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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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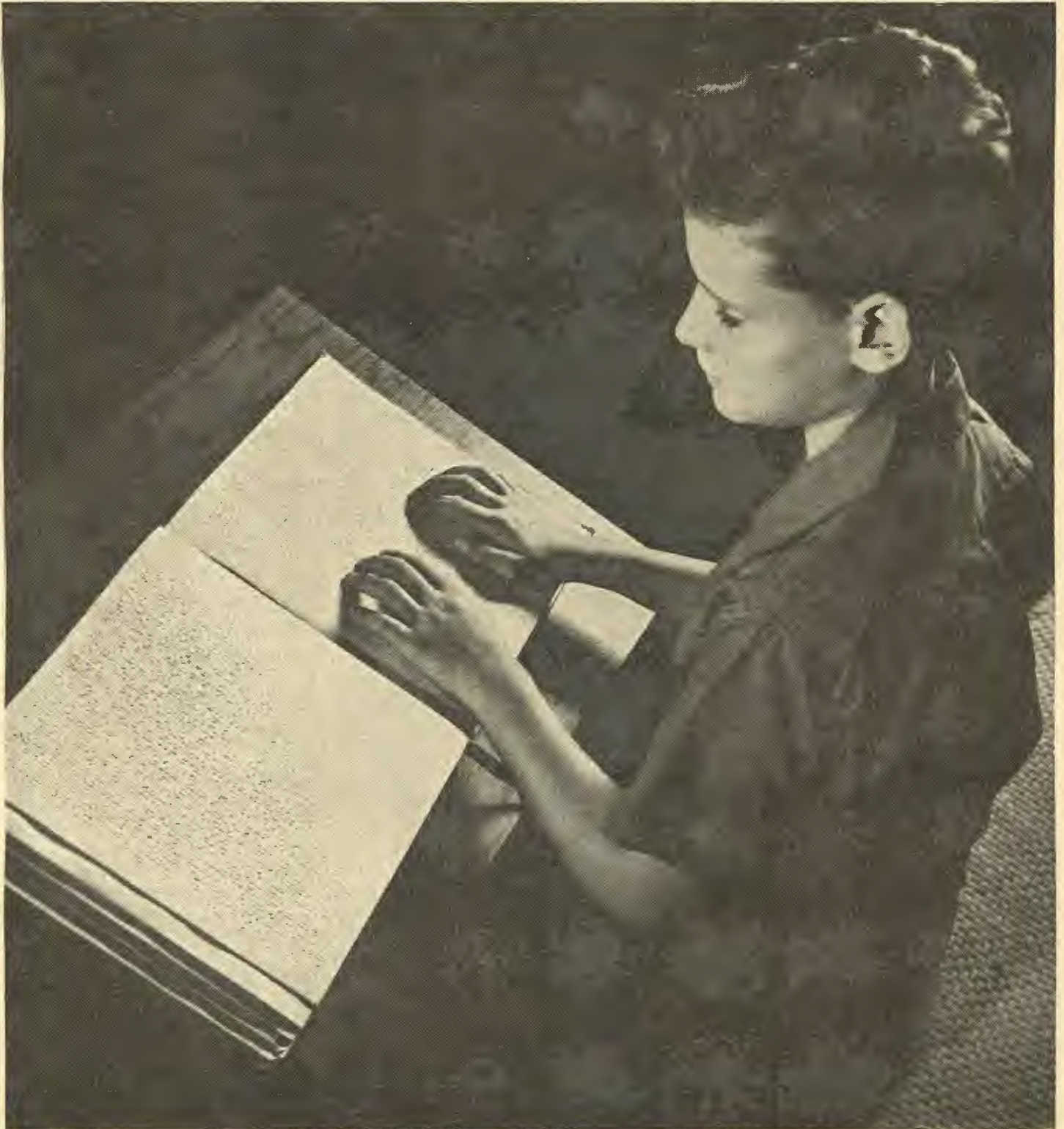
# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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H. Armstrong Roberts

*Fingers for Eyes* - Page 5

# "Is Congress Doing Its Job?"

## THE NEW BIRTH

A Devotion by the Editor

*Text of radio interview with Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Co-President of the World Council of Churches, by WWDC Commentator Ed Hart.*

**Hart:** Bishop Oxnam, we are here to discuss Federal Aid to our schools. Legislation concerning this matter has not done well in the Congress. May we have your views on the issue?

**Oxnam:** The American people have recently learned that Federal Aid to Education for this session of Congress, Mr. Hart, is dead. Most of our citizens deplore this fact. The Roman Catholic hierarchy is responsible for killing the bills that might have brought Federal Aid to our public school system. Far more children from Roman Catholic homes attend public school than parochial school. It will come as a shock to these parents when they learn the hierarchy is responsible for denying their children higher educational standards. Thousands of loyal and able Roman Catholics are teachers in the public schools. They will not forget that the much needed salary increase was denied them by the action of the hierarchy. The blind may lead, but the eyes of their followers will be opened.

**Hart:** Whether you are right or wrong, Bishop Oxnam, one could hardly accuse you of employing weasel words in making your charges.

**Oxnam:** We dare not speak in pleasant-ries, Mr. Hart, when the American principle of the separation of Church and State is in jeopardy. The hierarchy has launched a full scale attack upon this principle. Cardinal Spellman's personal attack upon one of the greatest women of American history, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, reveals the methods that we may expect from men determined to master American life. Congressman Graham Barden was also attacked viciously. He refused to bow to clerical intimidation. He refused, and is called blackguard and bigot.

**Hart:** You feel, Bishop Oxnam, that the attacks upon Mrs. Roosevelt and Mr. Barden are part of a general plan to kill Federal School Aid legislation?

**Oxnam:** It is a coldly calculated plan, Mr. Hart, designed to deny Federal Aid to public schools, unless the hierarchy can get its hands into the public treasury and secure millions for the support of parochial education.

**Hart:** Do you have any facts to offer, or is this conjecture on your part, Bishop Oxnam?

**Oxnam:** The Roman Catholic hierarchy itself is my authority. In 1943, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, which is the hierarchy, addressed a letter to Senator Elbert D. Thomas during Senate hearings, involving Federal Aid to Education. That letter stated, "The Catholic position is one of opposition to any measures for education that would . . . fail to make mandatory, the inclusion of Catholic schools in its benefits."

**Hart:** But, Bishop Oxnam, the Roman Catholic position was expressed by Cardinal Spellman when he said that Catholics "must oppose unequivocally, any bill that fails to guarantee at least non-religious text-books, bus rides, and health services for all the children of all Americans." In his opinion, a bill which would not take those three matters into consideration would be discriminatory and un-American, and thus promote prejudice against Catholic children.

**Oxnam:** One could wish the Cardinal were more candid and less crafty. It is not milk and medicine, books and busses! What he wants is the support of parochial schools

### ATTENTION!

This week we devote the editorial pages to the interview with Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam by Commentator Ed Hart which was broadcast over radio station WWDC, Washington, D. C., Sunday night, August 7, 1949, and was carried throughout the nation on the front pages of the daily newspapers.

We hope you will read every word of this interview. Bishop Oxnam gives the most comprehensive statement regarding the whole question of the Church-State relations in America which has recently been made.

Francis Cardinal Spellman declined an invitation by Mr. Hart to appear on his radio program to discuss the matter of Federal Aid to Education.

—Editor.

by taxes levied on all the people. In a word, he seeks public funds for sectarian education. The church not only wants public funds for private purposes, but must know that to drain off vast sums from public education is so to weaken it as eventually to destroy it. Our public educational system is a bulwark of democracy. It is hard to understand how the Roman Catholic Church can espouse democracy, when it rejects democracy in its own totalitarian and autocratic organization. The blunt fact is, that the Roman Catholic Church does not believe in our public school system.

**Hart:** Again I ask, Bishop Oxnam, do you have any facts to support your statements?

**Oxnam:** Pope Pius XI, wrote the most authoritative encyclical on education, in January, 1930. You may draw your own conclusions from the following quotation: "Attendance at non-Catholic, neutral, or mixed schools—schools, that is to say, indifferently open to Catholics and non-Catholics without distinction—is forbidden to Catholic children and can only be tolerated at the discretion of bishops in special circumstances . . . neither is it admissible for Catholics to attend mixed schools . . . where religious instruction is provided and pupils receive the rest of their teaching from non-Catholic masters, together with non-Catholic children. . . . For a school to be acceptable it is necessary that the whole teaching and organization of the school, namely, the teachers, the curriculum and the books—be governed by the Christian spirit, under the maternal direction and vigilance of the Church."

**Hart:** But you are quoting the Pope's Encyclical. He may have been talking merely to Italians, or Europeans, and not to Americans.

**Oxnam:** Mr. Hart, when the Pope speaks, he speaks to all Roman Catholics. His authority is absolute. He speaks to all Roman Catholics just as Stalin speaks to all Communists. Mr. Hart, there is one central fact that every American must understand. The Roman Catholic Church insists upon being both a state and a church. The Pope is not only the head of a church, but also the head of a state. He speaks as the head of a world church with spiritual interests, and also speaks as the head of a state with political and financial interests.

Unfortunately, this set-up means that the Roman Catholic Church seeks to advance its political interests as a state and the Roman Catholic state seeks to further its ecclesiasti-

"Ye must be born again."

Does it make any difference whether one is born again? Jesus put this experience on the "must" list. It makes the difference between eternal life and eternal death. To question the necessity, the possibility or the nature of the new birth is to deal treacherously with one's own eternal destiny and to carelessly dangle his immortal soul over the abyss of eternal death.

These are not idle words that Jesus spoke. "Ye must be born again." They are the expression of an immortal need, the imperative of the spiritual potentialities of the soul of man, the panting cry of the divinity in the heart for release and the freedom to rise to meet the approach of God.

Therefore, the new birth is projected on the basis that there are in man dormant powers which the natural birth provides but which the natural life cannot use or awaken or bring to life. The natural world provides no environment to cause these powers to germinate and develop to their full strength. Responses of life must be appropriate to the nature of the stimulating environment, and the stimulating environment must be appropriate to the nature of the powers to be awakened.

In order, therefore, for the dormant spiritual powers in man to be awakened, or born again there must be supplied an environment which acts favorably upon these powers. All the highest life powers come to life, are born again and grow and thrive and bear fruit in the light and presence of God. But without the light and presence of God these higher powers lie dormant.

