |
| Open Windows | 835 |
| Bibles Given | 127 |
| New Testaments Given | 390 |

Hundreds of tracts and other good magazines.

Have made more than 13,000 visits among our patients and have prayed often with them but am not trying to keep up with prayers offered for it would have the sound of boasting and God forbid that I should boast "Save in the Cross of Christ." I have gone to the rooms and taught the Word of God to patients that can gather in for these things. I also taught a training class with 28 women enrolled, with 24 in average attendance. The book taught was Dr. Turner's book, "New Testament Doctrines of the Church." I conducted 36 funerals and 9 weddings. Money received for Bible fund and religious literature, \$126.05. Twenty-five packages of books, magazines, clothing, etc., were received.

Have supplied in the following churches — Booneville, Magazine, Ozark, Lavaca, Belleville, Clarksville, and the Methodist church at Magazine. In some of these churches I preached several times.

Have attended only one State meeting this year—the Evangelistic Conference in North Little Rock in January. Have attended several associational meetings here in Concord Association, and one meeting in Buckner Association.

The Lord has wonderfully blessed our work this year and

much of it is due to the wonderful co-operation of our people and the fact that they are praying often for us. This is a needy field, so much to do and so many, many folks. I thank God that Arkansas Baptists are giving to me the opportunity of serving in this great field "white unto harvest."

We have two other chaplains on the field — Brother Bates Sturdy, the Methodist chaplain, and Brother J. P. Redman, the Presbyterian chaplain. They are good men and very co-operative.

NEGRO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have a conviction that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention should take some definite steps to lift the educational standards among Negro Baptists. Last spring special emphasis was given on Christian Education Day to the needs in the two Negro colleges. The financial response was very meager. The schools are still in financial need.

Your Superintendent has a feeling that a Baptist Interracial Educational Commission should be created in our state, with the objective being primarily to aid the colored Baptists in their educational program. It seems to me that if such a commission could be set up, composed of representatives from the Conventions, white and colored, and also from Baptist schools, white and colored, that some plans could be formulated to get an accredited school for the Negro Baptists. Many other problems which we will have to face in a few years can be worked out harmoniously and to the advancement of the colored race. It is not enough for us to be well-wishers, we must be willing to sit down and think the problems through and help set up a program which will be Christian and to the best interests of our Negro Baptist friends.

Church Music Department

MRS. B. W. NININGER, Director

Important Changes Have Been Made in Hymn-Playing Tournament for 1953

- *No. 138—Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (Margaret)
- No. 136—Come, Ye Thankful People (St. George's Windsor)
- No. 46—Onward, Christian Soldiers (St. Gertrude)
- No. 291—Take Time to Be Holy (Stebbins)
- No. 256—All Hail the Power (Miles Lane)
- No. 241—Jesus! the Very Thought of Thee (St. Agnes)
- No. 184—Take My Life, and Let It Be (Hendon)
- *Broadman Hymnal

Now is the time for church pianists to begin working on the required hymns for the 1953 Tournament. Seven have been chosen, representing different types, key signatures and measure signatures. All church musicians need to learn such hymns as these. The recently compiled manual entitled, "Prepare to Accompany" will help in the study of the 1953 selections. Send for your free copy of the manual and also the complete bulletin on the Hymn-Playing Tournament. Some changes have been made. Time

and place have been changed and some of the rules governing the Tournament.

The 1953 Hymn-Playing Tournament will be held at the Youth Music Camp at Ferncliff, June 15-20. This arrangement will make it possible for more people to attend and also to give more time to hearing each contestant play. Therefore, it is important that every one who expects to enter the Tournament make plans to enroll for Music Camp and spend the entire week. Full announcement of Youth Music Camp plans will appear on this page in the near future. Watch for it. Meanwhile, write in immediately for your copy of the Hymn-Playing Tournament bulletin and begin work on the seven hymns listed above.

If you need Thanksgiving or Christmas music in a hurry the following copies are available in this office:

12 copies, "Praise the Lord, Oh Jerusalem" (12) Maunder.

12 copies, "Sing to the Lord a Joyful Song" (16) Darst.

26 copies, "There were Shepherds" (18) John Prindle Scott.

