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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 56

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, JANUARY 3, 1957

NUMBER 1



H. Armstrong Roberts

NORTH LITTLE ROCK
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pride, Pretense, Prejudice, Pleasure Heartbreaking Burden of the World

By DR. J. HAROLD SMITH, *Pastor*
First Church, Ft. Smith

A few days ago a business man in Kansas City registered at one of the local hotels, wrote a brief note to his business partner, and then ended his own life. He was a business failure. We all have seen financial failures, social failures, physical failures, and religious failures. No one admires a failure!

As Arkansas Baptists are we failures? Are we failing to reach the thousands in our beloved State that will soon stand before God to give an account of their soul? Nearly two hundred Baptist churches, representing 12,000 Arkansas Baptists, failed to reach one soul last year. Why did these churches and these Baptists fail?

We now demand glamour and fast flowing dramatic action. We are a generation of Christians reared among push buttons and automatic machines and we are impatient with slower and less direct methods of reaching our goals. We have been trying to apply machine age methods of reaching lost souls. We read one chapter, have our short devotionals and rush away, hoping to make up for our deep inward bankruptcy by attending another gospel meeting or listening to another thrilling story told by a religious adventurer lately returned from afar.

Results Are Tragic

The tragic results of this spirit are all about us. Shallow lives, stingy spirits, sluggish souls, hollow religious philosophies, the preponderance of the element of fun in gospel meetings, the glorification of men, trust in religious externalities, false fellowships, salesmanship methods, the mistaking of dynamic personality for the power of the Holy Ghost; these and such as these are the symptoms of an evil disease that brings slow but sure death to our soul-winning program.

Forced Out of New England, Baptists Thrive in Carolina

SOMERTON, South Carolina, 1685 (BP)—Maine Baptists who found religious persecution harder to endure than the New England winters have found a more favorable environment here and have established a flourishing church.

Pastor William Screven brought his Baptist congregation to South Carolina two years ago from Kittery, Maine. The group was forced out of New England by persecution and hostility.

The First Baptist Church of Kittery moved here in a body, seeking the religious freedom they were denied in Maine. The immigrants pushed into the menacing wilderness to settle here near the forks of the Cooper and Ashley rivers, not far from the village of Charleston. Screven named the settlement after his old home in England.

Charleston itself was only six years old when the Baptists arrived, and they found life harsh on the primitive frontier. But these zealots were glad to forego the niceties of life in exchange for the climate of liberty which Baptists must have to thrive.

Soon after their arrival, the Maine Baptists were joined by another group of immigrants fleeing religious persecution. They were Dissenters from Somersetshire, England, led by Humphrey Blake, member of a prominent English family.

The Dissenters had faced bitter persecution in England. They fled to escape even

For this great sickness that is upon us no one person is responsible, and no Christian is wholly free from blame. We have all contributed, directly or indirectly, to this sad state of affairs. We have been too blind to



see, or too timid to speak out, or too self-satisfied to desire anything better than the average diet with which others appear satisfied. We have accepted one another's notions, copied one another's lives, and made one another's experiences the model for our own.

Much of our failure in soul-winning stems from our unwillingness to take God as He is and adjust our lives accordingly. We insist upon trying to modify Him and to bring Him nearer to our own image. The flesh whimpers against the rigor of God's inexorable sentence and begs like Agag for a little mercy, a little indulgence of its carnal ways. To compromise with the flesh is certain failure in soul-winning.

more intolerable conditions, however, which were anticipated as Catholics threatened to gain in power.

The nonconformists from England found in the Baptists from Maine congenial company. Moreover, they discovered in their new pastor, Screven, a former neighbor. The minister's early home was in Somersetshire.

Screven made a brave attempt to organize a Baptist church in Maine but was forced out after a long struggle. He went to Boston in 1682 to be ordained and returned to find Baptists in Kittery being fined five shillings every time they attended a Baptist service.

That year Screven was arrested three times for preaching Baptist doctrines in Maine and otherwise opposing the state church. The following year the preacher and his congregation left for South Carolina and freedom, anticipating as did their friends from England that their plight would only grow worse in the land they left behind.

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Southern Baptist Convention

—17th Century Baptist Press
—00—

If God's light is shining in you, it will be sure to be seen by somebody who is traveling in the dark.

—00—

A great deal of what we see depends upon what we are looking for.

—Copied

The heart of the world is breaking under the load of pride, pretense, prejudices, and pleasure. There is no release from these burdens apart from the blood of Jesus Christ.

Evangelistic Conference January 21-23

January 21-23 has been designated as our Evangelistic Conference in Little Rock. God grant that this Conference will be the greatest time of spiritual refreshing ever experienced by the pastors of our state. In Dr. I. L. Yearby we have the greatest Secretary of Evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention. In following his leadership we can do the job of soul-winning that should be done by our more than eleven hundred Baptist churches. (See page 14.)

Every age has its own characteristics. Right now we are in an age of religious complexity. The simplicity which is in Christ is rarely found among us. In its stead are programs, methods, organizations, and a world of nervous activities which occupy time and attention but can never satisfy the longing of the heart. The shallowness of our inner repentance, the hollowness of our worship, and the servile imitation of the world has made the church favorable in the eyes of many but a failure in soul-winning before the eyes of God.

Jesus Saw Individuals Needing a Saviour

No man ever looked at crowds more discerningly than Jesus. Matthew said in Matthew 9:36, "When He saw the multitudes He had compassion on them." The politician, seeing the multitudes, may think of them as voters; a merchant may think of them as customers; a general may think of them as soldiers; Jesus saw them as sinners, lost sheep, wanderers, needing a Saviour, a Shepherd, and a Guide.

He saw them as individuals. Jesus never lost sight of the man in the mass. He saw the need of a race only as the needs of individuals multiplied. His plan for the redemption of a race began with His plan to redeem an individual.

When Arkansas Baptists see the great multitudes in our State as lost individuals than we shall go forth as individuals winning them one by one for our Lord.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Official Publication of the Arkansas Baptist
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MRS. HOMER D. MYERS ED. ASST.

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Happy New Year —

An Old Religious Custom

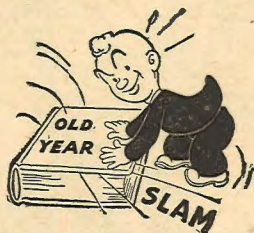
By MRS. HOMER D. MYERS

I didn't know our celebration of the new year was an old religious custom, let's say about 4,000 years old. Did you? I'm sure our preachers and theologians knew it — but they never told me! I have just assumed that New Year observances were as modern, and as American, as the Fourth of July. It isn't that I haven't read Exodus 12:1-14 several dozen times, I just didn't grasp that part of the message. Recently, I was browsing through some old notes and suddenly there it stood in the title of a sermon — big as life and twice as thrilling.

God set up the New Year in the days of Moses, when Israel was about to be delivered from Egyptian bondage after four hundred years of servitude. He also instituted the Passover supper which the Jews were to observe at the same time each new year, in commemoration of the new life God gave them when He freed them from Egypt. It marked a new beginning for Israel, an entirely new life and new era for God's people. From that beginning anew they became the most prosperous nation in ancient history. They were also commanded to keep that religious holiday season throughout their generations, and many of them still do.

So we assume that many people have celebrated the New Year for centuries. It is the psychological time to attempt a fresh start; to turn our backs on the failures and disappointments of the past and face up to the future. It challenges us to put forth a better effort in the coming year, in all areas of life than we have in the past. Many people make New Year's resolutions. They resolve to give up this bad habit or that. They resolve to do better along certain lines, according to their personal need. We joke a good deal about how soon those resolutions are broken, but the effort is, not in vain. It is never evil to take the time and thought to search

our hearts to see if all is well within; to examine our lives to see if all is well without; to constantly strive to improve our conduct



by renewed spiritual strength, which comes by heart-searching, prayer and Bible study.

The New Year is the logical time to take stock of our resources and plan anew to expend our talents and abilities and possessions in a more definite way for the glory of God.

Future Offers a Brand New Way

Moses led Israel to the Jordan river. He died and Israel became Joshua's problem. The first step in his career was to lead them over Jordan. To prepare them for that occasion Joshua said:

"Ye have not passed this way heretofore . . . Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

Just across that river was their new home, rich in resources, "flowing with milk and honey." Their opportunities were as unlimited as the heavens. And their responsibilities were as great as their opportunities were unlimited. Their first responsibility was to cross the river, at flood stage I believe we are told. Then drive out the enemies; conquer their foes; take possession for God. God would lead them, protect them, help

them win their battles. But certain decisions were theirs to make. The new way lay before them. But they must desire progress. It was their responsibility to move forward. And they must dedicate themselves if the Lord worked His wonders among them.

So we, too, enter a new year, very possibly a new era, with territory unlimited for evangelism, mission work, and Christian service. The opportunities are at hand. Israel's opportunities didn't compare with ours. But dedicated lives are a must if success is to be accomplished. "Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow. . ." The Lord is ready — are we?

As we begin a new year why don't we get personal with ourselves and ask self a few questions. What am I looking for in 1957? Are my expectations in tune with the will of God? Are my desires for the present and hopes for the future well pleasing to Him? As an individual, as a Christian, as a church member, is there some door of service I can unlock in this coming year? Individuals are prone to feel insignificant but every worthwhile thing in life is begun by an individual — isn't it?

Christianity is propagated by individual Christians. Christian progress around the world and at home waits upon Christian church members first, then dedicated congregations, to get the vision of the greatness of their possibilities.

What are you looking for in 1957? Abraham had the long vision; he looked for a city to come, whose builder and maker is God. Jesus looked for a kingdom of righteousness and He pioneered for it. The early church looked for converts. Our missionaries and leaders are looking for more and better opportunities to launch out into new territory for the Lord. Our pastors are looking for consecrated workers to go forward with Christ.

We may or may not get all we are looking for in 1957. But we'll go farther and accomplish more if we enter the new year with hope, optimism and confidence in the goodness of God.

And may the new year be filled with good health, happiness and prosperity for Arkansas Baptists from now to the end of it.

Surveys! Surveys!

By DUKE K. MCCALL

Anybody who thinks Southern Baptists are not self critical can get that idea out of his mind by making a survey of the number of surveys now in progress within our fellowship. To my knowledge not a single objection has been raised to the proposal of any kind of survey. This is in keeping with our Baptist conviction that the entire operation of every organization and agency should be open to public scrutiny and that decisions ought to be made on the basis of accurate information.

Of course the accuracy of any survey is determined by the competence of the people who make it. One of the most encouraging trends is in the direction of the naming of the ablest men among us to make surveys and, in turn, their employment of experts to assist them.

Following Are Basic Principles

I am in favor of these surveys and only hope that the committees appointed will have both the financial resources and the time and the energy and the motivation to do a thorough job before venturing any reports.

Nobody asked me, but I think the following are basic principles for any survey. First, it is important to tie our agencies together by making them directly responsible to the churches, not to another agency. The more

communication between the agencies and the churches is filtered through some intermediary, the further the agencies will get away from the people. Let us not, under the prodding of a misguided search for efficiency, move in that direction.

Second, Baptist individualism flowers in a certain variety of emphases within similar agencies. Uniformity is to be avoided and not sought.

Third, while we will avoid the effort to get one plant by tying the bushes together at the top, there does need to be correlation between the programs of all Baptist agencies. I refer specifically to communication between the seminaries and the colleges. Yet, in the area of theological education the seminaries cannot operate without the colleges, and the colleges cannot complete their responsibility without the seminaries.