The necessity of the new birth is based upon the fact that the natural man is not in the kingdom of God. The natural birth gives man the equipment which nature furnishes him for the life in this world. But the natural birth does not equip man for life in the kingdom of God.

Man's nature is capable of being born again. He is endowed by the natural birth only with a capacity for God, the ability to respond to God's love, to enter into His purposes, "to measure things by eternity." It is a dormant capacity which nothing but contact with God, the touch of the Holy Spirit, can vivify and bring into actual exercise.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" John 3:3, 6, 7.

## ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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MRS. LESLIE W. BUCHANAN ED. ASST.

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## "Is Congress Doing Its Job?"

(Continued from Page 2)

cal interests as a church. Thus Roman Catholic political parties in European nations follow the Vatican line just as Communist parties follow the Moscow line. We want neither the Vatican political line nor the Moscow political line in America. We do not appreciate the interference of Pacelli, the head of the Vatican state, nor of Stalin the head of the Communist state in our affairs.

Many people do not know that the Roman Catholic Church is fighting for its life in Europe. It has become so interlocked in political affairs of state, so encumbered with vast land holdings, and so allied with military and feudal reaction, that the common people are turning from it. It appears to have abandoned hope of winning by the weapons of the spirit, and seems ready to summon the world to holy war to salvage its power, its property, and its prestige.

**Hart:** And in such a war?

**Oxnam:** Mr. Hart, the Kingdom of God cannot be established by the methods of war, nor can we destroy the Communist challenge to liberty by war. Roman Catholicism in conditioning the mind to authoritarianism in religion, conditions that mind to authoritarianism in politics and economics. How do you account for Communist strength in Italy itself, where we are told 99 per cent of the people are Roman Catholics? Mr. Hart, when the American people realize how far the world political organization of the Roman Catholic church has moved into American life, there will be a reaction that will astound men who have the audacity to announce an attempt at excommunication of Protestants—what was it Cardinal Spellman wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt, "I shall not again publicly acknowledge you." Read his almost unforgivable attack and her dignified and tolerant reply, and ask, Who represents the American spirit?

**Hart:** I have a notion, Bishop Oxnam, that you want this entire controversy resolved in rational American fashion?

**Oxnam:** Those of us who have fought the Ku Klux Klan, who deplored the whispering campaign of the Al Smith-Hoover presidential election, who want every freedom for our Roman Catholic brother we want for ourselves, insist that this whole matter shall be faced in firm but friendly fashion. But we shall not ignore the central issue, the separation of Church and State. Here the state does not play religious favorites. We intend to maintain it.

**Hart:** But Bishop Oxnam, in stating their case, Roman Catholics contend that they present truth and they are sincere in this belief.

**Oxnam:** No one church has an absolute monopoly upon truth. The Communists, like the Roman Catholic hierarchy, claim a monopoly on truth. That brings us to another interesting point.

**Hart:** What is that, Bishop Oxnam?

**Oxnam:** The striking parallel between the organizational structure and method of the World-wide Communist political party and the World-wide Roman Catholic political party. Both are totalitarian. Both seek control of the minds of men everywhere. Both practice excommunication, character assassination, and economic reprisals. Neither Rome nor Moscow knows what tolerance means. Both demand blind, unthinking loyalty. Neither Moscow nor Rome believe in the separation of Church and State. Both Moscow and Rome interfere in the affairs of other states. Both Moscow and Rome seek to shackle the minds of those they control by telling them what they can read, what movies they can see, what newspapers they must take. Neither Rome nor Moscow can brook

opposition. And both Moscow and Rome have perfected the Hitler technique of repeating prevarications often enough and big enough to insure their acceptance. Both seek to divide and rule; they create separation.

**Hart:** Just what do you mean by that term "Separation," Bishop Oxnam?

**Oxnam:** Why should there be Roman Catholic Veterans, Roman Catholic Trade Unions, Roman Catholic Firemen, Roman Catholic Policemen. After all, my sons sat beside their Roman Catholic friends in the public schools, and they learned to respect each other. My sons fought side by side with Roman Catholic soldiers. Why not American veterans? American workers? Sometimes this division of American life raises a serious question.

**Hart:** And that question, Bishop Oxnam?

**Oxnam:** Is all this separation but preparation for building a Roman Catholic political party in the United States? Are we to have a political party here that follows the dictates of the Vatican line? Bear in mind there are official Roman Catholic parties in European countries. And even now similar attempts are being made by the Roman Catholic Church to form such a party in the West German State.

**Hart:** Bishop Oxnam, a few moments ago, you said that Congressman Barden refused to bow to Catholic intimidation. How would you propose to meet what you regard as intimidation?

**Oxnam:** Mr. Hart . . . every American, Roman Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, all have a stake in this. Clerical control has cursed many lands, has destroyed religious freedom and led to conflict. We are resolved that clericalism shall not take root here. But this means that every newspaper owner must have courage, to print the story the Church seeks to kill.

I know of a paper that was ordered not to print a story that a priest was leaving the Church to marry. The editor said that was news and would run. He was threatened but saw that the freedom of the press was involved. He ran it. What happened? Despite many threats nothing happened. He called the bluff. The motion picture industry should face Roman Catholic boycott and make its own decisions, refusing to debase a great art at the dictation of a hierarchy. Let radio executives make their decision to and talk straight to callers who demand, and telephones that threaten. Let all of us read Paul Blanshard's remarkable book, "American Freedom and Catholic Power," paying particular attention to interference in medicine.

**Hart:** Bishop Oxnam, there is a Japanese story you told me before the broadcast that seems to me would make an excellent closing expression of this discussion.

**Oxnam:** Yes, Mr. Hart. It was in Hokkaido, the northern island of Japan. I learned that extraordinary work had been done in Sapporo by the Roman Catholic Church. I wished to meet those who had led in this service. I met a Roman Catholic Sister, a beautiful woman. She was a German. After we had talked for a time, I said, "Sister, when will you return to Germany?" Then tears came into her eyes. Finally she said, "I shall never return." I said, "I do not understand you." She answered, "We Catholics, when we go to fulfil a mission, we go to stay forever. In my order, we never return." I bow in respectful homage before my Roman Catholic friends who have revealed in deeds of mercy the spirit of Jesus in lives of service round the world.

**Hart:** In that spirit, Bishop Oxnam, we'll close this program.

## Expression of Sympathy

The Arkansas Baptist wishes to join the Baptists of the state and all other friends of Ouachita in expressing to the college, to Dr. Eubanks, and the faculty its sympathetic concern for the recent tragedies which have invaded the faculty's circle.

All our people should be drawn even closer to Ouachita by the losses sustained in the untimely death of Professor J. C. Stewart and Athletic Coach Robert A. Cowan. Our interest in and support of Ouachita should be intensified by these losses.

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The bombing of the homes of two Negro ministers in Birmingham, Alabama, is an outrage against American civilization. Only cowards would resort to such uncivilized conduct. The two ministers whose homes were bombed are E. B. DeYampert and Milton Curry. Two other houses in the same area were bombed on March 24, one of which was the home of Bishop S. L. Greene of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Organized religious groups of white and Negro citizens are bringing pressure on city authorities to apprehend and punish those responsible for dynamiting these homes. The bombed houses are in an area adjoining residences occupied by white people.

Dr. John C. Turner, president of the Birmingham Ministers' Association is quoted as saying, "We do not condone intrusion into segregated areas, but we must condemn lawless violence. It shall be the endeavor of the Ministers' Association to work with the authorities in the field of housing in order that some fair and definite zoning regulations may be set up for the protection of all concerned."

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## Catholic Congressman Does Not Share Spellman's Views

Representative Jacobs of Indianapolis, a devout Roman Catholic, made the following statement: "As long as we have the same right to send our children to public schools as anyone else we are not discriminated against. And as Catholics we do not have the right to a separate, publicly supported school system, nor does any other group of people have such right. Whatever can be constitutionally done to aid a child will win my support. However, I cannot and will not support any measure that grants public aid to private or parochial schools. We have the right to build and maintain our churches, but not to build or maintain them with public funds. Our parochial schools are an adjunct to our religion, established for educational use instead of using public schools, solely for the sake of the child's religious training. The issue is clear. Either you keep parochial schools and maintain them or take public funds and convert them into public schools, and they will then no longer serve the religious purpose for which they were intended."

—Congressional Record, July 7.

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The organization known as Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State is thoroughly American. Any charge that this organization is unpatriotic, un-American, or un-Christian is directed not only against the leaders of this organization, but against the rank and file of Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and others who believe firmly this principle. In California scores of local units now known as the School Facts Committee, are considering steps toward forming a State-wide chapter affiliated with POAU.

—Watchman-Examiner.

# Kingdom Progress

## Gaines Street Church Makes Rapid Progress

Gaines Street Church, Little Rock, under the leadership of Pastor Charles E. Lawrence has made rapid progress during its three years of history. The church now has 965 members with a total of 1,215 having united with the church since its organization. There have been 265 baptisms during this three-year period.

Under the directorship of Marvin E. DeBlack they have one of the largest Training Unions in the state. The Sunday School is making splendid progress under the leadership of Superintendent Gene Herrington. Each organization of the church is fully departmentalized and graded. Buildings, grounds, and equipment are valued at \$128,000 with a debt of only \$28,000. This debt is being retired at the rate of five hundred dollars per month. Offerings for the three-year period have totaled over \$150,000. Since its organization the church has sent the **Arkansas Baptist** into the homes of all members.

Gaines Street Church will observe its third anniversary August 30-September 4. Features of the celebration will include a Thanksgiving and Praise service Tuesday night, August 30. Lloyd A. Sparkman, pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff, and vice president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will bring the message. Other features include the following: special music by the choir under the direction of Mrs. Aline Hudson; special vibrato music by Arthur Nelson; and a roll call of members.

Dr. T. H. Jordan, pastor of First Church, Van Buren, will be assisted by W. R. Vestal, pastor First Church, Searcy, in revival services beginning September 12. The music will be under the direction of Bill Keltner, student from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Friendship Church near Springdale recently had the services of Pastor Stanley Jordan, First Church, Springdale, in a very successful revival meeting which lasted eight days. At the close of the meeting Pastor Jordan baptized eighteen candidates in the First Church baptistry, Friendship Church being without a pastor at this time.

Amos Greer, pastor of Kensett Church, assisted the Rescue Church, White County Association and J. Wesley Hoover, Jr., pastor, in revival services from August 1 to 14. During the first week, Christian services was emphasized which resulted in a large number of re-dedications to service and a majority of the membership pledged themselves to tithe their income to the Lord. During the second week the emphasis was on evangelism, resulting in ten professions of faith. Sidney Holcomb, Searcy, was in charge of the music.