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WRITE FOR INFORMATION

addressing

RELIEF AND ANNUITY BOARD

Baptist Building

Dallas 1, Texas

Walter R. Alexander, Executive Secretary

Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas

NELSON TULL, Secretary

Greetings To The Convention

The Brotherhood Department gives hearty and enthusiastic greetings to the Ninety-ninth meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Arkansas Baptists have had a great year as we have labored together with God at the tasks of His will. God has blessed!

We thank God for what He has wrought. And we face the new Convention year with confidence in the program of Arkansas Baptists, and with faith in a future "as bright as the promise of God."

May God grant, that as we labor and pray, as we go and give, as we work and live to fulfill His will, that the coming year shall be the best of all the years of Arkansas Baptist history.

OUT OF DEBT!

Arkansas Baptists will soon be entirely out of debt, with the old Honor Debt paid. This means, in measure, a new start toward the fulfillment of bigger objectives and the building of a more worthy program of work than we have thus far ever known. And let's stay out of debt!

THE BAPTIST BUILDING

We are grateful for our Baptist Headquarters Building, located in the very center of down-town Little Rock, close to the Post-Office, to banks, and to businesses of all kinds. We are thankful for the leadership which envisioned the growth of Little Rock in that direction which placed Baptist Headquarters in the center of things.

And the Baptist Building is paid for!

OUR DEPARTMENTS

The work of all our Departments is growing. Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Society, Church Music, Training Union, Foundation, Brotherhood, State Missions, Student Union, — they are all projecting their programs, worthy programs designed to promote their work and enhance its quality on all levels.

Our paper, *The Arkansas Baptist* is growing in circulation, and is one of the truly great Baptist papers in the Southland.

Dr. B. L. Bridges and his assistant, Lucien Coleman Sr., are doing an excellent job of promoting the Cooperative Program of Arkansas Baptists, and thus of making possible the promotion of all our work on an increasingly higher level.

OUR INSTITUTIONS

The Baptist Hospital has finished its Medical Arts Building . . . The Bottoms' Baptist Orphans' Home is planning an expansion of its facilities in order to take better care of more children . . . Ouachita College is well under way with a program of expansion and enlargement.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Arkansas Baptists are lifting up their eyes and looking upon a whole world ripe unto the harvest. Increased co-operative giving is making possible an expanded and

Home Board Prepares For Annual Meeting

DR. JOHN CAYLOR, Secretary of Education

Dr Caylor Able to Report for Work

Dr. John Caylor, secretary of education of the Home Mission Board, reported to the office for part-time duties the first week in November after an automobile wreck on September 29, which hospitalized him and Mrs. Caylor and Mrs. Caylor's mother, Mrs. J. E. Finney. The accident took place near Walden, Mississippi, and the injured were taken to Tippah County Hospital in Ripley, Mississippi, and then when Mrs. Finney was able to be moved she was transferred to Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta. Dr. and Mrs. Caylor suffered bruises and concussions but were released from the hospital after a week. While Mrs. Finney suffered broken bones and serious injuries and will remain in the hospital several weeks yet, the Caylor's are able to be up and in limited circulation.

A Victorious Summer for Student Missionaries

The Home Mission Board commissioned 362 student summer missionaries for home mission work from June to August of the past summer. Of this number 333 were selected and supported by the Home Mission Board and twenty-nine by Baptist Student Union groups. The Home Board directed the work of all the students.

The student missionary represented seventy-five colleges and

enlarged program of work designed to take the whole Gospel to the whole wide world.

More Arkansas Baptists giving together to build together a co-operative program of continuing work, all within the expressed will of the Savior, — that's the burden of the prayers of many Baptists throughout our great state.

NOW LET'S PRAY FOR ALL OUR WORK

The prayers of God's people, their tithes and offerings, and their wholehearted support of God's program of work in all its areas and phases, will mean that next year we shall go further than ever in our out-reach for those for whom Jesus died!

eight seminaries; they were from twenty-three states and five foreign countries; they represented eight races or nationalities.

Requests were received from mission fields for a hundred more students than could be supplied by the program because of the limited amount of money which could be used for that work, and only two-thirds of the applicants could be commissioned for the same reason. They served in twenty-eight states and in Cuba, the Canal Zone, Panama, and Alaska. Their work took them into 47,000 homes; they served in 1,386 Vacation Bible schools with an enrollment of 95,176; they reported 2,999 life dedications, 919 surrenders for full-time Christian service, and over 4,100 conversions.

