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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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### February 16, 1956

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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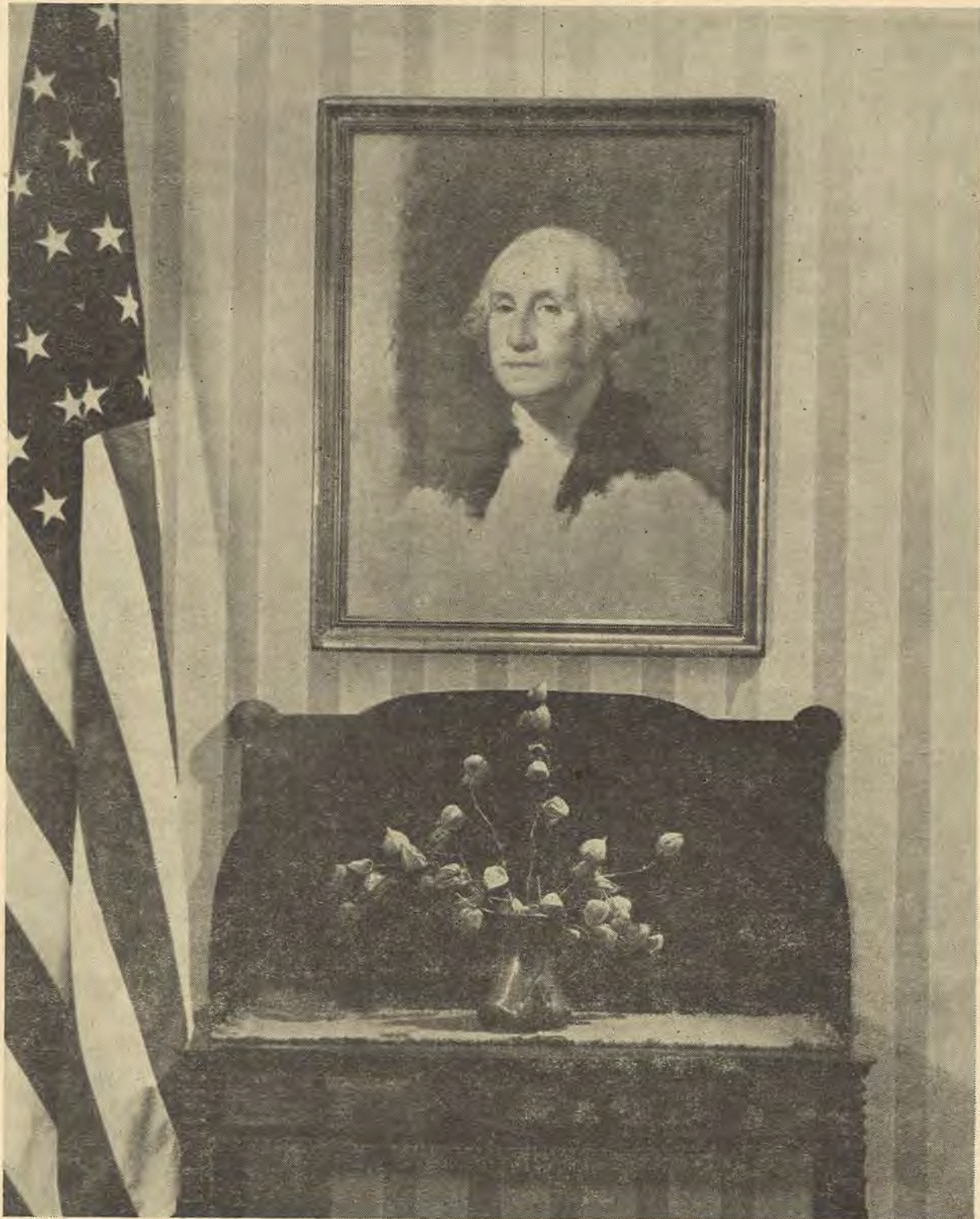
# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 55

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FEBRUARY 16, 1956

NUMBER 7



H. Armstrong Roberts

*George Washington's Birthday, February 22*

## Gird for the Fight

By JOHN J. HURT, JR.

Advocates of separation between Church and State must gird now for the fight to keep the hands of private schools from digging deeper into the public treasury.

Battle lines are being drawn. Private schools have won so many of the battles that they are encouraged with prospects for winning their war. They will be satisfied with nothing less.

The issue becomes immediate in many of the states. Several Southern states propose to aid private schools to avoid mixing whites and Negroes in public schools if and when segregation is lost. Not all are following Georgia in its restriction to keep funds away from religious schools.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference, in the name of the bishops of the United States, contends that non-public schools should share in any aid that is given by the Federal government. Church-related schools would be included.

Their contention is on the premise that all children should share in any aid that would promote their health, welfare and safety. This is but a step toward other participation in tax funds. And, it is but a step toward other tax funds for the Church.

Advocates of separation have not fared well in recent battles against encroachment. Catholic schools now get free textbooks in Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oregon and West Virginia. They get free trans-

portation in 16 states and some transportation in four others.

Parochial schools are religious schools. None dispute that. Give money to them and we had as well give it to the University of Notre Dame. Give money to them and we had as well tax the people for their churches, just as in Spain and other countries where Catholicism is the State religion.

Support private schools with public funds and where do you end? We build government hospitals and so we should build all private hospitals — and we do that with Federal funds for Catholic hospitals. We build public highways so let us build private highways to our garages. We transport students to private schools. Let's transport all people everywhere and at all times.

Silly? Certainly, but no more so than the 208 cardinals, archbishops, and the bishops. They wasted a lot of words talking about the "right to exist" for private education. That is no issue. We agree.

There is but one issue. Must all who pay taxes pay Catholics to teach Catholicism to Catholic children? The immediate issue is just a little broader. Can those who prefer a private school have it at public expense?

Lose this issue and we have lost separation of Church and State. Lose separation and you lose democracy. God forbid.

—The Christian Index

## Peace, Religious Freedom Hoped of New Parliament

LONDON, April 27, 1660 — (BP) — England was freed from the throttling grip of military government and the threat of needless civil war as Parliament reconvened today for the first time since Richard Cromwell's fall last May.

The Parliament was freely elected under the Protection of General George Monck, military leader formerly stationed in Scotland whose army of occupation has restored a semblance of order to this strife-torn land. There is no indication that the military leader intends to establish another reign of force, however.

The future government of England was in doubt as the lawmakers met. General Monck apparently has no designs on the throne. Parliament is believed to strongly favor a return to the monarchy, however.

At the initial session today stinging invectives were hurled at the memory of Cromwell, who was branded as "an odious and perjured tyrant." The murder of the late King Charles I by the Cromwell faction also was roundly denounced.

The new governing body is predominantly Protestant. Those who have raised the mounting cry for religious liberty in England are hopeful that Parliament will enact legislation to insure toleration. In the past England has lost hundreds of immigrants to America who sailed to the new world to seek the freedom of worship they could not find here.

Parliament probably is waiting for its cue from General Monck. He is a man of strength and character who is believed to have the best interests of the country at heart. His course of action in bringing order out of civil strife in England has been unmarked by selfishness.

Although Monck has gained control of England by military force, order hardly could have been restored in any other manner in a country under military government. He is scarcely a dictator and his devotion to order and legality is evidenced in his call for a free Parliament.

Since Cromwell's death a year ago, England has been ruled, and misruled, by a series of military regimes under different divisions of the army. The result has been a steady drifting toward civil war between the regular army and the civilian militia and irregulars.

Monck's army of occupation sided with the civilians, and their mission to gain control of England and the capital was made easy by dissent in the regular army. The ranks reportedly had lost confidence in their leaders and were disgruntled because they had not received back wages.

The country now eagerly awaits the action of Monck's Parliament, hopeful of an orderly government, peace, and greater religious freedom.

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Southern Baptist Convention

17th Century Baptist Press

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Somewhere among the youth of today are minds capable of discovering ways to world peace, ways to deeper and more fulfilling lives, ways to new appreciations of beauty in art or literature or music, just as there have been minds capable of splitting the atom. Ours is the task of breaking the thought barrier which keeps our young people from realizing their creative potentiality.

—Quote

## Love Conquers Sin

A Devotion By The Editor

"He was manifested to take away our sins."

Sin is represented in the Bible as an active, malignant, blighting, death dealing force in human life. Our experience with sin and our observation of its workings confirm the charges brought against it by the Bible. Sin enters the heart of man and contaminates his emotions; it invades his intellect and warps his judgment; it masters the will and determines his decisions and choices; it degrades the physical senses until they hunger for the satisfactions of sinful delights.

John gives us the only remedy that has ever been provided to remove sin from the human heart and life: "He was manifested to take away our sins." The purpose was not merely to curb sin, limit its activities, or even punish its deeds, but to remove it and cleanse the life of its blight. A young man once remarked: "My brother has a sin which only the grace of God can cure." Isn't that the truth concerning every sin? Only the grace of God through Christ can conquer sin in us and free us from its denomination.

This word "manifested" calls attention to our part in becoming free from our sins. Jesus died for our sins, that was a work which He alone could do. He arose for our justification, no one else could do that. He is now at the right hand of God interceding for us, no one else can fill that place. These functions belong exclusively to Him.

But He was manifested, made known, for the purpose of taking away our sins; and He alone can do that. But in the word "manifested" the emphasis is upon our seeing what is revealed and the response we make to that vision. There can be no manifestation unless there is an eye to see what is made plain and a response of appreciation for what the eye sees. Hence the vision of Christ is intended to loosen us from allegiance to sin and awaken in us a desire for the life which we see in Him.

In the manifested Christ we see: Love wounded by our sins, the kind of man or woman we may become without sin, the power which will enable us to be like Him.

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

"And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin" (I John 3:4,5).

## ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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B. H. DUNCAN EDITOR  
MRS. HOMER D. MYERS ED. ASST.

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## From The Editor's Desk

# Teaching Stewardship in the Church

We agree with Dr. D. D. Scrivner, pastor of Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro, that stewardship "is a philosophy of life." "The Christian's stewardship practice is clearly based on his view of God's gift of life. Stewardship is a life-process; not a way of handling one of the tools of living." Dr. Scrivner's article appears on page eight.

### A Philosophy of Life

He emphasizes the necessity of the young convert making his stewardship commitment when he unites with the church. Commitment to Christ involves the commitment of one's life to the service of Christ, including, of course, stewardship. Certainly as much instruction should be given to the new convert or the new member as possible when he comes into the membership of the church. Such instruction should form the basis for his development and growth and understanding in spiritual vision and in stewardship commitment. Unless the new member is thus started right it will be more difficult to get him on the right track later on.

This teaching of stewardship as a philosophy of life and a permanent and continuous commitment to Christ is a continuing process. The teaching must be continued and enlarged to cover every phase of life if the Christian is to experience a well-rounded and thorough growing stewardship commitment. One can no more learn the full significance of Christian stewardship in one lesson or a few lessons at the beginning of his Christian life than he can learn mathematics or history or any other subject in one or a few lessons. In fact, it requires a life time of study and commitment in order to assure the continuous growth and development of a Christian steward.