McRae Church and Pastor E. F. Simmons dedicated their new buff brick auditorium in the Sunday morning service, August 7. W. C. Rowe delivered the dedicatory sermon, and the music was under the direction of A. C. Webb, Searcy.

Edwin Guerin, after spending two years in Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, is returning to his native state, Arkansas, to enter the field of evangelistic singing. Mr. Geurin is a native of Hot Springs and was a member of Park Place Church of that city. He served as Minister of Music and Education in Park Place Church before entering Ouachita College from which institution he graduated two years ago. Upon graduation from Ouachita he entered Southwestern Seminary. He may be reached at 225 Poplar Street, Hot Springs.

After fourteen months as pastor of Park Place Church, Hot Springs, D. C. Bandy resigned to re-enter the evangelistic field as a member of the evangelistic staff of the State Mission Department.

During Mr. Bandy's pastorate at Park Place, there were 133 additions to the church, ninety-one of whom were received by baptism. Upon his resignation the Park Place Church officially expressed its appreciation for the ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Bandy and heartily commend them to their new field of service in our State Mission program.

Protestants And Other Americans United for separation of Church and State is able to furnish radio transcript of Bishop Oxnam's address which is published on pages one and two, suitable for re-broadcast over local radio stations.

The minimum cost for this transcript is \$25, and may be ordered from: Protestants And Other Americans United, for separation of Church and State, 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

The enrolment at the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California, has steadily increased over the past three years from 47 to 142 respectively; the prospects for the session which will open August 30 indicates an enrolment of at least two hundred for the fall semester.

Immanuel Church, Warren, Keith F. Babb pastor reports the recent Vacation Bible School to be the best in their history; the enrolment was 130 with an average attendance of 112; offering was \$16.16. The church has purchased a bus which was used for the transportation of children and workers.

## Pastoral Changes

J. H. Edwards Mayfield of Kentucky has accepted the pastorate of Mammoth Springs Church.

Dr. V. E. Boston has resigned the pastorate of First Church, West Memphis. Reports are that he will reside in Newbern, Tennessee.

C. H. Garner has resigned the Riverside Church, Patterson, and accepted the pastorate of McLean Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

J. Wesley Hoover Jr., resigned the pastorate of Rescue Church, White County Association to become the pastor of Sherwood Church, Pulaski County Association.

## Heads Silent Workers At Bailey Hill Church



Levi I. Ross is president of the Sunday School class and director of the Training Union for the silent workers in the Bailey Hill Church, Fort Smith. Mr. Ross has served in this capacity two and one-half years. He is very anxious that all deaf mutes within reach of the church, attend the Sunday School class and Training Union. Mrs. Ruth Smith is the teacher of the class and sign language interpreter.

## A Phenomenal Record

The first year's growth of the Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis, Tennessee, sets a record that is probably unequalled among Southern Baptist churches. The Poplar Avenue Church was organized in a tent, which was erected on borrowed ground, on August 8, 1948. Aubrey C. Halsell was called as pastor of the new church.

Reviewing the year's achievements on August 8, 1949, it was revealed that 352 people have united with the church during the first year, 128 of these being received upon profession of faith and baptism. An entire city block has been purchased at a cost of \$47,500, and the first unit of the over-all building program is under construction at the cost of \$110,000. Total receipts for all purposes during the years amounts to \$36,720, of this amount \$3,188.25 was given to missionary causes.

Present Sunday School enrolment is 394, Training Union 182; other organizations consist of a Brotherhood with 45 members, W. M. U. with 97 members, and 112 young people in the auxiliary organizations of the W. M. U.

The church is meeting in two unfinished store buildings until the first unit of their building is finished.

Nodena Church near Wilson, Arkansas, closed a revival meeting August 14, with M. D. Davis of Wilson doing the preaching. There were three additions to the church by baptism.

Dr. A. M. Herring, pastor of Southside Church, Jacksonville, Florida, supplied the pulpit of the First Church, Fort Smith, August 21, in the absence of D. V. Ferguson who was on vacation.

## Thanks to R. A. Secretary

By H. C. SEEFELDT

As superintendent of the Bottoms Baptist Orphanage I want to express public appreciation to Paul Reagan, R. A. secretary, and to those who made it possible for twelve boys from the Home to attend R. A. Camp at Ferncliff this year.

Instead of expecting the Home to work out some plan to enable some of the boys to attend R. A. Camp, Mr. Reagan called by telephone advising that he was making arrangements to take care of as many boys as we would like to send to the camp. We were able to send twelve boys. He told me of the ease and joy he had in securing the necessary funds, he also informed us it would have been easy to secure funds to send any number of boys from the Home.

A group of women visiting the Home from DeWitt learned of this project by Mr. Reagan and left money to help meet the expenses of the bus taking the boys to and from the camp.

We sincerely appreciate this fine spirit on the part of these friends.

Other items of interest concerning the Home will be appearing in the *Arkansas Baptist* from time to time, reminding our people of the work of the orphanage, its needs, and a heart appeal for a real Thanksgiving this year.

Bellaire Church, Dermott, had the services of former pastor Quincy Mathis, now of Louisville, Kentucky, in a revival which closed Sunday, August 14. There were seventeen additions by baptism and twenty-one by letter, with a large number of re-dedications to service. J. B. Griswood was in charge of the music: Sunday School attendance reached 287. The church, though without a pastor at present, is going forward enthusiastically with plans to build a "bigger and better church, a pastor's home, and to employ a full time pastor."

Shiloh Church, Hope Association, George DeLaughter, pastor, ordained five deacons Sunday, August 14. They were R. P. O'Glee, Ray Tibbit, Travis Griffith, and Otto Robertson. The presbytery was composed of, George DeLaughter, moderator; Roy Tibbit, clerk; Frank Eaton questioned the candidates; J. R. Craig, delivered the ordination sermon; Clarence Roberts delivered the charge, and Robert Phillips led the ordination prayer. Other members of the presbytery were: G. I. Keller, Lee Roberts, J. S. Baker, G. E. Deckert, A. C. Mosley, G. H. O'Glee, Clyde Roberts, and T. H. Roberts.

Second Church, Hot Springs, recently elected officers and workers for the coming year. It required 338 persons to staff the organizations of the church—an indication of the magnitude of the church and its work.

The Louann Church will dedicate their church properties Sunday, August 28, at two-thirty in the afternoon. Buildings to be dedicated include the church building, pastor's home, and the recreational building. J. Paul Starnes is the present pastor of the Louann Church. Louis Gustavus, a former pastor, led the church in beginning these buildings which are to be dedicated. All former pastors and members are invited to attend the dedication service.

## Ouachita College News

On September 5 Ouachita College will open its sixty-fourth annual program of studies and activities. Advanced reservations indicate the enrolment will be equal to that of the past two or three years. The dormitories will be completely filled and students are already seeking rooms in town. The college will have a shortage of apartments for married couples.

Following the burning of the administration building in May, special arrangements have been completed to proceed with the regular program in September. Adequate buildings have been provided for chemistry and biology; laboratories have been purchased and are on hand to take care of the full science program for the year. With the permission of the donor, the library has been located in the Student Center building, using the first floor for stacks and the upper floor for a reading room. Five thousand volumes have been rebound and are ready for use. Individuals, colleges, and city libraries have provided thousands of books and periodicals to replace those destroyed in the fire. Other than the long standing need for more usable books, our library is in an excellent condition for faculty and student use.

Ouachita College continues to be fully accredited by the North Central Association. A recent letter from the secretary of the Association informs us that the college will not be surveyed again until the fall of 1950. By that time the science hall and library will be completed, equipped, and in use. The Administration building should be under construction if not completed. The faculty will be fully qualified with proper degrees and experience and our program reorganized to meet all requirements of the accrediting agency. By 1950 we hope to have the college program sufficiently strong that there will be no further need of the annual survey by the accrediting agency.

The college will open its fall program with a faculty of fifty-five competent men and women.

New members on the faculty will be: Fred Becker, Blytheville, music; Boyce Drummond, Little Rock, history and political science; Owen Stewart, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, biology; Miss Mary Lou Miller, Norman, Oklahoma, art; William Osborne, Fort Smith, English; Miss Marie Gilliland, Lawrence, Kansas, chemistry; Mrs. Lima Couch, Magnolia, dean of Coe-Bottom Hall; Reverend and Mrs. C. L. Tedford, Corning, dean of men and hostess of dormitories for boys; Miss Jean Davis, St. Louis, assistant to Registrar; Misses Inez Radford and Elizabeth Swafford, Little Rock, nurses; Dr. Virgil Jones, Fayetteville, will return to head the Department of English next year.

—OO—

Upon the resignation of Fred Becker, minister of Music and Education in First Church, Blytheville, the church adopted appropriate resolutions expressing appreciation for the services of Mr. Becker and commending him to Ouachita College where he becomes a member of the faculty in the music department.

The Executive Committee office in Nashville, Duke K. McCall Executive Secretary, reports receipts totaling \$664,816.21 for the month of July, \$88,196.42 of this amount represents designated gifts. Total receipts for the first seven months in 1949 amount to \$6,512,716.02; this is an increase of \$615,406.73 over the same period in 1948.

## Fingers for Eyes



### The Braille Evangel Reports

During the recent three years the reading constituency of *The Braille Evangel* has grown from one hundred-fifty to five thousand finger-tip readers, representing our forty-eight states and twenty-five foreign countries. This religious monthly magazine for the blind has been supported as a "world-wide literary mission enterprise" by gifts from Southern Baptist churches totaling \$19,549.51 since October 1946.

### Distribution and Cost

Due to the high cost of braille printing, *The Braille Evangel* is distributed to its readers through benevolent support. The urgent calls for this magazine throughout the world greatly exceed the current receipt of funds.

A gift subscription of ten dollars from your church or one of its organizations will enable us to send *The Braille Evangel* to four readers on our mailing list for one year. Such a gift from each of 730 donors is needed now for meeting the operating cost this year.

### Content

The content is evangelistic, educational, and devotional. The sixty-four pages each month contain choice articles in the form of sermons, stories, religious verse, sacred music, Bible study, and a variety of other readings on Christian life, which are selected largely from our Southern Baptist state papers. This is a ministry of faith for the cause of missions at home and abroad for those whose visual disability might impose even a spiritual darkness, except for the gospel of Christ.

Will you help to send the encouragement and good cheer of this gospel to those who must use "fingers for eyes"?