The student summer missionaries helped in the establishment of twenty-seven new missions and the constitution of fifteen new churches; participated in 298 revival meetings; distributed 4,713 Bibles and Testaments; and ministered to 105,577 pupils in the classes they taught.

Writing Annuity Contracts

The Home Mission Board has worked out means by which it is now able to write annuity contracts for people who have money to use in church building loans. This money can be used by the Home Mission Board during the lifetime of the annuitant and can pay as high as seven per cent interest to the one who gives the money as long as the person lives, and at the decrease of the annuitant the money will keep on helping to build churches.

While plans for the program to increase church building loan funds of the Board until the total reaches \$10,000,000 are being completed, annuitants can use their money to increase the usefulness of the Board in its aid to new churches in their building programs.

The Every Member Canvass

The Home Mission Board is depending upon the Cooperative Program for its income. An appeal is made to all church members to put their tithes and offerings into the treasuries of their local churches in order that the Co-operative Program may be properly cared for.

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Sunday School Department

DR. EDGAR WILLIAMSON, Secretary

In December, 1952

Emphasis: TRAINING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND ENLARGEMENT

In the Association

1. Complete plans for Bible Study Week in all churches in January.
2. Work for attendance from all churches at the training banquet.
3. Lead churches to continue Preview Study for next quarter.
4. Restudy goals adopted in October and compare with achievements to date.
5. Have Sunday School workers' meeting in the form of a training banquet: Theme: "Training Workers in Every Church."

In the Churches

1. Missionary instruction in all departments and classes.
2. Take workers to association-wide training banquet.
3. Plan for Bible Study Week in January.
4. Preview lessons for next quarter.
5. Set goals for all classes and departments for each month next year and continue working to enrol all church members.

SOME NEW HELPS FOR YOU

The Visitor of the Extension Department, by Mrs. Will S. McCraw, Superintendent, Extension Work, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Junior Section of the Weekly Officers and Teachers Meeting, by Lillian Moore Rice,

Superintendent of Junior Work, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Primary Section of the Weekly Officers and Teachers' Meeting, by Allene Bryan, Superintendent of Primary Work, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Visual Materials—Aids or Obstacles?, by Robbie Trent, Baptist Sunday School Board.

These are free. Address your request to Dr. Edgar Williamson, State Sunday School Secretary, 215 Baptist Building, Little Rock.

PREVIEW STUDY OF THE UNIFORM LESSONS

A suggested outline for Preview Study of the Uniform Sunday School Lessons is available from this office. It is suggested that study of the lessons for the first quarter, 1953, January, February, and March, be done in December, of the current year.

The purpose of this material is to encourage teachers to make a preview study of the Sunday School lessons for the entire quarter before the quarter actually begins. Teachers will decide more intelligently on the desired outcome for the quarter's work and how to use the materials to meet the spiritual needs of their pupils.

The Preview Study may be made by individuals or by a group in a class under the direction of a capable teacher.

Award will be given if study is reported during January.