Should Avoid Duplication

Fourth, every effort should be made to avoid duplication of responsibilities. I am opposed to the proposal that the Home Mission Board should take a large place in the field of theological education by assuming responsibility for those ministers of limited academic preparation. This is a responsibility which belongs to educational institutions,

i. e., the colleges and seminaries. Efforts are being made by both the colleges and the seminaries to meet this responsibility through extension as well as correspondence programs.

By the same token I think it is sheer nonsense to talk about educational institutions as though their primary purpose were identical with that of the Home Mission Board. Just as the Home Mission Board ought to stay out of the field of theological education, so seminaries ought to stay out of the field of home missions. Let us use the proper instrument for the task before us and not undertake as it were, to plow with a toothpick. This is written during World Mission Week on Southern Seminary campus, so let no one take the above statement to mean that seminaries are unconcerned with home and foreign missions, but this concern necessarily is that of an educational institution and not a mission board.

Fifth, at both the college and seminary level Southern Baptists need to recognize the validity of generally accepted academic standards and move all of their institutions in the direction of conformity to the highest of such standards. We need better schools today to make better ministers of the gospel in every place of service tomorrow. It will be tragic unless the powerful evangelists amongst us preach "the truth" and not some private notions from provincial perspectives.

—The Tie

Kingdom Progress

Arkansan Receives Certificate From Seminary Extension Department



L. J. READY

L. J. Ready of Eudora received his Certificate of Pastoral Training from the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Seminaries in Jackson, Mississippi.

According to Dr. Lee Gallman, director of the Extension Department, this is the second certificate in Pastoral Training that has ever been awarded for correspondence study.

Mr. Ready, who for twelve years has been pastor of New Hope Church near Eudora, has maintained a straight "A" average throughout the entire course.

S. S. Lesson Available On Tape Recording

Dr. Kyle M. Yates, author, lecturer, and Distinguished Professor of the Bible at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, will transcribe the International Sunday School lessons by tape recording for convention-wide distribution to Southern Baptist churches in 1957, it was announced today.

The Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission which will produce and distribute the tapes at cost to church personnel, also will make the lessons available to radio stations, according to Paul M. Stevens, Commission director.

Tapes of the Sunday school lessons for the first quarter of 1957 are available now upon request from the Commission, P. O. Box 12157, Fort Worth 16, Texas. Cost for the 13 lessons on two tapes is \$4, or \$2 apiece.

Beirne Church Builds Parsonage

The Beirne Church, Red River Asso., has voted to build a parsonage. The building is scheduled to start in the spring and the estimated cost is \$5,200, Pastor Harold Wilson has announced.

Mr. Wilson has been pastor of the church for 30 months. He is a religion major from Pine Bluff. He will be a junior at semester.

The financial committee consists of J. E. Cox, Sr., chairman, S. B. Shepperd, Charles Shaver, Jack Shaver, George Smith, Mrs. Lloyd Dodwell, Mrs. Q. D. Windham, Mrs. R. L. Cummings, and Mrs. Charles McEl-duff.

Ft. Smith Pastor



LYNWOOD HENDERSON

Lynwood Henderson has resigned the pastorate of Antioch Church, Central Association, to accept the call of Eastside Church, Fort Smith, effective December 30.

Mr. Henderson was with the Antioch church for 25 months. During this time he commuted to Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, to complete the requirements for the B. A. degree which he received last June.

Under Pastor Henderson's leadership the Antioch Church expanded the Sunday school organization from a class Sunday school to a partially departmentized organization, with the pastor's home being used to house a young people-intermediate department.

The membership increased by approximately 100, with 53 additions by baptism.

The church has not been able to meet the need of additional educational space because they owned no property on which to build. In recent months the church purchased property adjoining the present property, which makes it possible for the church to build any size structure and still have adequate space for recreational purposes.

Last year the Antioch Church voted to give 11 per cent of the total income to the Cooperative Program. During the year total gifts increased 25 per cent.

"M" Night Attendance Will Reach Goal

Reports from 747 Baptist Training Union associations throughout the Southern Baptist Convention indicate that total attendance at "M" Night will go above the goal of 450,000.

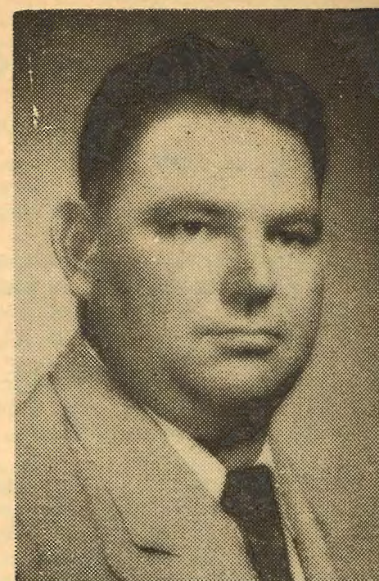
R. Maines Rawls, director of associational work in the Training Union Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said that reporting associations show that 382,697 persons attended this special Training Union night in Baptist churches, with 203 associations yet to report.

"M" Night is designed to present the Baptist Training Union program for 1957 for Southern Baptist Churches. Most of the meetings were held December 3, which was the scheduled date for the observance. A number of associations will hold "M" Night meetings within the next ten days, after which final reports will be made.

To date Georgia leads in total attendance, with 75,176 persons attending "M" Night. Incomplete reports show Alabama came second, with 37,421 attending.

Last year's total attendance was 382,946 persons from 931 associations.

Springdale Pastor



OSCAR C. HILL

Oscar C. Hill is the new pastor of Caudle Avenue Church, Springdale. He comes to this church from New Zion Baptist Church, Ector, Texas.

Mr. Hill is a native of Pittsburg, Texas. He served in the Navy for nine years during World War II. He is a graduate of East Texas State Teachers College and Southwestern Seminary. He was married in February, 1951, to Miss Doris Busby of Dallas, Texas. They have twin daughters, Annette and Jeanette, age 2½ years, and a son, Oscar III, who is 16 months old.

McCormick Seminary Buys Dead Sea Scroll Fragments

McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago has purchased nine Dead Sea Scroll fragments for \$6,000.

The funds were provided by C. F. Rehnberg, president of the Nutrilite Foundation, Buena Park, Calif., and his wife.

Dr. Floyd V. Filson, the seminary's acting president, said the purchase was made from Bedouins through the agency of the Jordan Government. The manuscripts were found by tribesmen in Cave IV, Qumran, on the northwestern edge of the Dead Sea.

The manuscripts will remain in the Palestine Archeological Museum for study and editing and be released to the seminary after publication.

Eight of the manuscripts are written on leather. They include a manuscript of Jeremiah, dating probably from the end of the Second Century, B. C., the only known Hebrew manuscript representing the shorter text used by the translators of the ancient Greek version of Jeremiah.

There are two manuscripts from the Book of Daniel. The oldest, extremely fragmentary, dates from the close of the Second Century, B. C., and probably was written not much more than 50 years after the original work.

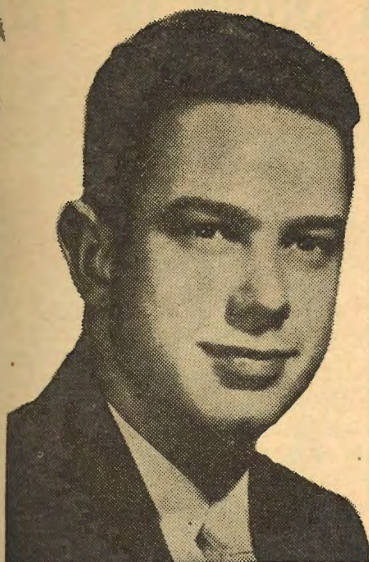
A manuscript of Ecclesiastes dates around 150 B. C.

The other leather documents are non-Biblical, sectarian manuscripts identified as a paraphrase of Genesis, an Essene liturgy, a hymnic work, and a wisdom writing.

In addition to the leather documents, there is a papyrus scroll containing part of a previously unknown apocalyptic work resembling the Book of Daniel in type.

—Religious News Service

Joins Staff, Decatur, First



DALE JONES

Dale Jones has accepted the position of minister of music and youth director with First Church, Decatur.

Mr. Jones is a junior in the University of Arkansas. He is a resident of Mena.

News From Hope Association

"M" Night attendance was 688 with 23 churches represented and 19 pastors present. Immanuel Church, Magnolia, had called Major Lewis of Canfield as pastor.

A. V. Smith Jr., pastor at Tennessee, did the preaching in a recent revival meeting at Mandeville which resulted in three additions by baptism and two by letter. Phillip is pastor at Mandeville.

Guernsey had the services of James Hunt in a revival meeting recently. There were 8 additions by baptism and 4 by letter. Hershall Williams is the pastor.

—M. T. McGregor,
Associational Missionary

Want to Write TV Drama?

Have you ever read a story or watched a television drama and said to yourself: "What a story. I could do better than that!"

Well, chances are you could. And here's your chance to test your writing ability.

A Television Script Writing Contest is now being conducted by the Radio Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Any Southern Baptist is eligible to enter and any number of plots can be submitted. Deadline for mailing entries is March 30, 1957.

Purpose of the contest is to capitalize on the ideas and experiences of Southern Baptists as they can be used to illustrate specific New Testament teachings. Literary skill or technical experience is not needed. Just write a story as if it were being told to a friend.

Winner of the contest will be given a prize in money, his or her name will appear in the screen credits on the film if it is used.

For further information regarding the rules of the contest and for detailed suggestions, write:

TV Script Contest
P. O. Box 12157
Fort Worth 16, Texas.

Cowden to Humnoke

T. S. Cowden has accepted the mission sponsored by Lonoke Association at Humnoke. His first Sunday on the field was December 9. Mr. and Mrs. Cowden live in Little Rock at present.

Groundbreaking Service



Groundbreaking services were held Sunday afternoon, November 18, by Brown Chapel Church, Greene County Association, for a new pastor's home.

In the forefront of the picture is H. W. Johnston, associational missionary, Pastor Steve Sturdivant, and Sherman McDaniel, the oldest member of the church. After a brief devotion by Missionary Johnston, the first spade of earth was turned by Mr. McDaniel and Pastor Sturdivant.

Upon completion the \$12,000 parsonage will have nine rooms and will be modern in every respect.

Pastor Sturdivant is a student in the seminary of Southern Baptist College.

News From Mt. Zion Association

"M" Night attendance went over the goal of 678 with 749 registrations. Twenty-nine of the thirty churches were represented. Vernon Yarbrough was the principal speaker. The meeting was held at First Church, Jonesboro.

There were 280 present for the first quarterly associational Training Union meeting, which was held at First Church, Jonesboro, November 19. There were conferences for all age groups as well as for workers of all age groups. John Basinger, pastor of Lake City Church, delivered the message.

Alsop Mission, which for the past five years has been sponsored by First Church, Bay, was organized into a church Sunday afternoon, December 9, the new church was constituted with twenty-eight members. Arthur Simpson, who has been serving as mission pastor, was elected pastor. R. Wilbur Herring, pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro, served as moderator; Max Taylor, Bay, served as clerk; R. D. Harrington, Nettleton, conducted the examination; Carl Bunch, associational missionary, delivered the sermon.

Strawfloor Church, Jonesboro, is adding educational rooms. Charles Berry was recently called as pastor.

Other pastors who have come to Mt. Zion Association recently are: J. O. Miles, Brookland; Huston Austin, Egypt; Earnest Tosh, Hickory Ridge; John Basinger, Lake City; J. W. Gibbs, Lunsford; Jack Parchman, New Hope, Jonesboro; John Garland, Childress. The Childress Church transferred from Green County Association at the annual association meeting.