Stewardship revivals, study courses in Christian stewardship, sermons on stewardship, and every other method of teaching and fortifying the Christian in his commitments are necessary.

### Begin With Babies

There is an instructive discussion by Isaiah in the 28th chapter of his prophecy. After calling attention to the degeneration of the people of Israel and their spiritual leaders, he asks the question, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." The prophet is saying that we must start with the new generation that is coming on if we expect to accomplish much in spiritual vision, moral uprightness, and commitment to God. He recognizes that the older generation is set in its ways and that it will be difficult to make much progress with them. We cannot start the teaching of the fundamental principles of the Christian life too early. The earlier these principles are established in one's thinking, the more productive they will be of Christian living.

After saying that we must start with the children if we expect to develop a generation of better Christians and more produc-

tive Christian living, he continues, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

The prophet recognizes that the teaching process must continue throughout life, beginning with childhood. There is no stopping place. The old lessons must be taught and learned again and again. They are too easily forgotten.

### Stewardship Potential

The church budget should be formulated, presented to the church, and explained on the basis of and in terms of Christian stewardship. It should be presented as a challenge to the stewardship potential of the members of the church, and not as a burden to be borne. It will require teaching and instruction and inspiration and information to thoroughly prepare the church congregation to meet the challenge of the budget. After all is done that can be done, there will be some members in the church family who do not or will not see the challenge or rise to meet it. We are brought back to the conclusion of Isaiah that we must begin with the children. Even then we may expect some failures. Certainly we should begin with the children in Christ, the young Christians. We are doing them a disfavor unless we use every means and method at our command to start them off right in the Christian life. We are doing them an even greater disservice unless we continue the process of instruction: "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

### Babes in Christ

It gives us no comfort and is no reason for complacency among us that the same problems were faced by the Christians in New Testament times that we face today. Some had "forgotten that they were purged from their old sins." Others remained babes in Christ and had to be fed an infant's diet: "For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:13, 14).

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews says that they have been Christians long enough that they "ought to be teachers," but instead, "ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

### We Are Making Progress

Recognizing the weaknesses of our program of stewardship instruction, recognizing the inept methods of handling church finances and church budgets, recognizing our failure to realize our full stewardship potential; yet we as Southern Baptists are making some laborious progress. We are fol-

(Continued on page nine)

## National Conference Needed

In his book, *Baptist Distinctives*, Dr. W. R. White, president of Baylor University, has this to say about co-operation among "evangelical groups": ". . . There should be established a really inclusive national conference of all Christians which is non-theological and non-ecclesiastic in nature . . . It should be a clearing house and conference on matters of common interest and concern where all evangelical groups can be represented without embarrassment."

This is one of the greatest needs among evangelical Christians in this country and one to which we have called attention many times in the columns of the *Arkansas Baptist*. The National Council of Churches does not answer this need because it is involved with theology and ecclesiasticism. Southern Baptists have been severely criticized for not joining the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. They have held aloof from these super-organizations because they seek to neutralize the theological differences among the denominations and they also seek to set up an ecclesiastical organization over the participating denominations. For these two reasons Southern Baptists have declined membership in these organizations.

However, Southern Baptists as a rule have never failed to co-operate with other Christian bodies in moral and spiritual movements which were non-theological and non-ecclesiastic. If the fifty million or more evangelical Christians were united in such an organization, they could wield tremendous power in promoting high moral standards and in combating national evils.

For instance, such an organization among evangelicals could combat far more successfully than is now being done the evils of the liquor interest, and the gambling interests of the nation. Such an organization unifying the protests of the evangelicals of the nation against obscene literature could practically put that vile business out of business. The voice of such a united force would have great weight with the radio and television industry and would have much to do with keeping the radio and television programs clean and wholesome. It could combat the national advertising of the liquor interest.

Hearings are now in progress on the Langer Bill (S923) which seeks to control the advertising of liquor. Hearings are also being held on the Siler Bill (HR4627) which has the same purpose. If there was an organization of all evangelicals in the country, its voice would have a powerful effect upon these hearings in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The voice of Catholicism is far more influential on these matters than the voice of "Protestantism." And yet Protestants, so-called, far outnumber Catholics in this country and if they had "a clearing house and conference" on these moral issues through which they could speak with one voice, it would have tremendous effect.

This is not to advocate the control of legislation by religious groups, but it is to advocate the concerted action of Christian people on issues that involve the moral standards of the nation.

# Kingdom Progress

## Intermediate Department of First Church, Benton



In checking the records of the Sunday School attendance of the First Church, Benton, the Intermediate Department claims a major share of the attendance pins, with over 100 years of perfect attendance. The enclosed picture vouches for 92 years of perfect attendance. There are 122 enrolled in this department and Sunday, February 5, there were 106 present. Mrs. James F. Sawyer is superintendent.

First row: Joyce Nelson, Deanna Moore, Sue Red, Janet Selph, Pastor Selph, Mrs. James F. Sawyer, superintendent; Joan Hellen, Joan Keene, and Donna Newsom.

Second row: Mr. Lacey Landers, Jeannie Wright, Sarah Chambers, Anita Bradely, Lindo Red, Betty Cooper, Carolyn Newcomb, Ginnie Robinson, Pat Phillips, Penny Prince, and Mrs. C. H. Frost.

Back row: Jimmy Fagon, Henry Brummitt, James Herzfield, Boyd Frost, Ronnie Nelson, Harley Brinkley.

—B. K. Selph, Pastor

### Ouachita Library Gets Set of Books

Riley Memorial Library at Ouachita College has been selected to receive one of the 1600 sets of Great Books of the Western World being distributed through a selection committee of the American Library Association under a grant from the Old Dominion Foundation.

Ouachita was among the names of recipients announced at the American Library Association headquarters in Chicago by David H. Cluft, A.L.A. executive secretary.

Daniel A. Seager, head librarian at the college, said the foundation also furnished Library of Congress catalog cards for the card catalog. Ouachita now has two sets of the Great Books.

The 54-volume work was produced by Encyclopaedia Britannica in collaboration with the University of Chicago. The 1600 colleges that received the work were selected by a special committee from several thousand applicants.

The set contains 443 works by 74 authors, spanning Western thought from Homer and the Bible to the twentieth century. Preparation of its 32,000 pages took eight years and cost over two million dollars.

It contains the complete works of 21 authors, and represents the only publication in English of many rare works.

### Virginia Baptist Teacher Fired For Not Teaching Dancing

A Virginia Baptist physical education teacher in an Alexandria public school has been dismissed by the city board of education for refusing, on religious grounds, to teach dancing.

The board voted to discharge Walter A. Kirk Jr., a former professional baseball player from his position as gym instructor at Jefferson Junior High School. "Much sin and ungodliness is committed on public dance floors," Kirk told the school board, and that "his religious scruples would not permit him to teach the evil element" of dancing to teenagers.

Kirk said that he had been offered another teaching post. He added that he would not take the issue to court although he has been promised support from Baptist leaders eager for a legal test of his dismissal.

—Ohio Baptist Messenger

### Index Bible Given to Ouachita

The Ouachita College Riley Memorial Library has been given a copy of an alphabetical index Bible by the DeVore Foundation, Wichita, Kan., it was announced recently by Floyd DeVore.

The Bible, one of a number of volumes mailed to libraries, contains many helps and is "a single volume religious library, which we believe would be ideal for use in college libraries," Mr. DeVore said.



Do you want a bargain? You can get the Arkansas Baptist on the budget subscription plan for less than it costs to produce it, 12 cents per month per subscription or three cents per paper. You can't beat that for a bargain!

### Subscription Analysis Arkansas Baptist

#### New Club

Mt. Zion Church, Independence Association. Sent in by W. B. O'Neal.

Little Red River Association has no budgets; 2 clubs; 16 with neither.

Little River has 12 budgets; 2 clubs; 14 with neither.

Mississippi County has 14 budgets; 8 clubs; 9 with neither.

Motor Cities has 7 budgets; 3 clubs; 20 with neither.

### Government Issues Guide For Clergy on Social Security

A guide for ministers, members of religious orders and Christian Science practitioners in obtaining social security coverage was issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

Commissioner Russell Chase Harrington, in a formal statement, reminded clergymen that in filing their income tax returns for 1955 they must make a personal election as to whether they want social security coverage.

Such election, he said, must be made on Form 2031 which will be supplied by any district office of the service.

If coverage is elected, the clergyman will be considered "self-employed" for the purpose of paying the social security tax, even though he receives a salary from a religious organization.

In addition to filling his individual income tax return (Form 1040) the clergyman must also obtain and file the so-called "Schedule C" which is entitled "Profit (or Loss) From Business or Profession."

Part 3 of this schedule is used for the computation of the "self-employment tax" which must be paid by independent business and professional people who are under social security and do not get their tax withheld at the source.

Where the clergyman draws a salary, he will simply report his salary as "profit" from his profession. If he receives fees and other honoraria he also reports them, and is entitled to subtract all traveling expenses and other expenses recognized as legal deductions from net income for clergymen.

If clergymen do not elect coverage this year, they will have a chance to do so next year in filing their 1956 returns.

However, if coverage is not elected at that time, the decision will be binding. Where coverage is elected, the clergyman will be obligated to pay the "self-employment tax" every year until his retirement.

Coverage will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1955, which means that benefits will begin July 1, 1956, for ministers who retire at 65 and for the widows and children of those who die after that date.

## Student Enters Ministry



PERRY BLOUNT

Perry Blount has been licensed to the gospel ministry by First Church, Sylvan Hills, in North Little Rock. He is serving as music and educational director of First Church, Cabot, where Samuel Phillips is the pastor.

Pastor Walter Hill of the Sylvan Hills church states that Mr. Blount was selected as "Airman of the Month" for August, 1954, while serving as Senior Ground Radio Operator in the Pacific, for his "excellent military bearing, devotion to duty, loyalty and leadership qualities." Pastor Hill says also that Mr. Blount's Christian testimony is responsible for Miss Elsie Shimauro's enrolment in Ouachita College. She is a native of Hawaii. Mr. Blount is also a student at Ouachita.

## Pastor Writes Pamphlet

**Challenge To Youth** by J. Leland Hall is a little booklet that will be helpful to any young person who reads it thoughtfully. It is packed full of inspiring thoughts presented in a pleasant, simple style that any young person will appreciate. Though it requires only a few moments to read it, the subjects dealt with are of vital importance to all young people. Church groups could wisely secure them in quantity for distribution among their young people. It would be very fitting to include a copy of the booklet in congratulation gifts to High School or College graduates. Pastor Hall has personally born the expense of their publication and is making them available for the nominal price of only twenty-five cents each, or five for one dollar. Send order to J. Leland Hall, Clarksville, Ark. I have read the booklet and can heartily recommend it.

—S. A. Wiles,  
Ozark, Ark.

## Minister Ordained

James A. Young was ordained to the gospel ministry Sunday afternoon, January 8, at the First Baptist Church of Minden, Louisiana.

Mr. Young is a grandson of the late V. C. Neal who is remembered in Arkansas as a minister of former years.

Mr. Young was reared in Newport, Arkansas.

## Foreign Mission Board Building Held Tax Free

The headquarters building of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is exempt from taxation, J. Elliott Drinard, Richmond city attorney, ruled recently.