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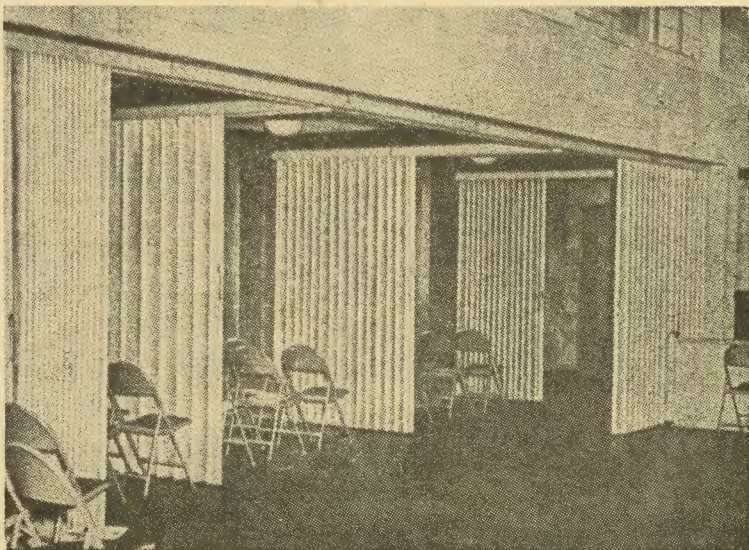
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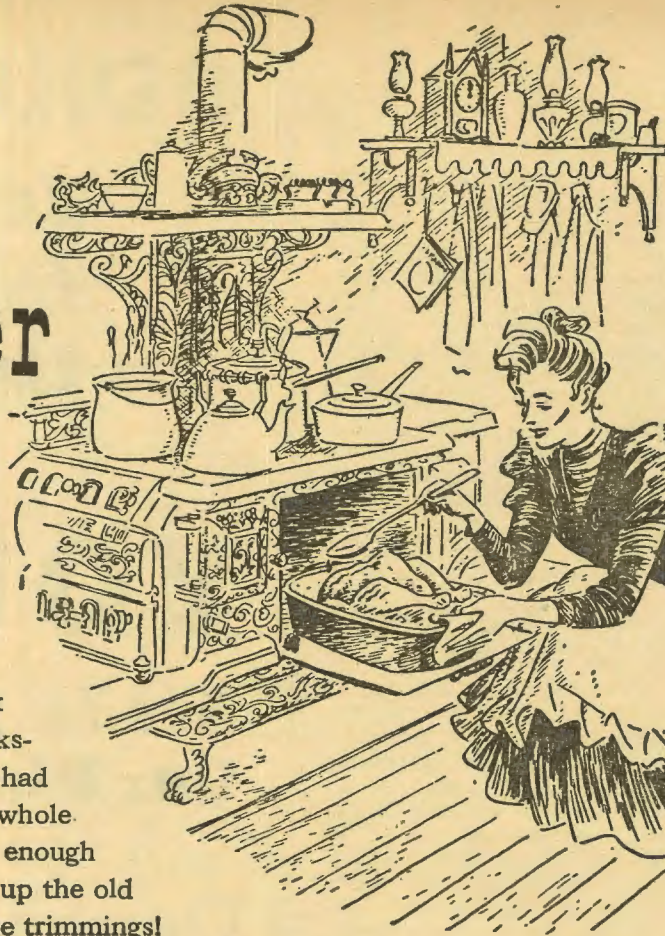
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Figures To Inspire