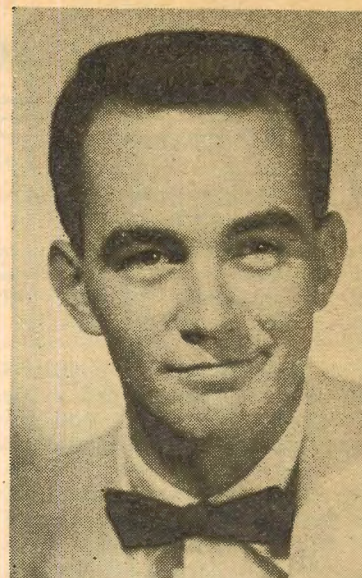
Bill Holcomb has resigned the pastorate of Rowe's Chapel Church to accept the First Church, Holcomb, Missouri. Clifford Cook has resigned Bethabara Church and moved to Illinois.

Associational Missionary Carl Bunch has recently moved to 920 W. Washington, Jonesboro. This property, which has been purchased by the association, was formerly the parsonage of First Church, Jonesboro.

First Church, Jonesboro, has purchased property at 629 W. Matthews for their new parsonage. C. Z. Holland is pastor.

—Carl Bunch, Associational Missionary

Minister Ordained



PERRY BLOUNT

First Church, Sylvan Hills, ordained Perry D. Blount to the gospel ministry Sunday evening, December 16. The pastor, Walter Hill, presented the Bible and gave the charge. O. C. Robinson delivered the ordination sermon. Don Corley examined the candidate.

Mr. Blount is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Blount of Sylvan Hills. He is a graduate of the North Little Rock High School, and a Junior at Ouachita College. His wife is the former Pat Teeter of Tillar. She is teaching in the Malvern High School, where the couple resides.

Southwestern Seminary To Have Music Workshop

The fifth annual Texas Baptist Leadership Clinic and Church Music Workshop will be held at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, February 4-8.

The meeting will be sponsored jointly by the Church Music Department of the Texas Baptist General Convention, and Southwestern Seminary.

Personalities for the clinic-workshop will include Mrs. Haskel Boyter, elementary choir specialist; Noble Cain, choral conductor and composer; W. J. Reynolds, Church Music Department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; and the faculty of Southwestern's School of Music.

Special features will include the demonstration of television and radio techniques by R. Paul Green and the Baptist Hour Choir, assisted by the station engineers of the Radio and T. V. Commission. Special music will be furnished by the faculty and students, and materials will be exhibited by students and ministers of music.

The Church Music Department is making an urgent appeal for all choir directors and associational music directors to be present.

Registration fee for the worship is \$10.

Arkansan in New Mexico

Groundbreaking services were held recently for the construction of additional educational space for Central Baptist Church, Clovis, New Mexico, where Carl Scott, former associational missionary in Faulkner County Association, is pastor.

The building will be 75 x 38. The contract price is approximately \$42,000. It will provide space for an attendance of 1,000.

★ ★ ★ Christian Horizons ★ ★ ★

By Religious News Service

White House Bars Sale of 'Inaugural' Decanters

Religious and temperance leaders praised the White House for asking that President Eisenhower's name and picture be withdrawn from souvenir inaugural decanters of whiskey.

Gerald D. Morgan, special counsel to the President, disclosed that he had written the Mr. Boston Distillers, Inc., of Boston, Mass., requesting them to withdraw the souvenir whiskey bottles from sale.

A White House spokesman, when informed of the souvenir whiskey bottles, said the President did not know of them and had not given permission for the use of his name or picture on the decanters.

Oklahoma Religious Groups Plan Homes for Aged

Two denominational groups in Oklahoma have announced plans for retirement homes at Perry and Hugo, and later at Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma-Arkansas Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. approved a building to cost around \$175,000 to provide residence homes for aged people.

The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma has started a "Golden Age" home at Hugo on a 65-acre site donated by a family there. The project, to cost around \$150,000 when completed, is the first of two such homes being planned in the state. A site has been provided for the second home at Oklahoma City adjacent to a projected new Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Leaders of both groups said the establishment of these homes is in response to needs which are mounting every day with an increased population of aged people who need special care in their later years.

Canadian Lumber Camps To Get Bibles

Three thousand Bibles and New Testaments, printed in more than 30 languages, were presented by the Upper Canada Bible Society in Toronto, to the Shantymen's Association of Canada for distribution in the lumber camps of northern Ontario.

The Shantymen's Association is a non-denominational group formed in 1908 to combat drinking and gambling among the lumberjacks. It has a paid staff of 15 and another 15 part time workers.

For the first time, the Shantymen asked for and received Bibles in Spanish and Portuguese, languages not usually in demand in the chilly regions of northern Ontario.

Magazine Distributor Fined Under 'Pernicious' Literature Law

A magazine distributor in Gary, Ind. was fined \$100 and costs by City Judge A. Marvin Katz for violating an Indiana law forbidding the sale of "pernicious" literature. The law defines pernicious as "highly injurious or destructive in character, deadly, fatal; intending or doing evil."

In rendering his verdict the judge drew a distinction between censorship of the press and action against the distribution of obscene literature.

He said "there can be no argument" over "what is filthy and morally depraving."

Oklahoma Drys Set Local Option Drive

Oklahoma United Drys will launch a campaign for county option on the sale of beer in the state with a mass-meeting in Oklahoma City Jan. 28.

The speaker will be Dr. Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is president of the National Temperance League.

Dr. Stanley B. Niles, executive secretary of the United Drys, said his group expect a "green light" on their petition for a statewide election to decide whether to outlaw the sale of 3.2 beer.

Gov. Raymond Gary, a staunch Baptist and personal dry, has told the United Drys he will call a special election once their petition has met legal requirements — which is expected to be some time after Feb. 1.

Methodists Plan 1958 Week of Evangelism

A nationwide Week of Evangelism will be conducted by The Methodist Church during Lent of 1958 under the theme, "Tell America About Christ."

The observance will be promoted by the Methodist Council of Evangelism.

In preparation for the special week, an announcement said, the council will sponsor a national "religious census" to discover prospective members for the Church.

Find Mennonite Church In Russia 'Broken'

Two delegates of the Mennonite Central Committee who spent three weeks in Russia said that their co-religionists in the Soviet were enjoying more freedom since the death of Joseph Stalin than previously. But they said "the Mennonite Church is broken and its members widely scattered."

They said that Baptist churches of Central Asia have offered hospitality to the Mennonites. Sometimes the Mennonites hold separate services in the Baptist churches, but at other times they simply worship with the Baptists, the churchmen said.

"They eagerly desire Bibles, hymnbooks, and other literature that can now be received in small packages free of duty," the American delegates reported.

Catholic College Bans 'Going Steady'

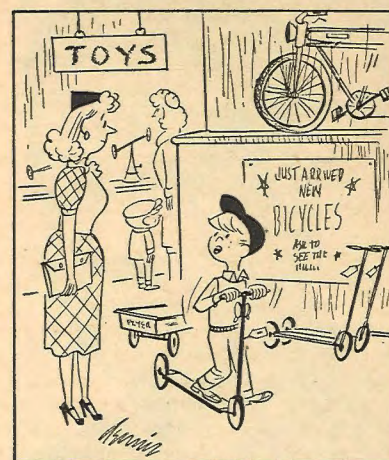
St. Francis College in Loretto, Pa., banned "going steady" as "morally wrong" and warned that students who violate the ban will be expelled.

The ban and the penalty were announced in an order signed by the Rev. Vincent R. Negherbon, T. O. R., the Roman Catholic co-educational institution which has an enrollment of 800, of which 650 are males.

Southern Presbyterians Spent 140 Millions on New Buildings in Decade

A total of about \$140,000,000 has been spent by the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (Southern) for new churches and Sunday school buildings during the last ten years, it was reported to the organizational meeting of the denomination's Council of Church Architecture.

A Smile or Two



"... And someday, the house may catch fire and the phone won't work and the neighbors aren't home and I could ride down to the firehouse and tell them to come put it out."

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The neurotic is one who builds castles in the air. The psychotic is one who lives in them. The psychiatrist is one who collects the rent.

"I suppose you find your position as mayor is quite difficult?"

"Oh yes, you see I have to avoid partiality on the one hand and impartiality on the other."

Looking at the engagement ring he had placed on her finger, he said tenderly:

"Did your girl friends admire it?"

"They did more than that," she replied. "Two of them recognized it."

Prospective Buyer: "Doesn't this stream sometimes overflow the valley?"

Realtor: "Well, sir, I will say it's not one of those sickly creeks that's always confined to its bed."

Swallow your words in time and you won't have to eat them.

The big trouble in joining any organization is that you have to attend all the meetings to protect yourself from being appointed on a committee.

Psychiatrist Dr. Alfred Adler was lecturing on the theory that people with handicaps often specialize on their handicapped function. Thus, people with weak eyes tend to become painters, and so on.

Finishing his lecture, Adler asked for questions. Immediately this one was pitched at him from the back of the auditorium: "Dr. Adler, wouldn't your theory mean that weak-minded people tend to become psychiatrists?"
—A.M.A. Journal

Her ailment is not only chronic but chronic.

"This morning," said the Sunday School teacher, "We are going to study about Ruth, the gleaner. Who can tell me something about Ruth?" Little Willie piped out in a shrill voice: "He cleaned up 60 home runs in one season."

So often it is the case that the first screw to get loose in a person's head is the one that controls the tongue.

News From Baptist Press

SBC Budget Goal Of \$16½ Million Sought

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will ask the 1957 Convention to approve a record-breaking Cooperative Program budget goal of \$16½ million for '58.

This, according to Treasurer Porter Routh, will be about \$3 million greater than 1956 receipts. The goal includes both the distributable portion and the advance portion of the annual budget.

W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., who is chairman of the finance committee of the Executive Committee, recommended the goal.

Routh told the Executive Committee the year's end figure for 1956 will be approximately \$13,233,000. Of this, \$10 million was distributed to all agencies sharing in the budget. After the \$10 million mark, funds have been distributed only to home and foreign missions.

In this phase of budget distribution, known as the Cooperative Program Advance, the Foreign Mission Board receives 75 per cent of funds and the Home Mission Board 25 per cent.

The 1958 proposed budget includes an increase of \$600,000 in the Foreign Mission Board's operating budget and \$500,000 more in the operating budget for the Home Mission Board.

The Foreign Mission Board will receive \$5,685,250 of the \$13 million operating and capital budget of the Convention. The Home Mission Board will get \$1,961,750.

Routh said the advance section of the 1958 budget is expected to be \$3½ million.

The proposed '58 budget also includes a capital needs allocation of \$1,256,433 to Golden Gate Baptist Seminary. It will be used for a new campus. Golden Gate, presently occupying buildings in Berkeley, Calif., is developing its new campus on San Francisco Bay north of San Francisco.

TRUETT'S SON-IN-LAW CLAIMED BY DEATH

Dr. Powhatan W. James, biographer and son-in-law of the late George W. Truett, died in Dallas Dec. 11. He was 76. He was president of Bethel Woman's College, Hopkinsville, Ky., when he retired five years ago and moved to Dallas.

Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., realized a 10-year goal recently when it was admitted to full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities.

Baylor May Undertake International Mission

Baylor University may extend its campus half way around the world to Nigeria through an "ambitious" educational missions program.

One hundred persons met in Waco at the call of Baylor President W. R. White to consider implementation of President Eisenhower's proposal — at Baylor commencement last May — for international educational cooperation.