—Edwin Wilson, Managing Editor,  
*The Braille Evangel*,  
Seminary Hill Station,  
Fort Worth, 10, Texas,

—OO—

Carl Schrader Jr., was ordained to the full gospel ministry by First Church, Pine Bluff, Wednesday evening, August 3. Dr. Monroe Swilley delivered the ordination sermon; Dr. E. J. Caswell questioned the candidate and delivered the charge; Joe Hall served as clerk.

First Church, Elaine, Bennie Pearson, pastor, recently closed a ten-day revival with Ralph Douglass, pastor of First Church, Helena, as evangelist. The result was thirty-eight additions to the church, twenty-nine of them for baptism.

## \*\*\* Christian Horizons \*\*\*

**Total Abstinence Called Solution to Alcohol Problem:** The best means for combating alcoholism is to promote voluntary total abstinence, Dr. Samuel B. Hadden, consultant neuro-psychiatrist at the Philadelphia General Hospital and assistant professor of psychiatry at University of Pennsylvania, declared in Philadelphia at the seventy-seventh annual convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America.

"The problem of alcohol is occupying the attention of many of the finest psychiatric minds in this country," Dr. Hadden said. "Large sums of money are being spent on various research projects in this field, but I am sure none will discover any more effective means of reducing human misery than voluntary total abstinence."

Dr. Hadden urged the Union to stress its message of total abstinence especially among children and adolescents.

"I would like this group," he said, "to focus its activities among children and adolescents and continue to speak to your young people on the effects of alcohol, not only in excessive quantities, but to point out that even in so-called moderate doses it is an extremely dangerous narcotic substance, and that with continued use it will eventually effect a disorganization of personality that will lead to a life of misery and unhappiness."

**Church-Related Colleges Urged to Serve Community Needs:** Community colleges will solve the problem of higher education in this country, Dr. John Dale Russell, director of the division of higher education, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., declared in a recent statement at Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Russell told about 175 educational officials at the sixth annual Institute of Higher Education at Scarritt college that the idea of community colleges is "simmering" in a great many states.

"And there is no reason why a community college could not be a church-related college," he stated. "In this way, church-related colleges could provide local opportunities for education at low cost and in connection with services needed in that particular area."

He called for expansion on the part of church-related colleges to care for increased enrolments and indicated that establishment of community colleges might be accelerated in event of a depression.

**Southern Presbyterian Men Hold Conference:** Joseph B. Fraser of Hinesville, Georgia, was elected president of the Men of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. at the annual Men-at-Montreat Conference, Montreat, North Carolina.

The conference was told that "as men's organizations go, so goes the church. Wherever an active men's program is found, an active church is found, and wherever men's work is not organized a weak church is the result."

The speaker was C. B. Clement of Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Farmers Hear Stress Upon Religion:** Some 5,000 North Carolina farm men and women attending the state's forty-first annual Farm and Home Week in Raleigh, North Carolina, were told that there is a close relationship between farming and religion.

The speaker, Samuel R. Levering of Arat, Virginia, said that scientists have found the answer to many farm problems and that "in each case it has been a matter of discovering a divine law, then conforming to it."

"As farmers, we work with God in four ways," he said. "We work with Him in growing our crops and animals; we work as trustees of His soil, as builders of good homes, and as citizens of our community, state, nation, and the world."

Levering said the "soil never is really ours. We occupy it for so short a time. We must preserve it and improve it for the generations that follow."

Another speaker, Mrs. Camille McGhee Kelley, juvenile court judge of Memphis, Tennessee, told the group that "goodness needs a press agent. We publicize and dramatize evil, when the most interesting, the most appealing, the most dynamic thing in the world is an affirmative expression of goodness."

**Turkey to Permit Hunt for Ark:** According to the Ankara Radio, the Turkish government has changed its mind and has granted permission for an American expedition headed by Dr. Aaron J. Smith, dean of the Peoples Bible School, Greensboro, N. C., to search for the remains of Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat.

The reversal came after the Turkish government had said, on July 15, that permission could not be given for the search because Mt. Ararat lies in a "prohibited military zone" along the Turko-Russian border.

In June it was reported that a young Dutch explorer named Hans Roozen, and Dr. Egerton Sykes of Great Britain, had been refused permission by the Turkish government to conduct the expedition. The Dutchman and the Englishman had been scheduled to accompany Dr. Smith.

Prior to the Turkish refusal to permit Roozen and Sykes to stage the expedition, the Moscow Radio had accused the three of being spies against the Soviet Union.

**Western Adventists Raise Half Million for Missions:** Seventh-day Adventists of the Pacific Union Conference raised \$495,619 for missions this year, a gain of \$30,000 over 1948, according to Elder C. L. Bauer, Conference president.

The Conference comprises churches in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and the Territory of Hawaii.

Sixty-five churches attained the "Minute man" goal of \$1.80 per member, the amount required to sustain the Adventist missionary program throughout the world for one minute. Nearly half the church membership in the Conference raised individual "Minute Man" goals.

## A Smile or Two

Church service was over and three members walked home together, discussing the message they had heard.

"I tell you," said the first enthusiastically, "Doctor Blank can certainly dive deeper into the truth than any minister I ever heard!"

"Yes," said the second man, "and he can stay under longer."

"Yes," echoed the third, "and come up drier!"

—*Watchman-Examiner.*

A farmer was losing his patience and temper trying to drive two mules into a field, when the local parson came by and said:

"Don't speak to those dumb animals like that."

"You are just the man I want to see," said the farmer. "Tell me, how did Noah get these into the ark?"

—*Quote.*

Mother: "What are you doing?"

Son: "Writing to my girl."

Mother: "But why are you writing so slow?"

Son: "She can't read very fast."

—*Copied.*

"How you have changed! You used to have thick, black hair, and now you're bald. You used to have a ruddy complexion, and now you're pale. And you used to be quite stout, but now you're thin. Whatever has happened to you, Mr. Jones?"

"But I'm not Mr. Jones."

"Indeed. So you've changed your name!"

—*Exchange.*

"The man at the police clerk's desk wanted some help in serving a warrant.

"What does the man look like?" queried the clerk. "Does he have a mustache?"

"Don't know," was the answer. "If he does he keeps it shaved off."

—*Arkansas Methodist*

"Where is the paper plate I gave you under your pie?" asked the bride.

"Was that a plate?" inquired the groom anxiously. "I thought it was the lower crust."

—*Watchman-Examiner.*

A Des Moines mother used to call her three-year-old Jimmy "Stupid" in the most warm and loving way.

Recently little Jimmy picked up the telephone when it rang, but just held the receiver and didn't say anything.

"Say 'hello,' stupid."

Jimmy followed instructions, all too literally.

—*Quote.*

"As for the clergy, they're a poor lot," said the grumbling layman.

"Yes," returned the parson, "some of them are poor indeed; but consider the stock from which they come. You see, we have to make them out of laymen."

—*Exchange.*

Guide: "Why didn't you shoot the tiger?"

Timid Hunter: "He didn't have the right expression on his face for a rug."

—*Selected.*

Husband: "My wife is prolonging her holiday. I need her at home, but it seems useless to write suggesting that she return."

Fal: "Get one of the neighbors to suggest it, my boy."

—*Anecdote.*

# Missionaries Needed Now!

Southern Baptists have approved a program of advance whereby a total of 1,750 missionaries should be appointed to serve overseas. There is urgent need for missionaries to take the message of salvation to the peoples around the world now.

The Japan Baptist Convention sent out an appeal to Southern Baptists to provide one hundred missionaries by 1950 to take the gospel to a people who are, for the first time in the history of their nation, eager to hear the message of Christianity. So far this year only eight have been appointed, bringing the total number of missionaries for Japan to thirty-eight.

Charles Whaley sailed for Japan on August 5. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Luther Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lee Holloway, Misses Annie Hoover, Lenora Hudson and Lucy Belle Stokes are scheduled to sail August 25 for their first term of service in Japan. Surely there are others, nearing completion of seminary work or already employed in full time Christian work, who will hear God's call to help win Japan before it is too late.

Misses Hilda Bledsoe and Evelyn Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert R. Tatum, and Mr. and Mrs. Chester R. Young sailed for Hawaii August 6. Miss Virginia Bean, who has been employed for two or more years as a teacher in the Baptist academy in Hawaii, sails August 25.

The needs for missionary workers in Argentina, Chile, and Mexico are especially great at this time, as the staff of missionaries in those countries is quite limited. Mr. and Mrs. William Haverfield, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray E. Shelton, and Miss Helen Nixon left the States August 2 for Medellin, Colombia, where they will be engaged in language study for approximately a year before they take their places as missionaries to the Spanish-speaking people of Latin America. They will be joined later by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Matthews and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crocker.

Mr. and Mrs. Grayson Tennison, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Doyle, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bratcher are scheduled to sail in August for service in Brazil. They will begin study of the Portuguese language at Campinas.

There are great opportunities for expansion in Africa, but evangelists, teachers, doctors, and nurses must first be obtained to meet needs in the work which has already been established in Nigeria and the Gold Coast. Five new missionaries plan to sail this fall. Many more are needed.

Southern Baptists have for several years had plans for beginning medical work in Arabia, but were unable to secure a missionary doctor. Now Dr. and Mrs. Lorne E. Browne, leaving for Arabia in October, will make possible the beginning of evangelistic work in this Moslem land which will tolerate Christian missionaries only if they bring healing as well.

The purpose of Southern Baptists, to win for Christ people in each of these areas and to train the national leadership, cannot be reached unless hundreds of Southern Baptist young people decide now to do their part by making a decision to dedicate their lives to be used of God wherever he leads.

As never before, God needs our finest and most consecrated young people to be his ambassadors overseas. The one hope of the world is the gospel. If God is calling you to follow in the footsteps of these young missionaries, it is important that you write the Department of Missionary Personnel, Foreign Mission Board, Box 5148, Richmond, Virginia.

## Dr. Rankin In Hawaii

Secretary M. Theron Rankin is attending the Hawaiian Mission meeting in Honolulu, August 29. He left Washington by air August 19, and is scheduled to be back in the Richmond office September 6. The executive committee of the Hawaiian Mission asked Dr. Rankin several months ago to attend the meeting and survey mission work in Hawaii.

## Guatemala Revolution

Guatemala's July revolution literally "came home" to our missionaries in the country's capital city. Missionary W. J. Webb was in Honduras. Mrs. Webb and the children were at the airport waiting for the plane that was to bring visitors—the N. H. Eudalys en route from Mexico to Colombia. Twenty minutes before the plane was due the revolution started.

