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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 54

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, JANUARY 6, 1955

NUMBER 1



H. Armstrong Roberts

A New Year Challenges Us

See Page Three

Permanent Residence By Special Legislation

By REUBEN E. ALLEY

On several occasions during the 83rd session, Congress enacted special legislation to grant permanent United States residence to members of Roman Catholic orders. It appears that in most cases these laws, passed after urgent pleadings by officials of the Catholic church, were in favor of Italian nuns who had come to this country to work in schools. Of this nature were two bills, signed by President Eisenhower late in August, which granted residence to fifteen nuns who had overstayed their permits as visitors. Two additional bills grant permanent residence to 18 nuns. The Hierarchy claimed that the nuns were performing necessary work for their orders. Since the Catholic Church gives evidence of increasing these requests, Congress should use greater care before granting permanent residence by special legislation.

Immigration quotas were fixed by the United States Government after careful study of past experiences and present population trends. These are important considerations when quotas are being changed. It is doubtful that Congress gave thought to these things before it took action on special cases which had the effect of increasing the number of immigrants from Italy. Moreover, as a general proposition, the passage of numerous special laws of one pattern for the benefit of a particular group of citizens is harmful. The fact that officials of a religious body repeatedly urge Congress for this special legislation should be additional reason for care.

Quite likely the Italian nuns, whom the Roman Catholic Church is bringing to the United States in increasing numbers, are used to meet a growing deficiency of teachers for parochial schools. Two years ago Ben-

jamin Fine, writing in the *New York Times* stated that Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States had enrollments above 3,600,000 students, which represented an increase of 35 per cent in the past decade. In 1952 the Catholic Church had under construction school facilities that cost \$130,000,000. A like amount was spent last year, and the expansion continues in 1954. Superintendents of Catholic schools reported that the serious handicap was a shortage of teachers. "Because of this shortage the Catholic schools cannot expand as rapidly as they might." Catholics have attempted to employ lay teachers, but competition with the salary scale of public schools is too great. Msgr. Norbert M. Shumaker of the Toledo Diocese summed up the situation in this way: "Our schools have traditionally depended upon religious teaching communities of men and women serving under minimum salaries. The source of supply seems to have reached its limit. Lay teachers must supplement, but adequate salaries cannot always be offered. The situation is becoming critical."

To complicate the situation for the Catholic Church it is reported that American girls are less inclined to offer for orders. Confronted by an "urgent" need, the Catholic Church may be encouraging young women in Italy and other foreign countries to take the veil so that they might become teachers of boys and girls in the United States. Such a policy, pursued by the Catholic Church, or any other body is dangerous. In view of the increasing number of requests by the Catholic Church for grants of permanent residences, Congress should investigate these cases with great care before it passes special enabling legislation in the future.

—*Religious Herald.*

Our Rendezvous With God A Devotion by the Editor

"Trust in him at all times."

All nature pays daily tribute to the glory, majesty, and power of God. But the tribute of nature, however uniform and constant, does not compare with the voluntary and personal response of a human soul to God's appeals. Nature has no other choice. Man has many choices. The day in which the Spirit of God found its own joy to the human soul, and the joy to God.

There come times in every life, and every day is such a time, when we need to come close to God in the secret place. We need a rendezvous with one who can give us strength. We are constantly meeting antagonists whose strength we cannot match. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers which cannot be mastered by human hands. Unless we meet God often in the secret place, we shall be beaten by the unfriendly forces of a world that is ruled by the forces of darkness.

When nerves are tense and seem ready to snap, the surest relief is to keep rendezvous with God. Many people take a nerve sedative when they should pray. Prayer would do more to relieve the tension under which people live than all the drugs with which their medicine cabinets are filled.

To keep our tryst with God will clarify our thinking. When confused and uncertain, not knowing what to do or say, we need to slip away to the secret place with God, and there our thoughts and purposes will become clear, doubts and confusion will vanish.

In the secret place with God unleash your heart, unbosom your soul. Will you try to keep all your heart to yourself? That is the way to store up misery and unhappiness. "Pour out your heart" to God, urges the Psalmist. That is the only way to relieve the inner tension of your soul. It is your greatest privilege and opportunity. Try it, won't you today?

"In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us." Psalms 62:7,8.

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Free men will find right answers more often than wrong answers, and the history of tyranny shows that men who are not free find very few answers of any kind.

—Quote.

Wanted: New Testament Deacons

By DR. ELLIS L. TIFFANY

Immanuel Church, Rogers

At the last deacons' meeting in our church, we fell to "chasing rabbits" — a sign of several things (most of them good). But one of the "trails" took us, I am persuaded, straight back to the New Testament. For, you see, the subject we "jumped" was that of the deacon's duties.

One very simple observation was made as the consensus of the group: just about the only distinctive service which remains to modern-day deacons is at the communion table. It was agreed that this arrangement does not coincide with the pattern of service which the first deacons laid down.

What could be done to restore some of the lost honor to the deacon's office? This question was being asked by my deacons. What was I to say as their pastor? Here is what I did.

Briefly, I reviewed something of the work of the first deacons, and dwelt on the examples of Stephen and Philip. To the man, the deacons came alive when I told them of the thrill every pastor has when his work takes him into the baptistry. But the record of the New Testament forced me to the further observation that the early church precipitated the precedent permitting the deacon to enjoy the same thrill of leading people into the baptismal pool — if that deacon has first led them to the Lord! I prom-

ised my deacons that I would be very happy to "move over" and watch them baptize every person into the membership of our church whom they had won to the Lord.

This is something of the outlook which every church needs among its deacons. The baptismal waters would be stirred more frequently in our churches today if every deacon would acquire and keep what he sincerely wants — the ability to lead people into active church membership. Of one thing we may be sure: it would be next to impossible to stop a soul-winning deacon from his redemptive pursuits if he were given the added responsibility of baptizing his converts into church membership and nurturing them in it.

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

It is not what people eat but what they digest that makes them grow. It is not what they read, but what they remember that makes them learned. It is not what they profess, but what they practice that makes them righteous.

—Quote.

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RELIGION

Religion is either applied or denied.

—*Present Truth Messenger.*

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Official Publication of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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From The Editor's Desk

A New Year Challenges Us

We stand on the threshold of a new year—the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-five. Doubtless we look ahead with eagerness. There are many challenges, the opportunities, and the blessings which the year holds in store for us. There are twelve months, fifty-two weeks, 365 days which are provided us in the new year. These are filled with opportunities and advantages for the acquisition of material wealth, for the joys and satisfactions of life, for working and mingling with our fellowmen, for service to our Lord and for worship.

Effort Required

These opportunities and blessings, however, are not acquired without effort on our part. The diligent and industrious, whether in the business world or in relationship with others or in the service of the Lord, will receive the rewards which the year offers. The indolent and slothful will be impoverished and will come to the end of the year poorer than at its beginning.

We hope for happiness and joy throughout the year, but happiness and joy must be achieved in the midst of sorrows and griefs. He who cannot find happiness and joy in spite of the sorrows that come to life has not learned the secret of happiness. No joy comes to us unmixed with sorrow and the joys of life are all the sweeter because they must be extracted from the sorrows of life. Along with the satisfactions of life come also the disappointments. It is the disappointments which cause us to appreciate more than we otherwise would life's satisfactions. If there were no disappointments, we would be inclined to take the satisfactions of life for granted and we would become satiated to the point of boredom.

If we were always successful, we would lose the joy of success. It is by overcoming failure and defeat and succeeding in spite of these setbacks that we experience the richest satisfaction from our successes. He who has never failed has never tried. We learn the value of success by our failures.

We must work for our daily bread. Work is one of the best medicines for life. Wholesome, gainful employment invests life with a certain dignity that cannot be had by idleness. It is only by work that the individual is able to make his contribution to life and to his fellowman. It is by work that the natural resources of the earth are created into the wealth of the world.

There will be difficulties to overcome in our prayer life. We must find time to pray in the busy days ahead when so many responsibilities are calling for attention. It will be easy to neglect our prayer life as we busy ourselves with so many other things which claim that they cannot wait. We shall neglect our prayer life to the impoverishment of our spiritual lives.

Unpromising Soil

We must serve the Lord in spite of the difficulties which we encounter. And so it is

with our worship of the Lord. If we serve and worship our Lord only when we have nothing else to do, our service and worship will be reduced to the minimum. Service and worship should have a definite place in our weekly and daily schedule. If they do not have such a place, they will inevitably be neglected.

We Are Profoundly Thankful

Mrs. Duncan and I wish to express our profound gratitude to our many friends from far and near who were so thoughtful as to remember us with such lovely greetings during the Christmas Season.

We hope you will accept this as a personal message to each of you and remember us in your prayers throughout the coming year. We are grateful for the love and loyalty of the readers of the *Arkansas Baptist*, and we wish for you every good thing that the new year holds in store for you.

We are grateful for the providence and the grace of our Lord during the past year and for a reasonable degree of health which has enabled us to carry on the work which is committed to us.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

So whatever value the new year, 1955, holds for us, we must mine those values out of the unpromising soil and stone which both defy and challenge us. Sorrow, disappointment, hardship, failure, and problems will defy our efforts to gain the values that are hidden among them in the new year. But these values, joys, satisfactions, and richness of experience challenge us to our best efforts in an attempt to gain the values which the year holds in store.

The timid and the fearful, the weak and the cowardly, will shrink from the hardships and the toll, the sorrows and the griefs, the disappointments and the frustrations which they encounter. The courageous and the brave will not be intimidated by these circumstances but will face whatever problems and difficulties they may encounter with fortitude and nobility.

May we accept the challenge of 1955 and move on to greater achievements in the kingdom of our Lord.

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GIFTS

God has given us two hands — one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. If we fail to fulfill this divine duty and privilege, we have missed the meaning of Christianity.

—Billy Graham.

Walter R. Alexander

Dr. Walter R. Alexander, executive secretary of the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, died in Dallas, Texas, on December 13.

Dr. Alexander came to the Relief and Annuity Board as associate secretary to Dr. J. W. Watts. That was several years ago. He came from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Florence, South Carolina. Previously he had been pastor in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Dr. Alexander was born and reared in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but almost his entire ministry was completely integrated into the work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Relief and Annuity Board had its greatest growth and development under the administration of Dr. Alexander. Its services were expanded and more liberal provisions made for the participants in the various annuity plans of the board. Only this year the Ministers Retirement Plan has been liberalized and it is now called the Ministers Security Plan. A like plan has been proposed to the participants in the board employees annuity plan.

To this work of making more ample provision for the preachers within the Southern Baptist Convention fellowship, Dr. Alexander gave himself wholeheartedly, enthusiastically, and with infinite patience and rare wisdom. He was a friend to all the preachers of the Southern Baptist Convention. That friendship took on a very personal nature. As he felt the burdens and privations that many preachers suffered, particularly the aged, many a preacher has reason to thank God for Walter R. Alexander. He filled his place of service well, for which his brethren throughout the Convention call his name blessed.

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All In One Mould?

By ANDREW M. HALL

I hear so much and read so much in the Ecumenical journals about **One Protestant Church**.

An experience occurred recently in our town to show how really close or far we are from this idea. Our local ministerial group was meeting at our house for a supper. We were out in the back in the picnic area when the Methodist pastor chided the Presbyterian pastor for being so dressed up.

"I must go for a preparation service for communion Sunday," said the Calvinist.

Puzzled, the Methodist asked, "Why prepare for something that has saving power?"

I interposed hurriedly to say that the Lord's Supper is only symbolic.

With polite sarcasm the Methodist replied — "Yes, like Baptism—only symbolic."

The Christian pastor, while selecting a drumstick, hollowed over, "Hall, if you need any help on that Baptism, I'll be right over."

A "few things" remain yet to be ironed out. Witness Evanston!