They accepted sponsorship of a Baptist university in Nigeria as a worthy objective.

The conference also proposed inauguration, on the Waco campus not later than next September, of special courses in literacy and simplified English language for the benefit of foreign students who enroll here.

President White pointed out that the meeting was exploratory only, and its conclusions must be considered by the Baylor administration and trustees at a later date.

Southern and Canadian Baptists Plan to Meet

Southern Baptist Convention leaders and Canadian Baptist leaders will meet in the near future to discuss Southern Baptist home mission work in Canada.

The Southern Baptist Convention will be represented by five from its Executive Committee and a group from the Baptist Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board.

W. J. McDonald, General secretary of Baptist Union of Western Canada; T. B. McDormand, general secretary-treasurer of Baptist Convention of Ontario-Quebec, and Jack McKay, Edmonton, Alta., pastor, will represent Canadian Baptists.

The present home missions policy of Southern Baptists is to have no missions workers in Canada.

Federal Judge Frank Hooper, Atlanta, chairman of the Executive Committee, will appoint the Executive Committee representatives. He will also appoint two other groups to represent the Executive Committee in other matters.

Five from the Executive Committee will meet with the Home Mission Board to discuss the activity of the Home Mission Board's Chaplains Commission. The Home Mission Board requested the study.

Three Executive Committee members will discuss with California Baptists — at California's request — the use of Southern Baptist Convention reserves for church building and loan purposes. The present business and financial plan of the SBC forbids use of reserves for building and loan purposes.

Texas Opposed Hospital Operated By Convention

The executive board, Baptist General Convention of Texas, has voiced opposition to a proposed \$3 million Southern Baptist Convention hospital at Miami, Fla.

The board said such hospitals should be owned and operated by state conventions and local associations of churches, and not by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC gave its first approval to the proposed hospital — or possibly two hospitals under single management — at its last meeting in Kansas City. Two votes are required with the second expected at the 1957 Convention in Chicago.

The Southern Baptist Convention once established a hospital at San Antonio, Tex. This was in 1946 on recommendation of the SBC Hospital Commission.

After a few years however the hospital was transferred to the Baptist General Convention of Texas for control.

Shortly thereafter, at the 1949 Convention in Oklahoma City, Southern Baptists set a policy that "Hospitals should be owned and operated by state conventions and local associations rather than . . . by the Southern Baptist Convention."

The SBC has voted differently in its 1955 and 1956 Conventions. In 1955, it approved a proposed large teaching hospital near Los Angeles, Calif. That proposal never came up for a second vote because Californians could not provide a site for the hospital and a substantial cash "down payment."

Miami Baptist Association recently announced plans for a city-wide campaign to raise funds for the proposed hospital or hospitals. The fund-raising campaign is scheduled early in 1957 in time to report its results to the SBC which convenes May 29.

Texas Baptists Expand Northern Church Help

Texas Baptists will expand their aid to churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin despite charges that they are "invading" American Baptist Convention territory.

Members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board, in a meeting at Dallas, declared that "we will serve that area for the same reason Paul went from Troas to Macedonia. The churches there called us and we will go."

Earlier this year, seven Southern Baptist churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota formed an association. They sent messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and were accepted into the convention as full-fledged members.

An American Baptist leader, Joseph I. Chapman, executive secretary of the Minnesota Convention of American Baptist Churches, called the Texas group's mission efforts in the two-state area "unfortunate".

The BGCT executive board, representing 3,720 churches and 1,463,293 members over the state, took strong exception. It adopted a plan to help the new churches and set forth its sentiments in a lengthy statement.

Board members termed as "imperative" the following actions to be undertaken during the coming year:

1. Securing a pioneer missionary for the Wisconsin-Minnesota area immediately.
2. Making a complete survey of the principle cities in the two states.
3. Making plans to help the out-of-state churches in simultaneous revivals using Texas Baptist helpers the week prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Chicago.
4. Observing periods of planning for Sunday school, Training Union, stewardship, enlargement, and church building beginning next summer.

The Texas board recommended that it and the SBC Home Mission Board share the expense of the new work, 60 per cent to be paid for by Texas. The area would be considered part of the state mission program of Texas Baptists.

The BGCT executive board said in its statement:

"The affiliation of the Wisconsin-Minnesota churches with our convention is effected at their own urgent request. It by no means involves an 'invasion' of American Baptist territory by Southern Baptists.

"The Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention shows the two-state area to be 'southern' as well as 'American' Baptist territory, as described by its article on 'purpose,' to wit: 'To preach the gospel throughout the United States and all the world.

"The Southern Baptist and Texas Baptist attitude toward other Baptist groups where they serve is indicated by a quotation from the Home Mission Board's statement of policy: 'The Home and state mission boards do not solicit or invite Baptist churches already affiliated with some other convention to join our association or conventions. In fact, we prefer that they would not do so.'

"Our intention is to meet needs not otherwise being met. The Home Mission Board, in cooperation with the state (Texas) board seeks to establish new churches in communities and in areas of larger communities where there is no other Baptist church.

"The purpose of Texas Baptists, as shown by their constitution, is to 'awaken and stimulate among the churches the greatest possible activity in evangelism, missions, Christian education and benevolent enterprises'."

Charles Wells Speaking Immanuel, Little Rock January 6-11

We invite you to hear Charles A. Wells, in a series of Conferences on "Christ and World Needs" beginning Sunday morning, January 6, and each evening through Friday, at Immanuel Baptist Church, Tenth and Bishop Street, Little Rock. People from over the state would do well to drive to Little Rock to hear this world traveler, international speaker, and Christian Statesman discuss from first hand knowledge the present world situation in the light of God's Word.

Following is a schedule of his topics:

Sunday, 11 a. m. (Jan. 6): "Will We Learn in Time?"

Sunday, 7:30 p. m.: "Whence Cometh Our Salvation? From the Republicans, the Democrats, the Military, the Capitalists?"

Monday, 7:30: "Which Way Capitalism in the Nuclear Age—Toward Socialism or a Depression? The Christian Answer."

Tuesday, 7:30: "The New Race Pattern from Little Rock to Cairo and Calcutta."

Wednesday, 7:30: "A Protestant Awakening — —or Else."

Thursday, 7:30: "The New Atomic World: Bombs or Abundance."

Friday, 7:30: "How God is Destroying Communism Behind the Iron Curtain."

—W. O. Vaught, Pastor

News From Ouachita

Mr. John Plumlee, co-owner of the Pyron-Plumlee construction company of Hot Springs, recently was elected a member of the Ouachita Baptist College Board of Trustees it was announced by Ralph A. Phelps, president.

Mr. Plumlee filled the vacancy left by Bernes K. Selph, pastor of First Church of Benton, whose six years' eligibility has expired.

Homer B. Reynolds, pastor of the Ross Avenue Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, organized the first English-speaking Baptist Church in South America in Maracaibo, Venezuela. It is believed that this is the first time an English-speaking church on foreign soil has been received into the fellowship of a local Baptist Association in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. The Church was received into the fellowship of the Dallas Baptist Association.

Mr. Reynolds graduated from Ouachita College in 1927.

Lamar Watkins of Columbia, Tenn., and a 1955 graduate of Ouachita, has been added to the faculty as head track coach and assistant football coach.

The onetime Baptist grid and track star will report at the beginning of the spring semester in January.

In addition to football and track, Watkins will instruct gymnastics and head the water safety program upon completion of the Ruth Lamb Memorial swimming pool.

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Missouri, host to the Southern Baptist Convention's 1956 session, had 2,629 messengers registered at Kansas City, of the total 12,254. Texas was second with 1,509, and North Carolina third, with 827. Thirty-one states were represented.

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Love thrives in the face of all hazards, save one—neglect.

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It's not your ability but rather your availability that really counts in the sight of God.

News From Harmony Association

Building News

The Altheimer Church has an educational building under construction.

Lee Memorial has erected the superstructure of their educational building.

The Hardin Church moves toward completion of their educational building.

The Southside Church has voted to build a six room brick veneer home for their educational director.

The Forrest Park Church has launched their building campaign for the erection of their auditorium.

The Hickory Grove Church has voted to add educational space.

The Star City Church had added a new room on their pastor's home. The Yorktown home.

The Linwood Church has completed their pastor's home.

Resignations

Frank Carpenter has resigned as pastor of Plum Bayou Church, where he has served for 18 months.

Clay Hale has resigned as pastor of the New Bethel Church, effective December 23. He has accepted a church in El Dorado.

E. S. Ray has resigned the Greenlee Memorial Church and has accepted the pastorate of the Third Street Church, Arkadelphia. He served the Greenlee Memorial Church more than five years.

New Pastor

Sulphur Springs Church has called Homer Atkins of Fordyce, effective December 23.

Educational Directors Called

Central Church has called Roy Chitwood, a student in Ouachita College, to assist in their music program.

Immanuel Church has called Charles Sharp, a junior in Ouachita College, as education and music director. Mr. Sharp served the First Baptist Church of Hooks, Texas, and in Idabell, Oklahoma, and is a foreign mission volunteer.

Recent Revivals

Altheimer Church had the services of Maurice Norman, of Wake Forrest, North Carolina, which resulted in 11 additions by baptism and 5 by letter.

Southside Church had the services of George Sweeting of Ridgewood, New Jersey. The results were 19 additions by baptism and 4 by letter.

Rison Church had the services of Theo T. James. The meeting resulted in three additions by baptism.

—Amos Greer, Associational Missionary

KLRA, Little Rock, Schedules "Baptist Hour"

Radio Station KLRA, Little Rock, Ark., has scheduled the "Baptist Hour" for weekly broadcast on Sunday at 9:00 p. m. The program began Dec. 23, 1956.

The 30-minute program is a modified worship service, combining gospel music by the Baptist Hour Choir and a message by Dr. Baker James Cauthen of Richmond, Va., in equal portions.

Now carried by more than 400 radio stations in 34 states and numerous foreign territories and countries, the Baptist Hour has an estimated weekly listening audience of 20,000,000.

The Choir is composed of 16 dedicated Christian musicians and is directed by R. Paul Green, one of the outstanding ministers of music in the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Cauthen is executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

KTML, Marked Tree, began the Baptist Hour on Dec. 9.

The Case of Shing Faan Lee

ANDREW M. HALL, Fayetteville

A letter came to Fayetteville in 1954 from a young man in Hong Kong. It was from a 17 year old Baptist boy whose name is Shing Faan Lee. The letter was simple and to the point. His father was a school teacher and a man with very little financial means. Faan wanted an American education. Did we know of some church here in the states who might help him achieve his aims?

We took the letter to our deacons. They suggested that we carry it to the church. The idea caught fire — "let's bring foreign missions home." We agreed to support and care for him for one year. This would include schooling, room, board, and incidentals.

What a wonderful Christian Faan has proved to be. He is one of the most beloved and personable young men at the University of Arkansas. He is in the choir, on the B.S.U. Council, in charge of extension service each Sunday, and is one of the top 15 in the class of electrical engineering.

He was given a job during the summer by one of our deacons. He still works one day a week at good wages, does other odd jobs including baby sitting, and cares for the B.S.U. Center. He is on his own and making wonderful progress. He took an R. A. Chapter and the boys enjoy his leadership.

Faan has two brothers who would love the same opportunity. Some other college church might be interested in a similar project. They are Shing Kwong Lee, 17 and Shing Leung Lee, 16. If interested, you may write to Faan, Baptist Student Center, Fayetteville.