The plane landed, however, and, leaving their baggage to be fumigated as required by law, the visitors accompanied the Webbs to their home. It was there they learned of the revolt.

During the night they slept on the floor because of the danger of flying bullets. A bullet hole was found in the house later. They heard the noise of firing all around and above them as planes crisscrossed over the city. The Eudalys were unable to get out to claim their baggage. Luckily, the Webb children and the Eudaly children are near the same size, so the clothing situation was not too bad.

Mr. Webb has returned from Honduras. The Eudalys, with their baggage, are in Colombia. The revolution is over. Mrs. Webb says she can now sympathize with our China missionaries who have endured such experiences for years.

## Communists Release Baptist Property

Communist forces in China have returned to the Baptist Mission, the University of Shanghai, and Soochow school property which they had held about a month. A cablegram announcing the freeing of the property was received from Secretary Baker J. Cauthen early in August.

Dr. M. Theron Rankin warned against too much optimism over the restoration of the property. There is no assurance that it will not be taken again at any time, he said. A later cablegram relayed a message from Dr. Frank Connely in Shanghai, that plans for fall work are being made in the mission stations behind Communist lines. The schools are continuing their summer programs.

Mrs. O. P. Maddox, emeritus missionary who, with her husband, was visiting friends in Brazil, became seriously ill and was flown back to the States August 11 for an operation.

President Molas Lopez of Paraguay was influential in helping Missionary Franklin T. Fowler obtain his license last December to practice medicine in Paraguay, thus making it possible for Southern Baptists to have a hospital in South America. Dr. Lopez was formerly Minister of Education for Paraguay.

## Displaced Persons Program

The Relief Committee of the Foreign Mission Board has promised to find sponsors for at least 1,200 displaced persons and their families. The Committee has designated Charles R. Gage, 601 South Olympia Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, as its displaced persons representative. All persons who desire further information about the displaced persons program are urged to contact Mr. Gage immediately.

## 1949 South-wide W. M. U. Conference at Ridgecrest

The 1949 Woman's Missionary Union Conference was held at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, August 4-10 with 1,103 registrants. The theme, "This Is Thy Day," was emphasized by every speaker and conference leader. All day sessions were presided over by Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Southern Woman's Missionary Union, and the evening sessions by Mrs. George R. Martin, president.

Dr. Clyde T. Francisco, teacher of Old Testament at Southern Seminary, Louisville, led in a daily study of "God's Eternal Goal," as recorded by Isaiah. Miss Miriam Robinson, teacher of speech at the W. M. U. Training School, conducted vesper services, assisted by Miss Ruth O'Dell, appointee to Cuba, who also served as Conference pianist.

Among other outstanding speakers of the week were Mrs. J. M. Dawson, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Y. K. Chang, president of W. M. U. of China, now a student at Southwestern Seminary; Dr. Frank Means of the Foreign Mission Board, recently returned from a survey of Latin American mission fields; Dr. Duke McCall, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, who was the speaker at both worship services on Sunday; and Congressman Brooks Hays, Arkansas. Many missionary guests brought tidings of the work on their fields and assisted in the various Mission Study classes. Numbered among them were Miss Pauline Cammack, missionary to Indians, New Mexico; Miss Irene Chambers, field worker of the Home Mission Board; Miss Akiko Endo, Japan; Miss Lois Glass, China; Mrs. Eugene Sallee, China; Mrs. Everett Gill Sr., Europe; Mrs. Everett Gill Jr., Foreign Mission Board, Richmond; Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Anderson, China; Mrs. H. H. Snuggs, China; Mrs. Aaron Hancock, Indians of Oklahoma; Miss Gladys Keith, River Front Missions, New Orleans; Miss Helen McCullough, China; Miss May Perry, Africa; and Mrs. Frank Pool, Cuba.

Former Arkansans among the teachers and conference leaders were Mrs. Clyde V. Hickerson, Richmond, Virginia; Mrs. W. B. Pittard, Franklinton, North Carolina; Miss Mary Christian, Nashville, Tennessee; and Miss Irene Chambers, Home Mission Board.

The nine mission study classes were conducted by Miss Alma Hunt and other State executive secretaries and State presidents. Miss Edwina Robinson, Mississippi, had charge of the Business Woman's Circle Conference.

The following Arkansans attended the Conference: Mrs. F. E. Goodbar, North Little Rock; Mrs. J. E. Short and Mrs. Clarence Roberts, Pine Bluff; Mrs. H. C. Terry and Mrs. Ford Maggard, El Dorado; Mrs. Ralph Douglas, Mrs. Albert Ragsdale, Miss Sue Ragsdale, and Miss Marion Reed, Helena; Mrs. Lurline Heath, Miss Gladys Spradlin, Mrs. Edgar M. Cox, Mrs. Joe F. Marshall, Betsy and Bill Heath, Jean Duthitt, and Miss Nancy Cooper, Little Rock; Mrs. H. M. Keck and Miss Myrtle Lewellyn, Fort Smith; Mrs. Josephine Watts, Camden; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Henderson and Mrs. Eva Campbell, Hot Springs; Mrs. Tom Huddleston and Mrs. L. N. Hackett, Paragould; Dr. and Mrs. E. P. J. Garrott, Batesville; and Mrs. R. H. Jones, Osceola.

Olfonso Olmeda, who graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary about four years ago, was elected president of the Argentine Baptist Convention for this year and also messenger to the Baptist World Alliance in 1950. Mr. Olmedo is pastor at San Luis in a province of Argentina where there was no Baptist work before.



## Reserve Hotel Rooms For Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago Now

Write now to the hotel of your choice for room reservation for the Southern Baptist Convention May 9-12, 1950, in Chicago. The following is a list of some of the hotels and their rates:

HOTEL	Size (Rooms)	Blocks		SINGLE	DOUBLE BED (2 Persons)	TWIN BEDS (2 Persons)	SUITES	DORMITORY STYLE (4 to 6 Persons)
		from Coliseum	W.M.U. Conv'n					
ATLANTIC, 316 S. Clark .....	400	7	14	\$1.75- \$ 2.75*	\$3.25- \$ 3.75*			
STRAND, 6323 Cottage Grove Ave. ....	138			3.00- 6.00	4.50- 7.00			
BURTON, 1429 N. Clark .....	200	26	6	1.75- 2.50	2.50- 5.00			
UNION PARK, 210 S. Ashland Blvd. ....	105			2.00- 4.00	4.00- 6.00		\$10.00-	
HOTEL ROOSEVELT, 1152 S. Wabash .....	125	2	19	2.50-	3.50-			
WACKER, 111 W. Huron .....	20	2	2	2.50-	4.50-			
FORT DEARBORN, LaSalle at Van Buren ..	550	8	16	2.50- 3.50	4.00- 7.00		10.00-	
CASS, 640 N. Wabash .....	145	20	2	2.50- 4.00	4.00- 6.00	\$6.00- \$ 7.50		
HARRISON, 65 E. Harrison .....	400	6	15	2.50- 4.50	3.50- 6.00			
HAMILTON, 20 S. Dearborn .....	200	14	10	2.50- 5.00	3.50- 8.00			
LaSALLE, LaSalle and Madison Sts. ....	1000	15	12	2.50- 6.00	5.00- 7.00	8.00-	15.00-	\$2.00 per person 2.50 per person
DALTON, 1234 S. Wabash .....	180	2	19	3.00-	5.00-			
MIDLAND, 172 W. Adams .....	153	13	12	3.00- 4.50	5.00- 7.00	7.00-		
ALEXANDRIA, 542 Rush St. ....	240	18	3	3.00- 5.00	4.00- 5.00			
BERKSHIRE, 15 East Ohio .....	40	21	1	3.00- 5.00	3.00- 5.00	5.50-		
DEVONSHIRE, 19 East Ohio .....	250	21	1	3.00- 5.00	4.50- 8.00	6.00- 8.00		
PLANTERS, 19 North Clark .....	130	12	10	3.50-	6.50-	7.00-		
BISMARCK, 171 West Randolph .....	450	16	8	3.50- 5.00	5.75- 8.00		\$16.00-\$22.00	
SHERIDAN PLAZA, 4605 Sheridan Rd. ...	135			3.50- 5.00	5.00- 7.50	6.00- 9.00		
CHICAGOAN, 67 W. Madison .....	450	13	9	3.75- 6.00	5.50- 10.00			
SHERMAN, 106 W. Randolph .....	1420	14	8	3.95- 8.95	5.95- 10.95	6.95- 10.95	11.95- 19.95	2.50 per person 3.00 per person
CROYDON, 616 N. Rush .....	175	19	2	4.00-	4.40-			
MARYLAND, 900 Rush .....	175	22	2	4.00-	7.00-			
PARKWAY, 2100 Lincoln Park .....	95			4.00-	6.00-			
ST. CLAIR, 162 East Ohio .....	189	21	1	4.00- 5.00	6.00- 8.00	7.00- 9.00	12.00-	
WINDERMERE, 1642 E. 36th .....	65	55	76	4.00- 5.00	6.00- 7.00		6.00- 12.00	
EASTGATE, 162 E. Ontario .....	100	21	1	4.00- 5.50	6.00- 8.00	7.00- 8.00		
BREVOORT, 120 W. Madison .....		13	9	4.00- 6.00	5.00- 7.50	7.50-	12.50-	
STEVENS, 720 S. Michigan .....	2500	6	16	4.00- 9.00	6.50- 11.00	8.00- 12.00	12.00- 26.00	2.50 per person
PALMER HOUSE, 15 E. Monroe .....	2242	11	10	4.00- 10.00	7.50- 13.50	8.00- 14.00	18.00- 22.00	
SHERATON, 505 N. Michigan .....	449	21	1	4.50- 13.00	7.00- 13.00	7.00- 13.00	12.50- 26.00	
MORRISON, 79 W. Madison .....	1500	15	10	5.00- 9.00	7.00- 9.00	8.50- 12.00	18.00- 75.00	3.50 per person
SHORELAND, 5464 S. Shore Drive .....	150	40	63	6.00- 7.00	8.00- 9.00		14.00- 17.00	

\* Without Bath

In the dormitory style each room will accommodate from four to six persons. All dormitory style accommodations must be contracted for by one person representing the entire group planning to stay in the room.