In an opinion sent to City Assessor J. Edward Rountrey, Drinard held that the Foreign Mission Board is "sufficiently similar to a Young Men's Christian Association to be within the tax-exemption provision" of Section 183 of the Virginia State Constitution. That section provides tax-free status for YMCA's and similar organizations.

Richmond city officials had advised the Board last November that its buildings would go on the tax rolls January 1, 1957, unless it was subsequently determined that the property should not be taxed. Dr. Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Board, and Mr. L. Howard Jenkins, president, protested the decision on the grounds that the Foreign Mission Board is strictly a non-profit agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The November ruling held "that, generally, property used as headquarters for a diocese or denomination was not tax exempt." Drinard emphasized in that decision, however, that he was speaking "generally" and that each case would have to be considered individually. Yesterday's opinion was the first that dealt specifically with the Foreign Mission Board property.

"The purpose of both the Young Men's Christian Association movement and the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention," and Drinard in yesterday's decision, "seems to be the advancement of Christianity." There are some major differences between the two, he said, but he doubted that the differences keep "the two institutions from being similar in the sense of Section 183."

The Foreign Mission Board has held up plans for a new building, pending a final decision on the tax question.

—Religious News Service

## Defreece Writes Book

V. E. Defreece, pastor, First Baptist Church, Esther, Missouri, is the author of **PEARLS OF WISDOM** from the Sermon on the Mount. The book is being printed now by the Missouri Baptist Press.

**PEARLS OF WISDOM** is composed of eleven Messages in outline, based on the Great Sermon, from the Master on the Mount, recorded in chapters five, six, and seven of the book of Matthew. They were delivered by Pastor Defreece to his own church in a Bible Study Revival January 1-3 of this year.

Among the messages are the following titles: *The Stairway to Maximum Living*, *Counterfeit Religion*, and *God's Prescription for Worry*. They were written to give a rather detailed study of the Sermon on the Mount.

The Book itself is 6x9 inches, bound in gold paper binding, and center stapled. It contains pictures of Pastor Defreece and his family, and the church he serves. It may be ordered direct from V. E. Defreece, Esther, Mo. The price is \$1 postpaid.

## Religious Leaders Go to Russia

A National Council of Churches deputation to religious leaders in the Soviet Union will leave for Moscow on March 9 and will remain in Russia for a period of ten days. A deputation of churchmen from the Soviet Union expects to arrive in the United States on or about June 1.

## Several Scholarships Available At Southern College, Walnut Ridge

### The Full Special Scholarship

Southern College is awarding a full scholarship, providing room, board and fees, to the 1955-56 graduating senior for writing the best essay on the subject "ADVANTAGES OF ATTENDING A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IN OUR GENERATION." Entries must be in by April 2, 1956. The award is to be made about April 16. Any person may enter and may use any sources of materials but must do the work themselves and make proper notation for sources used. Winner must be able to secure two letters of moral recommendation from persons of standing. Second place will receive fees and room rent. Third place will be given fees only. Interested persons should write to the Scholarship Committee, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas for full particulars.

### Regular Scholarships Available Annually

1. Ministerial students are given a reduction on fees upon presentation of a listing as an ordained minister in the denominational annual, license or ordination certificate.

2. Honor students are given special scholarships for the first year in college after graduation. Benefits are as follows: Valedictorians, \$75.00; Salutatorians, \$50.00; 3rd place, \$25.00. These apply for the regular session only and the person being granted one must attend both semesters and prorate the scholarship over the two semesters.

3. Music scholarships are provided for a limited number who wish to study music and will make public relations appearances for the college during the time of their training.

4. In-service teachers are given scholarships for study in the regular summer session. They must present a contract for the coming year at time of registration.

5. Southern will give a matching scholarship to any person in the sum of \$25.00 if the sum is matched by the home church of the student.

6. Work scholarships are available to many young people each year who need help to attend college. Such persons must be recommended by two people.

## Dr. A. U. Boone Sr. Dies

Dr. A. U. Boone Sr. of Memphis, Tennessee, died on January 29 at the age of 95. Dr. Boone was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Memphis from 1898 to 1930. Upon retirement from the pastorate, he held a number of interim pastorates and became the chaplain of the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

He is survived by his wife, a son, Dr. W. C. Boone, executive secretary of the Baptist General Association of Kentucky, and a daughter, Mrs. Frank H. Leavell Sr. of Nashville, Tennessee, and a number of grandchildren.

## Free Map Available

A copy of a map showing the locations of the various Indian tribes and reservations in the United States can be had free by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Dr. B. Frank Belvin, 819 South Delaware, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

# Christian Horizons

By Religious News Service

## Sunday Inauguration Date Raises Question

Constitutional lawyers are debating whether the United States will have to inaugurate its next President on a Sunday.

January 20, the inauguration date fixed by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, falls on a Sunday in 1957. It is the first time this has happened since the amendment sponsored by the late Sen. George Norris (R.-Nebr.) became part of the Constitution in 1933.

Prior to 1933, the inauguration date had been fixed at March 4 by Congress but when the fourth fell on a Sunday it was customary to hold the inaugural on March 5.

On Sunday, March 4, 1877, President Rutherford B. Hayes took the oath of office as President in a secret midnight ceremony at the White House. The purpose was to guard against the possibility of a legal upset of his contested election due to the fact that the public oath was not administered until Monday noon, March 5.

This is the only time, however, that the oath of office has ever been taken on the Sabbath.

The 20th Amendment makes no provision for the inauguration day falling on a Sunday. It states simply that "The Terms of the President and Vice-President shall expire at noon on the 20th day of January."

## Virginia Legislature Gets Bill to Exempt Church Property From Taxes

Legislation to exempt from taxation church-owned property not operated for profit was introduced in the General Assembly in Richmond, Va.

About 50 members of the House of Delegates sponsored the bill.

J. Elliott Drinard, Richmond city attorney, ruled several months ago that property not used primarily for religious worship or as a minister's residence was not tax exempt. The city assessor promptly announced that such property, including buildings used for administrative offices, would go on the tax rolls.

Property that would receive tax-exempt status under the bill includes that owned by "religious mission boards and associations" and by "a church, religious association or denomination, or its trustees, duly designated bishop, minister or other ecclesiastical officer and used or operated exclusively for religious, denominational or charitable purposes and not for profit."

The measure would affect such property as the headquarters building of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond and Bureau of Catholic Charities, and offices of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

In his first specific opinion on his previous general ruling Mr. Drinard recently held that the headquarters building of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board should be tax exempt.

It was understood, however, that the board wants specific statutory exemption before it constructs a new \$500,000 office building. Other church groups also have requested exemption, a sponsor of the bill said.

## Leaders Hail Doctor Couple Who Plan to Be Missionaries

A husband-and-wife team of doctors who are giving up a good practice to become medical missionaries in central Asia were honored for their action at a testimonial dinner attended by civic leaders, clergymen and fellow physicians.

Drs. Edgar R. and Elizabeth B. Miller are planning to establish a 60-bed mission hospital in Nepal, Himalayan mountain country north of India.

The Millers, who are Methodists, announced recently that medical mission work was a long-cherished ambition which they had put off until their children were grown.

## Pennsylvania Churches Map Anti-Gambling Drive

A drive to keep Pennsylvania free of pari-mutuel race-track gambling was approved by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches at its 45th annual assembly.

The campaign will be spearheaded by the council's division of social relations.

A division report said that more than 10,000 local churches will be reached by a program of study and action in preparation for the 1957 session of the legislature when attempts may again be made to legalize gambling.

## North Carolina Baptists Name Full-Time Church Building Consultant

Appointment of a full-time church building consultant was announced by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

The appointee, L. L. Morgan of Raleigh, will have the title of secretary of Church Planning and Statistics for North Carolina. He will serve as adviser on the building needs of the state's 800,000 Baptists.

Mr. Morgan has been performing such a task in an unofficial capacity and as an "extra" service for a number of years in addition to his regular duties as statistical secretary of the Convention.

## Nazarenes Expand Foreign Mission Work

Leaders of the Church of the Nazarene, which has international headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., announced an expansion of its world missionary operations to include Formosa and the extension of present work in Africa and Japan.

Twenty-three new missionaries were commissioned by the general board, chief administrative body of the church.

With the new appointees, the Church has a total of 319 missionaries in 31 foreign countries, according to Dr. Remiss Rehfeldt, executive secretary of the department of foreign missions. The mission program also has 1,356 native workers.

## Kansas Legislature Gets Bill To Legalize Gambling

A proposal to legalize gambling on horse races in Kansas has been introduced in the legislature.

Kansas religious leaders last year defeated a similar bill.

# A Smile or Two



"The salary isn't much, but every girl that has worked here for six months has married."

Tact is the ability to arrive at conclusions without expressing them.

—Frances Rodman

Prejudice: weighing the facts with your thumb on the scale.

—Ivern Boyett

"The person who associates with younger people and joins in their activities will never grow old," says a psychologist. Of course he won't — he won't live that long.

—Greenup (Ky.) News

I think something rather profound in child philosophy might be developed from an incident in our household. "Don't do that, Bruce," my husband admonished our 4-year-old. "But, Daddy," the lad replied, "I want to don't."

—Alvina Brower

It's only after he's lost his first argument that the newly married man learns that in addition to being made of sugar and spice and everything nice, girls also have got quite a bit of iron in them.

—Quote

"I suttigly hopes I's sick," moaned Rastus, "I'd sho hate to feel like I do when I's well."

It was homework time at the Rubensteins' home.

"Benny," said Mama Rubenstein, "tell me how many is seven and four."

"Twelve," replied Benny.

"Not bad for a little shaver," volunteered Papa Rubenstein. "He only missed it by two."

—Ex.

Woman (on the telephone): Is my husband at the club?

Club Telephone Operator: No, ma'am.

Woman: But I haven't even told you who I am.

Young Tommy was asked by his teacher if he knew what a person in charge of a library is called.

"Yes, ma'am," he replied, "a bookie!"

—Ex.

## News From Baptist Press

### Hays, Adams, Graham On 1956 SBC Program

Congressman Brooks Hays, of Arkansas; Evangelist Billy Graham, and Theodore F. Adams, president of the Baptist World Alliance, will speak to the Southern Baptist Convention at its 99th session May 30-June 2.

Other principal speakers include Howard Butt, Jr., layman-evangelist from Corpus Christi, Tex., and Glenn L. Archer, Washington, executive director, Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Sessions will open at 9 a. m. Wednesday, May 30, and will close at 12:45 p. m., Saturday, June 2, according to Harold G. Sanders, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla., and chairman of the committee on order of business.

The Convention will meet in the Municipal Auditorium.

Convention theme is "Righteousness Exalteth a Nation."

Congressman Hays, chairman of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, will address the Convention during the commission's report Wednesday at 7:15 p. m.

"America for Christ" will be subject of Graham's message at 8 p. m. Wednesday, following the report of the Convention's Home Mission Board.

Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., will speak at 11:55 a. m., Thursday during the report of the Baptist World Alliance, a fellowship of 21 million Baptists in the world.

Archer, head of an organization which fights to uphold the American principle of separation of church and state, will speak on "Separation and Spirituality" at 4 p. m. Friday.