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"God loves us as much when He strikes us as He does when He strokes us."

Kingdom Progress

Arkansans In Southwestern Seminary Graduating Class of January 14



Ernest E. Mosley, B. D.
Texarkana

Thos. Landers, B. D.
No. Little Rock

Ernest L. Hollaway, Jr.
M. R. E., Arkadelphia

Betty Jo Lacy, M.R.E.,
Hot Springs



Billy Jo Walsh, B. D.
Little Rock

John Kuespert, B. D.
Little Rock

Thos. E. Farrar, Jr., B. D.
Lepanto

Wm. J. Sewell, B. D.
Ft. Smith

R. D. Harris Goes to Mountain View

R. D. Harris has resigned the pastorate of First Church, McCrory, to accept the pastorate of First Church, Mountain View, and has already assumed his new duties with the Mountain View church.

Pastor Harris came to the McCrory church March 28, 1950, from the Humphrey Church. During his ministry at McCrory he received 97 persons into the membership of the church on profession of faith and baptism. The church has had a net growth of 57 in membership.

Also during his ministry a Brotherhood has been organized, six new classes have been added to the Sunday school, and a weekly Sunday school officers and teachers meeting has been instituted. Also the debts on the educational building and the organ have been paid.

Mrs. Harris is active in the organizations of the church. The Harrises have two children, Tommy and Vada Lou. Vada Lou, a graduate of the Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, is the wife of Alfred Cullom, who is a ministerial student in his senior year at Ouachita College. Tommy is also enrolled at Ouachita.

Old Walnut Ridge Church Burns Notes

The Old Walnut Ridge Church held a note-burning service, December 12. The church was organized in 1890. Two of its oldest continuous members, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davis, who joined in 1897, were present and participated in the service.

R. O. Pittman is pastor of the Old Walnut Ridge Church.

"Christ or Chaos" Theme of Baptist Hour

Returning for his second consecutive quarter as "Baptist Hour" speaker, Dr. Roy O. McClain, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, has selected "Christ or Chaos" as his message theme.

Sermon titles for January and February are:

January 2, "Forgetting Those Things Which Are Behind".

January 9, "No Religion For Me!".

January 16, "Thorns In The Flesh".

January 23, "The High Cost of Low Living".

January 30, "The Great Supper."

February 6, "The Democracy of Death".

February 13, "Ole Time Religion".

February 20, "Epitaphs".

February 27, "What It Means To Be Lost".

This is the fourteenth year of the "Baptist Hour".

The "Baptist Hour" reaches more than five and a half million listeners each week.

More than 350 radio stations broadcast the "Baptist Hour" each week.

The "Baptist Hour" serves as associate pastor to nearly 30,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Former Arkansan Dies in Texas

Dr. W. M. Wright died December 14 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Millstead, of Houston, Texas.

Dr. Wright was formerly pastor of the First Church, Camden, and is remembered for his ministry in Little Rock.

For the past fifteen years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Paris, Texas.

Bledsoe Goes to Missouri

Pastor D. B. Bledsoe of the First Church, Wilson, has resigned the Wilson church to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Charleston, Missouri. Pastor Bledsoe will assume the duties of his new pastorate on January 11.

Pastor Bledsoe has been with the Wilson church for more than four years. Before going to Wilson he was associational missionary of the Mississippi County Association.

During his four year ministry 276 persons were baptized into the fellowship of the church and 152 joined by letter and statement. The church membership at present totals 600. The Sunday school enrollment is 584, Training Union 313.

During Pastor Bledsoe's ministry at the Wilson church a modern "baby building" was added to the church facilities. The entire church has been air conditioned. Tentative plans are under way to add more Sunday school rooms to the present plant.

At the time of his resignation, Pastor Bledsoe was moderator of the Mississippi County Association, a member of the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and a member of the Brotherhood Committee.

Pastor Bledsoe was reared at Arkadelphia. He is a graduate of Henderson State Teachers College, Louisiana State and Arkansas State University, and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Minister Ordained

G. P. Gholson was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by the Second Church, Arkadelphia, recently.

J. A. Brookshire, pastor of First Church, Ogden, served as moderator; Charles D. Conner, associational missionary, Red River Association, served as clerk of the ordaining council. S. M. Cooper, pastor of Second Church, Arkadelphia, conducted the examination. J. A. Copeland, student in Ouachita College, offered the ordination prayer. J. T. McClain, head of the Bible Department of Ouachita College, delivered the ordination sermon.

Mr. Gholson is a student in Ouachita College. He is serving as pastor of Parks Church.

Sherwood, N.L.R., Has Revival

Sherwood Church North Little Rock, and Pastor L. M. Andrews, recently had the services of Raymond Strickland in a revival meeting which resulted in 4 additions to the church on profession of faith and baptism and 5 by letter.

A sound system which will play chimes and organ music each afternoon and before services on Sunday has been installed in the Sherwood Church.

There have been 21 additions to the Sherwood Church in the two and a half months Mr. Andrews has served as pastor. The Sunday school enrolment has increased from 102 to 142.

Hatfield Church Receives 13 in Revival

There have been two revivals at the Hatfield Church recently. The first one was conducted by Evangelist Paul Shipman and resulted in 1 addition to the church on profession of faith and baptism and two by letter.

The second was a youth revival directed by Glenn McCoy and Shirley Joplin, members of the Hatfield Church who are now students in Ouachita College. They were assisted by Bob Hildreth and Bill Bullington, also students in Ouachita College.

Minister Ordained

Shelley Pleasant was ordained to the full gospel ministry on December 19 by the Blackwater Church of the Mississippi County Association.

Pastor Oscar Creech of Brown Chapel Church served as moderator and also conducted the examination. Pastor Charles Long of Cross Roads Church served as clerk; Harold Ray, pastor of Clear Lake Church, delivered the charge; and Thomas Bray, pastor, Blackwater Church, presented the Bible; John D. Gearing, associational missionary Mississippi County Association, offered the ordination prayer and led in the laying on of hands. W. H. Horn delivered the ordination sermon.

Mr. Pleasant is pastor of Shiloh Church in Trinity Association.

Progress at Second, El Dorado

Second Church, El Dorado, over-subscribed their budget of \$56,711 by \$12,000 and 525 signed a tither's card. This was the result of a budget campaign of six weeks duration.

A program of redecoration and enlargement is underway which will provide adequate space in the auditorium and new office equipment and new pulpit furniture.

Plans are in the making for an additional building and for an auditorium. A building fund campaign is scheduled for April 11 to May 15.

D. Wade Armstrong is the pastor of the El Dorado church, having come from a pastorate to 5½ years duration in Oklahoma City. The associate pastor is B. T. Scrivner.

Temple Church, Crossett, Enters New Building

The Temple Church, Crossett, which is sixteen months old, entered its new building Sunday, December 12. Pastor J. W. Buckner delivered the message at the morning service; Keith Babb, former pastor of Immanuel Church, Warren, and now pastor of the West Side Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana, delivered the message at the formal opening service which was held in the afternoon; and Shirley Briggs, pastor of First Church, Ferriday, Louisiana, began the first revival in the new building in the evening service.

This is the first unit of the Temple Church. It is a brick-veneer structure for educational purposes with an auditorium large enough for present needs. The building is 91 x 52 with two stories. An auditorium will be erected in the near future.

Jane Ray Bean Joins Staff Of Baptist Board

Miss Jane Ray Bean, student secretary, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., on January 1 became associate secretary of the Student Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

A native Kentuckian, Miss Bean is a graduate of Bardstown High School, Ky., and attended Central College, Conway, Ark. She holds a M.A. from Blue Mountain College. Her business experience covers accounting with the Southern Bell Telephone Company, Louisville, promotional director of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, and receptionist on the Ridgcrest Baptist Assembly staff.

Miss Bean's specific responsibilities will be working with junior and business colleges, and overseas students. She succeeds Miss Billie Russell, who is now youth director, First Baptist Church, Asheboro, N. C.

Souls are Saved Through 'Baptist Hour'

Churches throughout 38 Southern Baptist Convention states, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Panama and the Philippine Islands have designated one Sunday during January and February, 1955 for the first "Baptist Hour Recognition Day."

The purpose of this special observance is to recognize the far-flung fields which bring the gospel message to many millions who are unchurched and unsaved through the "Baptist Hour."

Response to an invitation by Radio and Television Commission Director Paul M. Stevens, to join in this recognition day, has been met with high enthusiasm by many pastors and the more than 350 stations which carry the "Baptist Hour" to a conservatively estimated six million persons in the continental United States alone.

Churches holding recognition services plan to invite their local radio station representatives to be present and accept individual awards for distinguished service issued by the Radio and Television Commission.

The producers of the "Baptist Hour" are understandably proud of their unique position in the Convention which actually makes them assistant pastors to the almost 30,000 cooperating churches.

A testimonial flood to the effectiveness of the "Baptist Hour" keeps a staff busy at the Baptist Radio Center in Atlanta, as letters pour in from around the globe and across the continent.

These letters are concrete evidence that listeners DO benefit by "Baptist Hour" broadcasts; appreciate the program's preaching counsel; the outstanding messages in music by the great choirs.

Since its inception, more than 13 years ago, the "Baptist Hour" has grown annually.

The full value of the "Baptist Hour" may never be realized. Each week a letter from a parent, pastor or friend, tells of how some lost person is led to accept Christ through messages heard on the "Baptist Hour."

Baptists Asked to Protest Pending Spain-U.S. Agreement

A vigorous appeal has been made for Southern Baptists to protest the pending agreement between Spain and the United States that endangers the civil and religious liberties of Americans in Spain. Louis D. Newton, pastor, Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., said, "Baptists should respectfully and earnestly petition the Department of State and the Department of Defense to review the reported agreement between the United States authorities and Spain by which it is alleged that the Roman Catholic Church would exercise the right to sanction or forbid mixed marriages between United States citizens and the citizens of Spain. We dare not surrender our constitutional birthright of religious freedom for any mess of pottage."

Alfred Carpenter, secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Chaplains Commission, said, "The demands of this proposed agreement are neither Christian nor democratic. An appeal to the Secretary of State would greatly help. Every Baptist should express his true conviction."

All communications should be telegraphed directly to John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

The fullness of God is such that it cannot be contained in anything less than the whole of a life.

-Austin Ingram

Virginia Baptist History Set For Publication in March

Garnett Ryland, University of Richmond, Richmond, Va., has written a history called **The Baptists of Virginia** to be published March 1, 1955.

"In his history Dr. Ryland skillfully relates how Baptists, late upon the scene in Virginia, played such a remarkable role in formulating the historic doctrine of religious liberty as a part of the organic law of the new nation," Reuben E. Alley, said in a review of the book.

-Baptist Press

'Take Time to Plan' Broadman Film

"Take Time to Plan" is the title of a new motion picture produced by Broadman Films for the Architecture Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. A narration type color film, it tells in 25 minutes how a church determined it needed a new building and shows how it planned to get it.

The purpose of the film, according to W. A. Harrell, department secretary, is to impress upon churches the urgency of "planning before building." It will be distributed on a service charge basis.

Gilbert L. Guffin Writes Book for Pastors

Pastor and Church, a new manual for pastoral leadership, is the title of a new book by Dr. Gilbert L. Guffin, president, The Eastern Theological Seminary. It was released January 3 from the Broadman Press, publishing agency of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Davis C. Woolley, director of extension division of Christian training at Howard College, Birmingham, wrote the foreword to the book. Woolley says: "This book overflows from the pastor heart of a scholar who has kept foremost in his writing the needs of his brethren in the ministry."

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WHAT WAS THE EXCUSE?