Sunday, November 9

| | S.S. | T.U. | Ad. |
|-----------------------------|------|------|-----|
| Little Rock, Immanuel | 1293 | 377 | 9 |
| Including Missions | 1428 | 466 | |
| Fort Smith, First | 1220 | 597 | 14 |
| Including Missions | 1332 | 636 | |
| El Dorado, First | 984 | 322 | 1 |
| Little Rock, Second | 768 | 190 | 6 |
| Including Mission | 822 | | |
| N Little Rock, Baring Cross | 763 | 311 | 4 |
| Including Missions | 798 | | 5 |
| Pine Bluff, South Side | 673 | 211 | 2 |
| El Dorado, Immanuel | 622 | 289 | 4 |
| Fort Smith, Grand Ave. | 595 | 203 | 4 |
| Camden, First | 566 | 157 | 1 |
| Including Missions | 641 | 199 | |
| Benton, First | 559 | 178 | 2 |
| Including Mission | 637 | 226 | 6 |
| Siloam Springs, First | 536 | 290 | 5 |
| Including Mission | 559 | | |
| Warren, First | 535 | 112 | 1 |
| Hope, First | 527 | 120 | |
| Little Rock, Pulaski Hts. | 512 | 198 | |
| El Dorado, Second | 504 | 243 | |
| Crossett, First | 502 | 182 | |
| McGehee, First | 502 | 85 | 4 |
| Including Missions | 611 | 111 | |
| Little Rock, Tabernacle | 497 | 232 | 6 |
| Springdale, First | 487 | 215 | |
| Paragould, First | 485 | 221 | 3 |
| Including Missions | 648 | 324 | |
| West Helena | 424 | 108 | |
| Fort Smith, South Side | 417 | 137 | 10 |
| Paris, First | 416 | 125 | 2 |
| Hot Springs, Central | 409 | 172 | 1 |
| Fordyce, First | 403 | 130 | |
| Including Mission | 466 | | |
| El Dorado, West Side | 398 | 133 | |
| Stuttgart, First | 394 | 165 | 1 |
| Including Mission | 429 | 180 | |
| Smackover, First | 390 | 146 | 1 |
| Fort Smith, Calvary | 385 | 194 | |
| Hot Springs, Park Place | 375 | 125 | |
| Little Rock So. Highland | 361 | 128 | 2 |
| Hamburg, First | 355 | 140 | 4 |
| Monticello, First | 328 | 125 | |
| Texarkana, Calvary | 320 | 160 | |
| Jonesboro, Walnut St. | 308 | 82 | |
| Hot Springs, First | 297 | 104 | |
| Mena, First | 296 | 123 | |
| Including Mission | 328 | 141 | |
| Fort Smith, Immanuel | 294 | 134 | 1 |
| Including Mission | 303 | 148 | |
| Fort Smith, Temple | 274 | 155 | |
| N. Little Rock, Park Hill | 258 | 94 | 2 |
| Alma, First | 259 | 113 | |
| Jacksonville, First | 257 | 146 | |
| Including Mission | 299 | | |
| Paragould, East Side | 251 | 96 | 2 |
| Fort Smith, Spradling | 250 | 127 | 3 |
| Pine Bluff, Second | 235 | 75 | |
| Bentonville, First | 224 | 65 | |
| Including Mission | 284 | | |
| Dermott | 224 | 49 | 1 |
| Hot Springs, Piney | 224 | 170 | |
| Berryville, First | 209 | 147 | 1 |
| Crossett, Mt. Olive | 196 | 100 | |
| Star City, First | 190 | 40 | |
| Including Mission | 215 | | |
| Gurdon, Beech St. | 173 | 80 | |
| No. Crossett, First | 172 | 99 | |
| Including Mission | 187 | | |
| Springdale, Caudle Ave. | 161 | 96 | |
| Benton, Calvary | 147 | 71 | 4 |
| Augusta, First | 143 | 73 | |
| Including Mission | 173 | | |
| Pine Bluff, Central | 141 | 45 | 4 |
| Camden, Second | 136 | 52 | 2 |
| Hot Springs, Grand Ave. | 110 | 45 | |
| Fort Smith, North Side | 101 | 63 | |
| Jenny Lind | 83 | 52 | |
| Hot Springs, Emanuel | 42 | 27 | |
| Wright, Plumb Bayou | 33 | 20 | |

Remember the good old days?



They weren't so good after all, when you recall the hard work that went into preparing a Thanksgiving dinner. The housewife had to be up before dawn, and the whole family worked hours getting enough wood cut and carried in to fire up the old range to cook the turkey and the trimmings!

... then be thankful for MODERN ELECTRIC COOKING!

Housewives today can get a Thanksgiving dinner with a fraction of the effort once required. Modern women like Mrs. Hugh Norris of Green Forest, Arkansas, are thankful every day of their lives for modern, clean electric cooking that means they can enjoy their family and friends on holidays, and still prepare a big dinner, with so little time and effort.



Arkansas

POWER & LIGHT

Company



HELPING BUILD ARKANSAS

—000—

HOW SHALL WE TEACH?

How shall we teach
A child to reach
Beyond himself and touch
The stars,
We who have stooped so much?

How shall we tell
A child to dwell
With honor, live and die
For truth,
We who have lived a lie?

How shall we say
To him "The way
Of life is through the gate
Of love,"
We who have learned to hate?

How shall we dare
To teach him prayer
And turn him toward the way
Of faith,
We who no longer pray?

—Mildred R. Howland

Jesus' Thanksgiving—And Ours

By MRS. HOMER D. MYERS

Memory Verse: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

John the Baptist was in prison for preaching repentance to sinners. He could not understand why it should be so; or why Jesus did not come to his aid. He sent a request to Jesus that He confirm to John His messiahship. Jesus did not answer Yes or No to John's question. He offered His works as evidence of who He was.