Butt, for the second straight year, will speak on the youth night program, at 7:15 p. m. Friday.

Those who attended the 1955 Convention at Miami will notice several differences on the 1956 Convention program: (1) The Convention hall is downtown; (2) There will be afternoon sessions, and (3) There will be no Saturday night session.

### Paducah Hospital Re-elects

Trustees of Western Baptist Hospital will have the same slate of officers for another year. E. S. Barger, of Paducah, is president. G. L. Chilton, of Paducah, and Chester Anderson, Sr., of LaCenter, will again be representatives to the Kentucky Baptist hospital commission.

### North Carolina Picks State Music Secretary

Joseph O. Stroud, music-education director of First Baptist Church, Statesville, N. C., has accepted a call to be secretary of the new department of church music for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

A native of Laurens County, S. C., Stroud is a graduate of Furman University and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. While attending college and the seminary, he served as music-education director for several churches in Greenville, S. C., and Fort Worth, Tex.

### New Promotion Associate

Ottis J. Hagler, pastor of First Baptist Church, Carthage, N. C., for the last 10 years, has been elected associate secretary of promotion for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

### Baylor Assets Double Under President White

Physical assets have more than doubled in the eight years W. R. White has been president of Baylor University, the university business office reports.

Figures released on the eve of White's eighth anniversary with the university show net assets up \$17,102,915 during White's administration. Counting the school's units at Dallas and Houston also, the net assets of Baylor now total \$32,307,415.

### Polio-Stricken Chaplain Flown Home From Hawaii

Chaplain (1st. Lt.) Jack R. Trammell, Southern Baptist Convention minister with the 25th Army division, has been evacuated from Hawaii for further treatment of polio.

He is being hospitalized at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington. Chaplain Trammell originally was scheduled for rotation to the United States and discharge this month.

Members of the Trammell family left on the same airplane that flew the chaplain from Hickam Air Force Base. Chaplain Trammell's parents went on to Washington while his wife and children were to stop over at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., for a few days.

Chaplain Trammell's address now is 1st. Lt. Jack R. Trammell, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington 12, D. C.

### Yugoslavian Pastor Coming to America

A Yugoslavian Baptist minister arrived in the United States Feb. 11 to study work of Southern Baptist Convention churches, according to John A. Moore, Southern Baptist missionary to Yugoslavia.

"I believe Southern Baptist people would profit greatly by hearing Mr. Klem's report of the work in this part of the world," Moore said. "I am sure that despite some difficulty with English he will be able to tell his story in an interesting and effective way."

He is Franjo Klem, young people's secretary for Baptists there.

Churches wishing to have Klem speak should contact him, in care of Mrs. W. A. Moore, 118 S. Green St., Tupelo, Miss. "He will need some help on travel expense (since he is making this entire trip at his own expense, at considerable sacrifice) but the amount need not be large from any one group or church," Missionary Moore added.

Klem plans to be in the country about two months.

### 1000th Student Enters Golden Gate Seminary

The 1,000th student registered recently for courses at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary and boosted the seminary's enrolment to a new record.

Edward P. Hill, Cheyenne, Wyo., was the 1,000th person to register since Golden Gate opened in the fall of 1944. President Harold K. Graves announced that second-semester registration put the cumulative enrolment for the 1955-56 school year at 331 — the first time it has passed 300.

### Colorado Sends First Funds to Convention

A check for \$600, the first to the Southern Baptist Convention from the new Colorado Baptist General Convention, has been received, Porter Routh, treasurer of the Southern Convention, reported.

Dated Jan. 26, it was signed by E. J.

## Counselor's Corner

By DR. R. LOFTON HUDSON

### Alcoholic Husband

**Question:** I married a drunkard but, honest, I didn't know he was a drunkard until after I had married him. We have a darling son (21) and daughter (19). They have finished school by us living in torment to do it, and now have good jobs.

He gets drunk two or three times a week and curses me and threatens to beat me. Sometimes I have to leave home and am afraid to come back. It is ruining my nerves.

His daddy did his mother the same way. Should I go on like this the rest of my life?

**Answer:** I don't think so.

However, you will miss him if you leave him. Nearly every woman who marries an alcoholic man has an unconscious desire to be punished. They take years of punishment because it is their way of relieving themselves of guilt-feeling. Then as soon as they divorce one alcoholic they (unconsciously) seek out another and marry him. This may sound silly to you, but it is so.

I think you have a personal problem to be solved, which divorce will not solve. How does it happen that you put up with all of this cruelty. Surely you do not think that it is helping him. And it hardly seems that God would require you to accept such injustice.

Try Alcoholics Anonymous. Try getting him to church and Sunday school. Try everything. If these do not work, see a lawyer. But don't see a lawyer until you mean business. Then make it stick. Drop him like a hot potato. If this does not bring him to seek a cure, there is no hope.

Speegle, Denver, president of the executive board of the Colorado convention. The entire amount was sent through the Cooperative Program to support general missionary, educational, and agency work of the Convention.

### Retiring Ministers May File Claims at Any Time

The Baptist Press mistakenly reported Dec. 17 that retiring ministers have only four filing dates for social security claims during the year.

Actually, ministers may file at any time and should do so as soon after retiring as possible.

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### "Higher Education of Southern Baptists" An Institutional History 1826-1954

By Charles D. Johnson

"Dr. Johnson has produced a sympathetic, challenging interpretation of the timeless determination of Southern Baptists that their young people shall have the opportunity for education suited to the demands of Christian leadership. He has recorded the struggles and sacrifices of those to whom our schools owe their very existence, weaving into all the details the imprint of his own buoyant faith in the future of Christian higher education."

Published by the Baylor University Press. Price \$5.00.

—R. Orin Cornett, Executive Secretary Education Commission, Southern Baptist Convention

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Personal income in the United States has increased \$200 million since 1929, from \$85½ billion to more than \$285 billion in 1954. During this same period, per capita income increased from \$703 to \$1,770.



## Stewardship — A Philosophy of Life

By D. DOUGLAS SCRIVNER, Pastor  
Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro

The average annual financial approach for Baptist churches goes something like this: The best and most persuasive speaker from the budget and-or finance committee presents the needs for the coming year closing with words very much like these: "Brethren, after careful consideration of kingdom opportunities we find that it will take so many dollars to operate our church next year. Now let's be Christian enough to dig down and underwrite the amount."

It little matters whether the appeal be made by voice or mail, it boils down to an obligation that must be met and shared. The fall months of each year bring a big rush for stewardship indoctrination. Our weekly bulletins are filled with reasons for giving; Malachi 3:10 is on the lips of every preacher; stewardship revivals are scheduled; outside help is secured; "Bring ye all the tithe" banners appear; pledge cards are printed and distributed; Loyalty Days are set — the "Big Push" is on! Pressure is exerted involving pulpit and pew; estrangement arises, and members are lost. Small wonder that many members receive the idea that the church wants their money more than they want them! They are not altogether to blame. When they joined the Country Club they accepted membership knowing that it would entail cost. They do not object when they receive a dun. In the church they are not started right. They are allowed, even urged, to come in without any explanation of obligations, and a later appeal for money comes as a distinct surprise. They had expected to contribute (many use the word "donate") but that the church should seem to demand a tithe regularly given is an unpleasant shock.

### Abnormal Conditions

Willing, generous people give and give repeatedly, often becoming somewhat bewildered by the multiplicity and complexity of the calls for assistance. Those who, for one reason or another, decline to give often do so in such a spirit that henceforth they are strictly left alone. Thus, the burden grows abnormally large for one group, and abnormally small for another.

Stewardship is not a technique for raising the church budget; it is a philosophy of life. The Christian's stewardship practice is clearly based on his view of God's gift of life. Stewardship is a life-process; not a way of handling one of the tools of living.

The first recorded words of God when He had given life to Adam were "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). Adam knew in the beginning he belonged to God and that his life in the world was to be lived for God. How could he doubt it? God was not simply interested in giving life to man; He was definitely interested that the life given should be productive and expressive. Churches have been so interested in giving life that proper instruction on what to do with the life has not been given. They have listened as God said, "Be fruitful and multiply," but have heard nothing about replenishing and subduing.

### Early Instruction

Any life is productive of something. You cannot separate a man's money or his possessions from the man himself. There are some people who seem to think that they

can give themselves to God and to the church, but that such an act has no relation to their money. Such separation cannot successfully be made. The money which I have is an equivalent of myself — my time, my energy, and my strength. So it is really I, myself. Giving, then, is a vital function of soul life, and must be a regular, normal spiritual function. When we face facts we are forced to recognize that underdeveloped, uninterested, unenlisted, useless members are the result of the failure of the church to develop in them the normal, necessary function of expression. The Christian grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:6, 7) has not been taught. Such instruction should begin with birth.

Lest I seem to heap onus on the church I hasten to point out that the average church is less than 50 percent efficient. Seldom do we find 50 percent of the enrolled membership attending morning worship with regularity. Few churches have 20 percent attendance at mid-week service. Our women reach about 25 percent of their constituency for mission work. The great commission was to evangelize the world, yet only about one-third of our members have been giving to the world enterprise.

Since true stewardship is a philosophy of life it begins with spiritual vision. It is doubtful if the vision can be projected in a month or two of budget-raising sermons and Sunday school lessons. Philosophies are not made or modified on short notice. Such vision begins with examination of the invitation given regularly in our services. Is that invitation a call to commitment? What is commitment and what all is involved in it? Church membership in America has involved too little cost and too little thought. We have thrown wide the gate and broadened the way. In Korea, the convert asking for membership is asked for proof that he has passed from death unto life, and the required proof is that he introduce someone else whom he has led to the Lord. With us nothing is necessary beyond mere profession of faith.

### A New Standard

We can hardly escape difficulty with those already in our ranks. We can raise a new standard that every member be received on a definitely understood program of obligation and responsibility. It is a well-known Baptist principle that we cannot legislate a high standard of living into the church. It is not a matter of legislation but of life. Only vision and passion will bring results. A new vision must be given to our new members and a contagious passion be imparted to them, namely, that they are God's; that they have been bought with a price and their lives are not their own. The preaching and teaching of commitment must not wait for the annual stewardship month it must be a year-round theme. Thus, stewardship will become a way of life.

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### WHY DO PEOPLE PRAY?

Why and when do people pray! One of the finest answers ever given is the well-known quotation from Abraham Lincoln: "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go; my own wisdom and that of all around me seemed insufficient for the day."

## "I Believed, Therefore Have I Spoken"

Psalm 116:10

By W. B. O'NEAL  
Batesville, Arkansas

I believed on the Lord and received Him as my Savior, therefore I stood and declared my faith, not once but again and again through more than half a century.

I believed, moreover, that this declaration should be made, not alone in word but also in action; therefore I proceeded to present myself for church membership and for baptism that I might thus strengthen my testimony and prove my loyalty to this new-found faith.

I believed, further, that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that it is the only rule of faith and practice for God's people, therefore I poured over its pages and openly declared its messages to man throughout the years.

I believed, too, that Jesus established His church and laid upon it the obligation to win the lost, baptize them, and teach them His instructions. Therefore, I bound myself to the church and gave my time and attention to her welfare, speaking of her reverently as the bride of the Lamb and supporting her with all my talents and means.