A man of many business cares received a note from his pastor asking him to do a certain service. He did it, and afterwards told his pastor what his first reactions to the call had been, as the pastor reported it in a church paper:

"When I got your note," he said, "I saw at once that it was impossible for me to do what you asked, and I immediately wrote a note in reply to explain why I could not do it. I did not quite like my note and tore it up to write another which would explain better why I could not do what you asked."

"Then I wrote a third note, stating quite finally that I could not respond. You did not get any notes because after writing the third note I just looked myself in the face and said, Here you can perfectly well do what he has asked you to do, and you know you can."

"So, here I am and I have done it, and I mean to keep on doing it, but I thought you might like to know how it came about. I have decided that not only I but thousands of others all around are giving excuses which would not stand a minute if we faced them down."

-Exchange

Those who have had "the props knocked out from under them" no doubt were leaning on the wrong thing, because God is immovable.

Christian Horizons

By Religious News Service

Graham to Conduct New York Crusade

An evangelistic campaign in New York City by Dr. Billy Graham in the fall of 1957 seems "virtually assured," according to Protestant leaders there.

Dan M. Potter, acting executive director of the Protestant Council of the City of New York, said its Board of Directors hopes that all-inclusive Protestant sponsorship of the campaign can be arranged.

Toward this end, he said, the Board has voted to set up a special city-wide committee which will contact leaders of all Protestant groups in the metropolitan area and try to involve them in the plans.

At least two years of preparation will be needed for the crusade, Dr. Potter said, because New York is a particularly "tough" site for such a revival.

Graham Wants to Conduct Iron Curtain Crusade

Evangelist Billy Graham said in Dallas that he is "seriously considering" the possibility of going to countries behind the Iron Curtain.

"I don't know yet just how these plans will work out," he said. "I have received no invitations."

The evangelist revealed his desire to conduct an evangelistic crusade in eastern Europe in discussing his 1955 schedule which will take him to Glasgow on March 21 to open a six-week campaign in Scotland. After the Scottish tour, he will go to London and the Continent for a repetition of the evangelistic drives he conducted there last year.

Dr. Graham announced that Howard E. Butt Jr. of Corpus Christi, Tex., will join his team as an official associate for the Scottish crusade. Mr. Butt, 27-year-old vice-president of a Texas supermarket chain, has become known as "God's Groceryman" because he gives six months of his time each year to preaching at revivals over the country.

Religious Freedom Association Formed in Italy

An Association for Religious Freedom in Italy was formed by a group of Italian scholars, jurists and legislators at a meeting in Milan. The organizers said they hope to set up branches in several other cities.

A spokesman for the group said one of the chief reasons for its formation was that, in spite of guarantees of religious freedom provided in Articles VIII, XIX and XX of Italy's 1948 Constitution, Italian police officials continue to apply "restrictive" decrees, issued in 1929 under the Fascist regime, to religious minority groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses, the Churches of Christ, the Pentecostal Church and other evangelical bodies.

Italy's Supreme Court ruled in December, 1953, that the Fascist decrees restricting freedom of worship were "automatically abrogated" by adoption of the postwar Constitution.

Methodist Church Reports Gain of 71,628 Members

Membership in The Methodist Church in

the United States and its possessions now totals 9,223,152, according to figures for 1954 released by Albert C. Hoover, director of the denomination's statistical office in Chicago.

He said this represents a net gain of 71,628 over the 9,151,524 reported a year ago.

The figure, Mr. Hoover said, does not include 1,086,104 preparatory members (baptized children and others under instruction or not yet received into full membership) but does include 26,165 ministers and 11,494 local preachers. There are 39,801 preaching places in the denomination.

Christian Radio Station Opened in Korea

Religious programs now are being beamed to Communist-held North Korea as well as to the whole of free South Korea over Station HLKY, "The Radio Voice of Christian Korea."

The transmitter was opened at ceremonies in Seoul, attended by United States Ambassador Ellis Briggs, high Korean government officials and representatives of Korean Christian and U. S. missionary groups.

The nation's first privately-operated radio station, it is a joint project of the National Council of Korea and cooperating U. S. missionary bodies. Prior to its opening, the Korean government network had been the sole broadcasting facility in this country.

District Attorneys Condemn Objectionable Comics

Publication of sex and horror comic books was condemned in Denver by the Colorado District Attorneys Association which urged special legislation to curb the sale of such magazines.

The action was taken at a special meeting in the Colorado Supreme Court Chamber attended by prosecuting attorneys from all over the state.

Irving L. Mason, district attorney at Durango, said there was considerable pressure on his office from parent-teachers associations, church groups and individuals to "do something" about objectionable publications. But more legislation will be needed before anything can be done, he added.

Other district attorneys reported similar pressure is building up all over the state, although there has been no official organized drive against the comic books.

John Stump Witcher, district attorney at Canon City, said pressure in his community was getting so strong that the City Council had drafted a measure to control undesirable comics.

Most of the district attorneys said attention was focused on comic books because of the increase in juvenile delinquency throughout the state.

First Woman Judge Begins With Scriptures

When Judge Fannie E. Burch was sworn into office at Livingston as the first woman to hold a major judgeship in Louisiana she promised her initial act would be a reading from the Scriptures.

Judge Birch opened court in Division A of the 21st Judicial District by reading verses one and two of the first chapter of Psalms.

A Smile or Two

Angry widow (after learning husband left her nothing): "I want you to take 'Rest in Peace' off that tombstone I ordered yesterday."

Sculptor: "I can't do that, but I can put something underneath."

Widow: "All right. Put 'Till we meet again'."

Preaching interminably on the immortality of the soul, the parson said, "I look at the mountains and cannot help thinking, 'Beautiful as you are, you will be destroyed, while my soul will not.' . . . And then I gaze upon the ocean and cry, 'Mighty as you are, you will eventually dry up, but not I.'"

First GI: "How did you get that black eye?"

Second GI: "I was hit by a guided muscle."

A reader writes: My little boy, still in the 1st flush of having attained his 5th birthday, said to me: "How long do you think you will live, Mummy?"

"Oh, probably till I'm 70 or 80, or even longer," I repl'd. "Doctors do such wonderful things to make people younger nowadays."

His face clouded, and after a short silence a very anxious little voice said: "I do hope the doctor doesn't make me 4 again."

—Quote.

While the young mother chatted with a friend about some recently married acquaintances, Janie Lou played with her dolls and eaves-dropped. Presently she cut into the conversation, announcing, "Some day I'm going to get married." She paused, and added thoughtfully, "I wonder what I will name my husband."

—Christian Science Monitor.

A long-winded bore was describing a miraculous escape.

"There was I," he said, "on a lonely road, mi's from anywhere, and trapped in a blazing car. What do you think I did?"

"Well," suggested a weary listener, stifling a yawn, "I suppose you took a deep breath and blew out the flames."

—Quote.

Sally: "Which do you think is more important to a girl, beauty or brains?"

Goldie: "Well, let's put it this way: Most men can see better than they can think."

One housewife to another, over the back fence: "I got to thinking yesterday — you know how you'll do when the television set is broken."

A saucy damsel was speeding through traffic. A policeman stopped her.

"Look here," growled the cop, "where's the fire?"

"What are you worrying about?" she countered. "You're no fireman."

Two girls in front of jewelry store: "I think he loves me, but he never comes right out with anything I can put on my finger."

Friend: "Has your son's education proved of any real value?"

Father: "Yes, indeed. It has entirely cured his mother of bragging about him."

News From Baptist Press

SBC Leaders Name Committees

Committee and committee members named at the recent annual December meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville are as follows:

Home Mission Board as follows: A committee to confer with committee of three from the Home Mission Board on the ways and means of enlarging Home Mission Board loan for churches to \$11,000,000. Members are: A. Barnum Hawkes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Waycross, Ga.; Charles C. Bowles, pastor, Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.; and M. H. Mabry, Tampa, Fla.

Church Loan Agency, committee to study advisability of establishing a loan fund for churches to be administered as a separate Southern Baptist agency. Committeemen are: Herschel H. Hobbs, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Carr P. Collins, Dallas, Tex.; C. Vaughan Rock, First Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Thomas P. Pruitt, Hickory, N. C.; Kendall Berry, Blytheville, Ark.; James W. Merritt, Atlanta, Ga.; Homer H. Waldrop, chairman, Jackson, Tenn.

Special Fund-Raising Services Committee, to study a proposed service for churches to help raise building funds in organized drives. A service similar to the professional fund-raising agencies. Members: Elwyn N. Wilkinson, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; G. Allen West, Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.; and J. Norris Palmer, chairman, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Seminary Accredited By Theological Schools Assoc.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., has been received as associate member of the American Association of Theological Schools, according to an announcement by President Sydnor L. Stealey. The American Association of Theological

Schools, recognized accrediting agency for American theological schools, is an association of the Christian ministry.

Pastoral Care Institute Set For Winston-Salem

An Institute on Pastoral Care has been set for North Carolina pastors at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital and Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, N. C., January 17-19, 1955.

Among those participating on program are R. Lofton Hudson, pastor, Wornall Road Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Wayne E. Oates, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Russell L. Dicks, Duke Divinity School, Durham, N. C.; John M. Price, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.; and Stewart A. Newnan, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Missionary Council To Meet in Louisville

The tenth annual session of the Missionary Education Council has been scheduled for Louisville, Ky., January 3-5, 1955.

Representatives of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood and seminaries will participate in the conferences.

Organized ten years ago, the Missionary Education Council is a co-operative advisory body which makes recommendations to its constituent boards for the promotion of missionary education. The Council studies plans for graded mission study and also considers the best means of promoting missionary education through visual aids, periodicals, and background books.

William J. Fallis, book editor, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, is president.

Counselor's Corner

By DR. R. LOFTON HUDSON

STAGE FRIGHT

Question: I would like to ask how to control your fear when you are called on to pray or speak. It seems that my mind becomes a complete blank and I can't think. I have been an active member of the church for three years and teach in the Intermediate Department and am church clerk. This awful fear keeps me from doing my best. Can you offer suggestions?

Answer: In a way you ought to thank God for your fear. It keeps you from making a fool of yourself. Besides it proves that you are a good man who cares what people think of you, even if you care a little too much.

Here are my suggestions. First, do not quit doing your best even though you never get over your fear. Just don't let your fears work. Keep on shaking if you must but do not quit speaking.

Second, do not be ashamed of your fears. Most other people have some of the same fear when they speak in public. I know that the Bible says, "Fear not," but Jesus also said, "I will forearm you whom ye shall fear" (Luke 12:5). Fear of that which is dangerous is natural and good.

Third, stage fright is fear of rejection or of criticism. Be humble. God will help people to accept you as you are. Risk their love. Believe that you will be accepted. You do not have to be perfect.

Finally, pray and thank God for his help. Quote to yourself His blessed promises. Then shake if you must, but do your duty in Christ's name.

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These Swarming Baptists

By DR. ELLIS L. TIFFANY
Immanuel Church, Rogers

While our family was on vacation recently, we visited one of the most progressive churches I know anything about. The charter members of that church had left the confusion of their former church home, forming the nucleus of what was to become in less than twelve years the second largest Baptist church in their city.

I visited with the pastor before time for the morning worship service to begin. We could look out his window and see an immense three-story educational building, well on its way to completion, the third such project undertaken by the church in its short history. Finally, I asked him, "Tell me, how has the other church done since your group left them to form this church?"

"Oh," he said, "they've 'swarmed' two or three times since our church was organized."

His figure of speech set me to thinking. I don't know too much about bees, but I do know that a certain portion of the colony will 'swarm' into new quarters when the old quarters get too small.

I may not know too much about Baptists, either. But I know enough about them to know that they will 'swarm', too, if they grow too fast for their quarters. Hitherto the secret of Baptist success has been our growth. Now growth demands progress. And progress requires progressive people. I don't know how the rest of you feel, but I feel this way: if there are Baptists in any quarters where a certain number do not want to keep pace with the need for more space, then let's have more swarms!