Laymen's Revival

Memorial Church, Hot Springs, recently had the services of a group of laymen from Second Church, Hot Springs, who conducted a weekend revival.

Brotherhood President, Bill Williams, was leader of the group. J. C. Reese directed the music. There were three additions to the church; one by baptism, two by letter.

Any church within 50 or 60 miles of Hot Springs, desiring the services of these laymen for a weekend service may get them by contacting Mr. Bill Williams, Second Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

J. C. Melton is pastor of the Memorial Church.

Hungarian Refugees Join Texas Church

The husband and wife of one of the first Hungarian refugee families to arrive in the southwest recently became members of the Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio.

The family, Mr. and Mrs. Menyherth Mikolas and their three children, were sponsored as refugees by Trinity Church. The congregation arranged for their transportation from Camp Kilmer, N. J., to San Antonio. It also provided housing and will assist the former Budapest merchant in securing suitable employment.

W. Stuart McBirnie, pastor, said the Mikolas family had been active in a Budapest Baptist church. The husband and wife were accepted into the Southern Baptist congregation on statement since securing a church letter would be impossible.

Mikolas's father is a Baptist minister in Hungary.

—Baptist Press

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"Sin is the one destructive force in the world. Nations do not die of old age, but of a bad heart."

—Perry F. Webb

Anabaptism —

A New Look and New Appeal

By JAMES LEO GARRETT
Associate Professor of Theology
Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

Who were the Anabaptists? When and where did they live? What were their teachings? Why were they so often persecuted? What is their significance for Baptists today and for the free churches of the world? One might ask how many Baptists of today could give adequate answers to these questions. The results could be rather embarrassing.

Methodist Appraisal Favors Anabaptism

In 1952 the American Society of Church History published a compact, well-documented volume by an American Methodist, Franklin H. Littell, entitled *The Anabaptist View of the Church: An Introduction to Sectarian Protestantism*. Such books usually have been written by Mennonites, by Baptists, or by Europeans of the Lutheran or Reformed traditions. The book has received favorable attention and is now out of print.

The importance of Littell's book stems largely from the fact that he has made a thorough reexamination of the source material relative to the Anabaptism movement. Persecution resulted in the destruction of much Anabaptist material. Often the existing documents have been neglected, and the hostile writings of Lutherans and Reformed polemicists taken as normative. In the last thirty years significant new source material has been published. There remains the thorny problem of determining how inclusive the term "Anabaptist" or "Rebaptizer" should be. Should it include both the revolutionary and the non-violent groups, both the evangelical biblicists and the spiritualists, (not to be confused with modern Spiritualists who believe in communication with the dead).

From these sources and the complexity of problems connected with the movement Littell has come forth with the thesis that the central idea of the Anabaptists was that of "the fall of the church," that is, of the past fall of Christendom from primitive Christianity and of the prospect of the restitution of primitive Christianity in their own time. This "fall" of the church was dated from the union of church and state under Constantine and Theodosius, if not earlier. From this viewpoint, Littell contends, all the other teachings and practices of the Anabaptists are derivative. These include separation of church and state, believers' baptism instead of infant baptism, a spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Supper, simplicity of life, spiritual government of believers including excommunication, nonresistance, willingness to suffer martyrdom, community of consumption, and the rejection of oaths and civil office.

Modern Significance

Somewhat distinctive of Littell's study is his stress on the fruitage of Anabaptism in the modern world. The existence of such derivative groups as Mennonites and Hutterites is not the sole result of Anabaptism. Indeed often the communal isolation and loyalty to centuries-old customs of such groups have tended to vitiate Anabaptism's principles. Of wider significance as Anabaptism's contribution to the concept of the free church, to religious liberty, and to missions. The concept of the church as a voluntary congregation or association, distinct from the

state-churches or land-churches retained by the major Reformers, has its roots in Anabaptism. Religious liberty, which many have interpreted as a child of the Enlightenment, has its roots here also. Missions as the obligation of every believer was a major Anabaptist theme. One can conjecture whether, if spared systematic persecution, the Anabaptists would have launched the modern Protestant missionary movement in the sixteenth rather than the eighteenth century.

Littell's book is a milestone, if not a watershed, in Anabaptist studies. But what of its practical significance? This writer would presume to suggest that twentieth century Baptists give more attention to the sixteenth century Anabaptists. This greater cognizance of Anabaptism needs to be realized in two spheres.

What We Can Do

Baptist colleges and seminaries would do well to give more attention to the Anabaptist movement. Fifty years ago A. H. Newman and H. C. Vedder, both Baptists, were in the forefront of Anabaptism scholarship. In the intervening half century Baptist historians and theologians have been absorbed with other tasks and have been quick to point out the differences between Anabaptists and modern Baptists so as to refute the theory of an unbroken historical succession of Baptist churches. Today Anabaptist scholarship is for the most part outside Baptist ranks. Can Southern Baptists make a vital contribution to this area? William Jewell College's Huebmaier Collection could well become a locus of such a new interest. Would it not be appropriate for Southern Baptists to have an endowed chair, or even better an endowed center, of Anabaptist studies? This could be related to vital Anabaptist studies done at the International Seminary in Rueschlikon Zuerich, Switzerland. What an investment for Baptists who have material goods of which Anabaptists had so few.

Our churches, in addition to the educational institutions, need to find a new interest in the Anabaptists and their life and principles. This could come by definite study of the movement in Southern Baptist churches. Women's Missionary societies would be stirred by the sacrificial missionary commitment of Anabaptists; Brotherhoods would be challenged by their lay leadership and participation; young people would find Anabaptism a young people's movement of extraordinary consecration and courage. Such an emphasis calls for materials available for use in the churches. To our easy-going Christianity Anabaptism could speak of suffering and martyrdom; to our lessening church discipline it could speak of discipline for the sake of a pure church; to our pride in numbers and in dollars it could speak out of persecution and poverty of qualitative depths.

Who knows but that the Holy Spirit could thereby anoint us for our mission to the twentieth century?

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Young man, my advice to you is that you cultivate an acquaintance with, and a firm belief in, the Holy Scripture; this is your certain interest.

—Benjamin Franklin

New Year's Message From World Alliance

To All our Baptist World Fellowship:

Greetings and good wishes in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May the New Year be a blessed and happy one in your hearts, your homes, and your churches, as we serve together in the work of the Kingdom.

The past year has been a good one in the work of the Alliance. The Executive Committee had a representative and enthusiastic meeting in Washington, D. C., and decided that the next World Congress will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1960. The next World Youth Conference will meet in Toronto, Canada, in 1958.

Your President and Secretaries in the past twelve months have visited our people in more than thirty countries on three continents. Still other lands have been visited by other officers and members of the Executive Committee and additional visits are planned for the new year. *The Baptist World*, our Alliance paper, is to be further enlarged to help our people in every land know more about Baptist work in other countries and conventions.

A heavy emphasis on evangelism will increasingly mark our Baptist activities. In some continents and countries plans are already under way to make 1959 a special period of organized simultaneous evangelistic effort. A Baptist World Alliance Commission on evangelism has been appointed whose main concern will be to stimulate and assist planning and action in this area throughout our Baptist world. It is our hope that 1959 will witness the greatest united evangelistic advance in which Baptists have ever shared in the more than one hundred countries where we are at work. With greater concern and zeal than ever before let us heed our Lord's command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Some of our number serve the Lord in hard and difficult situations. Some are "persecuted for righteousness' sake." Others bear their witness in the face of many obstacles and restrictions. Let us in our daily prayers remember them and all who serve the Lord in spirit and in truth. May God bless us each in our own place of service and all of us in our work together for the Lord Christ and His Eternal Kingdom.

Greetings and good wishes in the name of
Theodore F. Adams, President
Arnold T. Ohrn, General Secretary
Robert S. Denny, Associate Sec'y.
Henry Cook, Acting Associate Secretary in Europe

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425,000 Conversions Sought By SBC in 1957

The Southern Baptist Convention will try to win 425,000 people to Christ in 1957.

Leonard Sanderson of Dallas, secretary of the department of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board, announced the goal which is an all-time high.

It is not unprecedented, however, he indicated. The denomination baptized 416,867 new converts during 1955, slightly less during 1956. Simultaneous evangelistic crusades are credited with bringing about the peak in 1955.

Man of the house: "No wonder it's so hard to save any money. The neighbors are always buying something we can't afford."

When a little bird tells you something, don't repeat it until you find out whether or not the little bird is a cuckoo.

—Baptist Press

Baptistry of First Church, Helena



Mr. Philip H. Best, the artist

First Church at Helena possesses a baptistry painting which is unique among decorations which usually portray the River Jordan or naturalistic waterfalls. It was painted by Mr. Philip H. Best, when he was a member of the church three years ago, in an effort to create something of religious and artistic worth. Several symbols relating to the ordinance of baptism are pictured in a meaningful composition which enhances the ceremony that is so distinctive of our church. The images were selected from statements of Christ, John the Baptist, and other scriptures.

The realistic and abstract symbols are portrayed in brilliant colors which compare to the brightness of stained glass windows. Much of the paint was applied very thick with a palette knife, and this rough surface catches and reflects light in an unusual manner. Most people believe at first that it is a transparent painting illuminated from the back.

While the painting as a whole is brilliant in color, the main objects of the composition — Christ and the symbol of the descending Holy Ghost — are painted with greys. These neutral areas surrounded by brilliant golds and blues take on very subtle and indefinable color values. The features of Christ are almost indistinguishable while the hands are emphasized — hands held in an attitude of blessing the two participants in the act of baptism. In fact, the whole composition was designed with living people in mind: the face and hands of Christ are focused on them, and

the muted greys of the Christ and the Dove are designed to play up the white robes of the people in the water.

At the bottom left of the picture are rocks, represented more or less realistically. As the eye moves upward in the picture, the colors and shapes of these rocks change into throngs of people, which in turn diminish in size and color to merge with the color of the background. John the Baptist stated that God could raise up children unto Abraham out of the rocks. The people also represent people of all the world which Christ commanded His disciples to baptize.

Prominent in the foreground is a seedling, magnified in size, to represent the burial of the old body of the convert and the growth into a new Christian life. Above this and moving back in subtle spacial relationships are three crosses. Near Christ are the tomb and the sepulchre. The central foreground of the painting is the color of water. There are no definite edges of the forms of the water, of the bottom part of the Christ figure, the seedling, and the crosses, but all seem to merge. Near the symbol of the Dove is a branch of the thorn tree, rendered in a flat manner. Covering most of the corner where Mr. Best is standing is a burst of red and yellow fire shapes, the fire of Baptism to which Christ refers. The red of this fire is carried partially over the water, and the blue of the water is carried over the red of the fire.

The top of the painting is quite dark, but this darkness

DOUBLING OUR PREACHING PLACES By 1964

Dr. C. C. Warren, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in his presidential address last year, challenged Southern Baptists to double our preaching places by 1964. This challenge was accepted and all our denominational forces are to help execute the plans. Certainly Arkansas Baptists will want to do their part.

The Conference on Church-Sponsored Missions held in the Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, December 11, under the direction of Dr. L. B. Golden gave great impetus to this movement. Pastors and laymen from various areas of the state were present to hear the messages of men who are specialists in this field. The information and inspiration they received will be incentives to begin doubling the preaching places. "Every church with a mission" should become our goal.

The larger towns in Arkansas are increasing in population year by year. We must not falter in the missionary challenge in them. The Department of Missions is ready to help the churches which are already there in a program of establishing new churches and mission churches.

Below we give the increase in population in ten of our towns from 1940 to 1955.