In your letter to the hotel be sure to indicate the price and type of room desired and that you will be attending the Southern Baptist Convention. In case the hotel of your choice is full, your request will be forwarded to Mr. Frank G. Power of the Chicago Convention Bureau who will channel it to another hotel with like accommodations and notify you.

If any difficulty arises in securing hotel reservations write Mr. Frank G. Power, Chicago Convention Bureau, 33 North La Salle, Chicago 2, Illinois.

The above statement was released by the Illinois Baptist State Association's General Committee on arrangements for entertaining the Southern Baptist Convention.

### Kingdom Progress

Pastor Claude Hughes did his own preaching in revival services at Central Church, Delta Association, August 8 to 15, with large crowds in attendance. There were nineteen additions to the church, eleven of whom were by baptism.

Pastor Sidney Oxendine, First Church, Dardanelle, conducted revival services in his home church near Sumter, South Carolina, July 31 to August 7. There were nine additions to the church by baptism and many re-dedications.

Calvary Mission, Mansfield, closed a successful meeting August 16, with J. R. Smallwood of Paducah, Texas, as evangelist, and Mrs. Smallwood in charge of the music. There were nineteen additions to the church, thirteen of whom were for baptism. Darrell Ross is the pastor, and student at Ouachita.

The mission recently completed construction of a rock auditorium and is now working on an educational building.

The Boynton Church in Mississippi County Association had the services of Doyle Creech, Batesville, in a revival meeting from August 1 to 10, which resulted in eleven additions to the church by baptism and three re-dedications. This is a full time rural church with Hugh McGehee as their pastor; during his eight months pastorate Mr. McGehee has witnessed forty-one additions to the church and attendance in all departments has increased.

Mt. Olive Church near Heber Springs, W. B. O'Neal pastor, had the services of W. F. Montgomery, pastor of the Heber Springs Church in a ten days revival meeting from August 7 through 16, which resulted in seven additions to the church, three by baptism, four by letter.

Webb City Church, Irving Crossland pastor, had a successful meeting from July 30 to August 12 with Evangelist Ramond Taylor of Waco, Texas, conducting the services. There were twenty additions to the church, eighteen of whom were for baptism; two young women surrendered their lives for special service.

Pisgah Church, Hope Association, ordained C. Glenn McColman to the ministry on June 19. Associational Missionary M. T. McGregor brought the ordination sermon, and Orlin M. Allen, pastor of First Church, Bradley, delivered the charge. Mr. McColman is pastor of Pisgah Church, and a student at Ouachita.

#### Norphlet Launches Building Campaign

First Church, Norphlet, Glen Crotts pastor, launched a campaign on Sunday, August 14, to raise funds for the construction of a new church building. Each tither was challenged to give twenty times his weekly tithe on that day for the building fund. The result was \$7,200 in cash and pledges; of this amount \$5,036 was in cash.

The church plans to let the contract for the new auditorium when they have raised \$10,000. With the construction of the new auditorium the present building will be converted into an educational building.

Norphlet Church plans a revival August 21 to September 4 with pastor D. C. McAtee Second Church, Pine Bluff, as evangelist, and Leroy Ford, First Church, Enid, Oklahoma, director of music.

# The Religious Destiny of America

By LOUIE D. NEWTON

My cherished friend, Pastor Garland A. Hendricks, Olive Chapel Baptist Church, Apex, North Carolina, quotes a prominent official of another denomination, as follows: "Southern Baptists hold in their hands the religious destiny of America."

This recognized leader of Christian thought in America goes on to support this arresting statement with documented testimony which any student of our times acknowledges and ponders with deep concern.

## Three Tremendous Statements

In the course of his prediction that Southern Baptists hold in their hands the religious destiny of America, he makes three statements that I must here record:

First, Southern Baptists have the ear of the common man.

Second, Southern Baptists have evangelistic zeal.

Third, Southern Baptists dominate in the seed bed of America.

I do not attempt to expand these statements. They impress me as axiomatic. It is enough to humble every man and woman of us to have a student of our times, not himself a Baptist, to say that more than any other large religious group, we have the ear of the common man; and to say that our people have a zeal to win men to Christ; and to add the encompassing declaration that we dominate in the area which, many believe, will furnish more people in this country for the next 75 to 100 years than any other region, due to our relatively high birth rate.

## What Has Been Happening

One hundred and fifty years ago, nine out of every ten families in this country lived on the farm, and supported the small urban communities. Today, two out of every ten families in this country are engaged in agriculture, and provide the food and fiber essential to our economy. Since 1900 many country churches have lost as many members to the cities as they now have in their resident membership. This statement is based on actual research.

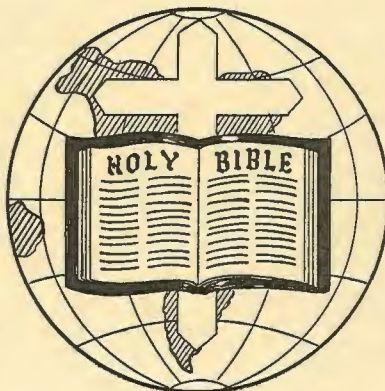
The average age of this constant flow of life from rural to urban communities has been eighteen. The young men and women of ability drawn into the cities by the promise of greater income and further educational advantages leave behind the youth of less education and lower earning capacity.

The result: static membership in the rural churches, and, in many instances, even declining membership rolls. Not to mention the ultimate effect of drawing off this wealth of leadership for the total rural scene.

## The Former Pattern

The original pattern of rural life in this country, particularly here in the South, was simple and powerful. The country store was the economic and social unit. There the people gathered, almost daily, to barter and talk with one another. Whatever news was to be had of the community and the world was disseminated at the store around the stove in the winter, on the porch in the summer.

The schoolhouse, usually immediately adjacent to the meeting house, was the educational and cultural center of the community. The teacher, necessarily a person of influ-



ence, had to possess marked ability and high purpose.

The meeting house was the religious center of the community, and the church was more than a meeting place—it usually dominated the thinking of the people in their total outlook on life.

## The Quiet Revolution

With the turn of the century, a quiet revolution set in, quiet in the sense that very few people realized what was happening. The country store began to lose out to the fancy groceries, and then came the changes. Rural mail delivery brought the world to every doorstep. Then came the telephone and the radio. About two decades ago, the consolidated school idea took hold, and the former neighborhood schoolhouse was abandoned and became the dwelling place of goats, owls, and tramps.

Only the church remained. In many instances the church simply sat down and wondered, hanging its harp on the traditional willow tree. But did it weep? Did it avail? In many instances the country church saw what was happening, and began, prayerfully and intelligently to cope with the revolution, but I am inclined to think that such churches were and still are in the minority.

## What Happened in the Cities

As the revolution became more manifest, the urban churches entered upon a great era of expansion. Turn to the record and see how town and city churches grew in the 90's and on into the twentieth century. You will be amazed to observe how many town and city churches erected new and larger houses of worship from 1890 to 1914, the year the first World War broke upon the scene. This constant flow of human wealth from the country to the towns and cities accounted for this great strengthening of the urban churches. Nearly everybody in that period was fresh from the country, embued with the loyalties of a family altar and constant church attendance back in the rural community.

But, and here is something to think about, the national birth rate began to decline in direct ratio to the shift of population from the country to the city. Only Salt Lake City maintained a birth rate sufficient to reproduce itself. Fewer and fewer people on the farm were providing food and fiber for the rapidly growing urban population, until today sixty per cent of the people live in urban communities, and only forty per cent in rural communities.

## The Industrial Trend

In the midst of the quiet revolution above cited, another major trend set in. Industry turned its future development toward the

South, due to the advantage of climate, nearness to much of the raw materials, and Anglo-Saxon labor.

A new factory has been built in the South every two hours since 1940.

I give that statement a paragraph to itself, because I want you to get it. A present reason for this trend is to get these industrial communities as far out in the open country as possible to protect them from possible future atomic warfare.

With rapidly growing urban communities, and the coming of industry into the South, the country church witnessed the rise of many cults, pitching their tents on side streets at first, and under brush arbors in the open country. Today, you observe many fine brick buildings in both urban and rural communities, identified as the meeting houses of sects and cults unheard of at the turn of the century. Their evangelistic zeal, their amazing gifts, their unceasing work to win new members, are qualities which none can gainsay. They have enlisted many Baptists because there was no local Baptist church, at work. Add to the above facts the announcement that the Roman Catholic hierarchy is already working on a two-hundred-year program to win rural America, including the Negroes.

## Mechanized Farming and Live Stock

Meanwhile, mechanized farming and the shift from cotton and corn to live stock, dairying and truck crops, plus changing foreign markets, have brought another revolution in the rural life of the South. Unskilled farm workers are drifting into the cities. Better educated farm youth, with the training of such wonderful movements as the 4-H Clubs, means that today one farmer can accomplish more than six farmers could fifty years ago.

This offers new hope for the rural church, not in numbers, perhaps, but in the stability of the membership. But just here we have to remember that unless the country church offers a vital spiritual program, reaching out to influence the whole life of the people, your modern farmer may get in his car on Sunday and go to the town church, if he goes to church at all.

## What Are Baptists Doing About It?

I was brought face to face with the question, "What are Baptists doing about this situation?" by a visit from Pastor Hendricks back in July while he was in Atlanta, attending the fifth annual school for rural ministers at Emory University. Brother Hendricks was the pastor selected "Rural Minister of the Year" from North Carolina by The Progressive Farmer. There were three Baptists out of the thirteen rural pastors representing as many states, Brother Hendricks from North Carolina, Brother J. W. Lester from Alabama, and Brother Reese Rogers from Mississippi.

Pastor Hendricks began by asking me, "When are Southern Baptists going to do something to help meet this rural problem?" He had in mind all that was implied in the statement quoted at the outset of this article. He was thinking of our present dominational program. And he was thinking of the experience through which he was passing, a Baptist pastor selected for special courses at a Methodist university. Why hadn't some Baptist school worked out some such plan? I couldn't answer his question. Can you?

## Woman's Missionary Union

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

MRS. F. E. GOODBAR  
President

MISS NANCY COOPER  
Executive Secretary and Treasurer

MISS DORIS DEVAULT  
Young People's Secretary

## Baptist Brotherhood of Arkansas



NELSON F. TULL, State Secretary

219 Baptist Building

Little Rock, Arkansas

### Have You Met Our Three State Chairmen?

Through an oversight no mention has been made through this medium of Arkansas' three new State chairmen. To them and to you whom they serve, we offer our sincere apology.