Experts Said Amateurs Could Not Do It

By B. J. MURRIE, Editor
Illinois Baptist

Despite the fact that the experts said that the amateurs could not do it, it was done anyway. This is the story of the efforts of Pastor Robert J. Hastings and the University Baptist Church here in Carbondale in their \$75,000 fund raising campaign.

A few months ago a representative of a well-known fund raising organization visited the church and pastor in view of leading in a money raising campaign. He told the group that the church could not conduct the campaign with the local help and if the pastor led in the campaign it would split the church wide open and he would not be able to continue as pastor any length of time.

The prediction made by the representative, who was interested in securing a minimum for his organization of \$3,500, proved utterly false. The church concluded recently a five-week program in which a \$75,000 goal was over-subscribed by almost \$6,000. As members rejoice in the goal reached, all were unanimous that the spirit and fellowship of the church was never better or finer.

More people took part in the campaign than ever have been active in any other capacity. The dedication service was climaxed

when a young man came forward and told of his definite decision for full-time Christian work which grew out of visitation and the experiences during the final week of soliciting funds.

The highest Sunday school attendance was recorded during the eleven weeks preceding Sunday, December 5, which was the fifth anniversary of the church. Persons who had attended Sunday school ten times out of the eleven Sundays were given a picture of the completed church on it and a short history inscribed on the reverse side.

Approximately 95 per cent of the resident membership made definite commitments or pledges, for definite amounts or to tithe their income. A number of families began tithing for the first time as a result of the campaign.

During the campaign, a weekly bulletin giving details and progress reports was issued. A brochure with a picture history of the church was supplied to the membership.

The total pledged on a three year basis was \$80,656. Plans are being drawn for the completion of the entire building and it is hoped that construction will start in early spring.

This Is The Answer

By LEE GALLMAN

Southern Baptists have been eyeing for at least a decade a very large group of men in the pastorate who have not had opportunity to get sufficient training for the leadership required in church life. New interest has been developing as non-Baptist groups offer opportunity to study, albeit on their own slant. These schools prepare them for a type of work that is to some degree sufficient. At least it offers temporary help.

The college extension centers of Howard and Mercer, and the experience of the seminaries in their extension and correspondence departments laid a ground work of know-how sufficient for an approach at the problem. Now we know how. At least we know how to begin. There are many areas yet to be explored and we cannot afford to say that all the know-how has been given us, but to a very marked degree we can say of Baptists that they know how.

No one knows how many, but it is evident that the number of untrained workers is a very large group. They have been neglected to a very large degree. For years some of them have felt that the seminaries had no care for their situation. For years the rural church has thought that the seminaries have no care for the smaller churches. Of course the seminaries have had care and interest both in the churches and in the pastors of the churches all along.

Many Approaches

Baptists have made approaches to the solution to this problem in many ways. We had our mountain schools and in these schools those who could attend were greatly helped. We still have mountain schools. We have Bible schools scattered throughout the South. A person going to Bible school which has been developed properly will definitely be helped and he will come out the better prepared.

But I would contend that the Bible institutes do not offer the answer and they do not offer the answer the extension centers offer. It would take millions of dollars to create enough Bible schools and Bible school faculties to do the work that the Seminary Extension Department alone is doing in its various centers. In such centers as Hobbs, New Mexico, we have enrolled as high as 126. We had over 100 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Houston, Texas. We have had over 50 at Murphy, North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, and (the year we operated) at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Many schools have had up to 30 or 40 with the total enrollment in the centers more than 1500. It costs \$350,000 to build a dormitory to house 350 students and much more to house 350 family units. The seminary extension students remain at home. Those who can pick up stakes and go off to a Bible school some distance away could just as well go to a Seminary where ample provision is being made for them.

Choice Teachers Available

But this is the answer because the teaching personnel is always close to Baptist life. The association, the state executive committee, and the state executive secretary work together to get co-operative Baptists as teachers and in the Extension Centers. Choice men in Southern Baptist life have been used to teach. Not the least of the advantage given to the students in the extension centers is the experience of the teachers on the ground floor with problems of local nature.

Pastors who live in textile areas can help their brethren who work in textile areas with them. Pastors in great rural centers can be of help to pastors of rural churches. Pastors in great metropolitan areas know how to assist and share with those who have like problems. Pastors in the oil fields know the oil field. Academic study comes to life with the experiences of the men in the field who know the situation as it is.

There is yet an advantage which the extension centers have and that is that they include the whole church leadership. The extension center has helped to start a fire, a hunger for the knowledge of the word of God among our teachers and officers in our Sunday Schools and leaders in the Training Union and in other areas. It has helped to create an atmosphere of soul winning and teacher soul winning to those who lead others to do it. Trained leadership must begin at the top but it must not stop there. Many a pastor has had his program killed by an innocent but unlearned, unschooled enthusiastic deacon or Sunday School teacher. The Extension Department gives the experience of its teachers not only to pastors but to other leaders.

Supplementary Work

This is the answer for extended educational agencies of Baptists on to the people. There is no competition between colleges and the seminaries. The college centers and the Seminary Extension Department are working hand in hand. We supplement the work of the colleges. We utilize the work of the colleges and we offer all our experiences to the college leadership and in turn have received help from the college extension departments. The colleges and the seminaries in a program which is becoming, to a very large degree, uniform are helping to meet the needs of Southern Baptists untrained leadership. This preacher does not blush nor apologize for speaking the convictions of his heart. **This is the answer.**

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Sunday School Board Meeting

The Baptist Sunday School Board in semi-annual meeting December 9 and 10 voted a total operating budget for 1955 of \$14,146,711.01. Of this amount \$1,831,951.00 were designated for denominational distributable appropriations, of which \$875,000 will be used for work within the various states of the Convention and \$12,000.00 for other Convention agencies.

An allocation of \$970,966.81 was made for expansion, improvements, and additions to the various buildings and properties of the Board and a reserve fund. \$117,325.81 will be spent for improvements at Glorieta Baptist Assembly and \$238,100.57 at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

A five-member committee was appointed to give a year of special study to the advantages and disadvantages of changing the name of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Committee named: Dr. Howard M. Reaves, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., chairman; Dr. G. Norman Price, Parkway, Jackson, Miss.; Dr. Howard J. Ford, First, Elkin, N. C.; Dr. Gaye L. McGlothlen, Immanuel and Dr. Harold J. Purdy, Belmont Heights, of Nashville.

A long-range program was planned for the gradual purchase of book store properties for permanent locations. When present leases of its 49 Baptist Book Stores expire, the administration will seek desirable loca-

Are We Ready For The Crusade?

By CHARLES L. MCKAY

The revival effort in 1955 all over the Southern Baptist Convention will be an associational affair. The Sunday school associational officers are key people and especially in the preparation days for the Crusade.

Locate Prospects For the Crusade

Everything pertaining to a revival meeting is of vital importance, but at this point there is one thing essential—locating prospects for the crusade.

A Religious Census Necessary

The chief purpose of this brief article is to magnify the place of a religious census in reaching people. A religious census should be taken in every association before the crusade. The church or evangelist that tries to do the work of evangelism without a census is limited.

For a religious census to be most successful, it must be planned well in advance. Workers should be enlisted as soon as possible. For special help in this matter re-read the special chapters in *A Church Using Its Sunday School and Building a Standard Sunday School*. The free leaflet "Taking and Using a Religious Census" published by the Baptist Sunday School Board is available upon request.

Religious Census Possible in Every Association

Sunday school officers and teachers are the best qualified people in the world to take a complete religious census. If properly organized and lead to do so by the associational organization, Sunday school teachers and officers will do a wonderful job of locating all of the prospects in an association. Pastors will co-operate by preaching on "The Importance of Locating Prospects" in getting people ready to take a census. Workers can be enlisted by that means perhaps better than any other way. A few suggestions might help.

Steps in Planning a Census

1. Enlist a director.
2. Set the date.
3. Zone the territory.
4. Enlist zone leaders.
5. Order census supplies, census cards, Form 675, assignment envelopes, Form 680, one for each census taker, rubber bands, paper clips, and pencils.
6. Enlist the census takers and, of course, each church will follow this order and help in every way possible.
7. Prepare census takers' assignment envelopes, Form 680. Sketch the territory, identify streets, indicate the number of houses, and put in five cards for each family.
8. Instruct the census takers. Nothing will prove more helpful than to see to it that all the census takers are instructed.
9. Arrange transportation.
10. Provide Nurseries.
11. Serve lunch at church.
12. Take the census.

A companion article will follow on "After the Census, What?"

tions for purchase and make recommendations accordingly. The Board now owns, in addition to the Nashville book store, only one of the buildings in which their 49 book stores are now located—the Kansas City Building.

The Board voted to adopt an additional press name, under which the Sunday School Board will print books handled exclusively by the Board and its affiliated stores, such as doctrinal and study course books.

Can Baptists Meet The Test?

By JOHN W. BRADBURY

The more we study our Baptist heritage, the more we come to appreciate that God has a clear purpose in creating so many Baptists. There are approximately 18,000,000 of them in the United States and fully 24,000,000 in the world. They constitute the largest evangelical block within the visible church. Allied to them are millions more who sympathize with their beliefs and may be called, as some other denominations designate for their people, "Baptist population."

We want to make it plain, however, that we will have nothing to do with denominational pride. Baptists are not sectarians. We have no sectarian ambitions. Just because some Baptist organizations or groups so behave as to indicate that they are sectarian ought not to cause us to depart from our ideal. We are New Testament Christians. Our ecclesiology is derived from our Norm. It is also the place where we get our doctrines of salvation and our knowledge of God in Christ. All that we are and hope to be depends upon the intelligence and sincerity with which we remain true to the New Testament.

Not A Sect

Baptists are not a sect, since they are not an organic body with organizational prosperity as its objective. As in the New Testament the church is not an end in itself, but a means to an end in the redeeming purpose of Christ, so no New Testament church can be an end in itself. It can only be truly the church when it is faithful to the divine means which created it and which never cease to be its central life and objective. It is the cross of Christ that creates the church, which is the life of the church, and for which the church exists.

The church is the institution of redemption. It cannot exist for its own glory. Our protest, in sympathy with all other Protestants, against the Roman Catholic Church is that vast power which claims the church exists for itself. Thus it covers itself with earthly glory, is corrupted with unholy ambition, has a history of cruelty, deception, and oppression. The saving grace of God is lost in all the area where Roman Catholicism dominates, because the matter of salvation is placed within the government of the church, justification by faith being obscured by justification through the church.

New Testament Christianity is at the opposite pole to that. Our Baptist ideal will accept no stopping place between the two poles; consequently we are not an organic church. We are created by the cross of Christ. We are governed by the rule of the cross. To be true to our ideal, we must seek the good of all mankind—including the visible church—before we seek our own prosperity. In fact, our own prosperity must be measured by the degree of our willingness to be true to the cross.

Regeneration, Our Keynote

As Baptists, we believe in conversion, but not in making proselytes. All who come to the Baptists come voluntarily. They must come because they believe in the cross of Christ and in the redemptive mission of the gospel for all mankind, without reservation.

Our attitude toward all people is one of sympathy. Especially do we extend this good will and affection to those who follow Christ even if they do it, in our view, mistakenly. As the love of God is inclusive, so the New Testament Christian's love must be inclusive. No true Baptist will practice separatism from

any whom Christ has received. We cannot and do not believe in strife among God's people. Our chief concern is truth and the reality of Christian experience. We believe both to be essential to salvation. No one can be converted while he practices a living lie. Regeneration cures all moral frauds. Each soul is open to election of God. The gospel rejects no man's person. But the gospel is for those who will be sincere.