City	1940 Pop.	1955 Pop.
Blytheville	10,600	18,900
Camden	8,900	16,600
Fayetteville	8,200	19,600
Fort Smith	36,584	56,900
Greater Little Rock	109,000	169,000
Hot Springs	21,300	32,300
Jonesboro	11,700	18,800
Magnolia	4,300	11,000
Pine Bluff	21,300	45,100
West Memphis	3,300	15,776

Department of Missions
C. W. Caldwell, Supt.

grades into light toward the bottom and toward the principle objects. A deep red color is used in many areas which matches the carpets and curtains of the church. The painting is covered except during baptismal services at which time the sanctuary is darkened and the baptistry, which is high above the eye level of the congregation, is flooded with lights. A heavy plate glass partition forms the upper wall of the baptistry, and the water rises on this glass so that the congregation sees the surface of the water from beneath. The waves become alive with all the reflected colors of the painting.

Mr. Best is now a member of the Art Department of the East Tennessee State College in Johnson City. Before studying art at Pratt Institute and Columbia University, he received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music Degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Prior to that he attended Ouachita College in Arkadelphia.

—Rel Gray, Pastor

BIBLE EXHIBIT AT BAPTIST BOARD CREATES INTEREST

Special Bible Week observance, Dec. 4-7, at the Baptist Sunday School Board drew more than 1,600 visitors to the exhibit of old and rare Bibles. A copy of the London Polyglot Bible (1657) containing the text of the Bible in nine languages was one of the 165 old and rare Bibles on display during the observance, which was held over through Dec. 14 to enable those attending the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to see it.

"KNOW HOW" FOR CONDUCTING MEETINGS

Parliamentary Law, by F. H. Kerfoot, first published by the Baptist Sunday School Board October 1, 1936, is still popular with those who need the "know how" for conducting all types of meetings.

Distribution to date on copies of Parliamentary Law total 14,074 copies. A reprint by Broadman Press is now underway — release date, January 3, 1957 — according to H. S. Simpson, manager, Merchandise Control Department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

YOUTH CONQUERING FOR CHRIST

Distribution to date of copies of Youth Conquering for Christ by R. L. Middleton, have reached 12,875, according to H. S. Simpson, manager, Merchandise Control Department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Simpson said a reprint of the book is now underway and will be off the press April 1, 1957.

I Wandered Through the Woods

Today I wandered
Through the woods
And down the pine-strewn path;
I turned to watch the bubbling stream
That seemed to laugh.
The breeze of Autumn
Swept my hair
And stirred in memory
The scent of smoke and pine-knot fire
'Neath lofty tree;
The splash of color
on the leaves
Threw back the setting sun,
And I was made to see again
What God has done.

—Harriet Grant Hall

Dedication is consecration firming its footing and featuring faith.

What is put on the altar is more than a sacrifice; it is a service.

The act of dedication is a defense of what is right, as well as a defiance of what is wrong.

Fourteen Associations Have Completed Their Music Committee Organizations

Fourteen Associations have completed their Music Committee Organizations and they are as follows: Stone-Van Buren-Searcy, Mt. Zion, Trinity, Pulaski Centennial, Central, Caddo River, Buckner, Bartholomew, Ashley, Arkansas Valley, Faulkner, Tri-County and Newton.

SECOND ANNUAL PRIMARY CHOIR FESTIVAL February 9, 1957

The Second Primary Choir Festival will be held in the First Church of Little Rock, February 9, 1957. Guest Director for the festival will be Miss Nettie Lou Crowder, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

Primary Festival Schedule

- 9:30—Registration and Assignment
- 9:55—Welcome to Festival
- 10:00—Rehearsal of All Choirs
- 11:00—Parade of Primary Choirs
- 12:00—Lunch
- 12:30—Rehearsal of Selected Voices
- 1:00—Final Rehearsal
- 1:30—Festival Program

FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

ALL THINGS DIVINE by Mueller; publisher, Edwin H. Morris; Octavo No. 4073.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS by Woodgate; publisher, Carl Fischer; Octavo No. 1759.

EASTER BELL CAROL by Daves; publisher, Harold Flammer; Octavo No. 86101.

WATCHING OVER HIS MANGER BED (x) by Williams; publisher, Harold Flammer; Octavo No. 86116.

GENTLE JESUS (x) by Sheffer; publisher, Broadman Press; Octavo No. MF378.

Hymns from "Baptist Hymnal"
ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KIND — Hymn 3, stanzas 1, 2 and 4.

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY — Hymn 6, Stanza 1.

GENTLE JESUS, MEEK AND MILD — Hymn 510, Stanzas 1 and 2 (x).

THE WISE MAY BRING THEIR LEARNING — Hymn 513, Stanzas 1 and 2, (x).

WITH HAPPY VOICES RINGING — Hymn 507, Stanza 1, (x).

WHEN MORNING GUILDS THE SKIES — Hymn 23, Stanza 1.

ABIDE WITH ME — Hymn 295, Stanza 1.

Songs from "Hymns for Primary Worship"

I WILL SING TO THE LORD — No. 163, (x).

COME WITH HEARTS REJOICING — No. 156.

WE THANK THEE FOR MUSIC — No. 6, (x).

IF WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS — No. 164.

HOSANNA, BE THE CHILDREN'S SONG — No. 90, One Stanza (x).

MEN AND CHILDREN EVERYWHERE — No. 113.



MISS CROWDER

(x) should be taught to a few selected voices. The same voices for all selections.

The Eighth Annual Junior Choir Festival will be held February 16, 1957, in the First Baptist Church of Little Rock. Guest Director will be Mrs. Evelyn Phillips, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Texas.

The Eleventh Annual Youth Choir Festival will be held February 23, 1957 in the First Baptist Church of Little Rock. Guest Director will be Mr. Loren Davidson, Associate Professor of Music, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Advance registration fee of \$2.00 per choir is expected prior to February 1, 1957 for all three festivals. This fee will be deducted from the festival registration fee on date of festival.

General Rules for All Three Festivals

1. Participation in all events will be against a Standard — not against each other.

Ratings will be based on the following:

A — SUPERIOR quality and highly commendable work. B — EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE b minor defects. C — GOOD performance but not outstanding. Shows work and promise but lacks essential qualities.

2. There will be a registration fee of .50c per chorister, soloist, duet, trio, quartet, ensemble, hymn player or song leader.

3. Each choir and ensemble will sing one selection for adjudication. Primary Choirs may sing two selections. All Selections for adjudication should be memorized. Failure to do so will lower rating.

4. Vestments or robes are not required, but neatness and uniformity of choral groups will add to appearance.

5. All participants, including hymn players and song leaders are expected to participate in the

Christianity Spreading in Russia

Christianity is spreading rapidly in Russia, declares Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, general secretary of the 21 million member Baptist World Alliance.

"Christians are prohibited from sending out evangelists and missionaries," he said, "but not a single day passes but that word is received in Russian Baptist headquarters in Moscow of another Baptist church starting somewhere in the country."

He said preachers can only preach in certain officially registered chapels and auditoriums so the Gospel is spread by housewives, engineers, farmers, and workers who have lived in an area where there was a church and then moved to another part of the country.

Dr. Ohrn told of a few Baptist churches which have been started in Siberia by prisoners and former prisoners of the Communist regime.

More than half the Baptists in Europe, which number around 750,000, are behind the Iron Curtain with the 520,000 in Russia representing the largest group, he related.

"None of the Russian Baptist ministers have any formal seminary training, but the Holy Spirit and the Bible are wonderful professors."

A native of Racine County, Wisconsin, Dr. Ohrn first went to Norway when his Baptist preacher-father returned to his native land after studying in the United States.

Dr. Ohrn was the first non-state churchman to take a theological degree from the Univer-

sity of Oslo. He was not awarded the ordinary diploma which contained a recommendation for an office in the state church, but received a special diploma.

He served on the faculty of the Baptist Seminary in Norway from 1918 to 1941 when he assumed the position of general secretary of the Baptist denomination in Norway when it needed a rallying force because of Nazi oppression.

Dr. Ohrn was acting president of the seminary from 1943 until 1948 when he assumed his present position.

Public Relations Office
New Orleans Seminary
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Mrs. James A. Lunsford, Southern Baptist missionary to South Brazil who has been in the States on emergency leave due to the serious illness of a son, has returned to her field of service and may be addressed at Rua Ponte Nova 385, Belo Horizonte, Minas, Brazil. Mr. and Mrs. Lunsford make their permanent American home in Jonesboro.

Because of alcoholism-caused divorces about 744 children each year are deprived of normal homes in North Dakota.

—Clipsheet

Mr. and Mrs. Ross B. Fryer, Jr., Southern Baptist missionaries to Indonesia, announce the birth of a son, Stephen Ross, on November 24. Their address is Djalan Hegarmanah 41, Bandung, Indonesia. Mrs. Fryer, formerly Mary Lynn Baker, is a native of Warren.

Man is responsible to God for becoming what God has made possible for him to become.

Temporary success has caused many long range failures.



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Gas Water Heater No. 3
Will supply all the hot water needed for Baptistries, Church Kitchens, Rest Rooms. Heats 450 GPH. 20" rise in temperature. Inexpensive, too. Write for free folder.
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It's Time To Plan To Attend Your Baptist State Assembly

THEME: Christ For All The World



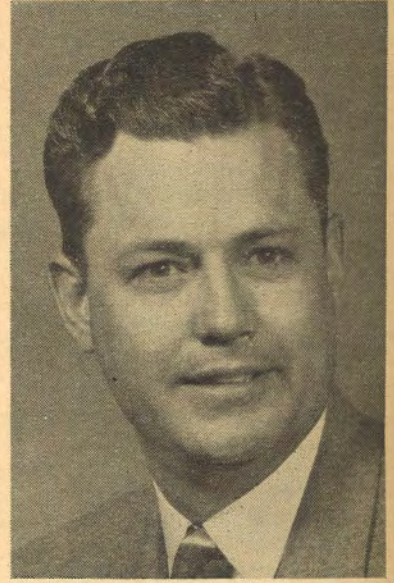
DR. NOLAN HOWINGTON

First Assembly — June 27 — July 2

FOR — Benton County, Black River, Buckner, Buckville, Cad-do River, Clear Creek, Concord, Conway-Perry, Current River, Faulkner, Gainesville, Greene County, Hope, Independence, Liberty, Little Red River, Little River, Mississippi, Mt. Zion, Ouachita, Red River, Stone-Van Buren-Searcy, Washington-Madison, White County, White River, and Woodruff Associations.

Second Assembly — July 4-9

FOR — Arkansas Valley, Ashley County, Bartholomew, Big Creek, Boone County, Carey, Caroline, Carroll County, Centennial, Central, Dardanelle-Russellville, Delta, Harmony, Newton, Pulaski, Rocky Bayou, Tri-County, Trinity and Motor Cities Association.



DR. CHAS. C. BOWLES

Program Personnel

Speakers: Dr. Nolan Howington, First Church, Little Rock, will be the night speaker for the first Assembly. Dr. Charles C. Bowles, Hunter Street Church, Birmingham, Alabama, will be the night speaker for the second Assembly.

Music: LeRoy McClard, Secretary, State Music Department, will have charge of the music aided by three pianists and an organist.

Recreation will be under the direction of Neil (Go-Go-Go) Jackson, Helena.

Dining Hall (Eats) will be supervised by Bill Perkinson, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Reservations should be sent now. Send name, age (if under seventeen), sex and a \$2.00 reservation fee to Edgar Williamson, 314 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Ark.