Go tell John that blind people were now receiving their sight, as Isaiah had prophesied. The lame, the impotent, the paralyzed, were made to walk. The lepers were cleansed, deaf ears were opened, dead people were raised to life, and the poor were hearing the gospel. Each of these accomplishments was unusual in that day. In ancient times, and in many places in the world today, the afflicted were despised. Sick and afflicted children even now are left alone beside the road to die in heathen lands; they are considered a curse of the gods. Most of the beggars in the streets were the blind and lame.

The lepers were not looked upon as sick people, but unclean. They were isolated from society. The law demanded that they keep their distance from other people, and if someone approached them, they must warn him with the cry: "Unclean, unclean." That was the pathetic cry of the leper.

YOUR BEST FRIEND

Jesus was, of course, the best friend the poor has ever had. He did more to emancipate the poor, to make the poor respectable, than can be imagined. He opened the door to a new era for the underprivileged. To be sure, money, gold, material possessions are still the standard of success with the masses, but the poor have a great deal more to live for since Jesus came than their predecessors had before Him.

Are there sweeter words or a more comforting invitation in all the Bible than those spoken by Jesus in this lesson: "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Is it salvation you need? "Ye shall find rest unto your souls." Is it peace of mind you seek? "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7. Is it wisdom? "Let him that lacketh wisdom ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally . . ." Is it spiritual knowledge you desire? "Learn of me" says the Savior. Are you in doubt about the will of God in your life? "He that willeth to know the will of God can know it."

We live in a day and in a na-

Sunday School Lesson for

November 23, 1952

Matthew 11:2-6, 25-30

tion where people can have just as much spiritual light and Biblical understanding and knowledge as we want. All ignorance of the Word of God in our nation is self inflicted. A Bible may be bought for a few cents, and thousands are given away annually by the Gideons and others. God has made His word and His will available to the people, but it is up to the people to read it and appropriate its message to usefulness and joy and service.

In the face of all these facts, how thankful should we be!

"COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS"

Most of us can see. We can see the beautiful world God has given us. We can work and go about without help. We can enjoy the wonderful sun light. Do we ever consider how black the perpetual darkness of the blind must become? What if all our days were dark as midnight and we could only look forward to the light of a new day when we crossed the valley of death into the very presence of God! If you can see, how thankful you should be.

Have you ever seen a lame person, a cripple, struggling along the street and wonder how tiresome it must be for one who cannot walk upright? And how slowly some are able to move along. Surely, every time we see an afflicted person, those of us who can walk easily and rapidly, should utter a prayer of thanksgiving to God for physical strength to do the things we love to do.

Another group of people Jesus helped a great deal was the deaf. Science has done more for the deaf perhaps than another group, with the hearing aids, and the sign language, and the Braille method of reading. But the deaf cannot hear beautiful music, nor the sweet singing of the birds in the springtime, nor the warning of danger, and until recently, and still in a very limited manner, he could

not receive the gospel. Our ministry to the deaf is the youngest phase of our work.

So, if you can see the wonders of God's creation, if you can hear what is being said and done around you, if you can walk and run without effort or fatigue, aren't you thankful to God for His wonderful blessings upon you?

But Jesus was thankful for another group of people—the common folks.

Jesus lifted His voice in praise to the Father, that the mysteries of God were hidden from the self righteous, the worldly wise, the intellectuals in many cases, the conceited and egotistical, to those who deemed themselves to be wise men; and has revealed Himself to the simple people, the ordinary folk.

"Come unto me, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LA-

DEN . . ." rich or poor, burdened down with the cares of life, He is ready to get into the yoke with you, and make your burden easier to carry. Many times the rich have greater burdens than the poor. God does not discriminate against the rich—the rich simply do not often have time for God. God is no respecter of persons—but He does not force His way into the heart of any man.

So, in turn, we can be deeply thankful that God has time to consider us, all of whom are unworthy and undeserving of the least of His blessings.

The highest form of worship is praise. Let us be thankful at this season for the wonderful goodness of God. Whatever blessings we enjoy are not accidental nor mere good fortune, but "every good and perfect gift comes down to us from the Father of lights . . ."

This year, use The Upper Room for your Christmas Remembrances



What more appropriate gift at Christmas than a subscription to The Upper Room! Your thoughtfulness will be felt and appreciated every day for the ensuing year. Christmas Gift Cards, announcing your gift, will be mailed direct from The Upper Room to your gift list.