Consequently we, as New Testament Christians, believe in the direct application of the gospel upon intelligent souls. We are not thinking of intelligence in the term of high-grade education. There is a capacity in the souls of all men to respond to God. Their greatest sin is that they will not do it, not that they cannot.

In New Testament Christianity, there is no such thing as one soul standing for another in the reception of God's grace. Sponsorship, as practiced by some Christian bodies, is not required nor instituted by the New Testament. "Every man shall give an account of himself to God."

Distinctive Beliefs

Baptists are, therefore, distinctive in their beliefs. Since no other group of Christians embodies these beliefs completely, they make Baptists a distinctive people. In the apprehension of their distinctives we have a Baptist people of witness, a body which stands for principles which are evaded, rejected, or corrupted by other Christian groups. As long as this condition remains, there will be reason for the Baptists.

Because of this responsibility, Baptists need to learn to stand unitedly in the presentation of their witness. Their weakness lies in their unbalanced independence. The great principle of Baptist independence was not created to foster the egotism of arrogant and divisive individuals or groups. It is the product of our Baptist emphasis upon the autonomy of the local church—autonomy meaning self-government.

Co-operation Not Isolation

But Baptist self-government does not mean isolation or separatism. It also includes the balancing factor of the interdependence of churches. This interdependence is vital to the witness of the Baptists because it is in interdependence that there is revealed our New Testament spirit and example. All the testimony of the New Testament is opposed to schism. In giving us this Norm, God did not place in our hands a means of Christian unification and at the same time give us a sword to cut us apart, to maim and destroy one another. Such schism is to make a fool out of the Almighty and is blasphemy of the worst sort. It is to reduce the holy love of God to the debased level of human passion, bigotry, malice, and egotism.

All human beings, even Christians, must beware of the faults of their virtues. Baptist independence can be a wonderful manifestation of Christian freedom unto holiness; it can also be a pattern of religious anarchy and spite. As New Testament Christians, Baptists must learn to hold together for the glory of God, the purification of God's people, and the distribution of the gospel throughout the whole world. At no time ought we to allow our convictions to lead us into attitudes and distempers that dishonor Christ. To stand for Christian truth in an un-Christian manner is to blaspheme the truth. When little men make themselves big judges, they assume an importance for which they must

Southern Baptists Training Non-college Preachers

By ROLAND Q. LEAVELL, Pres.,
New Orleans Seminary

God-called preachers must be trained. In my inaugural address, October 1, 1946, I declared that always this Seminary would have a large place and a warm welcome for God-called preachers who could not go to college. Our department of Christian Training offers a magnificent two-year course to them. Separate classes with work adapted to their needs are maintained throughout. Of the seven hundred ninety-one students enrolled this session, one hundred fifty-three are in this department, and ninety-one of them are ministers. No Southern Baptist Convention seminary refuses them.

Baptist State Convention Schools.

Thousands of older preachers get into the academies, junior colleges, and senior colleges supported by state Baptist Conventions. Some colleges, such as Furman, foster week-long schools in various sections of their respective states, with their faculty members teaching. Others, such as Oklahoma Baptist University, foster summer sessions for non-college ministers. Howard, Richmond, Ouachita, Campbellsville, Carson-Newman and others have vast extension courses in many city centers all over their respective states, taught by competent instructors, giving college credit for work done. Thousands upon thousands of non-college preachers are being trained in basic college work.

Seminary Extension Department

The five Southern Baptist Convention seminaries teach theological studies through the vast work of the Seminary Extension Department. It fosters classroom work and correspondence courses. It is directed by Lee Gallman, with offices in the Baptist Building, Jackson, Mississippi. Classes have been set up in sixty-six areas, from coast to coast. More than three thousand have enrolled in the past four years. The future possibilities are unlimited. Some credit is given on seminary diplomas of graduation. It is on a solid academic level.

The Seminary Extension Department completely refutes the occasional charge that the Southern Baptist Convention is not training non-college preachers. It is paid for by the five seminaries. It eliminates the necessity for many new institutions with expensive buildings and costly overhead operations.

—Vision.

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In 1947, 65 per cent of all passenger car buyers paid cash for their cars, including trade-in allowances, while in 1953 only 38 per cent paid cash, and, from 1915 to 1953 motor-vehicle registrations increased from two and one half million to fifty-three million.

—Survey Bulletin.

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Dedication services were held at Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., recently dedicating the \$2,000,000 church and Sunday school buildings, one of the largest facilities for any church in America.

qualify or else be known for the petty tyrants they would become had they the power.

Simple or uninformed believers ought not to be betrayed by those they look up to as the bearers of the truth of God. Blessed be those among the Baptists who devote themselves to the imperial purpose of the kingdom of Christ in spreading the mantle of Christ's love over all people.

—Watchman Examiner.

1955-ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES-1955

SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

First Assembly — June 30-July 5

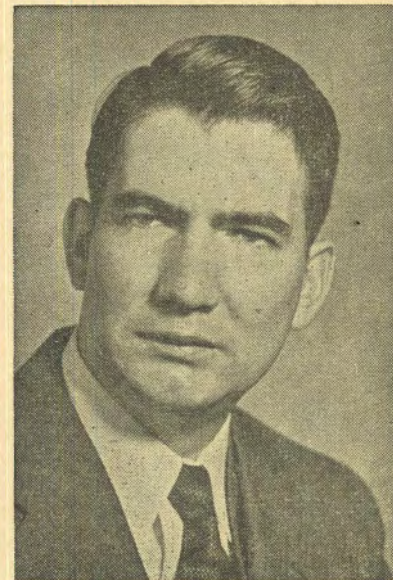
For — Benton County, Black River, Buckner, Buckville, Caddo River, Clear Creek, Concord, Conway-Perry, Current River, Faulkner, Gainesville, Greene County, Hope, Independence, Liberty, Little Red River, Little River, Mississippi, Mt. Zion, Ouachita, Red River, Stone-Van Buren- Searcy, Washington-Madison,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

Second Assembly — July 7-12

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



Dr. H. Tom Wiles
First Church
Lawton, Oklahoma
Speaker



Dr. Carl Goodson
Bolivar, Missouri
Speaker

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND YOUR ASSEMBLY IN '55

Better Program

Better Personnel

Better Instruction

1955

Better Food

Better Inspiration

Better Recreation

A BRAND NEW SWIMMING POOL

1955 Rates

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Registration | \$ 2.00 |
| Medical and Accident Insurance | .50 |

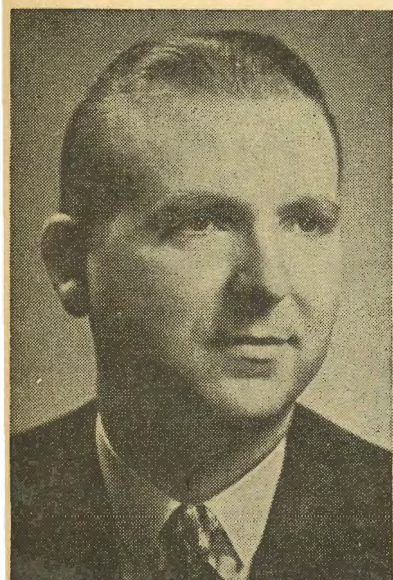
For Those Staying in Assembly Owned Dormitories, Rooms, Cabins

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Cot — Mattress — all meals | 12.00 |
| Children 5-10 yrs. inclusive | 9.00 |

For Those Staying in Church Owned Dormitories

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Cot — Mattress — all meals | 10.00 |
| Children 5-10 yrs. inclusive | 7.00 |

Make Reservations NOW. Send name or names with reservation fee of \$2.00 for each reservation and sex and age of each person to Dr. Edgar Williamson, 314 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. First Come — First Served.



Gale Dunn
Dallas, Texas
Music Director



Rose Arzoomanian
Chicago, Illinois
Soloist

These Were Standard

Organizational activities for Woman's Missionary Society are "measured" by the Standard of Excellence which calls for a well-rounded program of missionary endeavor. The ten points require regularity in meetings, attendance, missionary program; enlistment of the unenlisted; giving to missions through the Cooperative Program; at least half of the membership being tithers; regular reporting; subscribers to the missionary magazines and state Baptist paper; observances of three seasons of prayer — foreign, home and state; enlistment in the study and reading of missionary books; community missions; fostering of missionary organizations for young people. Many societies carry on the balanced activities, but not to the degree of meeting the requirements of recognition. Forty-nine organizations in Arkansas merited recognition for standard work done during 1953-54. They were:

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES:

Bentonville, First; Blytheville, First; Clinton, First; Conway, First; Conway, Second; Corning, Hopewell; Corning, Shiloh; Dardanelle, First; Dermott, First; Des Arc; Dierks; Dumas, First; El Dorado, Galilee; Fort Smith, Grand Avenue; Fort Smith, Immanuel; Fort Smith, Trinity; Harrison, First; Helena, First; Hope, First; Horatio, First; Hot Springs, Central; Hot Springs, Piney; Hot Springs, Second; Huttig; Jonesboro, Central; Jonesboro, Fisher Street; Little Rock, Immanuel; Little Rock, Second; McGehee, First; Magazine, First; Magnolia, Central; Norphlet, First; North Little Rock, Amboy; North Little Rock, Park Hill; No. Little Rock, Remount; Oden; Piggott; Searcy, First; Smackover, First; Smackover, Joyce City; Sparkman, New Hope; Springdale, Caudle Avenue; Springdale, First; Stephens, First; Success; Valley Springs; Weiner; West Helena, First; Wilson, First.

Similar activities are engaged in by the missionary organizations for young people — all thoroughly graded to the various age groups. Meeting those requirements last year were 14 Young Woman's Auxiliaries; 12 Royal Ambassador Chapters; 40 Girls' Auxiliaries; and 22 Sunbeam Bands. They were:

Young Woman's Auxiliaries: Batesville, Ruddell Hill; Bentonville, First; Blytheville, First; Fayetteville, University Church; Harrison, First; Helena, First; Horatio, First; Hot Springs, First; Little Rock, Immanuel; McGehee, First; Monticello, First; Ozark, First; Stephens, First; Ouachita College, Arkadelphia.

Royal Ambassador Chapters: (Intermediate) Corning, First; Horatio, First. (Junior) Corning, First; Dermott, First; Dumas, First; Harrison, First; Helena,

First; Horatio, First; Jonesboro, Walnut Street; Little Rock, Immanuel; Manila, First; Smackover, First.

Girls' Auxiliaries: (Intermediate) Bauxite, First; Bentonville, First; Corning, First; Crossett, First; Crossett, Mt. Olive; El Dorado, Immanuel; Fort Smith, Grand Avenue; Harrison, First; Helena, First; Horatio, First; Little Rock, Immanuel; Marianna, First; Marked Tree, First; Monette, Childress Chapel; No. Little Rock, Amboy; Ozark, First; Searcy, First; Smackover, Joyce City; Springdale, Caudle Avenue; Springdale, First; Weiner. (Junior) Bald Knob, Central; Corning, First; Crossett, Mount Olive; Dumas, First; El Dorado, Immanuel (11 and 12 year); Fordyce, First; Jo Scaggs; Fort Smith, Grand Avenue; Fort Smith, Trinity; Gillham; Harrison, First; Helena, First; Hope, First; Little Rock, Immanuel; Little Rock, Second; Ozark, First; Pine Bluff, First (9 and 10 year); Urbana; Warren, First.

Sunbeam Bands: Arkadelphia, First (pre-school age); Bentonville, First; Clarendon, First; Corning, Shiloh; Crossett, Mount Olive (school-age); El Dorado, First (8 years); Farmington; Flip-pin; Fort Smith, Trinity; Harrison, First; Helena, First (pre-school age); Helena, First (school-age); Horatio, First; Lewisville, First; Little Rock, Immanuel (4 year); Little Rock, Immanuel (5 year); Luxora; Moro; No. Little Rock, Amboy (pre-school age); No. Little Rock, Amboy (school age); Ozark, First.