FULL TIME ASSEMBLY RATES

Registration	_____	\$2.00
Medical and Accident Insurance	_____	.50

FOR THOSE STAYING IN ASSEMBLY OWNED DORMITORIES AND CABINS

Cot, Mattress, All Meals	_____	\$13.00
Children, 5-10 years inclusive	_____	10.00

FOR THOSE STAYING IN CHURCH OWNED DORMITORIES

Cot, Mattress, All Meals	_____	\$11.00
Children, 5-10 years inclusive	_____	8.00

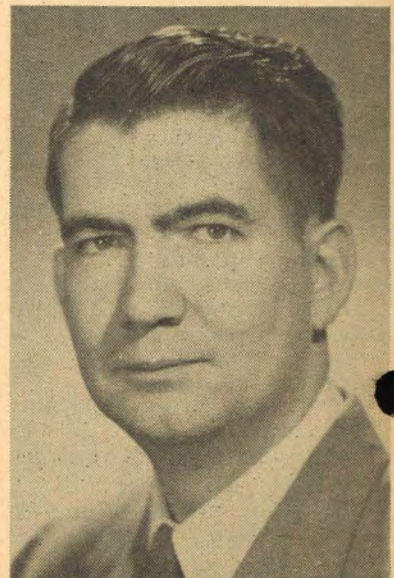
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Children, 5-10 years inclusive	_____	13.50



LeROY McCLARD



DR. CARL GOODSON

Look at America as Reflected in YOUR Life!

Many in America see spiritual destitution as they look at their lives. **Mission Field: USA** is the 1957 home mission study theme. Here is an opportunity to know your United States.

March 4-8 is the date for the Home Mission Week of Prayer. It is suggested that the book, **Home Missions: USA** by Courts Redford be studied in WMS circles in February, March, and April. January has been left open for Mission Study Institutes and intensive preparation by the teachers. Pages 72 and 73 of the **Year Book** give helpful suggestions for presentation and study of the book. Watch for more specific suggestions in the **Royal Service** column for mission study chairmen.

Teaching aids have been prepared to accompany the books in



the graded series. The materials include free materials from the Home Mission Board and priced materials from Baptist Book Stores.

FROM THE HOME MISSION BOARD

(161 Spring St.,
N. W. Atlanta 3, Georgia)

A free teacher's packet containing: map of home mission fields; picture sheet, **World Missions at Home**; and two tracts, **I am Home Missions**, and **Do You Know**, both on total Home Mission Board work. (Please order free materials on a postcard for quicker service.)

Background information and resource stories are available through **Home Missions**, monthly Board magazine. Back copies may not be ordered from the Board. Many people save copies for reference and can be borrowed. Send subscription charge of 50c a year or \$1.00 for three years to Circulation Department, Home Mission Board.

FROM BAPTIST BOOK STORES

THREE COLOR FILMSTRIPS: **World Missions, USA**, for Young people and Adults, \$5.00; **Mission Wonderland**, for Juniors and Intermediates, \$3.50; and **Let's Take a Trip**, for Primaries and Beginners, \$3.50.

PICTURE PACKET, Homeland Children, containing twenty 8 x 10 pictures. Useful with all age groups. 75c each.

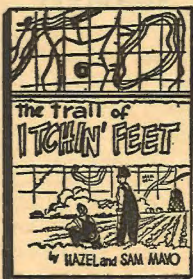
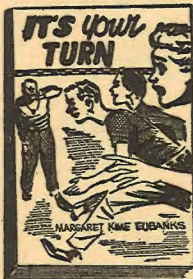
PICTURE POSTCARD, World Missions, USA, presenting people of homeland. Distributed at 25c a dozen or \$1.50 a hundred.

RECORDING, Home Missions Speaks, 20 minutes per side playing time on 33 1-3 speed record. Sale Price \$1.50.

A **TEACHING HELP** for each age group book is available from the Book Stores at 15c each. (The Junior and Primary teaching helps are combined.)

Book titles and authors in the series are:

- Adults, **Home Missions: USA**, by Courts Redford
- Young People, **Twentieth Century Pioneers**, by W. F. Howard
- Intermediates, **The Trail of**



Itchin' Feet, by Hazel and Sam Mayo

Juniors, It's Your Turn, by Margaret Kime Eubanks

Primaries, New Friends for Freddy, by Louise Berge.

*Woman's Missionary Union
Nancy Cooper, Secretary*

Children's Page

God's Wondrous World

By THELMA C. CARTER

Deep-sea treasure hunters once thought the ocean floor was studied with hunks of old sunken ships and perhaps treasure chests. But surprisingly this is not true.

The greater part of the ocean floor is formed of fine red mud made up of shells and millions of small sea creatures constantly dying in the water above. Only a few mud-swallowing sea animals are found on the ocean bottom.

If you were to examine a scoop of mud brought on ship deck, it would look clean, but if warmed by the sun, it would give forth a most offensive smell. Nets dragged for two or three hours over the sea floor usually bring up less than a handful of animals and shells.

The real treasures of the sea, like sponges, coral, pearls, etc., are found near the surface of the ocean.

Like the deep-sea hunter, who looks for treasure on the ocean floor, we look for treasures in life that really don't exist. Our Bible tells us to "Seek ye first



the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

Salvation by faith in Christ is our greatest treasure! The things added are our family, friends, church, health, and above all, our opportunities to grow in our Christian life.

(Is there something about God's Wondrous World you would like to see described in this column? If so please send your suggestions to Baptist Press Syndicate, 127 N. Ninth Ave., Nashville 3, Tenn.)

THE REINDEER

By FREDERICK BREWER

The Reindeer lives in Arctic climes,

Amid the ice and snow;
He is a very useful beast,
As all statistics show.

He pulls and hauls, just like a horse;

His meat to eat is fine,
And, from his hide, are made the clothes

The Lapps hang on the line.
His horns make pipes and fish-hooks too.

And sharp heads for a spear.
In Lapland, wealth is counted by
The numbers of one's deer.

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Students Interested In Mission Work

Fred A. McCaulley, field worker with the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., conducted interviews from December 11 to 13, with students at New Orleans Seminary who are interested in Home Mission work.

Of the 100 or more interviewed, 15 couples expressed a desire for full-time employment with the board, and the remainder discussed the "Tentmakers", a program where the mission volunteer uses free time for mission work while employed at a secular job. Over 50 New Orleans Seminary students were engaged in the program on a part-time basis last year.

The board maintains mission stations in Cuba, Panama, Canal Zone, Alaska, as well as areas of the United States.

HIGH-LEAP FROG

By MARGARET EVELYN SINGLETON

A frog leaped so high once that he
Came down on a nest in a tree,
But the bird was polite
In spite of her fright
And asked him to join her for tea.

(Baptist Press Syndicate, all rights reserved, used by author's permission.)

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Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Major, missionaries to South Brazil, who are now in the States on emergency leave due to the illness of Mrs. Major, announce the birth of a son, Alfred Roy, Jr., on December 5 in New Orleans, La. The address is 4321 Seminary Place, New Orleans. Mrs. Major, formerly Sarah Elizabeth Myatt, is a native of Modoc, Ark.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell E. Ledford, missionary appointees to Peru, are scheduled to return to the States December 21 for several weeks after completion of language school in San Jose, Costa Rica. Their address is 5131 Cantrell Road, Little Rock. Both are natives of Arkansas. Mr. Ledford of Conway and Mrs. Ledford, formerly Shirley Stephan, of Little Rock, where they make their permanent American home.

While North Dakota collected \$4,000,000 in liquor taxes last year, it cost the state \$3,035,000 just for the treatment and maintenance of alcoholics through public welfare assistance, medical, hospital, and institutional care.

—Clipsheet

ANNUAL STATE WIDE EVANGELISTIC CONFERENCE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK

January 21, 22, 23, 1957

Theme: "Ye Are My Witnesses"

This evangelistic conference will be a heart warming, soul stirring, fire kindling, Christ exalting experience.



C. E. AUTREY
Professor of Evangelism
Southwestern Seminary

Dynamic, spiritual, passionate, powerful, Bible preaching and illuminating exposition of the Scriptures, by some of foremost pastors, Bible teachers, and soul winning leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Inspiring spiritual Gospel Music with LeRoy McClard directing.

Who should attend: Pastors, Missionaries, Education and Music Directors, Associational Chairmen of Evangelism, Members of Steering Committees, Evangelism Church Councils, and every other Baptist who is concerned about winning more souls to Christ.



C. E. WILBANKS, Associate
Dept. of Evangelism
Home Mission Board, Dallas

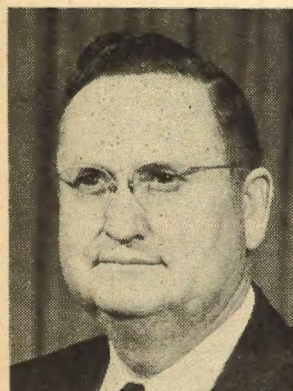
This year, 1957 marks the Tenth Anniversary of the Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism. Glorious results have been achieved.

Let us thank God for past victories in soul winning and dedicate our lives to future soul winning conquests.

Come for a Soul Refreshing Experience.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

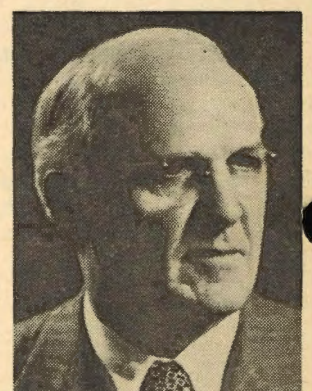
I. L. Yearby, Secretary



J. P. McBETH, Evangelist
DALLAS, TEXAS



JAMES COGGIN, Pastor
First Church, Texarkana



ROBT. G. LEE, Pastor
Bellevue Church, Memphis

Wise Men Seek Jesus

By BURTON A. MILEY

Events about and sayings of Jesus peculiar to Matthew's recording form the foundation for the next sixteen lessons. The series will present a very fine detail of the life and teachings of Christ. A thorough reading and several re-readings of the gospel will be profitable. Some good commentary on Matthew and a harmony of the gospels will enrich the period for the more serious student and teacher.

The fact and presence of Jesus always affected people. There is usually a stir about a new baby but more than a stir attended Jesus' birth. The angels sang at His birth. The shepherds moved in to the site of His birth. Wise men came to do homage. A ferocious, jealous king reacted evilly against His presence. Friends and enemies began to form lines of support and attack immediately.

Bethlehem is about five miles south of Jerusalem. The name means "house of bread". The community bore the name because it was surrounded by grain fields. It is certainly fitting that the "Bread of Life" should have His beginning in Bethlehem. It was a small village in contrast to Jerusalem and a fit place for the birth of a meek king.

THE WISE MEN

Wise men seek Jesus. Some set the example by their acts in the early days of Christ's life. An unusual star in the east was identified with the birth of a king. It is not certain how the star was connected with the Jews. Location of star and literature of the Jews are good possibilities. It was a belief in some quarters that a star was the counterpart of a great man. These unnumbered wise men were busy at their daily tasks when they found the star. The lesson is quickly drawn that faithfulness to duty can give a sharper awareness of truth. When these wise men found Christ, they also found themselves and worshipped Him. Their coming moved the influence of the Christian movement to universal scope. The alien world broke into the birth of Jesus when these foreigners came to pay tribute and homage.