Make a list NOW of the names and addresses to whom you would like to send a subscription to The Upper Room, mail us the list with 50 cents for each name, and we will send the gift card in your name and The Upper Room (six bi-monthly issues) for one year. But be sure to order NOW for prompt service.

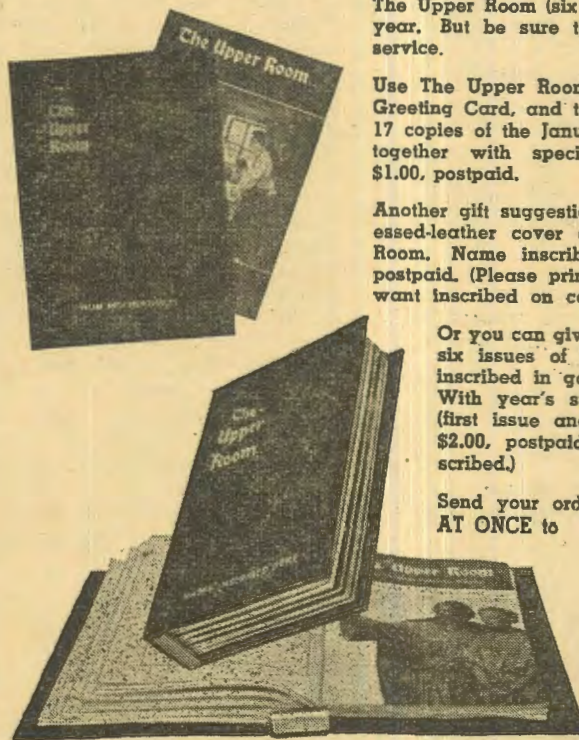
Use The Upper Room also as your Christmas Greeting Card, and to enclose with other gifts. 17 copies of the January-February, 1953, issue, together with special Christmas envelopes, \$1.00, postpaid.

Another gift suggestion is this handsome processed-leather cover case, to hold The Upper Room. Name inscribed in gold. \$1.00 each, postpaid. (Please print carefully the name you want inscribed on cover).

Or you can give a durable binder to hold six issues of The Upper Room. Name inscribed in gold. \$1.50 each, postpaid. With year's subscription and gift card (first issue and card sent with binder) \$2.00, postpaid. (Print name to be inscribed.)

Send your order for any of the above AT ONCE to

**The
Upper Room**
1908 Grand Ave
NASHVILLE, TENN.



Golden Opportunity — A Bright Future

Arkansas Baptists must be eternally grateful to God for His marvelous providence, and for His leadership. We believe that Arkansas Baptists have in a marked degree tried to be true to Christ and to the New Testament. There must never be any compromise. Our fundamental Baptist doctrines and practice should be consistently adhered to, and defended in a dogmatic and positive manner. No soft pedaling will win the day for Christ, and if Baptists do not defend their principles and enunciate their doctrines as the New Testament gives them we will sooner or later find ourselves diffused with other half-hearted religions, and our identity may be largely lost in the melee. God will bless us if we carry the undiluted truth to the masses of this broken world. He has blessed us, and now it is ours to go forward in an open field to glorify Christ and to lead lost and erring souls to the Lamb of God. With the Convention's indebtedness all cleared away; with the office building all paid for; and with institutions that are going well; and the opportunity ahead to do a great piece of mission work throughout the earth; Baptists can say "Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me, Bless His Holy Name." We are certainly at the sunrise of a new day, and a brilliant future is ahead. It is all as bright as the promises of God. At least it is as bright as our faith in the promises of God. Of course, it will take more than big budgets to do the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. There must be a deep prayer life and a consecration that matches our material contributions for the work of the kingdom, and let us not forget that fraternalism and brotherly love must reign in our hearts as we go forth together. Love is the badge of a Christian. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Way Down in Arkansas

By E. P. ALLDREDGE AND B. L. BRIDGES

They are cutting down the timber,
They are clearing off the soil—

Way down in Arkansas.

They are mining coal and copper
And discover'ing gas and oil!

Way down in Arkansas.

(Chorus)

O, come on then and go with me,

Way down in Arkansas.

And let us see the State-to-be,

Way down in Arkansas.