Others deserving commendation were the 113 Woman's Missionary Unions providing full graded missionary education for their young people, i.e. they provided at least one of each of the organizations. Those Unions will be listed at a later date.

REJOICE!

Gratifying increases are noted in remittances received for the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions. Arkansas' goal is \$100,000. To meet it and most of all to help meet the needs of the world, glean well for the offering and remit to the State WMU Treasurer, 310 Baptist Building, Little Rock.

WMU DATES TO REMEMBER!

January 16-21, WMS FOCUS WEEK

February 13-19, YWA FOCUS WEEK

February 28-March 4, WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS

March 16-18, ANNUAL MEETING ARKANSAS WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

April 29-May 1, INTERMEDIATE GA CONFERENCE

Mission Activities In Arkansas

Missionary Roberts Reports Work In Concord Association

"I am sending a brief summary of the last two months activities of Concord Association.

"We have taught two Stewardship Study Courses, and conducted one Stewardship revival. Led three rural churches to adopt church budgets giving a percent to missions. Had some 65 or 70 people pledge to tithe.

"Organized one church which promises to be a good rural church. The work in Concord is growing in both numbers and spirit.

"Our new mission in Booneville is pushing its walls out. They are having to enlarge the preaching place. We praise the Lord for this work.

"We also have led two of our rural churches to call pastors. At present we have only one church without a pastor in the Association."

C. C. Roberts.

The Mutual Assistance Plan

The "Mutual Assistance Plan" is exactly what the title indicates. It is a plan whereby many individuals in an association may "pool" their money for assistance in building or buying a building for a new mission or new church plan is on the associational level — not state wide. Its activities are all within the association. It is simple in its organization and operations. The associational missionary and associational treasurer are the only two officers needed, because there is a minimum of work required for the operation of the M.A.P., and they are already duly elected officials of the association.

The Plan works like this: Let us say there is a place in a city, town or open country, where there is need for the establishment of a new mission or new church. There is a church in the association that wishes to foster a mission there, and yet feels it needs some financial help in building or buying the first building needed for beginning this new work. This church goes to the Associational Missions Committee with their needs. The Missions Committee recommends to the Executive Board of the association that this new project be approved and due to receive a "Call" upon the members of the M.A.P., with

all the money coming in through this source be applied on this particular new building, through the hands of the sponsoring church. Thereupon, the associational missionary mails notice of such action to each member of the M. A. P. They, each in turn, sends in his \$5.00 through the hands of his own church treasurer, marked "M.A.P." The local church treasurer will give him credit for the contribution on his own record; and forward the money on to the associational treasurer, who passes the money to the sponsoring church.

The contribution, on the part of the individual, is to be above and apart from his tithes and offerings and pledge to his local church budget. It is not a part of, neither should he let it affect his regular offerings to his church in any way.

Any person may become a member who promises to pay \$5.00 when he receives notice of a "Call". Most associations have their certificates written to read thus: "Not more than one call may be issued in any one calendar quarter. Not more than two calls can be issued in any one calendar year." A member may resign from his membership at any time by notifying the associational missionary in writing.

Anyone may receive multiple memberships if he desires to pledge \$10.00 or more upon each call.

The M.A.P. is not a plan for a fund into which one pays month by month, and cause an accumulation. One pays when, and ONLY when he receives notice of a "call."

This is a plan through which many mission-minded people may make extra contributions toward the erection or purchase of buildings for "new work" in needy places within the bounds of their association. It is being promoted throughout the Baptist Associations of Texas, and is finding wide acceptance in Arkansas. Many of our associations have already adopted it.

Leo B. Golden.

C. W. Caldwell, Supt.
Department of Missions

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**APPLICATIONS AND
RESERVATIONS SHOULD
BE MADE AT ONCE**
H. D. Bruce, President

May 2, DAY OF PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY MISSIONS

May 8-14, GA FOCUS WEEK

May 6-7, RA CONGRESS

May 15-17, ANNUAL MEETING SOUTHERN WMU

June 23-29, WMU WEEK, Ridgecrest, N. C.

Woman's Missionary Union
Nancy Cooper, Secretary

Jesus Defeated

By CHAPLAIN W. W. HAMILTON

Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana

One of the most surprising things concerning the Battle of Waterloo was that at first the English people thought that Wellington had been defeated. It came about in this way. News of the battle came by a sailing vessel to the southern coast of England, and was then signalled by semaphore overland to London. We know, of course, that in those days there were no such ways of communication as we have in modern times.

Anxiously the people awaited for news from the battlefield, and from the top of Winchester Cathedral the semaphore message began to spell out the news letter by letter. It began by saying, "WELLINGTON DEFEATED," but so dense became the fog that the signals could not be seen any longer. The English people were in gloomy despair. "WELLINGTON DEFEATED," but later when the fog had lifted and the semaphore could be seen completely, it was saying and repeating the message, "WELLINGTON DEFEATED THE ENEMY!" Can we imagine how the good and true news was given out in every possible way to all England, and how the people rejoiced in the victory so meaningful to them and to all subsequent history.

Can we imagine how the disciples felt at the first, when on Calvary it seemed that Jesus had been defeated? We hear them

saying on the way to Emmaus, "We trust that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel," and Thomas was affirming to those who said they had seen the Lord, "I will not believe," except I have more proof than just the testimony of others.

How changed it all was and is that the message of the gospel is, "JESUS DEFEATED THE ENEMY!" What victories we do have and what rejoicing is ours when the message is completed, and when we can say, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" "JESUS DEFEATED?" His enemies thought so, and for a time His disciples did not realize the divine triumph, and that His very name said, "He shall save his people from their sins."

In Him we have victory over the world, over sin, over death, victory over the recurring temptations, for "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

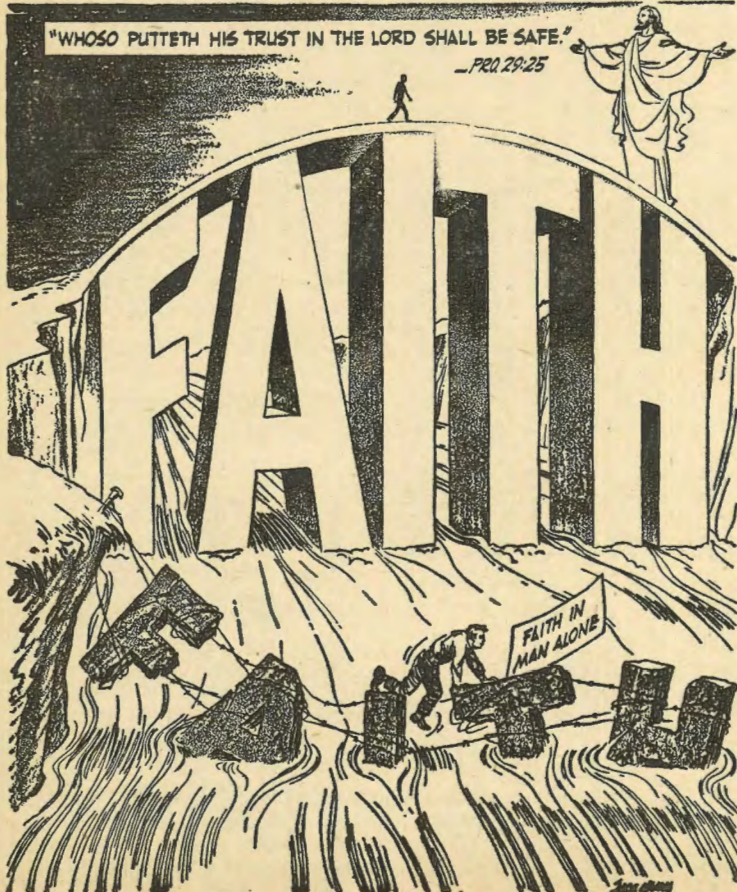
JESUS DEFEATED THE ENEMY is our message. What are we to say and do then since this is true? If God be for us, who can be against us? If God did not spare His own Son, and if our Lord has defeated our enemy, will He not give us all things else.

Married Fifty Years



Rev. and Mrs. B. W. Christopher of Monette were married 50 years ago November 27. They were married in Nebo, Tenn. in 1904. They are both 71 years old. Mr. Christopher is a retired Baptist minister. He is a former pastor of the Baptist Church in Monette.

HOW SPAN YE THE TIDE ?



New Jersey Baptists Aid Testament League

The third sound truck to be equipped by the men of the Brookdale Baptist Church of Bloomfield, New Jersey, was dedicated by The Pocket Testament League in October at the Annual Missionary Conference of the church.

Two similar trucks have been given by this church for the evangelistic work of The Pocket

Testament League in foreign lands. Six of these sound trucks have been playing an important part in the great campaign of evangelization and scripture distribution which The Pocket Testament League has been conducting in the Orient. This newest truck will be used for the new campaign which The League will launch in Africa in January.

The aluminum speaker's platform on the roof of the truck and the ultra-modern public address system was built and installed in the truck by members of Brookdale Baptist Church. The truck was also completely outfitted with spare parts and repair equipment to prepare it for gruelling service on rough African roads.

—000—

Make it thy business to know thyself, which is the most difficult lesson in the world.

—Quote

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On Tests Of Fellowship

By BRUCE H. PRICE

First Baptist Church, Newport News, Va.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of ten articles discussing some of the problems of Southern Baptist life. The opinions of Dr. Price are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

Looking up from my book, I saw a middle-aged woman standing in the doorway of my study. A few weeks before she had moved to our community and had been regular in attendance at the worship services.

In a previous conversation she had told me that she was a Baptist, had studied in a non-denominational Bible school, and enjoyed teaching the Bible. She was not ready to transfer her membership, indicating that she wanted to be sure that the church was orthodox. Later I learned that she had her own definition of orthodox.

That morning in my study I was told a great deal more about her beliefs and a little of what she thought concerning mine. "Preachers should preach the gospel," she admonished while raising her voice and giving me a look which left no doubt what she said was for my personal edification. Her conception of preaching was the premillennial doctrine, and a sermon in which this was omitted was not preaching at all. She was ready to make the millennial

teaching a test of fellowship for Southern Baptists though most of her church life had been outside the denomination.

In his published list of "Ten Vital Issues for Southern Baptists," J. Leo Garrett, Professor in Southwestern Baptist Seminary, states the fourth vital issue in these words: "How to keep a strong biblical faith and message without succumbing to the tendency to make the 'pet' interpretations of some the test of fellowship for all."

The premillennial conferences within the denomination may be an example of an emphasis which could lead some to desire to make the doctrine a test of fellowship. Open and close communion and alien immersion have been the accepted practice for generations in some sections of the Convention, but are grounds which others may like to use as a test of fellowship. A few individuals appear to desire a written creed, while some would choose other issues as tests of cooperation, admitting these not to be tests of salvation.

"A study of the two words of

Paul, 'sound doctrine' meaning healthful teaching, will be helpful," writes Clyde V. Hickerson. "This phrase is never of theologic matters only, but always involves the moral and ethical ideals of Christianity." Theron Rankin used to say, "We ought to act like a Christian as well as believe like one."

Two ministers were talking about a prominent Baptist who lost a position with one of our institutions because he gave bad checks and did not pay his debts. One of the pastors said in all seriousness, "But he is orthodox." Such attitudes place a low view on Christian conduct. Let us not forget: "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanseth us...."

"Our Baptist unity," says Elbert N. Johnson, "has its source in the Christ of the New Testament, and not in the New Testament alone. Christianity did not come out of the New Testament, rather, the New Testament came out of Christianity. Our unity does not depend on the oneness of our opinions about Jesus; it depends on the openness of our minds and hearts to Jesus."