I believed that the Lord's promise to endue the church and its personnel with Holy Spirit power that it might be enabled to do His work is still an available promise. Therefore, I sought the will of the spirit by prayer and supplication and with hours of study of the word. Not only so, but I sought the enlistment of God's people constantly in this quest. Often have I found it so, that this faith was rewarded.

I believed that the promises for the hereafter are more to be desired than all the wealth of this world. Therefore, I rested upon these promises and urged my fellow-travelers to do likewise.

For fifty-two years have I believed and for fifty-two years have I spoken, but shortly I will close my day as a witness and will be fully rewarded for my testimony.

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## "Can You Live On Your Salary?"

When a firm advertises the merits of its own product — that's taken for granted. But when a company admits the limitations of its product — that's news!

"Not by bread alone" is the caption beneath a recent billboard picture of a five year old girl clasping her hands in prayer. The advertiser: Sunbeam Bakeries. Here is a bakery wise enough to know and honest enough to admit that man cannot live on bread alone.

"I can't live on what you're paying me," an employee protests. And truer words were never spoken. No employer is able to pay his employees enough to "live on," even if their pay checks should achieve astronomical proportions.

He can pay them for the necessities and some of the luxuries of life, but never enough to live on. One can "get by" on bread, but not until he draws on the finer things of life — love, faith, hope — can he really begin to live!

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Liquor took an average of two lives per hour on the nation's highways during the three-day Christmas holiday week end according to statistics of the National Safety Council.

# Understanding

By LEE GALLMAN

Jackson, Miss.

We are a great body of people in the Southern Baptist Convention. Our distances are great now and our people more heterogeneous than ever. Once we were small farmers and share-croppers in a definite geographical section of this country. We were of one general cultural character. Our cities grew out of our own country-bred folk.

Now in every way we are different. The geographical situation has expanded until there are no lines of demarcation. We have become, even in this original section, an industrial folk as well as rural. In addition, we have embraced peoples of such different attitudes toward life and of such different patterns that we are no longer the same. Traditions which grew out of varying backgrounds confront us on several fronts.

Our leadership situation has greatly changed. The leader who has been called to a new environment is in a role different from the leader who is a part of his environment. Denominational affiliation and loyalties have a different meaning out of the old and deep south. Attitudes toward race vary from the church that fired its pastor for voting with the majority in St. Louis to an association that recently voted Negro churches into their fellowship and to churches that received them into their fellowship on a local basis.

## How to Succeed?

We cannot succeed unless we have understanding. We cannot change the traditions of people in new areas to fit the pattern of the old southern culture. These new areas must also realize that they cannot re-mold the Southern Baptist Convention. Churches in Lowndes County, Alabama, are not apt to open their church rolls to Negro Baptists and the churches in Illinois are not apt to boycott a meeting where a Negro brother appears on the program.

We can understand each other if we try. Perhaps the most important factor in understanding is that of securing reliable information. Unfortunately our newspapers help us very little. Incidents are magnified all out of proportion toward the point of view of the various sections involved.

It is good practice to withhold judgment until more complete information is secured. While we were in another state recently, a good brother became quite a nuisance as he berated all the "cowardly preachers in Mississippi who for the sake of their jobs kept silent during the worst persecution ever heaped upon a race of people." It was useless to talk to him. He does not represent the thinking Baptists of his state, but all of his presuppositions were based on false information.

## Each In His Own Community

Another factor in understanding is that of placing oneself in the other person's place. We cannot do this very well, for we often imagine ourselves to be heroes in a different environment. Actually most of us would adjust to the conditions of our immediate community both in form and in content.

I'm told that a mountain near the eastern seaboard divides the two schools of thought on alien immersion. Preachers pass from one side to another changing polity as they cross the mountain. This may be an exaggeration, but it is characteristic of most of us. We adapt our convictions to our environment. We aren't so heroic; we are human.

We must try to understand the problems confronting new churches in new areas. They must also realize that the settled churches must live in the condition of their own situation. One brother looking at a new church building in an old Baptist community asked, "Why didn't they build with brick and concrete blocks and send the difference to us?" The zeal of workers in new communities is always inspiring. They will not advance without it. But we cannot overlook the value of stability in the established areas.

## Must Find a Way

Perhaps it is too much to expect one who is on the cutting edge of missions to understand the calmness of the more settled churches who seem to be content while the whole world goes to the dogs, and perhaps it is too much to expect one who has not been on the cutting edge to place himself in such a position and understand problems that are so irrelevant to his life situation. But if this vast heterogeneous people called Southern Baptists adhere, they must find a way to do it.

We have many "isms" in our denomination. In fact we could justify the title for our convention as "The Confederation of Heterogeneous Types of Baptists in the United States, Canada, and Cuba." The future may give us an even greater variety of "isms," but if we desire a unity of spirit and fellowship in service, we must learn to understand.

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## Christian Stewardship

"They first gave their own selves to the Lord" II Corinthians 8:5.

The heart of every pastor is thrilled to see his people step out in total dedication to Christ. Recently it was our privilege to have a Stewardship Revival in our church. On the final Sunday the aisles were filled with Christians making a total commitment to Him. What a joy it was to see God's children declaring themselves, without any reservation, to be good stewards of their homes, society, time, talents, possessions and tithes. The message of I Corinthians 4:2 had found acceptance in their hearts.

It seemed that the commitment cards used for this service included every phase of life. However, one of our members thought otherwise. Added to his commitment to be a good steward of his home, society, time, talents, possessions and tithes, he had written these words, "I GIVE MY LIFE." As I looked at this card with these words written on it, the other commitments were totally unnecessary it seemed.

God's great concern is that we give Him our life. His request is ever, "My son, give me thine heart." This is the real meaning of Christian stewardship. All our commitments are in vain and cannot please our Lord unless we first give Him ourselves.

—James L. Pleitz  
Grand Avenue Church  
Fort Smith

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All history conforms the truth that the last line of defense for a people is not material but moral.

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Paul said, "Whatsoever things are lovely . . . think on these things."

## Request From Public Affairs Committee

WALTER POPE BINNS, Chairman

The Committee on Public Affairs will ask the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City to approve a proposed Constitution for the Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Joint Committee, which is sponsored by six Baptist groups in the United States, has operated within the framework of resolutions and official statements from the two originating bodies, the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention, and from the other Baptist bodies that joined later.

Dr. Carlson, the Executive Secretary, submitted to the Joint Committee the problem as to what was the written authority by which he was to be guided. Was it the Constitution which had been adopted by the Joint Committee, but which had never been formally approved by the sponsoring conventions? Was it the resolutions that had been adopted from time to time by the sponsoring conventions?

The response of the Joint Committee was to appoint a committee, of which I was chairman, to write a new Constitution which would be clearly within the framework of actions already taken by the sponsoring conventions, and to request the several sponsoring conventions to approve the Constitution. Then the Executive Secretary would be authorized in every situation by a Constitution which has the specific approval of the sponsoring conventions.

Such is the Constitution which will be submitted for approval to the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City. There is nothing new in it. It was written from resolutions already passed by the Convention. If the Southern Baptist Convention and the five other sponsoring groups approve this Constitution, it will become a clear and authoritative directive to the Joint Committee.

I read the proposed Constitution at the December meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and that body recommended its approval by the Convention which is to meet in Kansas City.

I am writing this explanation to the brotherhood in order to make it clear that the Joint Committee is not requesting any enlargement of its functions or its sphere of operation. We are simply endeavoring to put the actions previously taken into a Constitution to be approved by all the sponsoring conventions.

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## Teaching Stewardship In the Church

(Continued from page 3)

lowing Isaiah's thought in instilling into the children even before they become members of the church the principles of Christian stewardship. We are promoting a regular program of stewardship instruction. More and more of our Baptist people are discovering the joy and satisfaction in the practice of Christian stewardship. While there are still many Christian "babes" among us, we think it may be truthfully said that the number of stalwart Christian men and women of spiritual maturity are increasing year by year. May God bless them and increase their number.

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Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.

—Bulwer-Lytton



LEHMAN WEBB



RALPH W. DAVIS



ROBERT A. DOWDY



DR. JAMES SULLIVAN  
Sunday School Board



J. E. LAMBDIN  
Sunday School Board

# STATE TRAINING UNION CONVENTION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FORT SMITH

Begins Friday Morning, March 16, 10:00 a.m.

Closes Saturday Noon, March 17

**Theme: "NOW!"**

*Presiding — Rev. Lehman Webb, Convention President*

### Messages by Sullivan

Friday morning: "Power for the Task"

Friday night: "Sharing a Great Salvation"

Saturday morning: "Excelling Religion"

### Sectional Meetings

The heart of the Convention: Meetings Friday afternoon and Saturday morning for all departments — demonstrations and conferences on the latest Training Union methods.

### Music

Music under the direction of LeRoy McClard, Secretary of the Music Department of Arkansas. Director's Quartet and choir of First Church, Fort Smith.

### Tournaments

Participants in the sword drill or speakers' tournament will go to the section to which they belong on Friday afternoon for the elimination tournament. Finals Friday night. Only one sword driller and one speaker may represent an association. State Junior Memory Drill conducted Saturday morning.

### Registration

Come early Friday. Bring registration fee of 50c to dining room, ground floor, auditorium building. 20-page program will give all information, meeting places, etc.

### Entertainment

Bed and breakfast furnished free. After registering go to Home Assignments desk. Those within 50 miles of Fort Smith are requested not to ask for entertainment unless absolutely necessary.

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RICHIE HARRIS  
Sunday School Board



RICE PIERCE  
Sunday School Board



MRS. J. E. LAMBDIN  
Sunday School Board



MRS. FRANK LEAVELL  
Sunday School Board

# Lord, Teach Us To Pray

FOR PEOPLE OF  
HOMELAND  
ALASKA  
PANAMA  
CUBA

## for Home Missions

WEEK OF MARCH 5-9, 1956

The sixty-seventh Annual Meeting of Woman's Missionary Union of Arkansas will be held April 3-5 at First Church, Camden, where Mrs. George Jordan is WMU president and chairman in charge of arrangements. The Program Committee, of which Mrs. T. K. Rucker of Forrest City is chairman, has announced outstanding program personnel. Native and former Arkansans to be featured include: Miss Juliette Mather for many years young people's secretary of Southern Woman's Missionary Union and now secretary of Department of Publications; Mrs. John A. Abernathy, missionary in Korea; Miss Martha Hairston, at home on her first furlough from Brazil; Mrs. Ruben Franks from Chile. Another missionary guest will be Mrs. J. T. McRae, one of the first Southern Baptist missionaries in Jordan who established the first school for girls at Ajloun, and more recently of Gaza. Home Mission work will be represented by Mrs. Leo Estrada, president of the Spanish Woman's Missionary Union of Texas. Dr. Floy Barnard, dean of women at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will conduct worship periods.

Every session will be full of inspiration and information, and Camden people are making excellent preparation for entertainment of every guest. Rooms are being solicited in homes for \$1.50 per night, per person, for "bed and breakfast," two in a room. Hotel and motel accommodations should be reserved directly. The following are recommended:

Orlando Hotel, \$2 to \$2.50 per person; Plaza Hotel Courts, \$4 to \$5.50 for two persons.