All three State chairmanships were made vacant during the early months of the year by the removal from the State of those serving. A special committee, with Mrs. C. H. Ray as chairman, was appointed to recommend to the Executive Board women for these posts. An incomplete report was made at the February Board meeting and Mrs. Ford Maggard, 1208 West Elm, El Dorado, was elected Stewardship chairman. Later members of the Board voted by mail, and we have Mrs. R. H. Jones of Osceola as Mission Study chairman. The place of Community Missions chairman was not filled until the Annual Meeting, when Mrs. Ralph Douglas, 1132 Porter Street, Helena, was elected. These three have been on the job!"

Each has prepared conference sheets to be used at the quarterly association rallies, and have functioned in many other ways. They want to serve. Unfortunately, there is no expense money available for them from the State budget. Therefore, please arrange to take care of their travel expense and entertainment when you invite them to your society or association. Perhaps a neighboring group would co-operate with you in having the chairmen render similar service in their church, and in turn share with the expense.

We gratefully acknowledge the willingness of these three women to serve in these important capacities, and we gladly commend them to you.

### Observe Season of Prayer

Through the years members of Women's Missionary Union have come to love particularly those three seasons of the year when hearts and minds are focused on mission work in certain areas of the world. In March we look on the homeland. In December we consider Southern Baptists' foreign mission program. Sandwiched between those is the season in September when State mission work is magnified.

One may be more appealing than the other two, but actually

they are of equal importance, for it is all God's work, and in every instance the purpose is the winning of the lost. An offering — a love offering, a self-denial offering — is taken at each season, and many of us have witnessed the preservation of the denomination's entire mission program by the special offerings made by the women and young people.

September 12 is the date suggested for the observance of the Season of Prayer for State Missions and for the taking of the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions. If that is not a covenant time, select another date, but do observe the season and take an offering! Last year less than half the missionary societies in the State and less than one-fourth of the young people's organizations reported observance of this Season of Prayer. Arkansas is a rich mission field, and her teeming thousands of lost people are our responsibility. We must not fail them!

In the program material which is being mailed to every W. M. U. organization in the State, are splendid suggestions for the observance. Please! Please! Make it a season of prayer. Therein lies power.

If you need additional envelopes or material, please advise Miss Nancy Cooper, Executive Secretary and Treasurer, 209 Baptist Building, Little Rock.

### Be One in Six Million

Two slogans have become familiar to Southern Baptists during the past several months — "Every Baptist a Tither" and "Fifty-Fifty by 1950." at the recent Convention in Oklahoma City, as a denomination, we adopted a greatly enlarged program for advance with a goal of ten million dollars for the South-wide Cooperative Program in 1950.

In preparation for that advance, every church in the Southern Baptist Convention is being asked to study a new book, "God's Hurry," written by Dr. Duke McCall, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The title bespeaks the urgency of the hour. The content calls every child of God to an honest reckoning of his monetary possessions. The book will be available in the Baptist Book Store after September 1,

### DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know that there are thousands of fine individuals and families in Displaced Persons camps in western Europe? Many of them are Baptists who have no home.

Do you know that these people can come to America to live if somebody will sponsor them after they arrive?

Sponsoring them does not mean supporting them. They will work for their living. What they need and desire is a place to live and an opportunity to work. They are worthy people, carefully screened for emigration to America as soon as places can be found for them.

Below is a small sampling of the thousands of Baptists families who are hoping that the way will be opened for them to come to America:

An electrician, age 50, with a wife and three children, two girls and a boy, ages 16, 8 and 12, respectively.

A locksmith, age 21, with wife and one-year-old boy.

An accountant, age 47, with wife and four-year-old boy.

A clerk age 68, with wife, age 49.

A tailor, age 36, with wife who is a dressmaker, and seven children, ages 13, 11, 9, 6, 4, 2, and a baby. In this family is also the tailor's mother, who is a diet nurse.

A man music teacher (with right leg amputated), and his wife.

A farmer-mechanic and wife, each age 21.

A gardner, age 56, and wife, age 48, who is a domestic servant.

A woman teacher, age 55; unmarried.

A shoemaker, age 29, unmarried.

A book-keeper, age 47, with mother, 75, two sons, 19 and 14; and a daughter, 12.

A farmer age 39, with wife 27; and two children, 4 and 2.

A farmer, age 58, with wife 48, and four children; two sons, 17 and 14, and two daughters 12 and 6.

A farmer, age 28, with wife, 35,

and should be studied early in the fall.

May we urge every member of Woman's Missionary Union to co-operate in this church-wide study and to do everything possible to enlist, promote, and encourage attendance.

and six children, five girls and a boy. The children's ages are 15, 12, 6, 4, 2 and 1. The 6-year-old girl has paralysis.

A worker, age 54, with wife, 38; and eight children: four daughters, aged 22, 20, 18 and 11; and four sons aged 9, 6, 5 and 2.

A carpenter, age 40, with wife, 37; and two girls, 14 and 12, and a boy, 7.

A farmer, age 48, with wife 43, who is a domestic servant; and six children, aged 16 and 14 (boys), and 19, 12, 8 and 5 (girls).

A radio-mechanic, age 29, with wife 39; and two girls, 14 and 9.

A blacksmith, age 43.

A tractor-operator, 22, with wife 23, and one child 3; mother, 50; and brother, 17.

A woman dental assistant, age 27, unmarried.

There are thousands more like those described above. If you can help get some of these worthy people located, write the Brotherhood Office, 219 Baptist Building, Little Rock. Full information concerning procedure will be sent you.

### Layman's Day Posters

In the mail are posters advertising Layman's Day. Layman's Day will be observed on Sunday, October 9. Please see that the poster is placed in a prominent place in your church building.

Layman's Day is observed annually throughout the Southland on the second Sunday of October. On this day churches focus their program of the day on the work and worth of the laymen. "The pastor will be in the pulpit, and the laymen in the pews," on Layman's Day.

See that your church observes Layman's Day!

South Highland Church, Little Rock, where Brother Ray Branscum is pastor, recently had the services of Nelson Tull, State Brotherhood secretary, and Brother Pat Mehaffy, pastor of Biddle Church, Little Rock, in a Brotherhood revival.

Visible results were: 27 additions, 20 for baptism.

There were several outstanding victories during the revival, including the conversion of several men for which the church had long been praying. On the second Sunday of the revival a new record attendance was reached in Sunday School.

# Religious Education

EDGAR WILLIAMSON, DIRECTOR

EDGAR WILLIAMSON

Sunday School Superintendent

RALPH W. DAVIS

Training Union Director

MRS. B. W. NININGER

Church Music Director

212 Baptist Building, Little Rock



## Figures to Inspire

Sunday, August 14, 1949

	S. S.	T. U.	Ad.
Little Rock, Immanuel	1,075	383	1
Including Missions	1,300	575	6
Fort Smith, First	839	387	4
N. Little Rock, Baring Cross	686	304	—
Including Missions	780	332	—
Hot Springs, Second	631	173	2
El Dorado, First	636	178	4
Little Rock, Second	610	131	3
Rogers, First	530	143	1
Benton, First	526	124	4
Including Missions	586	—	—
Camden, First	508	124	—
Including Missions	674	259	—
Pine Bluff, South Side	490	217	17
Including Missions	561	266	—
Paragould, First	474	210	17
Including Missions	634	326	—
Hope, First	458	76	—
El Dorado, Second	453	180	11
Crossett, First	445	164	3
Little Rock, Tabernacle	443	131	2
Hot Springs, Park Place	411	126	—
Magnolia, Central	406	141	—
Including Missions	525	—	—
Warren, First	371	91	—
Fordyce, First	369	146	—
Hot Springs, Central	366	101	—
Springdale, First	362	186	1
Including Missions	478	—	—
West Helena	361	141	2
Russellville, First	359	124	1
Including Mission	418	147	—
Malvern, First	354	83	8
Including Mission	399	—	—
Texarkana, Beech Street	352	114	—
El Dorado, Immanuel	344	183	3
Including Missions	389	227	—
Paris, First	342	182	1
Including Missions	380	—	—
N. Little Rock, First	342	88	—
Including Missions	370	—	—
Fort Smith, Immanuel	328	133	6
Fayetteville, First	317	132	3
Including Missions	362	170	—
Including Missions	362	170	—
Cullendale	307	176	1
Hot Springs, First	286	76	—
Smackover, First	282	118	—
Pine Bluff, Second	280	118	—
Ft. Smith, Grand Avenue	277	98	—
Harrison, First	261	108	3
Including Missions	367	145	—
Gentry, First	257	143	2
Norphalet, First	244	184	2
El Dorado, West Side	243	111	2
Monticello, First	227	111	—
Sweet Home, Pine Grove	222	128	—
Mena, First	214	105	—
Texarkana, Calvary	202	112	—
Little Rock, Hebron	186	110	1
Warren, Immanuel	146	78	1
Bentonville, First	141	45	—
Sylvan Hills, First	140	58	—
Melbourne	125	104	—
Ft. Smith, North Side	121	51	—
Grannis	120	82	—
Texarkana, Trinity	108	46	1
Hot Springs, Grand Avenue	97	70	6
Douglasville, Second	93	75	4
Mammoth Springs	91	—	—
Little Rock, Capitol Hill	89	55	—
N. Little Rock, Grace	83	41	—
Monticello, North Side	70	—	—

## Activities For September

Emphasis: Making the Most of Promotion Day

### Denominational Emphasis

- Southern Baptist and State Foundations.
- Intermediate Emphasis Week, September 4-11.
- Student Join-the-Church Day, Sunday following college opening.
- Training Union Study Course Month.

### Associational Work

#### Educational Activities:

- Promote Preview Study in the churches, also books on administration.
- Help churches prepare for Promotion Day.
- Attend State Planning Meeting.

#### Associational Officers' Meeting:

- Complete program for October meeting.
- Plan teams to visit all churches in October—church planning meetings.
- Outline plans for associational work for the new Sunday School year.

Sunday School Workers' Meeting: **Theme**, "Preparation For Next Year."

- Department conferences.
- Reports to the association.
- Reports—outings, revivals, Vacation Bible schools.

### In the Churches

- Elect department officers and teachers.
- Observe Intermediate Emphasis Week, September 4-11.
- Plan for Training and Preparation Week in October, studying books on administration.
- Set up quotas for enrollment and attendance for each class for each month of the new Sunday School year.
- Observe Promotion Day, September 25.