L. L. Carpenter had the same thought, "We must maintain our unity through an emphasis on a vital Christian experience and de-

votion to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and not through insisting on a cut and dried intellectual statement of doctrines."

The priesthood of believers is a very dear teaching to Baptists. Freedom of the individual to interpret the Scriptures will make differences inevitable but to coerce uniformity of belief on things not primary would be too big a price to pay for unity. We are not ready to accept the thought that any officer, board, or committee of the Convention is infallible in defining doctrine of faith and morals. Being kings and priests unto God we must hold on to the competency of the individual soul to deal with Christ.

Editor W. Barry Garrett says that we must keep foremost in our thinking missions, including evangelism, as our main task, and the one common tie which binds us all together. This is the activity which Luther Rice promoted to draw Baptists of America into fellowship. The vision of a lost world and witnessing to win it will hold us together.

In spite of the rabid fundamentalist on the one hand and the roaring liberals on the other, Southern Baptists will keep a strong Biblical faith and message, continuing to major on missions, Christian education, and benevolences which will keep us united and strong in his service.

God's Honor In Stewardship

By FORREST C. FREEZOR

The two slogans, "Ask-Believe-Commit" and "Bring Ye All the Tithes," of our Convention calls to mind a memorable experience of some two decades ago. People were unemployed. Bills were hard to pay. Times were difficult. In my new pastorate in Raleigh, N. C., I had met a new friend. At the time he was out of work and was finding his financial road rough and uneven. He came to talk about his plight.

Formerly, a newspaper man, then the private secretary of a governor or two, he had had better days. We prayed and asked God's help. Because he could write, he sent in several biographical sketches for the "Dr. I. Q." program. If accepted, the sketch was worth a minimum of \$150. He was without success in several attempts. One night when he had finished a sketch on Walt Disney, while yet in his room, my friend prayed that God would prosper his paper. He prayed simply "asking" that the Lord would give success to the sketch.

Later as he restated it to me

he said, "When I asked the Lord to bless and prosper my sketch there came an answer, 'Where is my honor in this request?'" My friend said the voice was so real and lifelike. He went to his knees to promise the Lord a tithe of all that was received. Of all this I knew nothing. Then one day he appeared at my study. He was bearing a check for \$27. His sketch had been accepted. My friend became a believer in stewardship from his experience.

Although the money greatly relieved his financial situation, yet it was not the money that meant most to him. It was that God was his partner when he honored the Lord with a tithe. The question is one for all of us — "Where is my honor in this?" The question recalls to mind the scripture, "Them that honour me I will honour" 1 Samuel 2:30. The promise in Proverbs 3:9 likewise comes to mind, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase: (then the promise) So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

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Cottage Prayer Meetings Will Pay Rich Dividends In Simultaneous Revivals

By DAVID T. MASHBURN, Associate Secretary

Brotherhood Commission, S.B.C., Memphis, Tennessee

Reports are coming in! Church Brotherhood presidents are leading their men in getting ready for cottage prayer meetings prior to the coming Simultaneous Revivals. However, time is running out. Every Brotherhood must answer the challenge if the Brotherhoods are to meet their adopted goal to conduct one-half million cottage prayer meetings prior to the Simultaneous Revivals.

An instructional tract on "Brotherhoods Conducting Cottage Prayer Meetings" has been prepared and is being used throughout the Southern Baptist

Convention. It is proving to be most valuable in giving assistance to Brotherhood leaders and pastors in making arrangements for the prayer meetings preceding their evangelistic campaigns.

Two pastors in Alabama used the suggestions made in the tract in their fall revivals just past and have already discovered the rich dividends of men leading in the conducting of cottage prayer meetings. A pastor in Troy, Alabama, Fred Brown, stated that after such a series of prayer meetings conducted by his men he had the finest revival in his

twenty-five years as a pastor. In In Elba, Alabama, the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Murray Seay, using the same plan of one cottage prayer meeting for each fifteen members, reported ten prayer meetings each night for four nights preceding their evangelistic campaign and had an average attendance of 186 each evening.

Baptist men conducting one-half million cottage prayer meetings prior to the Simultaneous Revivals will make the difference! Every Brotherhood in the Southern Baptist Convention is urged

to get ready now. If additional helps are needed, the cottage prayer meeting tract may be secured from your State Brotherhood Secretary.

—000—

We love our work here and thank God for the privilege of having a part in his great plan for winning Argentina to him. But your part at home is as important as our part here; for "we are labourers together with God." We regret that we have only one life to give to this great cause.—Alex F. Garner, missionary to Argentina.

Hotel Reservations For S.B.C.

May 18-21, 1955
Miami, Florida

Instructions

1. Application for Miami hotel rooms may be made with hotel or through the Housing Bureau.
2. Application for hotels in Miami Beach or in any motel should not be channeled through the Housing Bureau. Write to the hotel or motel of your choice.
3. If applying for hotel room in Miami, use this official application form. List six choices of hotels. Every effort will be made to place you in hotel of your choice. Confirmation will be mailed to you by the hotel.
4. Inasmuch as hotels are plentiful in Miami a minimum number of requests for rooms in private homes is anticipated. Those desiring accommodations in homes may write to: Dr. James W. Parrish, Chairman, Housing Reservations, Riverside Baptist Church, 900 S. W. First Street, Miami, Florida. Parrish is not handling hotel or motel reservations. Listed below are hotels selected by the housing chairman:

| Hotel | Singles | Doubles | Twin Beds |
|------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alcazar | \$4 | \$5-\$6 | \$7-\$8-\$9 \$12 connecting |
| Alhambra | \$6 | | |
| Belfort * | \$4 | \$5-\$6 | \$6 |
| Berni * | | \$4 | \$5 |
| | | \$3 (connecting bath) | |
| Biscayne Terrace | \$7-\$8 | | \$8, \$10-\$12 |
| Cortez | \$3 | | \$5 \$6 & |
| Dallas Park * | | | \$8 |
| El Comodoro | \$5 | \$8 | \$8 \$9 |

*—Deposit of one day's rent required
&—Air-conditioned

| Hotel | Singles | Doubles | Twin Beds |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Everglades | \$4-\$5-\$6 | | \$6-\$8-\$9 |
| Fort Knox | \$2.50 | \$3.50 | \$3.50 |
| Gralynn | \$4 | | \$6 |
| Leamington * | | \$6 | \$6 (all rooms air-cond. —free radio) |
| Miami Colonial | \$5-\$6 | \$7-\$8-\$9 | \$7-\$8-\$9 |
| Ocean Ranch * | | | \$5-\$6 (private bath) \$4-\$5 (share bath) |
| Paramount | \$5 | | \$7-\$8 |

Studio apts. (single or double) \$6-\$8 air-cond. Free parking and
1 bedroom apts. (for 3 or 4) \$10-\$12 air-cond. swimming pool
Apt. suites (up to 6) \$25-\$27.50 air-cond.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|----------------------------------|--|
| Patricia | \$5 | | \$7 |
| | | (50 per cent of rooms air-cond.) | |
| Plaza | \$4-\$5 | | \$6-\$7 |
| Pershing * | \$2-\$3 | | \$3 (connecting bath) \$4 (private bath) |
| Ponce de Leon | \$7 | \$9 | \$10 |
| Robert Clay | \$4-\$5 | \$5-\$6-\$7 | \$12 (for 3) \$15 (parlor & bedroom —for 2) |
| Seminole * | \$4 | | \$5 |
| Sir William | \$2.50 | \$3.50 | \$4 |
| Strand | | \$6 | \$6 |
| | | | Semi-private rooms @ \$4 each |
| Towers | | | \$7-\$8 \$12-\$14 (3-4 people) |
| Tuttle | | | \$6 \$8-\$10 |
| Urmey | \$5 | \$7 | \$8 \$12 (single, double with connecting bath) |

Fifty motels have been selected by the committee. Motel rates are comparable to hotel rates, or slightly less.

*—Deposit of one day's rent required.
&—Air-conditioned.

Hotel Reservation Application

Southern Baptist Convention Housing Bureau
320 N. E. Fifth Street • Miami, Florida

Applicant (Please Print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

List name and address _____

of all applicants to _____

share accommodations _____

Hotel Preference:

First Choice _____ Fourth Choice _____

Second Choice _____ Fifth Choice _____

Third Choice _____ Sixth Choice _____

Type of Room _____ Price Range _____

_____ Single (s) @ \$ _____ to \$ _____

_____ Double (s) @ \$ _____ to \$ _____

_____ Twin (s) @ \$ _____ to \$ _____

_____ Triple (s) @ \$ _____ to \$ _____

Arriving on May _____, 1955 at _____ A.M. P.M.

Departing on May _____, 1955 at _____ A.M. P.M.

The Living God

By BURTON A. MILEY

Many scriptural passages will be introduced in the current series of lessons. These selections furnish foundations for doctrinal beliefs held by many Christians and particularly by Baptists. Any person will rise or fall in relation to his beliefs which make as much difference to an individual as foundation does to a building. It is not alone what is seen that determines value, but what supports the visible. A man bought a house which looked well-preserved. He soon discovered its weakness. It was not the roof, wall, or ceilings. It was in the foundation where termites had eaten away supporting timbers. Beliefs are life's supports.

How much do we know about God? What is our belief about Him? Why do we believe as we do? The Bible does not task itself to prove the existence of God. It opens with the assumption that God is and immediately begins to tell the story of His work. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). God's work shows Him to be an active, personal being of definite order and purpose. God is given as the source of all creation. It does not take fantastic imagination to believe that since God is the source of all, He is first among all. There was none before Him upon whom He could depend and none follow upon whom He must depend. Hence God is self-existent. He exists apart from all things.

HIS NATURE

What about God's nature? Is He a tyrant? Is He harsh and subject to acts of injustice? We learn the answers to these and many more questions from the history of God's dealings with individuals and nations. The book of Psalms is a collection of poems which were often sung by people to proclaim their beliefs formed through experiences. They record God's dealing with people under all conditions. People drew their beliefs about the living God from these experiences and passed them on to others. Hymns serve the same general purpose today. Any hymn used in worship should teach about God or inspire adoration for God.

Two truths are introduced through the negative approach to Psalm 103:10. One is the fact of sin and the other is that God has not dealt with sinners as they deserve. If God has failed to deal with sinners as they deserve, what has He done? Two words give the clue. The first is "merciful" and the second "gracious." These words reveal God to be kind and compassionate toward those who come to Him. He loves to the point of forgiving when one will accept His forgiveness. This is mercy and grace in action. If no

Sunday School Lesson

January 9, 1955

Psalm 103:8-13; Isaiah 40:25-29;
Matthew 6:9; John 4:23-24;
John 10:30

action followed the professed existence of God's nature, it would be about God as James said concerning one who told a destitute person: "Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body" (Jas. 2:16). One's pondered experience would lead him to believe that any who came penitently and contritely to God would be forgiven because of His "plenteous mercy." One can be assured that when sin is pardoned, it is never charged again. God is gracious and bears no grudges.

HIS POWER

Isaiah reveals other facts about God. Judah lived as a small nation among larger nations whose gods were idols. Was the hope of Judah in her military strength? No. It was in her God. But other nations had gods. Would Judah's God be bigger and superior to the others? It was the divine prophets responsibility to proclaim this fact of God's supremacy. Today it is every preacher and teacher's task to know through personal experience that God is without equal or superior and to press home this truth to others.

God's supremacy is established in three fields. First is that of power. He is all-powerful. He has all power and is all power. None other is self-existent and all others have only the power their Creator invested in them. God has no creator and none has assigned to Him a portion of power.

Then God is all-knowing. He knows the stars by name and sets their courses. Jesus said of God's knowledge that the action of sparrows and the number of hairs were known (Matt. 10:29-30). Truly "there is no searching of his understanding." The living God is not a failing or ignorant one. Is it not a challenge to trust Him a little more as you learn further of Him?