Every WMU officer — local, association, district, state — should certainly attend this meeting and every member would

be greatly benefited. Let's meet in Camden, April 3-5!

### "HOME MISSIONS SPEAK"

"Home Missions Speaks" is the title of a recording giving testimonies of work done by the Home Mission Board, together with music from various areas of the convention territory. It will greatly enrich any part of the program used by the Woman's Missionary Societies or youth organizations during the WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS, but it will be especially effective with the Tuesday program. It may be ordered from the Baptist Book Store for \$1.50.

"Home Missions Speaks" calling us to pray for the work in the homeland. Will you add these special prayer requests to others you will remember as we focus upon mission opportunities in America?

From a missionary in New Mexico comes the plea for prayers in their behalf. "One of our greatest needs is for Christian interpreters out on the Indian reservations. The missionary is at the mercy of the interpreter and unless he is a Christian and definitely concerned about the lost the message of the missionary 'misses the mark.'"

Another in that state working with "first Americans" writes, "We have many who have made profession of faith, but still cling to the old pagan superstitions. Will you pray that they will completely give themselves to the Lord?"

Make March 5-9 truly a WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS! Arkansas' goal for the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions is \$36,000. Give as you have been blessed, and the goal will be far surpassed. \$5.91 supports the entire cost of all activities under the Home Mission Board for one minute. How many

### "Gabriel Is Here"

CHAPLAIN W. W. HAMILTON, *Southern Baptist Hospital*  
*New Orleans, La.*

A Negro janitor, who had been serving the church for many years, had been retired by the church on a monthly pension. He was ill during the meeting, and the visiting evangelist heard many of the members speak of the faithful Negro. In response to the pastor's offer to take the visiting preacher anywhere he wanted to go, he said, "I'd like to visit George Robinson."

When we arrived there was no one to answer the knock at the front door, because the wife was away at her place of work. The pastor opened it, and went on through to the inner door which admitted to the sick room. After knocking he opened the door, and on entering he said to the sick man, "George, Gabriel is here."

The good old Christian Negro who had been so faithful through the years as sexton to the church said, "Tell him to come on in." If Gabriel appeared, and if he was proclaiming, "That there should be time no longer," then George Robinson was ready to say, "Tell him to come on in." As a trusting child of God he was ready for the second coming of the Lord.

It is our privilege to "Be ye also ready," for our Lord and Saviour says, "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." We can begin each day with a renewed confession of our faith, and with new expressions of gratitude, and with prayer for guidance and grace. Cicero said, "A thankful heart is

minutes will you support through your offering?

### OVER THE TOP

The latest report on receipts through the 1955 Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions reveals \$127,184.21 given by Arkansas following the observance of the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. The goal was \$110,000. Rejoicing is in order, but may we pray that these special love gifts will be but stimuli for continued, increased giving through the Co-operative Program and other designated offerings.

### LIFE-MEMBER OF WMU EXECUTIVE BOARD PASSES

On January 21, Mrs. J. H. Crawford died at her home in Arkadelphia terminating a long, life devoted to religious and civic activities. Mrs. Crawford was a life-member of the Executive Board of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, and had served on the group intermittently for nearly fifty years. She is survived by a daughter, Miss Frances Crawford, and a son, Dwight, both of Arkadelphia.

*Woman's Missionary Union*  
*Nancy Cooper, Secretary*

not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all virtues." As Shakespeare says, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child."

If ingratitude is so despicable in one's child how much the more so to be guilty of ingratitude toward the giver of every good and perfect gift. A hospital patient writes, "To begin one's day with song seems to have given me something of which I never thought before. Regardless of my bad nights, when the day dawned I eagerly awaited the singing and the kind voice in morning greeting and simple prayer. Why some mornings I even sing with the rest. I am now at home, giving thanks to "The Doctor of all doctors." This good lady added that her slogan from now on is "When you are well there's no place like home. When you are sick there is no place like Baptist Hospital."

—000—

### PROGRESS

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—Wheeler McMillen,

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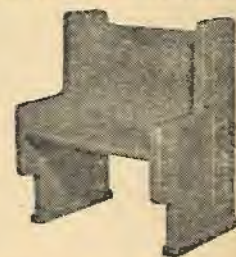
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# ANNUAL CHURCH MUSIC FESTIVALS

## FIRST PRIMARY CHOIR FESTIVAL Immanuel Church, Little Rock, March 3, 1956



MRS. HASKELL BOYTER  
Director

### FESTIVAL SELECTIONS:

#### Combined Choirs:

What Can I Give Him? ..... *Holst*  
 Knock, Knock, Knock ..... *Grime*  
 Prayer of the Norwegian Child ..... *Kountz*  
 God Our Loving Father ..... *Finnish Melody*  
 Jewels ..... *Root*

#### Pulaski County Choirs:

Lovely Appear ..... *Gounod*  
 The Glad Time ..... *Bach*  
 Giddi-Up! ..... *Grime*  
 Jesus Christ Lives On ..... *Grime*  
 Evening Song ..... *Ackley*  
 All Things Bright and Beautiful ..... *Grime*  
 I Can Light A Candle ..... *Haydn*

### Selected Choirs:

Loving Care ..... *Schubert*  
 Who Has Seen the Wind ..... *Grime*  
 Jesus Lived In A Little House ..... *Grime*

### FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

10:00—Rehearsal of all Choirs  
 11:00—Parade of Primary Choirs  
           (each choir sings one selection)  
 12:00—Lunch  
 1:00—Final Rehearsal  
 2:00—Primary Choir Festival

## TENTH YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL

Robinson Auditorium, Little Rock, March 23, 1956

### FESTIVAL SELECTIONS:

Arise, O Youth of God ..... *McKinney-Angell*  
 Judge Eternal ..... *Marchant-Novello*  
 Jesus Christ of Galilee ..... *O'Hara-Angell*  
 This Is My Father's World ..... *Ringwald*  
 God of Our Fathers ..... *Warren-Gearhart*  
 With A Voice of Singing ..... *Martin-Show*

### FESTIVAL SCHEDULE:

8:00—Registration and Assignment (foyer)  
 8:50—Welcome to Festival  
 8:55—Introduction of Festival Personalities  
 9:00—First Rehearsal—Dr. Warren Angell  
 10:30—Individual Choir Auditions  
 12:00—Lunch  
 2:00—Choir Auditions (everyone in places)  
 3:30—Final Rehearsal  
 5:00—Supper  
 7:00—Festival Concert



DR. WARREN ANGELL  
Director

## SEVENTH JUNIOR CHOIR FESTIVAL

Immanuel Church, Little Rock, March 24, 1956

### FESTIVAL SELECTIONS:

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind ..... *Warner*  
 Blessing ..... *Curran-Deis*  
 I Wonder As I Wander ..... *Niles-Horton*  
 The Lord's Prayer ..... *Camileri*  
 A Hymn of Praise To Our Creator ..... *Thiman*  
 Come, Christians, Join To Sing ..... *Mueller*

### FESTIVAL SCHEDULE:

8:30—Registration and Assignment  
 9:25—Welcome to Immanuel—Ed Nelson  
 9:30—First Rehearsal  
           —Martha Moore Clancy  
 11:00—Individual Choir Auditions  
 12:00—Lunch—Dining Hall  
 1:00—Choir Auditions  
 2:00—Final Rehearsal  
 3:00—Festival Concert



MRS. MARTHA CLANCY  
Director

# Children's Page

## The Haunted House

By ELLEN BROWN

"Try to bring someone new next Sunday," the Sunday school department leader had said. Linda thought of those words as she ran to meet Mary.

"Who are you taking Sunday?" she asked Mary the first thing.

"I'm not sure yet," Mary said. "I've asked everyone I know. Everyone I know goes already."

"I can't think of but one person," Linda said, "and I don't want to ask her."

"I thought of her too," Mary said — "do you suppose we'd dare?"

"Well, we've been talking about asking Evelyn for a long time," Linda went on. "She has that big family — they're so unfriendly — she seems so big to be in our class!"

"But she can't help it if she's moved so much she's behind," Mary said — "and she has that big brother who's so — she might not even have anything to wear."

"Let's ask her this time. Oh, Mary — you know we must," Linda said. "We're just thinking up excuses cause we're scared of that old house!"

"Come on," Mary said, "let's go."

Up the hill trudged the two girls. There was something scary about Evelyn's old house. It used to be a haunted house. Then Evelyn and her family had moved in. It still seemed scary. All the boys and girls still felt scary about going near the old house.

"Remember the time we thought we heard something in the attic?" Linda said to Mary.

The steps were still crumbled on one side. But Linda could see Evelyn's family had begun straightening some of the old house.

Timidly, she knocked on the door. A woman in a big cook apron came to the door.

"Is Evelyn here?" Linda asked in a small voice.

"Yes, come in," said Evelyn's mother. "I'll call her."

In a few minutes Evelyn came to the living room.

"Why hello, Mary! Hello, Linda!" Evelyn said surprised.

"We came to invite you to Sunday school," both the girls said at once.

"You did!" Evelyn said, surprised.

"We want you to come," Mary said.

"You do?" Evelyn said, staring at them as if she could not believe what they said. All at once Evelyn seemed to beam with warm friendliness. "I just made a pan of fudge — would you girls want some?" She jumped up and went into the kitchen. In a minute she was offering them candy. Then she started talking. She



talked about all the places she'd been, her friends and the fun they'd had.

"Why, she's just like us," Mary whispered to Linda.

"She's fun," Linda whispered back.

Evelyn stopped talking.

"What took you two so long to be friends? No one comes near our house — no one at all. They seemed — well — funny."

"Your house used to be a haunted house," Linda explained. "Everyone is afraid of this house."

"We were today," Mary said — "we were scared to come. Once Linda and I heard something in the attic — all the boys and girls are scared of it!"

Evelyn laughed. "That's what they say but it isn't true. I learned something in the Bible that keeps you from being afraid." "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." (Psalms 56:3).

"We would have come sooner if we had remembered that verse," Mary said.

"Yes, we would," Linda agreed. "No more haunted house fears for me! I'll never be afraid to visit for Jesus again when I remember that verse!"

Are you afraid to visit for Jesus when you don't know the people very well?

There is no such thing as a real haunted house, except when God is not there.

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### Migration

By GLADYS CLEONE CARPENTER

Migration is one of God's great plans. Not many large mammals migrate; travel is perhaps too slow for them. But in the far north wilderness caribou and reindeer migrate, traveling inland in summer and to the seacoast in the autumn.

Some bats, like birds, wing their way southward for the winter-time but others hibernate.

Monarch butterflies gather in swarms in the fall to go South.

Birds are, of course, the most famous travelers. And the greatest of all is the golden plover. This bird travels from the Arctic Circle to Brazil and Argentine, flying mostly over the ocean. The round trip is twenty thousand miles.

Not all song birds that migrate conduct themselves well when away from home. The robin is a great menace to the strawberry crop in Florida in the quite early spring.

The bobolink, well loved in the meadows in the North, is heartily disliked in the rice fields of Carolina where the flock stops in August on their way to South America.