## It's Almost Ready

By MISS BOBBIE TRENT

Moses, little Samuel, the baby Jesus in his mother's arms, and of course Jesus Blessing the children. There are pictures of children too, children like your two-year-olds, doing the things your two-year-olds do every day. One child is pulling on a shoe, one is looking at a frog in a puddle—oh, there are a lot of nice pictures. You will need at least one set of these pictures for every fifteen two-year-olds in your Sunday School. Price, \$1.75 per set.

Letters for Parents of Two-Year-Olds is something new in its approach as well as in its contents. We didn't want to give a leaflet or card to a two-year-old. It might be chewed up before mother had a chance to read it to him. So we have provided, for each week, a letter which workers will put in the parents' hands when they call for the two-year-old child.

It's almost ready for you—the course for which you have asked so often — to help Nursery workers with two-year-olds.

Sunday With Two-Year-Olds is the name of the quarterly which will contain tiny stories, prayers, songs, poems, play, and conversation suggestions to help two-year-olds and their teachers have a happy time on Sunday morning. Each worker with two-year-olds will need a copy. The price will be thirty cents per quarter.

Pictures for Two-Year-Olds is a set of eighteen pictures eight and one-half inches wide and twelve and one-half inches high. They are printed in four colors on cardboard heavy enough for small fingers to handle without crushing. In these pictures are some of the old Bible favorites—the baby

## The Importance of Vacation Bible School Reports

Of what importance is a Vacation Bible School report? To the local church it gives a picture of those boys and girls who were reached for Christ, who had religious training where in some cases they had not had previous training. The report told how many boys and girls were enrolled, and the average attendance told a story — a story of whether or not all of those enrolled received full benefit of the efforts put forth by the workers.

Vacation Bible School reports can help regular Sunday School teachers in that they may follow up on the child who is not in Sunday School. The final picture will tell you how to plan another year, in order to reach those who were unreached.

To the state office the report tells a story—this church had a most successful school with a high average attendance and a number of conversions. This church did not have a school—were all these children unreached during Vacation for Christ—or was the school just not reported. Out of the great number of churches in Arkansas—approximately 1,000 — only 225 schools have been reported. Did the other 775 churches have schools or did they fail to report an equally successful school?

To the South-wide office the reports picture the states—were there as many schools held in this state as last year? Did this state reach its goal? How many boys and girls were converted over the Southland in Vacation Bible Schools? How many mission causes were helped by the offerings? How much more material will need to be printed for Vacation Bible School use next year, or will it need to be less than this year? Your reports help to answer all of these questions.

We continue to read in the Arkansas Baptist good reports of schools that have not been reported. We have received reports from churches who have just had their first Vacation Bible School. How thrilled they are. Has your church had its first school? Has it been reported? SEND US YOUR REPORT WITHOUT DELAY! Please request report blanks from Dr. Edgar Williamson, 212 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## On Ridgecrest Faculty

Mrs. B. W. Nininger, state director of church music, will serve on the faculty again this year at the South-wide Music Conference at Ridgecrest August 25-31. She is to teach Service Planning and Choric Speech.

This is the first time that a full week has been assigned at Ridgecrest for nothing but the Church Music Conference. Arkansas is to be well represented, at least two of the nine winners in Hymn Playing at Siloam Springs are planning to participate in the first South-wide Hymn Playing Tournament. They are: Carolyn Kelly, Central Church, Hot Springs, and Betty Jean McMoran, Park Place Church, Hot Springs. A total of sixteen to twenty people from all sections of the state have reservations for Music Week at Ridgecrest.



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**Ottis Denney  
Leaves State**

Announcement has already been made of the resignation of Ottis Denney, who has been our Pioneer Missionary in Newton County. His work has been outstanding and our people over the state, as well as in Newton County, regret to see him go. He gives a summary of his work in the association bulletin which is as follows:

"After two years of very fruitful service here in Newton County, the Lord has definitely placed on our hearts that our part of the work has come to a close; and he wants us to go to another field of labor. At the present, it seems to be California. Plans are being made to leave on or before September 1.

"When the Lord brought us to this beloved county, we found: no Baptist preacher within the association, only one Baptist Sunday School, no Training Union or Woman's Missionary Society, and only one Baptist church house. So far as we could tell, there were 89 Baptists in the entire association.

"After an extensive program of simultaneous revivals, Sunday School and Training Union campaigns, building campaigns, and a desperate search for pastors, we are happy to report four church buildings, four pastors in the field, ten Baptist Sunday Schools, two Vacation Bible Schools in every church except two, three Training Unions, three Missionary Societies, the addition of one church to the association, Wayton, and the recent organization of a new church at Cassville. There have been over 250 additions to the churches. Five of the seven churches are giving to the Cooperative Program. The Arkansas Baptist, also the home and foreign mission magazines are coming to all the members in four churches."

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Under the above caption, on page 21, the July Baptist Training Union Magazine recommends the **WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA** as the best for family use and for Church Libraries. Order from—

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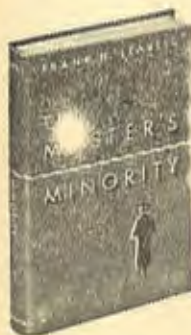
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# Exalting the Word of God

By MRS. ROLAND LEATH

This discussion is based on the International Uniform Sunday School Lesson Outlines, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education and used by permission.

The Psalmist uses very descriptive words to praise, exalt, and honor the Word of God. Throughout the psalms we are made conscious that the book is God's Word. The writers knew that the Law of God was truly His message to them, brought by those whom His Spirit inspired and instructed; and they knew too, the intrinsic value of the Word of God in their experiences. They trusted implicitly the authority and divine inspiration of the Word of God. Throughout the centuries the Book of all books has been criticized, destroyed, mocked, doubted, banned, but it stands today the eternal Word of God. "The books of men have their day and grow obsolete. God's word is like Himself, 'the same yesterday, today, and forever,'" said R. Payne Smith. Any book available on quotations will contain page after page under the heading, "Bible." Great men of all ages have recognized and exalted the blessed Word of our Lord.

Someone has asked, "How big is your Bible?" That does not apply to the size of your individual copy, but to its worth to you. It is as big as you make it in studying and applying it to your own personal life. Our lives and our churches will be blessed according to the way we exalt the written Word of God. Dwight L. Moody made this searching statement: "I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. If a man neglects his Bible, he may pray God to use him in His work, but God cannot make much use of him, for there is not much for the Holy Spirit to work with.

## Powerful Character of God's Word

Our lesson from Psalm 19 is a continuation of last week's study; we found that the Psalm was divided into two distinct parts. In our last lesson the psalmist described the revelation of God through nature, today we consider the latter part, describing the powerful and excellent character of the law of God. The word "law" comes from the Hebrew word "torah," and includes the teachings of the pentateuch, all the prophetic and priestly instruction which reveals the will of the Lord Jehovah.

In Psalm 19:7-11 the psalmist gives a sevenfold description of the powerful and excellent character of God's Word. Let us go

Sunday School Lesson for  
September 4, 1949

Psalms 19:7-14; 119:1-8

through these verses and make a list of the descriptive words David used as he unfolded the character of the Law of God; he reveals God's Word as: perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true, and righteous. He adds colorful comparisons to exalt the worth of the Law of the Lord to one who knows and believes the truth as just described, thus: it is "more to be desired than fine gold; it is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb."

Notice again, with each descriptive word the Psalmist uses, he gives the law a name which reveals its work in doing its many tasks. We could place a name opposite each descriptive word in our list; law, testimony, statutes, commandment, fear, and judgments. Now let us see how the Word of God, being in each case the marvelous character described, meets the complete needs in the life of man.

"The perfect law converts the soul." Through the flawless law, the holiness of God is revealed; this in turn reveals man as he is and leads him to seek God, desiring forgiveness and atonement.

"The sure testimony of God makes wise the simple," meaning the sincere, receptive person. Such wisdom as God's Word imparts! Decisions, choices, conclusions, borne by spiritual wings, make men to possess the solid rock of God's foundation.

"The right statutes of the Lord" rejoice the heart of the

believer, and his everyday life is guided by precepts which are above board, and without shadow. The person who lives a just life is able to say, "All's right with the world."

"The pure commandment of God enlightens the eye." There is no tampering with the commandment of God by man. As a result, those who obey are given a spiritual insight by which they may abstain from the wrong and impure.

"Fear" in the Old Testament means reverential trust, with hatred of evil. Such hatred for evil on the part of Jehovah "cleanses" forever the believer as He probes the soul of man, riding him of defilement.

"God's judgments, or judicial requirements, are true," meaning they are firm and just. This last of our list reveals the righteous character of all God's ordinances in the walk of life. God does not demand too much or too little. He has a standard of justice which He faithfully maintains toward us and which He requires that we hold toward our fellowman.

## Serving Quality of God's Word

The Word of God is as a clear, perfectly cut glass, which reflects man as he actually is in all his sins, errors, and faults. David saw himself, his ignorance, and lack of understanding; face to face with the Law of God, David's soul was bared in all its fault and disobedience. He realized that knowledge of the Word of God, and power through personal faith, would cleanse and preserve his soul. God's Word is "powerful, quick, and sharper than a two-edged sword," and while it reveals, it also brings man to Him who is

able to forgive and redeem. David prayed God to acquit him from future sins, particularly presumptuous sins.

The psalm closes with the beautiful prayer, acknowledging God as strength and Redeemer, and with a desire that his words and thoughts might be acceptable to God.

## Practical Guidance from the Word of God

In Psalm 119 the first eight verses tell of the happiness of one who keeps the Word of God. The central theme of this long psalm is the practical help and guidance one has who studies and keeps the Law of God. Again, the Law of God is spoken of by several names: Law, word, promise, commandments, statutes, judgments, precepts, testimonies, and ways. These verses exalt God's Word as a guide for all experiences of life. The Psalmist had tested it and had been made happy in walking uprightly, keeping the standards of God, and seeking Him with a loving heart. He knew God had the power to keep the faltering feet of mere man from disobedience and he prayed that God keep him and never forsake him. That is what our Lord does for us, He never forsakes us. The Word of God points the way of righteous living. "The Bible keeps us from sin; sin keeps us from the Bible.

—OOO—

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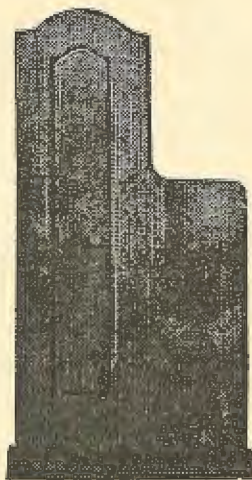
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