Such knowledge may convince one of His greatness, but does it stress the closeness? Does the greatness of God remove Him from the common man? Many times the great have no direct contact with the common. Jesus came to reveal the closeness of God. He taught Christians to use a term which flows with greatness and nearness in the same moment . . . "Our Father." This

term "Father was followed by declaration of habitation 'which art in heaven.'" Here the difference between an earthly and the heavenly Father is acknowledged. But since God is a spirit, He is not limited to a distant vale known as heaven. He is everywhere and must be worshipped in spirit. Material and matter are instruments in worship but the act is spirit. Human mind can scarcely grasp the idea of spirit. Jesus came in a body that people may look upon Him and know that God is like Him. Phillip raised the question of how a person might know God. Christ answered "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Anyone that has been moved through contact with Jesus knows what the Father is like. "I and the Father are one."

PRACTICAL LESSONS

God Should Be Brought From the Shadows. God dwells in the shadows in many lives. People know each other. Sunsets, storms, streams, meadows and scenic hill-sides form definite images in their mind. But what about God? Is He vague? Far back in the shadows? Do you have only a half-conception of Him? Bring Him from the shadows through study of Him, conversations with Him, (what else is prayer?) companionship in projects where his interest is greatest. He is a living God and no living person should be left outside the circle. Teachers and preachers and church leaders are charged with the task to bring God out of the shadows for the multitudes. Hence, all work must be done with the thought in mind that personal experience is the desired result instead of formal learning. Think of the contrast between living and dead. No enthusiasm is shown over the dead at any time. The living God should be prominent in the minds and hearts of lively people.

The Work of God Should Be Accepted. His work is that of mercy and grace. He removes sin so that it is impossible to come in contact with it again. As impossible as it is for the east to move to the west. Why shouldn't God's work be accepted? Isn't it the best for man? God knows all, has all power, and is everywhere at one and the same time because He is spirit and His nature is that to work for the welfare of man. Are His commands grievous? (I John 5:3). God has done all for the sinner that He can do until the sinner accepts what God has done. Have you accepted Him and His work in your behalf? Are you interesting others in the work of God?

Some define God's will as "a need which I see, which at the same time is a need I can fill." Are you a qualified teacher? Are you a registered nurse? Nigeria needs you now!—Margaret Lamberth, missionary to Nigeria.

Figures To Inspire

Sunday, December 26

| | S.S. | T.U. | Add. |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| Fort Smith, First | 1104 | 597 | 16 |
| Including missions | 1242 | 673 | |
| Little Rock, Immanuel | 987 | 309 | 5 |
| Including missions | 1135 | 405 | |
| El Dorado, First | 759 | 213 | |
| Little Rock, Second | 547 | 158 | |
| Including mission | 667 | 233 | |
| El Dorado, Immanuel | 512 | 195 | |
| Pine Bluff, South Side | 482 | 187 | 1 |
| Little Rock, Pulaski | | | |
| Heights | 432 | 114 | |
| Camden, First | 417 | 162 | |
| Including missions | 531 | 242 | |
| Malvern, First | 408 | 98 | |
| Hope, First | 403 | 142 | 1 |
| Bentonville, First | 391 | 120 | 1 |
| Paragould, First | 389 | 156 | |
| Including missions | 576 | 241 | |
| Springdale, First | 383 | 168 | 7 |
| Booneville, First | 360 | 103 | 3 |
| Hot Springs, Park Place | 351 | 136 | 1 |
| West Helena | 330 | 112 | |
| Siloam Springs, First | 328 | 203 | |
| El Dorado, Second | 318 | 114 | |
| Cullendale, First | 305 | 130 | 2 |
| Fordyce, First | 302 | 69 | |
| Including mission | 353 | 118 | |
| Piggott, First | 300 | 138 | 1 |
| Fort Smith, Trinity | 299 | 117 | 2 |
| McGehee, First | 289 | 114 | |
| Russellville, First | 286 | 132 | |
| Hot Springs, Central | 277 | 79 | 1 |
| Including mission | 321 | 100 | |
| Jacksonville, First | 277 | 137 | |
| Including mission | 303 | | |
| Waldron, First | 266 | 142 | |
| D'Queen, First | 266 | 89 | 1 |
| Monticello, First | 263 | 128 | |
| Mena, First | 261 | 110 | 1 |
| Including mission | 299 | 132 | |
| Searcy, First | 254 | 70 | |
| No. Little Rock, Pike | | | |
| Avenue | 238 | 48 | |
| Jonesboro, Central | 237 | 106 | |
| Paragould, East Side | 222 | 120 | 2 |
| Springdale, Caudle | | | |
| Avenue | 222 | 110 | |
| Nashville, First | 212 | 76 | |
| No. Little Rock, | | | |
| Park Hill | 209 | 58 | |
| Alma, First | 203 | 134 | 2 |
| Fort Smith, Spradling | 177 | 79 | 1 |
| DeQueen, First | 164 | 62 | |
| Little Rock, Tyler | | | |
| Street | 142 | 53 | |
| Rogers, Immanuel | 105 | 50 | |

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SAFETY

It's a great pity that car manufacturers continue to increase the horsepower of cars. The average motorist has only one brainpower.

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Executive Board STATE CONVENTION



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

Laborers Together

Unity of purpose and interest not only makes possible, but also necessary, the Cooperative Program. This is the root of denominational co-operation. Southern Baptist churches, the conventions, state and southwide, our institutions, are tied up together in one great full kingdom undertaking. As Southern Baptists, we must never forget that we are laborers together in this matter of the evangelization of the world.

The word co-operation means working together on the same level, toward the same objectives, following one plan. Through the Cooperative Program, the individual Baptist has a part in supporting the entire program of missions at home and abroad.

Through the Cooperative Program our churches can keep step and present a common front to the world. It makes each church a part of one great world field. It enables each Baptist to fill his responsibility as a missionary and to contribute permanently to God's plan of the ages. It helps us to demonstrate on a world basis the Christian principle of sharing.

Let Baptists receive and whole heartedly support the Cooperative Program; let us make "one for all and all for one" our motto, and we can proceed with assurance of success. We have entered upon a world mission. This is the imperial command of the Imperial Christ, who said, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

Beyond any shadow of doubt, the Cooperative Program is scriptural. It is God's plan for winning the world unto Himself. The ideal of the Southern Baptist Convention should be the goal of each church. That is, giving on a percentage basis, and increasing that percentage as much as five per cent each year until a fifty-fifty division of funds is reached.

The world is waiting for our response. May Southern Baptists of our great state rise up to meet the challenge.

*B. D. Smith, Pastor
First Church, Pocahontas*

South Highland Goes to 15%

We have just gotten a copy of the proposed budget for South Highland Church, Little Rock, for 1955 and we notice that they have agreed to give fifteen per cent of their undesignated income to the Cooperative Program. This will be an increase over last year. Most of our churches seemingly want to move up the percentage of their giving and we are grateful to the Lord. Pastor Ray Branscum is a missionary soul. Thank the Lord for him and the church.

North Crossett and Hogan

We have received a copy of the budget of the North Crossett Church for 1955 and the total amount of the budget is \$9,272.80. Of this amount \$806 will be given for the Cooperative Program. This is a slight increase over the allocation for the present year. All money above \$185 per week will go into the building fund savings account. This church has much to do and much building will be in their plans for the near future. Joseph A. Hogan is their beloved pastor.

Great Budget For A Great People

"The budget of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for 1955 is the greatest challenge that Arkansas Baptists have ever undertaken. It's a great program and we are a great people, and by working together we can reach this goal. I feel in my heart that in the day in which I live I cannot afford to do less than my best if I please the God whom I serve. I realize that this is a great step, but we are a great people, with a great program. This is God's program therefore it is the greatest enterprise on the earth.

"I am conscious that this is a large budget, and I also realize that it will take every one of us to win the victory, and I feel in my heart that each of us as pastors are the key men to lead our people in this great task.

"I believe that the people of our churches want this kind of a program and they will respond if they are informed of the great need.

"Not long ago I brought the message over the radio on our Cooperative Mission Program as Southern Baptists, and that afternoon a man came to me and said "Preacher, I don't know anything about the Cooperative Program, but I would like to give some money to that. I think that's a great thing." A few days later I met the man on the street and he gave me \$5 for our work.

"That is one of the many reasons I believe that God is for Arkansas Baptists.

"Christian friends, let's reach this budget for the glory of God and the praise of our Saviour Jesus Christ."

*Harold Presley, Pastor
First Church, Mtn. Home*

Tyler Street and Overton

Pastor Carl Overton of Tyler Street Church, Little Rock, reports that his church has adopted a larger budget for 1955. This comparatively young church will have a \$25,000 budget. They are allocating 16 per cent of their total undesignated receipts for the Cooperative Program. Carl Overton is one of our young pastors but is wide awake, aggressive, and a prayerful leader. He has a great church to hold up his hand as he preaches the gospel. Pastor Overton is the son of that fearless preacher, James Overton, now in Tennessee.

South Side Doubles

The South Side Church in Little Rock, T. S. Cowden, pastor, announces they will double their contribution for the Cooperative Program in 1955. This young church has had a struggle in its operations but is gradually coming to the front. Cowden is a splendid preacher and leader and his ministry is registering in Little Rock.

Music and Educational Director

"Trinity Baptist Church, Fort Smith, is looking for a Music and Educational Director. Anyone qualified and available and interested please contact Mr. Luther Stem, Jr., 3401 North 29th Street; Fort Smith, Arkansas."

Booneville Church For Cooperative Program

Dr. Bridges:

You asked the Board members for a testimony of Cooperative Program and missions. Personally I feel that it is as important for the church to be faithful in its missions through the Cooperative Program as it is for the individual to be faithful in his personal stewardship of his time, talents, and material possessions through tithes and offerings. I have never seen a happy individual who refused to recognize God's portion of his physical possessions—nor have I ever seen a genuinely prosperous church that neglected missions.

Our church here is running more in Sunday school, Training Union, offerings, etc. than it has in its history to date. The fellowship is wonderful. We have two missions with one ready to become a church within a year or so. God has blessed our people greatly. I feel that the present condition of the church began several years ago when my predecessor (W. W. Crafton) led our people out to give a worthy contribution to Cooperative Program. Our people have increased this amount each year and have seen the program of the church increase along with it.

I personally feel that the spiritual prosperity of our church is directly tied in with the fact that the church has accepted a worthy goal for missions. Our offerings have continued to remain good in the face of three devastating droughts in our county and business conditions which were uncertain. Increasing numbers of our people are agreeing to tithe. Our offerings consistently run above the average of our weekly budget although we do not ask our people to pledge. Our membership continues to increase. In accepting the challenge our people have done the work themselves that the pastor gets credit for. To God be the glory.

We are hoping through the help of the Lord to increase our Cooperative Program gifts the next year even more than this year. This percentage method of figuring our mission gifts received enthusiastic support from our people. Even some who were earlier opposed to the Cooperative Program on a direct pledged amount spoke in favor of this new plan and pledged their active support to the Cooperative Program and other mission objects which are in our budget.

I BELIEVE in the work of our Convention and am a loyal supporter of the Cooperative Program. I feel that the Lord Himself directed in the instituting of this method of more adequate support of His work.

*John W. Johnston, Pastor
First Church, Booneville*

Another Preacher Goes to Heaven

Nathan Keller died, according to the daily press reports, a few days ago. He lived in Fort Smith and ministered in that section of the state. Brother Keller was one of our greatest preachers. He was humble but powerful. He knew what the plan of salvation was. He preached it. His manner and style of presenting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ were pungent and impressive. His ministry has made many friends for Christ who are greeting him in their everlasting habitations.