Identity of the wise men is not easy. The Bible neither names nor numbers them. The number three is traditional. They may have been priests in some oriental cult who studied comparative religions and the stars. They were wise in that they attempted to tie in their studies to God's great acts. The fact that they somehow knew of the king of the Jews potential birth is evidence that the world awaited the ministry that God would provide them through his chosen people. Was the alien ahead of the chosen and enlightened in response? These wise

Sunday School Lesson

January 6, 1957

Matthew 2:1-12

men sought nobility through nobility. They properly channeled their request through Herod's office. Surely, Herod would know of another born a King!

King Herod did not know, but he was intensely interested. He inquired from religious leaders where such an event should take place. He revealed this to the wise men in secret council. So far as is known there was no courtesy escort given to the wise men on the last leg of their journey. However, he requested that when they found the king they would return and tell him. This request was futile because the wise men were warned by God to return another way. Herod got no information through the aliens who came from afar.

THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

The number three has been used to designate the Wise Men because three types of gifts were used. Legend and literature have molded public thought to the number three. The gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was life's sustenance. Man used gold to buy the necessities of life. When Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus had to flee into Egypt because of the wrath of Herod this gold would buy their way and support them as displaced persons in a strange land. Frankincense is that which is suitable for a sweet perfume. It has to do with what is on the inside of a man and so represents the heart's secret, the mind's inner recesses. It is symbolic of divinity. Myrrh was an appropriate gift for any king. It was used in embalming and laying away of the precious dead. One does well to note that myrrh was given as a token provision for the embalming of Jesus later when he died upon Calvary. But at this particular time it was given because of the preciousness, the fitness of the gift for a king. These three types of gifts, in whatever abundance they were given, would give from the heathen world the sustenance to the infant Jesus, the symbol of inner thoughts and the preciousness of protection from any decay. The wise men were divinely led by a star and they were divinely dismissed by a dream and returned into their country by another route. It is conjecture to wonder if they told anyone about the baby Jesus or what they did in spreading His news as they went back home. These wise men came out of the darkness and went back into it as far as the Bibli-

cal record is concerned. They are in contrast to the shepherds who "made known abroad" the news of the Saviour's birth. It is up to the one who knows Christ to spread the gospel news. Others may know of Him and even contact Him, but they do not tell others about Him. There is a question whether the wise men actually worshipped in spiritual adoration or whether they paid civil homage or due respect to one that they counted noble. Whatever the motive behind their giving, the gifts were usable and of value.

PRACTICAL LESSONS

Men find God in daily tasks.

The wise men had their first intimation of the unusual infant's birth while about daily tasks. Many times the larger doors open through the plying of the routine of daily responsibilities. One is likely to find out more about God by faithfulness to task than by mere dreaming. Little things that within themselves may seem insignificant have overwhelming values over a period. One should never belittle the "small" Christian service in daily grind for it may be the star that guides someone to the Saviour's presence.

Jesus is to be sought. The wise men sought Jesus out of their alien world. There is no question about God's seeking, "for the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost." Neither is there a question but what man is blessed when he seeks God. Cornelius sought Him and received more of Him. The Psalmist said in 63:1, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee."

Disappointments should not stop one's pursuits. The wise men expected so much more of others than they received that they must have been very disappointed. They thought all Jerusalem would have been agog over the birth of the King. Anybody and everybody would know the time and place. Herod above all would know. Little did they think that the first announcement in Jerusalem would be made by them who came from afar. Did divine providence see the way of safety through the aliens while only revolt and bloodshed would have been the lot if Jerusalem had been informed by Jewish leaders? The wise men received no encouragement from pure motives out

BROADMAN ISSUE 2 MUSIC FILMS

Broadman Films, film-producing agency for the Baptist Sunday School Board, has released recently two new films, one of which encourages church choir membership, and the other is a devotional film on the beauties of nature. Both are available now in the Baptist book stores.

If your church choir needs strengthening, **The Heart That Sings**, tells how to do it in a 22-minute, black and white film that presents a story of the blessings that come by serving in a church choir. Rental, \$6.00.

My Father's World, a 12-minute color motion picture, in a combination of vivid color scenes and appropriate background musical selections of choral and instrumental music, shows a series of related scenes of beauty spots.

Beginning with a series of western mountain and desert scenes illustrating the first stanza of "This Is My Father's World," the film shows rock formations, waterfalls, and streams in Yosemite Park, Calif., giant sequoia redwood trees, the Pacific Ocean, wheatfields during harvest, leaves in autumn, and finally a dramatic look into the Grand Canyon of Arizona. Rental, \$5.00.

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One way to curb juvenile delinquency is to take parents off the streets at night.

In the sight of God, there is no such thing as a forgotten man.

The only power the Devil has in this world is the power to deceive.

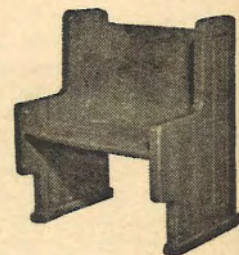
of Jerusalem. They continued their journey despite disappointments until they came to Christ.

.....
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★ Executive Board STATE CONVENTION ★

B. L. Bridges, General Secretary; Ralph Douglas, Associate; 100 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Ark.

The New Church Finance Program Works

In a recent issue of the *Arkansas Baptist*, we reported taking part in a test campaign for the New Church Finance Program of Southern Baptists held in Jackson, Mississippi, October 7-November 4, 1956.

The campaign was under the general direction of Merrill D. Moore, Director of Promotion of the Executive Committee and Porter Routh, Robert J. Hastings and Albert McClellan, all from the Executive Committee office.

The ten churches in the campaign represent a good cross section of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. Some are community churches, others are large city churches. In fact, they range in size from a little country (rural) church, with 110 members, to a large down-town church with 5,200 members.

Worked In Rural Church

Salem Baptist Church is a typical rural church, with an average Sunday School attendance of 80. It is located about 25 miles from Jackson, Mississippi, and up until this campaign, had never made pledges to the church budget.

The pastor and congregation entered wholeheartedly and enthusiastically into the whole program. The 1956 budget was \$4,500, but they pledged \$7,800 during the campaign toward the 1957 budget.

Worked in Large Church

The First Baptist Church, Jackson, is a large down-town church with a dynamic, progressive pastor, Dr. Douglas Hudgins. The church, through the years, has promoted stewardship and has had a financial program comparable to other churches in its position. Yet, the pastor felt that they could do better, so, he and his congregation entered into the Church Finance Program wholeheartedly and enthusiastically. Consequently, they pledged about \$100,000 more for the 1957 budget than they did for the 1956 budget. This year they gave \$60,789.11 through the Cooperative Program, and next year they plan to give \$80,000 through the Cooperative Program.

Worked in Average Churches

The other eight churches, in Jackson, represent the average churches of our Convention. The pastors of these churches can give the same success story.

Almyra and Anderson

Garland Anderson is the new pastor of the Almyra Church. This is a great church and has more in Sunday school than the population of the town is. The church will give 26½ per cent of its receipts in 1957 for the Cooperative Program. This will amount to more than \$5,100. It is not easy to outstep the saints in Almyra and Anderson is a superb leader for them. — B. L. B.

Greenleaf and Elaine

First Church, in Elaine, Nelson Greenleaf, pastor, will give more than \$5,000 during this year for the Cooperative Program. They are on a percentage basis and they have had a marvelous year. In 1957 they will give more for the Cooperative Program. Greenleaf is the most dynamic leader that this church has enjoyed recently. — B. L. B.

Brother Henry M. Crouch, pastor of the Northside Church said, "At Northside we were a little concerned about whether or not we could raise our budget above the figure of last year because in two previous years we had almost doubled our budget, but as a result of this new program, we were thrilled to find that we were able to raise our pledges from \$122,000 to \$170,000 this year. Our number of tithers went up at least one third, and the number of pledges reported were at the 1,200 figure. This thing worked in our church. It certainly was a great victory, particularly on the Sunday in which we pledged. We had our largest number of additions that have come in the history of our church, some 22 on one Sunday, 18 of them by letter and four on profession of faith. These came more as a result of the campaign than they did from the visitation, as such, by the pastor or the staff, because we were so busy with the campaign that we did not actually have a chance to work for additions that Sunday. So, we feel that it gave a special spiritual emphasis that made people commit themselves not only with money, but with their lives."

Just Suppose

Just suppose that you had your membership in a rural church, that never in its his-

tory asked the members to make a pledge, with 1956 receipts of \$4,500. Then, get a vision of what your church could do after a Church Finance Program has been promoted, by looking at the record of the Salem church. They have an average of about 80 in Sunday School per Sunday, yet they pledged a budget of \$7,780 for 1957, with 101 pledgers and 80 of these signed as tithers.

Just suppose that your membership was in a large down-town church where stewardship campaigns had been conducted through the years. Then, look at the record of First Church, Jackson, Mississippi, and decide that you will do your part in getting the Church Finance Program of Southern Baptists used in your church next year.

Suppose that our churches in Arkansas could increase their 1957 pledges 83 per cent over 1956, our total gifts would be \$21,960,000. Suppose those churches gave the same percentage of their budgets through the Cooperative Program in 1957 as they gave this year (1956), our State Budget would be \$2,415,600 instead of the \$1,497,000.

We thought in the beginning that the Church Finance Program of Southern Baptists would be a fine thing. Now, we are convinced that it is the greatest step forward for Southern Baptists, since the adoption of the Cooperative Program.

Here is the record:

Church	Membership	Pledged		% Increase		
		1956	1957	% Increase	Pledgers	Tithers
Jackson, First	5,200	\$259,287	\$369,850	43	30	90
Parkway	2,100	92,438	175,489	96	35	57
Northside	1,309	122,000	170,000	39	42	36
Daniel Memorial	1,291	104,548	128,343	23	29	47
Broadmoor	600	(Did not pledge)	112,000	112,000	689	109
Crestwood	1,524	35,000	80,456	130	130	121
Ridgecrest	453	42,000	84,596	101	94	424
Southside	1,057	16,592	48,051	109	34	48
Hillcrest	432	(Did not pledge)	52,000	52,000	508	336
Salem	262	(Did not pledge)	7,780	7,780	101	80
TOTALS	14,228	\$671,865	\$1,228,565	83%	67%	92%

The total budgets in the campaign were increased from \$924,200 to \$1,307,912 or 52%. The total number of pledges increased 67% from 5,723 to 9,550. The number of tithers increased from 2,806 to 5,395, or 92%. Total pledges last year amounted to \$671,865; and this year the total pledges amounted to \$1,228,565, which was an increase of 83%. Last year the people in the churches pledged to give \$12,920 per week; and this year their pledges amounted to \$23,626 per week. —R. D.

Pipkins and Paragould, Immanuel

Pastor Emmett Pipkins of the Immanuel Church in Paragould announces that in 1957 this new church will give \$1,400 for the Cooperative Program. This is a very new church, but Pipkins is an indomitable leader and his people will follow his fine leadership. This is a noteworthy contribution for missions. — B. L. B.

Mena and Miller

Comes the good word from Mena, First Church. Dillard Miller is the pastor and he is a real leader in the work. They have allocated 16½ per cent of their budget for the Cooperative Program for 1957. This should amount to more than \$5,000 for the Cooperative Program. Thank you Mena and Miller. —B. L. B.

Harold Wilson and Beirne

We have just received an announcement that Pastor Harold Wilson of Beirne will enlist in the Ministers Retirement Plan. This is very fine for a young preacher and we think it is not only good for the preacher, but it shows his spirit of brotherly love and cooperation in the Baptist cause. This young man will go places in the ministry. His church baptized more than twice as many this year as it did last year and the same is true about additions by letter. The pastors salary has been notably increased and missions will be increased 28 per cent over last year. Thank God for our promising young men. — B. L. B.

God's promises are always broader than our prayers.

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