Birds being greedy away from home, make us think of people we have seen who are very rude when visiting in strange places. Perhaps we could automatically have better manners if we just always practiced the Golden Rule. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31).

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### Figures to Inspire

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

	*Missions Included		
	S.S.	T.U.	Add.
Alma, First	219	91	
Benton, Calvary	184	80	1
Benton, First	*742	*237	1
Bentonville, First	349	104	1
Camden, First	*680	*252	1
Conway, First	520	150	3
El Dorado, First	*988	*346	1
El Dorado, Immanuel	636	308	4
El Dorado, Second	440	235	1
El Dorado, West Side	274	103	2
Fayetteville, First	*671	*258	10
Fordyce, First	403	140	6
Fort Smith, Bailey Hill	175	100	
Fort Smith, First	*1576	*740	14
Fort Smith, Grand Avenue	*783	*320	3
Fort Smith, Immanuel	379	159	2
Fort Smith, South Side	339	145	1
Fort Smith, Spradling	251	118	2
Fort Smith, Temple	267	148	4
Fort Smith, Towson Avenue	226	110	
Fort Smith, Trinity	335	148	7
Helena, West	410	167	4
Hot Springs, Central	407	152	2
Hot Springs, First	353	112	2
Hot Springs, Park Place	405	177	1
Jacksonville, First	*452	203	2
Jonesboro, Central	427	231	
Little Rock, First	*1006	*400	8
Little Rock, Immanuel	*1567	*479	7
Little Rock, Rosedale	164	79	2
Little Rock, Second	*932	326	2
Little Rock, South Highland	526	212	7
Little Rock, Tabernacle	631	178	2
Magnolia, Central	*729	239	3
Malvern, First	554	121	
Marianna, First	265	101	
Mena, First	*368	*176	
Monticello, First	382	220	6
McGehee, First	439	224	1
Nashville, First	302	150	2
No. Little Rock, Baring Cross	*1048	*388	3
No. Little Rock, Central	304	132	
No. Little Rock, Park Hill	556	179	4
Pine Bluff, Immanuel	509	197	1
Rogers, Immanuel	137	69	1
Siloam Springs, First	353	199	3
Smackover, First	328	173	
Springdale, Caudle Avenue	173	75	
Warren, First	537	188	

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# Southern Baptist Convention Program

May 30 - June 2, 1956

Kansas City, Missouri

C. C. Warren, President

GENERAL THEME: "RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION"  
—A Crusade for Christian Morality

Wednesday Morning, May 30, 1956

- 9:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
9:10 Scripture and Prayer — Earl B. Edington, Florida  
9:15 Report on Registration, Appointment of Tellers, Presidential Appointment of Committee on Committees and Committee on Resolutions — Joe W. Burton, Tennessee; James W. Merritt, Georgia  
9:20 Committee on Order of Business — Harold G. Sanders, Florida  
9:25 Welcome to Kansas City — Introduction of Speaker — Conrad R. Willard  
Address: H. Roe Bartle, Mayor of Kansas City  
9:35 President's Address — C. C. Warren, North Carolina  
10:00 Music  
10:05 Executive Committee Administrative Report — Porter Routh, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
11:05 Miscellaneous Business\*  
11:15 Woman's Missionary Union — Mrs. George R. Martin, Virginia, President  
Address: Mrs. Edgar Bates, Hamilton, Ontario  
11:45 Fellowship in Song; Special Music  
12:00 Convention Sermon — Harry P. Stagg, New Mexico  
James M. Baldwin, Illinois, Alternate

\*By-law 19 — Limitations: One-third of the time for consideration of all reports before the Convention shall be reserved for discussion from the floor.

\*Note: It is the responsibility of the person making the report to allow for one-third of the time for discussion from the floor. Guest speakers should be warned.

(There will not be any Wednesday afternoon Session)

Wednesday Night, May 30, 1956

- 7:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
7:10 Scripture and Prayer — John W. Raley, Oklahoma  
7:15 Christian Life Commission — A. C. Miller, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
Address: Congressman Brooks Hays, Arkansas, Chairman  
7:50 Special Music  
8:00 Home Mission Board Report — Courts Redford, Georgia, Executive Secretary  
Address: "America For Christ" — Billy Graham, North Carolina

Thursday Morning, May 31, 1956

- 9:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
9:10 Scripture and Prayer — J. B. Jackson, Jr., Alabama  
9:15 Historical Commission — Norman W. Cox, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
9:30 Committee on Baptist Film — Louie D. Newton, Georgia, Chairman  
9:40 Southern Baptist Hospitals — Frank Tripp, Louisiana, Executive Secretary-Superintendent  
10:00 Miscellaneous Business, Election of Officers\*  
10:30 Sunday School Board Report — James L. Sullivan, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
11:30 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers  
11:55 Baptist World Alliance Report — Arnold T. Ohrn, D. C., General Secretary  
Address — Theodore F. Adams, Virginia, President

\*By-law 4 — Election of Officers: The president, the first, and the second vice-presidents, and the secretaries shall be elected not later than the second day of the Convention, their terms of office to begin at the final adjournment.

Election of officers shall be by ballot, provided however that if there is only one nomination, and no other person desires to nominate, the secretary or anyone designated for the purpose may cast the ballot for the Convention.

Thursday Afternoon, May 31, 1956

- 2:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
2:10 Scripture and Prayer — Thomas W. Croxton, Missouri  
2:15 American Baptist Theological Seminary — L. S. Sedberry, Tennessee, Secretary-Treasurer  
Address: T. B. Maston — Texas  
2:35 Report of Seminaries:  
Southern Baptist Seminary — Duke K. McCall, Kentucky, President

New Orleans Baptist Seminary — Roland Q. Leavell, Louisiana, President

Southwestern Baptist Seminary — J. Howard Williams, Texas, President

Southeastern Baptist Seminary — Sydnor L. Stealey, North Carolina, President

Golden Gate Baptist Seminary — Harold K. Graves, California, President

Address: Duke K. McCall, Kentucky

- 3:55 Music  
4:00 Special Committee Report on Theological, Religious and Missionary Education — J. W. Storer, Oklahoma, Chairman  
4:20 Special Committee Report — To Study Policies and Procedures of Committee on Time, Place and Preacher—C. Roy Angell, Florida, Chairman  
4:30 Election of Officers (Continued)

Thursday Night, May 31, 1956

- 7:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
7:10 Scripture and Prayer — Hugh Cantrell, Arkansas  
7:15 Executive Committee Promotion Report — Merrill D. Moore, Tennessee, Director of Promotion  
7:50 Special Music  
8:00 Foreign Mission Board Report — Baker James Cauthen, Virginia, Executive Secretary

Friday Morning, June 1, 1956

- 9:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
9:10 Scripture and Prayer — A. Douglas Aldrich, North Carolina  
9:15 American Bible Society — Thomas T. Holloway, Texas, Field Secretary  
9:30 Committee on Committees  
9:40 Committee on Resolutions  
9:50 Miscellaneous Business  
9:55 Committee on Denominational Calendar — Albert McClellan, Tennessee, Chairman  
10:00 Combined Report of Special Committees on Baptist Papers, and Baptist Papers Circulation Campaign — B. J. Murrie, Illinois, and Louie D. Newton, Georgia  
10:20 Relief and Annuity Board Report — R. Alton Reed, Texas, Executive Secretary  
10:40 Chaplains' Commission of the S. B. C. — Alfred M. Carpenter, Georgia, Director  
Address—  
11:20 Committee on Boards — E. Gibson Davis, Tennessee, Chairman  
11:35 Southern Baptist Foundation — T. L. Holcomb, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
11:45 Music  
11:55 Address: "Facing Our Fiercest Foe" — Millard J. Berquist, Florida

Friday Afternoon, June 1, 1956

- 2:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
2:10 Scripture and Prayer — Forest Lanier, Georgia  
2:15 Memorial Service — E. D. Solomon, Florida  
2:30 Brotherhood Commission — George W. Schroeder, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
3:00 Committee on Time, Place and Preacher  
3:10 Radio & Television Commission Report — Paul M. Stevens, Texas, Executive Secretary  
Address: Roy O. McClain, Georgia  
3:40 Special Music — Baptist Hour Choir, R. Paul Green, Director  
3:50 Miscellaneous Business  
4:00 Address: "Separation and Spirituality" — Glenn L. Archer, D. C., Executive Director, PAOU

Friday Night, June 1, 1956

- 7:15 Youth Night Service — G. Kearnie Keegan, Tennessee  
Address: Howard E. Butt, Jr., Texas

Saturday Morning, June 2, 1956

- 9:00 Song — W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
9:10 Scripture and Prayer — Bob Patterson, Kentucky  
9:15 Education Commission — R. Orin Cornett, Tennessee, Executive Secretary  
9:35 Public Affairs Committee — C. Emanuel Carlson, D. C. Executive Director  
Report by Walter Pope Binns, Missouri, Chairman  
9:50 Music  
10:00 Address: "Crusade For Christian Morality" — Clifton J. Allen, Tennessee  
10:30 Christian Home Service and Church Music Festival — Joe W. Burton, Tennessee; W. Hines Sims, Tennessee  
Choirs  
Address: H. Guy Moore, Texas  
12:30 Presentation of New Officers of the Convention  
12:45 Adjournment

# Jesus Demands a Choice

By BURTON A. MILEY

## Sunday School Lesson

February 19, 1956

Luke 19:1-10

The pilgrim may walk a straight road, but it is surely not isolated. There are crossroads and paths leading off from the main highway. Each time the traveler comes to one of these intersections he must make a choice. Even Jesus was not excused. He chose to live rather than by bread alone. Man was warned that he "could not serve God and mammon." The wisdom of man is taxed to make his decisions wisely. Choice without a scale of values to guide cannot be wise. Should one choose for the moment or for eternity? Does expediency come ahead of principle? Answers are found in values which Jesus proclaimed.

Choices are not always easy. However, intelligence would be futile if there were no opportunity to choose between various propositions. Man belongs to God because he is capable to choose God. Man can be a devout Christian because he is capable of following a spiritual path through spiritual choices. God does not have automatons walking behind Him, but intelligent beings who walk with him because they choose to.

A choice is a clear-cut line of decision. This straight line drawn across one's life may counter and quarter many possibilities. One is separated and choice is made to follow it. Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

### THREE MEN AND THEIR CHOICES

The larger lesson has the record of three men who represent a cross section of humanity. Their choices were not stimulated by similar circumstances. Neither are they of equal value. One chose possessions ahead of obedience to Christ. One, sight and obedience to blindness and begging; while one chose to do right ahead of holding wealth.

A man of influence, a ruler of his people, one of prestige and wealth confronted Jesus with the question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" He possessed many qualities of merit but had become engrossed in that which was temporal. He was robbed of assurance. Hunger ate into his life because he had not projected his vision all the way to God. He was a good man, morally pure. He was an excellent neighbor. One would never have to lock his house door or take the keys from his car through fear of this unusual man. Yet he was so wrapped up in his material possessions that when Jesus told him to sell what he had and give to the poor he made his decision to turn from Jesus. Perhaps no man ever made a poorer bargain. Great material possessions are nothing

compared to eternal life. The choice of this man was one of hurt to him and tragedy to the cause of Christ.