They are building roads and bridges,
They are draining swamps and bogs,

Way down in Arkansas.

They are breeding blooded cattle
And fattening Jersey hogs,

Way down in Arkansas.

They are raising corn and cotton
Where a friend is ne'er forgotten,

Way down in Arkansas.

They are gath'ring rice and wheat
That the whole world cannot beat—
Way down in Arkansas.

There's a new state in the making,
It's a splendid undertaking!

Way down in Arkansas.

We have made a mere beginning
Of development unending!

Way down in Arkansas.

Good homes and schools are growing,
And a tide of wealth is flowing,

Way down in Arkansas.

Big business is a-whirring
And the very air's a-stirring,

Way down in Arkansas.

The biggest Bauxite mine,
Is found in old Saline,

Way down in Arkansas.

And the diamond mines in Pike
Nowhere else is found the like,

Way down in Arkansas.

Strawberries are blushing red,
Ozark apples are ahead,

Way down in Arkansas.

Luscious peaches bloom and grow
Just because God made it so—

Way down in Arkansas.

There's a heap of help and healing,
In the boiling, bubbling springs—

Way down in Arkansas.

And there's something all appealing
In almost everything

Way down in Arkansas.

There's a lot of mighty preaching
In this southern Bible zone

Way down in Arkansas.

And the churches are baptizing
Converts made to God's own Son

Way down in Arkansas.

The Cooperative Program

Since the summer and fall of 1950 there has been a marked spirit of co-operation among our people and the contributions have been much better, and the Cooperative Program and State Budget have fared much better during these two years. Your office has received all the money that it needed to pay the allocations for the past two years. This year the State Budget is \$876,283.33, and we have received every dollar that we needed to satisfy every allocation month by month, and we are a little bit ahead on our collections at the present time. Thus far, 980 churches have contributed for the Cooperative Program, and a few others have made designated contributions. Upon the inspiration of this record for the past two years, and upon faith in the future, your Executive Board is suggesting an enlarged budget for 1953. It has voted to recommend a total budget of \$1,071,566.67. The churches are increasing their contributions for 1953. The outlook is encouraging.

Victory of Baptist Conscience

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX)

expect Arkansas Baptists to lift their Co-operative Program budget up among the first rank of the states of the Southern Baptist Convention and be able to divide her receipts on a 50-50 basis between our State and South-wide Causes!

In assuming to write this marvelous story of the last twenty-one years of the achievements of Arkansas Baptists I have keyed the record around the personality of Dr. Ben L. Bridges since he has stood in the pivotal position of responsibility from the start, but in no respect have I forgotten that long list of noble pastors, institutional leaders, department helpers, Executive Board members, and other efficient assistants. I have not begun to call other names because it would make this article too long, and because only Heaven holds the record and the reward of thousands in the rank and file whose help was just as necessary, and perhaps more worthy, as those in places of leadership.

But, I am assured that I will be pardoned for calling the name of one matchless crusader whose impassioned eloquence and conquering appeal thrilled conventions and swayed conferences and fired churches to new conquests all over Arkansas. That man was Otto Whittington who carried to Heaven the picture of Ouachita College on his heart and who calls back to us today to keep evangelism as the banner and marching ensign as the militant hosts of Arkansas Baptists pass out of the gloom of reproach into the sunlight and splendor of an unlimited future!

Corrections

In publishing the last quarterly report of contributions, we inadvertently credited to the Evening Shade Church a contribution in the amount of \$12 when it should have been credited to Corinth Church. We are glad to make this correction, and appreciate Brother Simmons calling our attention to the error.

The Harris Chapel Church near Wynne is giving \$420 next year for the Cooperative Program. This is an increase of \$60. In the paper last week through error we said that the Harris Chapel Church is giving \$60 next year, but it will be \$420—a \$60 increase. We are glad to make this correction. E. G. Waddell is the alert, progressive pastor of this splendid country church.

Pastor Minor Cole says that the Dumas Church will increase its contributions for Cooperative Missions in 1953. A ten per cent increase which they are planning to make will be quite a lift for the cause of missions. We can always lean heavily upon the Dumas Church and Pastor Cole.

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Often we can determine what a man wants by observing what he does, rather than by listening to what he says.

—Temple Baptist Messenger