The second man immediately elicits sympathy. He was blind but had unflinching courage. He ignored suggestions not to call Christ. He reported without delay when Jesus called. He wanted his sight when Jesus asked: "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?" The question inferred that additional responsibility would come through sight. He would have to quit begging and start to work. His sight would demand that he start ministering instead of being ministered to. Yet, in the face of these added responsibilities, he pleaded for sight. God gave him not only sight but cleanliness of soul. This enabled him to use his sight for best advantages and advancements. This man had a line clearly drawn which had Jesus at the end of it.

The story concerning the third man is well known. The man climbed a tree to see Jesus. He got above the crowd and was rewarded by Jesus going home with him. The line that was drawn across Zacchaeus' life is worthy of further study.

### ZACCHAEUS' EXPERIENCE

Was it curiosity or conscience that caused Zacchaeus to want to see Jesus? What caused this short, despised man to brave the crowd which would have gladly pushed him back? Was his decision thorough when he climbed the tree? Did he make his clear-cut choice when he looked into the eyes of the Saviour? Someone has suggested that Zacchaeus was never the right man until he saw in the pool of Jesus' eye the kind of man God would have him to be.

One marvels at how little Jesus promises when men want to become His disciples. He tells of hardship and asks that His disciples exercise responsibility. The record shows Jesus approaching possible disciples with the thought that there was much to be done and rarely a word about anything to be had. This is opposite to much of the present approach. The promise is that the disciples shall gain much over previous circumstance. No one ever lost by following Christ. However, the thought that the bounty is to be gained instead of duty done is adverse to the practice of Jesus.

The rich young ruler was asked to go and sell. The implication is that when he became engrossed with God as much as he was

wrapped up in his possessions he would have eternal life. The blind man was to accept the added responsibilities of sight. Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus. He found himself with a guest. He didn't invite Him orally. Jesus knew Zacchaeus would never have invited Him. Others might have been more worthy to entertain Jesus but none would have been more cordial.

Zacchaeus' choice led him to some unexpected actions. Jesus spoke no censorship to Zacchaeus who unburdened his soul in line of new responsibility. This responsibility led to the choice of liberality. "Half of my goods I (shall) give to the poor." Then followed a confession. "If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I (will) restore him fourfold." Zacchaeus must have had quite a fortune. His compensation was worth the cost. Salvation came to his house that day. Do you think Zacchaeus ever bore any regrets for his choice?

### PRACTICAL LESSONS

**Opportunity is constantly passing.** It passed the rich young ruler. He stands as an example of failure to receive. It passed the blind man who would not be turned aside by the exhortation of people to hush. It passed Zacchaeus and he had to make an additional effort to receive it. He used that opportunity to the glory of God and the healing of his own soul. Opportunity has passed every living person more often than that individual recognized or used it.

**Decisions will ever be contested.** No decision is made without the presence of conflicting forces. The frame of life has contrary winds blowing against it. If man wishes to decide for good, evil will counter. If he is thinking about choosing for Christ, there will be demands made upon him against Christ. Therefore, one chooses by the value he places on the consequence of choice, or by the amount of persuasion that is brought to bear upon him. Woe be unto the man who listens to conflicting demands without being able to rightly choose. Many times the conflict will be in the form of people who are in the way of one making his choice for Christ as the crowd was in the way of Zacchaeus.

### 1956 April Emphasis Stresses Preparation For Leadership

"Prepare for Leadership" has been announced as the theme for the 1956 April Emphasis on Christian Education, sponsored annually by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Kits containing samples of materials for the Emphasis are being mailed on February 27 to pastors and Training Union directors in more than 23,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. The sample packet contains an order form so that directors may order additional kits from the Education Commission. Many churches will schedule the Leadership Emphasis in connection with Youth Week, April 1-8.

Pamphlets, study materials, and a chart showing the vocational interests of Southern Baptist boys and girls have been produced to assist Training Union directors and leaders in planning an effective and worthwhile Emphasis. The sixteen-page basic pamphlet, "Prepare for Leadership," provides check sheets on leadership potential — revealing points at which improvement needs to be made by the individuals. Included also is a **Plan Sheet** which outlines in detail procedures for using the materials to the greatest advantage.

The emphasis on leadership was selected because of the urgent needs for dynamic, trained Christians to lead in all affairs — civic, business, and church. The program focuses the attention of Intermediates and Young People on the basic characteristics of leadership and preparation to accept the responsibilities which will be thrust upon them in the near future.

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# ★ Executive Board STATE CONVENTION ★

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

## Over the Top in January

Thank you brethren, thank you churches, over and over again and again and again. You supplied in January all the money that was required in meeting the obligations of the Cooperative Program State Budget for the month. We are deeply grateful to you all. You cannot imagine how jittery we are in our office as the month of January comes to a close every year. If we fail in January to raise the required budget figures it prophecies discouraging things for the entire year. We are always anxious and prayerful. Of course, the January contributions do not guarantee that every month will yield sufficient funds, but it is a pretty good omen and is very encouraging at this time of the year. Thank you again and again. —B.L.B.

## The General Secretary's Health

Since the General Secretary's serious illness two years ago we have been receiving many inquiries about his health. We are happy to report that his health is excellent and he has all the strength he needs for every task. We know that his work has been more strenuous and more taxing during the last several months than it has ever been, but he has had plenty of strength with which to do it and has missed only one appointment, due to a one day attack of what the doctors call "the virus." Thank you brethren for your concern and your inquiries. Everything is o.k. —B.L.B.

## By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them

During the long period over which the American Baptist (Northern) Convention has operated in the North and East they have netted less than 1,000 churches in the states of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota. In Arkansas alone the Southern Baptist work has netted more than 1100 churches that affiliate with the Arkansas Baptist Convention at this time, and perhaps half that many more regular Baptist Churches that are not affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

In Arizona there are more than 100 Southern Baptist Churches and about 40 other Baptist Churches. There are 72 towns with no Baptist Church at all. There is one Baptist Church to every 5,000 population.—B.L.B.

## 1956 Date For Convention Meeting

Sometime ago in this column we asked the Baptist people to look at their little red diary for 1956 and change the date that is listed in it for the 1956 meeting of the Convention from November 13 to November 20. We are now asking you to change back to the original date.

The Executive Board found that to begin on the 20th would run us into Thanksgiving Day and the brethren were sure that we could not hold the people in the Convention on Thanksgiving Day. Consequently, the Executive Board changed the date of the Convention meeting back to Tuesday, November 13, 1956. Please observe this notice and request. —B.L.B.

## A Question Answered

A pastor wrote a letter saying, "The man who helped me make up my income tax report for 1955, informed me that I can only pay and draw social security on my taxable net income."

Realizing that other pastors may be told the same thing, we decided to check with the Social Security Officials.

The information that we received was this: The minister is classified as a self-employed individual; therefore, he pays 3 per cent on his earnings, less the actual expenses incurred. If a pastor's salary is \$4,800 and his honorariums are \$300 and his marriage fees, etc. amount to \$100, his earnings for the year would be \$5,200. If he bought \$200 worth of books, purchased \$100 worth of clergy materials, he would subtract \$300 from \$5,200, which would mean that his actual income was \$4,900. So, he would pay 3 per cent of \$4,200, the maximum amount on which one can pay.

Another example: If the pastor received a salary of \$3,900 and received \$300 in honorariums and fees, he would have earnings of \$4,200. But, if he spent \$150 for books and \$50 for other materials, etc. out of his salary, then he would have earnings of \$4,000 on which he would pay 3 per cent.

If there are other questions on this matter, write to us and we will be glad to help you. —R. D.

## Beirne and Harold Wilson

Harold Wilson is pastor of the Baptist church in Beirne. Harold is a young man and recently got out of Ouachita College. Even while he was in school he served the church at Beirne which has shown a flattering development and growth under the leadership of this sincere and consecrated young preacher. The church has increased its giving for the Cooperative Program for 1956. —B.L.B.

## First Church Harrison Increases

In every way First Church in Harrison is increasing its strength. The work is growing under the popular pastor, Lehman Webb. They finished up a building program last year and although there is a debt, yet they have increased their contribution for Cooperative Missions. They will give at least \$300 more in 1956 than they did in 1955 for the Cooperative Program. Treasurer Judson Cooper is a deacon and a son of a Baptist preacher. We always get fine and prompt responses from the church at Harrison. —B.L.B.

## Berryville and Measel

We have received the January check for the Cooperative Program from First Church in Berryville. This good church, under the splendid ministry of Pastor Measel is growing and going forward all the time. Their former pastor, Brother Webb, had led the church into a new scale of giving for missions. The church is still going forward. From the springboard that Webb built they are making a long leap under the ministry of Measel. Their January check for the Cooperative Program was \$265. There is an unusually bright future for Berryville. —B.L.B.

## Is It Surprising

When you increase the allocation for Missions in your church budget from 10 per cent to 12 per cent it makes a big difference. Suppose your church budget is \$6,000. You have been giving 10 per cent for the Cooperative Program, that means that you have been giving \$600 for the year, but if you increase your percentage from 10 per cent to 12 per cent then you are giving \$720 for Missions instead of \$600. So you have increased your gift 20 per cent. Many of our smaller churches are making increases even bigger than that.

The ideal division of funds in a church budget according to the thinking of Southern Baptist Convention leaders is 50 per cent for the Cooperative Program and 50 per cent for home operations. We believe that we should forever get away from the idea that when a church gives 10 per cent of its funds to Missions it is fulfilling its obligations towards Missions. Ten per cent may be a good starting point for a new church but no church should be content to continue with a 10 per cent contribution for Missions. Education begins with the alphabet but it does not end there except with the ignorant and undeveloped. It is a shame to be giving only 7 or 8 per cent of a church budget to Missions. Every church ought to grow. Raise your Mission contributions. —B.L.B.

## Why Not Doctrine?

What does any Baptist preacher or occupant of the pew have to gain of biblical value by being a doctrinal stammerer of a doctrinal jellyfish? What does he hope to gain of lasting spiritual value by being doctrinally indefinite like the old woman was indefinite about bluing. She said: "You can always tell whether bluing is any account or not. Just put a ball of it in the water, and it will either sink to the bottom or stay on top, I don't remember which!"

In being a Baptist one need not and should not be personally offensive, or noisy, or obstructive, or arrogant. Let him humbly be a Baptist from biblical conviction. If a Baptist, why find it difficult to be one? We wonder. In fact, we do not believe he does. But if not a Baptist why claim to be one?

If there is someone classed as a Baptist who finds it difficult to be a Baptist and he cannot come to definite convictions along this line, the honest thing for him to do is to go where he can be doctrinally clear and doctrinally at home.

—Watchman Examiner

## Marianna First Sends Large Offering

First Church in Marianna sent a very large contribution for the Cooperative Program for the month of January. It included a substantial gift from one of the members who made an extra contribution at the close of the old year. The entire contribution from Marianna First for the Cooperative Program in January was \$1,050. D. Hoyle Haire is the valiant pastor of this historic and victorious church. Under the able leadership of Pastor Haire the church is making marked progress. —B.L.B.